

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

**Thursday, April 10, 2025, 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 (absent/excused)  
Board Member Tim Fadgen  
Board Member Thomas Good, Jr.  
Board Member Rich Walker

**MPO Staff**

Bryan Caletka, MPO Director of Transportation  
Alan Gabriel, MPO General Counsel  
Bryan Caletka, Paul Calvaresi, Peter Gies

**Also Present**

Lauren Jackson, TSE Consulting  
Clarence Williams, Becker Poliakoff

**REGULAR ITEMS**

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

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

Chair Colbourne called the meeting to order at 8:33 a.m. Roll was called and it was noted a quorum was present.

**2. Approval of Minutes – December 12, 2024**

**Motion** made by Deputy Vice Chair Jaffe, seconded by Board Member Fadgen, to approve. In a voice vote, the **motion** passed unanimously.

**3. Approval of Agenda**

[This Item was not addressed.]

**4. Public Comments**

None.

**ACTION ITEMS**

**1. MOTION TO APPROVE Agreement 25-04 Between the Broward Metropolitan Planning Organization and GEOWEBHOUSE, LLC, for Content Management Database Tracker Services – Phase 2 in an Amount Not to Exceed \$135,000**

Vice Chair Cooper arrived at 8:35 a.m.

Peter Gies of Broward MPO Staff gave a brief presentation on the Item, which continues a contract approved in November 2023 to develop the initial platform for project tracking services. The MPO's core projects, including the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP), Priority Projects List, and Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), are used to facilitate this prioritization and funding of projects. Over the years, multiple databases have been developed for each step of the process, which operate on separate platforms. These databases are being integrated so it is easier to track a project through its full life cycle.

In 2023, the MPO executed an agreement with GEOWEBHOUSE, LLC to build an initial platform to which data could be provided for the first part of the MTP programming process. Projects have been broken into two phases, the first of which focuses mainly on planning the MTP and the second of which will integrate the TIP and Priority Projects List databases.

Projects from the most recent MTP have been incorporated into the platform, including project features and funding information. Phase 2 will build out the two remaining modules so the database will include the full process of project programming. The result will be a fully integrated database for projects in the MTP.

Board Member Good requested clarification of the purpose of this project. Mr. Gies replied that Staff hopes to provide a forward-facing platform on which Board members, or members of the public, may track a project's origin and other information from throughout its full life cycle using a single database rather than multiple databases. The final phase of the project will create a dashboard so users can see which projects are in the planning, design, or construction phases, again from a single database.

Board Member Good suggested that Phase 2 provide an opportunity to analyze a collection of projects for cost, embed an escalator in the project information, or expedite projects. He concluded that he was supportive of the Item.

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

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**1. Legislative Update**

Clarence Williams, representing federal advocacy team Becker Poliakoff, advised that the potential tariffs noted in a recent memorandum have been suspended from taking effect for 90 days. He emphasized the volatile nature of changes at the federal level at this time.

Mr. Williams continued that Becker Poliakoff representatives have had numerous conversations with the U.S. Secretary of Transportation. 100% of the grants used by the Broward MPO over the last several years will be rolling out, although at a slower pace than usual, and will become available within fiscal year (FY) 2025-2026. Some delays are expected, as up to 7% of all U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) employees have taken buyouts of their contracts.

The Congressional appropriations process has already begun in the U.S. House of Representatives. Members are currently taking earmark requests and will do so throughout the month of April. The Continuing Resolution (CR) passed in March 2025 removed all FY 2025 earmarks, although they may be resubmitted for FY 2026; however, only 0.5% of the total budget will be allotted to earmarks in FY 2026. The advocacy team has discussed key projects with MPO Staff and is working with the Florida delegation to pursue these earmarks.

The Surface Transportation Bill reauthorization process has begun, and a portal is open at the federal level to accept public feedback on necessary policy changes. This bill will not expire until September 2026.

Chair Colbourne noted that the consequences of the proposed federal tariffs may be far-reaching, and asked what the MPO can expect in terms of their impact. Bryan Caletka of MPO Staff advised that one of the most likely impacts is an increase in construction costs, particularly involving materials from other countries. This would increase costs over and above the escalator already applied by the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) to construction projects, which means the MPO will need to look to other areas to identify potential cost savings.

Lauren Jackson, representing state advocacy team TSE Consulting, reported that the Florida House of Representatives and Senate have issued their proposed budgets, which are separated by approximately \$4 billion. The House budget proposes roughly \$6 billion less than the current year's budget, and sweeps funding generated by documentary stamp taxes in the Transportation Trust Fund, which they feel can be made up elsewhere. This funding is swept into general revenue. This means significantly less money will go toward Strategic Intermodal Systems (SIS) as well as other programs.

