

**MEETING MINUTES  
BROWARD METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

**Thursday, December 12, 2024, 8:30 a.m.  
100 West Cypress Creek Road  
Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33309**

**Chair:** Board Member Yvette Colbourne  
**Vice Chair:** Board Member Joy Cooper  
**Deputy Vice Chair:** Board Member Byron Jaffe  
**Committee Members:** Board Member Beam Furr  
Board Member Rich Walker

**MPO Staff**

Greg Stuart, MPO Executive Director  
David Tolces, Assistant MPO General Counsel  
Bryan Caletka, Paul Calvaresi, James Cromar, William Cross, Carl Ema, Paul Flavien,  
Carol Henderson, Vilma Hurtado, Ashley Monhi, Oscar Nelson, Miguel Perez, Paula  
Prusinski, Andrew Riddle, Rebecca Schultz

**REGULAR ITEMS**

**(All Items Open for Public Comment)**

**1. Call to Order and Roll Call**

Chair Colbourne called the meeting to order at 8:39 a.m.

**2. Approval of Minutes – November 14, 2024**

**Motion** made by Vice Chair Cooper, seconded by Deputy Vice Chair Jaffe, to approve.  
In a voice vote, the **motion** passed unanimously (5-0).

**3. Approval of Agenda**

**Motion** made by Vice Chair Cooper, seconded by Board Member Walker, to approve.  
In a voice vote, the **motion** passed unanimously (5-0).

**4. Public Comments**

None.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**1. Federal Discretionary Grants**

Paul Calvaresi of Broward MPO Staff gave a presentation on the MPO's federal discretionary grants. He provided a link to the MPO's grants coordination meeting, which is held each month via Zoom. This coordination meeting ensures that MPO member entities are not competing against one another and gives them the opportunity to combine applications.

Mr. Calvaresi explained that applicants are encouraged to establish goals for their projects before applying for federal grants. He emphasized the importance of not seeking grants whenever funding becomes available. Projects should already be included in municipalities' or agencies' Capital Improvement Programs (CIPs) and should already have public support.

Grant applicants should also be able to promote their projects using social media and public education. If an entity is seeking a large capital grant, they may need to plan a visit to Washington, D.C. in order to ensure that South Florida's Congressional delegation is aware of the project and why it should be funded. Finally, member organizations must ensure that their teams have sufficient capacity to manage the grant before applying for it.

Mr. Calvaresi briefly reviewed a checklist to be used when a member organization is selecting a grant. The checklist includes questions to be asked of the member and their staff, including whether or not they have sufficient time and resources to apply for the grant.

Mr. Calvaresi also reviewed a number of grants currently underway, including the current stage of the grants. He cited the example of a Thriving Communities grant which is in its execution stage: a location has been selected for a final workshop, and the MPO is considering Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) strategies that can be used to update Code for the municipalities involved. Other grants in process include a railroad crossing elimination program, which involves multiple cities and will improve safety along the FEC railroad corridor, and a Reconnecting Communities program.

Chair Colbourne requested additional information on the pre-award phase of grant funding. Mr. Calvaresi explained that there is a significant gap between the time at which an award is announced and the time when discussions begin with regard to receiving funds. He acknowledged that this can be frustrating to participants.

Other grants currently in process for the Broward MPO include:

- Strengthening Mobility and Revolutionizing Transportation (SMART) Grant: this is still in the pre-award phase; this project will develop a digital twin
- Prioritization Process Pilot Program (Quad-P) Grant: the MPO was recently awarded this grant, but agreements with the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) have not yet been signed; this project is related to the digital twin

- Charging and Fueling Infrastructure Grant: an application was submitted in September 2024 and results are expected in winter 2025; this grant would provide up to 20 electric vehicle (EV) charging stations throughout Broward County
- Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-Saving Transportation (PROTECT) Grant: the MPO is currently in the process of updating the grant application submitted to this program in 2023, based on feedback from USDOT

Mr. Calvaresi advised that an update on all grants in progress is made available to members of the MPO's Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) each month. Many grants are awarded annually, such as the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant.

Board Member Furr asked if the MPO has applied for a grant addressing inner-city rail. Mr. Calvaresi replied that the MPO did not apply for this grant, as they are not the owner of any assets that would be involved. The MPO may apply for planning grants on its own, but must partner with other entities to apply for capital grants.

Deputy Vice Chair Jaffe asked how municipalities can be engaged to participate or assist in the grant process. Mr. Calvaresi advised that this can be done through the MPO Board as well as the monthly TAC meetings. There is also a monthly grant coordination meeting. The Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) also identifies grant opportunities in relation to individual projects within that document. He encouraged municipalities to review their CIPs for potential alignment with grant opportunities.

Mr. Stuart stated that there are additional grants for which the MPO could have applied, but did not do so due to staffing capacity, as there is significant manpower involved in applying for USDOT grants. Mr. Calvaresi noted that the MPO is the recipient of tens of millions of dollars in federal grants, which is significant for any MPO, particularly one of the Broward MPO's size.

## **2. Legislative Update**

Mr. Calvaresi reported that there is significant transition underway in Washington, D.C. The Broward MPO's federal advocacy team, Becker Poliakoff, affirms that they have a good working relationship with the incoming Secretary of Transportation as well as many career staffers.

The MPO is also considering reauthorization, both internally through the federal advocacy team as well as through the Association of Metropolitan Planning Associations (AMPO) and the National Association of Regional Councils (NARC).

Mr. Calvaresi acknowledged that changes are coming, particularly with regard to the criteria for many grants. There is likely to be less emphasis on equity and more on business development and returns on investment. Updates will be passed along to the Executive Committee and the MPO Board as they become available.

### **3. Discussion of December 12, 2024 MPO Agenda Items**

None.

### **4. Review and Discussion of Future Agendas**

Mr. Stuart noted that today's meeting is the last of calendar year 2025, with no meeting planned in January 2025. He reviewed upcoming events, including:

- Safe Streets Summit: February 6-7, 2025
- Transportation Academy: February 20, 2025
- Annual Awards/State of the Region Banquet: May 2025

### **5. Non-Agenda**

There being no further business to come before the Committee at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 9:13 a.m.

**NEXT MEETING: February 13, 2025**