

Journey to 2050 – Multimodal Needs

Sept. 11, 2025 | Q&A

(Note: The following questions were answered live during the webinar; this is a summary.)

Q1: When planning for the future, is there consideration of county budgets, or is that part of a different plan?

A: The 2050 MTP primarily focuses on state and federal transportation funding. County budgets are considered in terms of their contributions and responsibilities for transportation funding and implementation, particularly for transit operations. However, county budgeting is handled separately through local government processes such as comprehensive plans or annual budget hearings. The 2050 MTP does replace county budget processes. Local governments still prepare, balance, and decide their budgets independently of our process.

Q2: Why are toll road projects the most expensive?

A: Toll road projects are typically much larger in scope, and often involve building multi-lane, high-capacity roads, or developing entirely new corridors. They can also require complex interchanges, tolling technology, land acquisition, environmental mitigation, and they are also built to high design standards. Financing through long-term bonds can also add to the overall cost.

These projects fall under the planning consistency category for the 2050 MTP and are primarily funded by the toll agencies themselves. Their significant scope and scale makes them more expensive compared to smaller, lower-cost project improvements like those included in the 2050 Plan's Complete Streets, TSMO, or active transportation project categories.

Q3: Since active transportation projects are identified as a high need and have a relatively low cost, do they receive higher prioritization for funding?

A: Our prioritization methodology included both quantitative measures and qualitative input from local decision makers. Active transportation projects are assessed for connectivity and accessibility to essential services within the region. Additional information about the prioritization methodology is posted on our 2050 Plan website.

Most importantly, these projects have a dedicated funding source specific to Active Transportation projects, and they are not competing for funding with other project types. The 2050 Plan's multimodal funding policy ensures that active transportation improvements will be implemented over the life of the 2050 Plan. Additional information about the 2050 Plan's recommended funding policy is posted on our website.

Q4: How was public engagement and feedback incorporated into the list of projects?

A: Public input is central to the MTP process, so opportunities to hear from the community were built in throughout the update process. Feedback from community members influenced the development of the goals and objectives and prioritization process for the MTP as well as , and the funding policy. Engagement also occurred through community events, surveys, and input gathered during development of related master plans such as the TSMO Master Plan, the Active Transportation Plan, and Safety Action Plans that informed the 2050 MTP needs assessment. This input shaped the types of projects included, ensuring they address community-identified needs.

Q5: How does the MTP process ensure that cost estimates are accurate and not over- or underestimated?

A: We use multiple data sources and consistent methodologies, including FDOT's cost-per-mile models, planning-level estimates from master plans, and historical cost data from completed projects. Estimates are adjusted in collaboration with local agencies to account for complexity factors such as environmental impacts or land acquisition.

Q6: Who performs the cost calculations?

A: Project cost estimates are calculated using detailed spreadsheets that incorporate project descriptions to identify the project type. This process also adjusts costs based on complexity, which includes unique factors impacting cost as determined in collaboration with local governments. While cost estimates are formally updated during the MTP cycle, adjustments are also made as needed when conditions change.

Q7: What percentage of the total transportation planning budget is dedicated to active transportation?

A: Under the 2050 MTP, the recommended annual funding is estimated at \$34 million in total. Of this:

- 26% is allocated to high-injury network countermeasure (safety) projects
- 22% to Urban Corridor/Complete Streets improvements
- 22% to TSMO projects
- 8% to Active Transportation projects
- 22% to Transit Capital

This policy is reviewed with each MTP update every five years to make sure that the funding policy is tailored and adapted to meet the goals of the region and to help us achieve our overall vision for the future of the transportation network.

Q8: What is the difference between a master plan estimate and a historical cost estimate?

A: Master plan estimates are planning-level costs developed specifically for projects within strategic plans, such as the TSMO or Vision Zero Action Plans. Historical cost estimates, on the other hand, are averages from recently completed FDOT projects of similar type. Both are used to inform cost projections.

Q9: What happened to the projects from the last MTP?

A: The 2045 MTP needs list was the starting point for the needs assessment as part of the 2050 update. As part of the stakeholder outreach, local partners identified which projects should remain on the needs assessment list unchanged, which should remain on the list but require updates, and which could be removed if already completed or no longer relevant. Projects still meeting community needs were rolled forward into the 2050 MTP. This same process will occur during the next update cycle.

Q10: How can the public make comments on the proposed projects?

A: There are several ways to provide input, including online feedback tools, public meetings, outreach events, and direct communication with our team. We welcome and encourage community input to ensure the plan reflects local priorities.

- Email: MTP@MetroPlanOrlando.gov
- In-Person:
 - MTP Public Meeting on September 29th, 2025 from 5:00pm – 7:00pm at the Orange County Multicultural Center (7149 W Colonial Dr, Orlando, FL 32818)
 - Any MetroPlan Orlando Advisory Committee or Board Meeting. The MetroPlan Orlando Online Calendar includes the latest information on these meetings (including virtual/zoom access if you cannot attend in-person): <https://metroplanorlando.gov/calendar/>