The Senate's budget is lower than the House budget with regard to transit dollars; however, it does not appear to be interested in sweeping transportation dollars. The

Senate has also indicated interest in matching the House's recommendation for public transit and rail development dollars.

A tax package has not yet been developed, although the House has submitted a \$5 billion proposal for the reduction of sales taxes by 0.75%. There have been no other proposals of this nature at this time, aside from individual bills moving through the approval process.

One item of interest is language addressing local option surtaxes, which could significantly impact Broward County's transportation surtax by limiting its time frame to eight years. This would affect long-term planning as well as pursuit of federal grant funding. The bill has passed its second House Committee and may be included in the overall tax package. The sponsor of the House Bill has indicated possible interest in protecting existing surtax programs or the projects they have already funded.

Another bill of concern is a utility relocation bill, which has been amended in the House to apply to all communications services tax providers that own rights-of-way. This would mean if utilities within a municipal right-of-way and must be relocated, the municipality would be required to pay all costs of relocation to communications services tax providers. This would make it more difficult to realize road or railway projects and would significantly increase the costs of FDOT's Work Program.

Another consideration is the Live Local Act 3.0, as well as similar growth management bills. These would expand the Live Local Act by restricting local control in various areas.

An industry package includes language proposing the consolidation of MPOs, as well as performance and accountability measures similar to those proposed in the last regular legislative session. Mr. Calvaresi explained that this bill includes the termination of the Metropolitan Planning Organization Advisory Council (MPOAC), which would be replaced by an entity convened by FDOT. Another potential challenge in the bill is the consideration of assessments for MPOs' efficacy. Because the MPO is responsible for approximately 10% of its funding, this would not be an accurate measurement of its efficiency without assessment of FDOT as well.

Vice Chair Cooper emphasized the need to ensure that the public is aware of the impact of sweeping the Transportation Trust Fund, which impacts local projects, particularly maintenance.

Board Member Good addressed Senate Bill (SB) 818, asking if there has been consideration of making this bill apply only to new items not currently in FDOT's Work Program. Ms. Jackson clarified that the bill would apply to the current Work Program.

Board Member Good also requested clarification regarding federal roadways that are not subject to communications services tax providers, which do not receive those taxes.

Ms. Jackson advised that she would include this question in talking points for future discussions.

Chair Colbourne asked for more information on the possibility of a limit to local option taxes being included in a tax package. Ms. Jackson replied that if the bill stops advancing, it may not be dead, but may instead be included in a tax package.

## **2. Discussion of April 10, 2025 MPO Agenda Items**

Mr. Caletka reported that the evaluation forms for the Executive Director and General Counsel will be mailed to the Executive Committee later in the day. He requested that they be returned no later than April 25, 2025. The evaluations will be reviewed at the May 2025 Executive Committee meeting and will go before the MPO Board in June.

Mr. Caletka added that the MPO's lease will come to an end in two years, and renewal would require them to replace several aspects of the building, including linoleum, carpet, and paint. The cost of these improvements would be approximately \$250,000. The MPO is considering both potential relocation and renewal of the lease. There is currently a contract for real estate broker services, which are evaluating a number of options.

Board Member Good asked if the MPO has the option of owning a real estate asset. Mr. Caletka explained that state law prohibits the organization from owning real estate.

Vice Chair Cooper asked if the Metro Transportation Engineering and Construction Cooperative (MTECC), which is a sister organization to the MPO, is allowed to own real estate. MPO General Counsel Alan Gabriel advised that he would look into this further, although he did not believe it would be a viable option.

Mr. Caletka reviewed Consent and Action items on the April 10, 2025 MPO Board Agenda.

## **3. Review and Discussion of DRAFT May 8, 2025 Agenda Items and Future Agendas**

None.

## **4. Non-Agenda**

Mr. Caletka recalled that on March 25, 2025, he provided a letter of notice of termination for surtax services to Broward County in his capacity as Acting Executive Director. The letter is included in the correspondence for the MPO Board meeting. The agreement will expire on December 31, 2025. The County has acknowledged receipt of the letter in their annual reconciliation of surtax services, and has recommended closure of the

MPO's start-up account related to these services, with the balance to be returned to the County. They also recommended no further quarterly payments, as a balance of roughly \$400,000 remains in the MPO's operating account.

Vice Chair Cooper stated that Hallandale Beach will request a public presentation to its City Commission on a planned interchange for Pembroke Park and West Park.

Board Member Good asked if the termination of surtax services would require approval by the Oversight Board. Mr. Caletka clarified that the termination is purely administrative.

There being no further business to come before the Committee at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 9:26 a.m.