



CENTRAL FLORIDA MPO ALLIANCE MEETING

October 09, 2020

Carl Mikyska, Executive Director
Florida MPO Advisory Council



MPOAC LEGISLATIVE POLICY POSITIONS AND UPDATE

ANNUAL LIST OF PRIORITIES REVIEWED BY: STAFF DIRECTORS MPOAC GOVERNING BOARD

2020

LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES AND POLICY POSITIONS

The MPOAC supports State Legislation that:

- Expands transportation revenue sources and stabilizes transportation funding levels.
- Establishes a predictable funding level of \$250 million per year for the Transportation Regional Incentive Program.
- Allows Strategic Intermodal System (SIS) funds to be used on roads, transit, and other transportation facilities not designated on the SIS if the improvement will enhance mobility or support freight transportation on the SIS.
- Establishes flexible and predictable funding for transit projects (capital and operating) identified through the metropolitan transportation planning process by removing various funding limitations for the State Transportation Trust Fund.
- Recognizes that federal metropolitan transportation planning funds shall not be regarded as state funds for purposes of expenditure.
- Supports the advancement of innovative transportation mobility solutions and policies that promote creative approaches to addressing transportation needs, while simultaneously protecting citizens from malicious tampering with such technologies by making tampering a punishable offense.
- Regulates distracted driving by prohibiting the handheld use of electronic wireless communication devices and other similar distracting devices while operating a motor vehicle on any roadway.



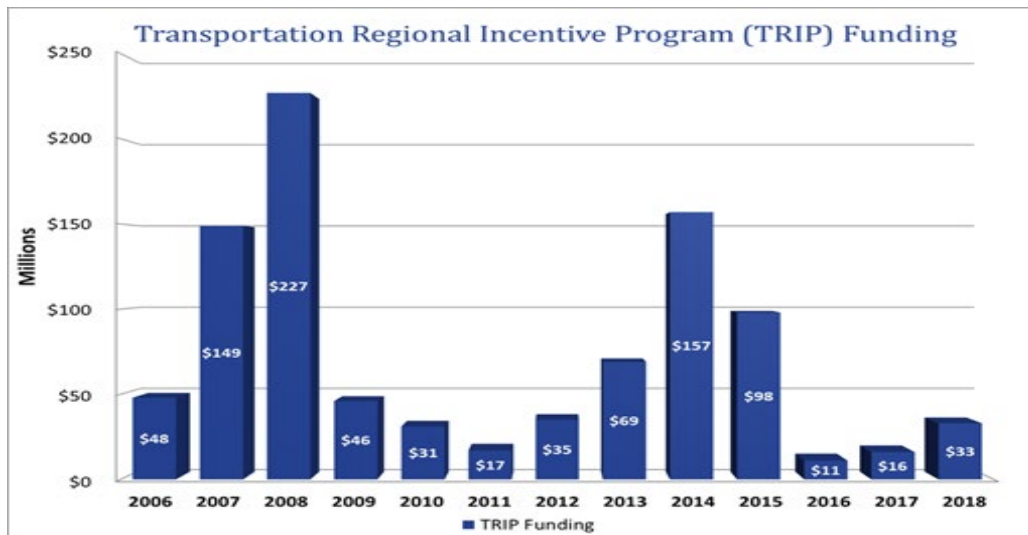
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What Changed this Year?



MPOAC Supports Legislation That:

- **Money – Merge priorities 1 & 2.**
- **Expands transportation revenue sources and stabilizes transportation funding levels.**
- **Establishes a predictable funding level of \$250 million per year for the Transportation Regional Incentive Program (TRIP). – Move this into Policy #1**



MPOAC Supports Legislation That:

- **Allows Strategic Intermodal System (SIS) funds to be used on roads, transit, and other transportation facilities not designated on the SIS if the improvement will enhance mobility or support freight transportation on the SIS. – No Change.**
- **Establishes flexible and predictable funding for transit projects (capital and operating) identified through the metropolitan transportation planning process by removing various funding limitations for the State Transportation Trust Fund (STTF). – Add Details that align with FL Public Transportation Association.**

