



metroplan orlando
A REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PARTNERSHIP



2021 Legislative Priorities & Positions

Adopted February 10, 2021

We're A Regional Transportation Partnership

MetroPlan Orlando is the metropolitan planning organization (MPO) for Orange, Osceola and Seminole counties in Central Florida. MPOs were created under federal law to direct urban transportation planning and the allocation of federal and state funds. As a regional transportation planning agency, MetroPlan Orlando provides a forum for local elected officials, transportation experts, and members of the community to work together to improve mobility for residents, businesses, and visitors.

Contacts:

Gary Huttman
Executive Director
(407) 481-5672 x319
GHuttman@MetroPlanOrlando.org

Virginia L. Whittington
Director of Regional Partnerships
(407) 497-1536
VLWhittington@MetroPlanOrlando.org

Top Priorities



- ▶ Seek funding for further expansion of the Best Foot Forward pedestrian safety program
- ▶ Change existing laws to include bicyclists as vulnerable road users (cyclists) in current *Move Over Law* (316.126 F.S.)

We Support Legislation That:

Adds an exception to F.S. 934.50 which authorizes use of drone technology for traffic incident management and/or emergency response.

Protects the State Transportation Trust Fund.

Protects Transportation Disadvantaged funding for paratransit (ACCESS LYNX) service.

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).

Provides flexibility in the use of local option discretion taxes such as Charter County & Regional Transportation System Surtax and the Local Government Infrastructure Surtax.

Allows Strategic Intermodal System (SIS) funds to be used on roads and other transportation facilities not designated on the SIS if the improvement will enhance mobility or support freight transportation on the SIS. (NOTE: *This item also includes consideration of TSMO projects that enhance mobility.*)

Funds the Transportation Regional Incentive Program (TRIP) at a predictable level of \$250 Million per year.

Supports the advancement of innovative transportation mobility solutions and policies that make Florida the national leader in creative approaches to addressing transportation needs, including Autonomous, Connected, Electric, and Shared vehicle technology.

Supports the advancement of innovative transportation mobility solutions and policies that make Florida the national leader in creative approaches to addressing transportation needs, including Autonomous, Connected, Electric, and Shared vehicle technology.

Adds provisions to Florida's Sunshine law that allows public meetings to be conducted virtually during a declared state of emergency.

Monitor Legislation That:

Regulates distracted driving by prohibiting the use of handheld two-way electronic wireless communications devices and other similar distracting handheld devices while operating a motor vehicle on any roadway

SUPPORT

Seeks to alter, revise, or rescind Red Light Camera legislation

OPPOSE

Seeks to mandate changes to mid-block crossing designations

NO POSITION TAKEN

Seeks to diminish the role of Regional Planning Councils

OPPOSE

Executive Agency Action Item:

Staff to work with DFS and FDOT to cooperatively resolve concerns with the state practice the recognizes that federal metropolitan transportation planning funds as state funds for purposes of expenditure.