MPOAC Supports Legislation That:

- **Recognizes that federal metropolitan transportation planning funds shall not be regarded as state funds for purposes of expenditure. – No Change.**
- **Supports the advancement of innovative transportation mobility solutions and policies that promote creative approaches to addressing transportation needs, while simultaneously protecting citizens from malicious tampering with such technologies by making tampering a punishable offense. – No Change.**

MPOAC Supports Legislation That:

- **Regulates distracted driving by prohibiting the handheld use of electronic wireless communication devices and other similar distracting devices while operating a motor vehicle on any roadway. – No Change and Move to #2 in our list.**

Hope to remove this policy after the
2021 Session



MPOAC Supports Legislation That:

- **NEW - Add provisions to Florida's Sunshine Law to allow all government entities to hold virtual meetings during a declared emergency plus a period of 90 days past the declared emergency dates.**

RETURN OF THE NEWSLETTER

MPOAC

The Florida Metropolitan Planning Organization Advisory Council

*Commissioner Nick Maddox
Chair*

Legislative Update for the week ending

03/22/2019

Overview

This week's MPOAC Legislative Newsletter has the honor of starting out with a bit of good news. HB 107, the distracted driving bill is going to be heard in its first House committee stop on Tuesday!!!! A shout-out to one of my colleagues, Lauren, for tipping me off that the good news was coming. She and her team are part of a valuable collation of transportation lobbyists who help to make sure our local voices are heard in the Legislature. Please share your thanks and support for HB 107 by calling your legislator. The Senate version, SB 76 is being heard in Judiciary Committee on Monday. Let's hope this is the year that distracted driving becomes a primary offense. We may need your calls soon to help HB 107 to be heard in the second committee stop.

The other big news this week was that each chamber announced their proposed budgets. In the Senate, we anxiously waited for Senator Hutson, Chair of the Transportation, Tourism and Economic Development Subcommittee on Appropriations, to share with us the news related to the Senate's proposed transportation budget. It was great news, transportation is fully funded. For many of my audience, the other piece of good news is that the Senate is also proposing to not remove funds from the Sadowski Housing Fund for affordable housing.

A little more about the budget proposals..... Please remember that these are proposals and must go through the horse-trading process of aligning the spending priorities of each chamber in the final budget and in this process we must not forget that the governor also gets to weigh in either early in the process or later with his veto pen (or both times). The budget details of each chamber will have to change since the House and Senate budgets are about \$400 Million apart. This sounds bad when considering the amount is \$400 Million but they actually are not that far apart in the scheme of our total state budget amounts when you consider the Senate has proposed spending \$90.3 Billion and the House has proposed spending \$89.9 Billion. To help put things in perspective, last year the Legislature and Governor approved a statewide budget of \$88.7 Billion and Governor DeSantis proposed a budget this year of \$91.3 Billion. House Speaker Olivia has clearly stated that one of his priorities to spend less per capita this coming state fiscal year than the current year. Now we are spending about \$4800 per capita in Florida. How each chamber spends the money is where we get into the differences.

Transportation is proposed to be fully funded and we should be thankful for that, quickly knock on a block of wood! One good part of Florida transportation is the fact that our money comes from a trust fund that is filled with dollars from the USDOT and state transportation sources such as our state gas tax and motor vehicle license registration fees. Those dollars are dedicated to transportation and in the case of the federal dollars they must be spent on transportation, the federal dollars cannot be spent on other purposes. The other interesting detail of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Tourism and Economic Development is

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Let's Talk Earmarks and Budget

- In current budget - earmarks vetoed by Governor
- Upcoming budget is slim
- Vetoed Projects cannot advance
- Governor's Line Item Veto – Gone!!!

Earmarks = Bad Idea
No Earmarks





THANK YOU

