



FTP Implementation Committee Meeting # 3

September 16, 2021
9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
[Go To Meeting](#)

MEETING OBJECTIVES

- Refine FTP implementation actions related to mobility and connectivity
- Refine SIS Policy Plan Recommendations
- Discuss FTP Implementation actions for additional strategies

MEETING ATTENDEES

Implementation Committee Member		Alternate(s)	
Brad Thoburn, Chair	Florida Department of Transportation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Alison Stettner <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Paul Owens	1000 Friends of Florida	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Vivian Young <input type="checkbox"/>
Laura Cantwell	AARP Florida	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ann-Marie Flannery <input type="checkbox"/>
Andra Cornelius	CareerSource Florida	<input type="checkbox"/>	Dehryl McCall <input type="checkbox"/>
Jamie Christian	Federal Highway Administration	<input type="checkbox"/>	Karen Brunelle <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cathy Kendall <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Michael Stewart	Florida Airports Council	<input type="checkbox"/>	Lisa Waters <input type="checkbox"/>
The Honorable Doug Smith	Florida Association of Counties	<input type="checkbox"/>	Eric Poole <input type="checkbox"/>
David Darm	Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Karen Somerset <input type="checkbox"/>
Eric Frey	Florida Council of 100	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Steven Birnholz <input type="checkbox"/> Bob Ward <input type="checkbox"/>
Terry McCaffrey	Florida Defense Alliance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ryan Fierst	Florida Department of Economic Opportunity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
James Stansbury	Florida Department of Economic Opportunity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Implementation Committee Member			Alternate(s)	
Chris Stahl	Florida Department of Environmental Protection	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
Ursula Weiss	Florida Department of Health	<input type="checkbox"/>	Michelle Harkness	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Lt. Col. Troy Thompson	Florida Highway Patrol (Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles)	<input type="checkbox"/>	James Hightower Jeff Dixon	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Lucienne Pears	Florida Economic Development Council	<input type="checkbox"/>	Beth Cicchetti	<input type="checkbox"/>
The Honorable Matthew Surrency	Florida League of Cities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Jeff Branch	<input type="checkbox"/>
Emily Fisher	Florida Ports Council	<input type="checkbox"/>	Casey Grigsby	<input type="checkbox"/>
Karen Deigl	Florida Public Transportation Association	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Lisa Bacot	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Craig Camuso	Florida Railroad Association	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
Pat Steed, Vice Chair	Florida Regional Councils Association	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Denise Imbler	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Ananth Prasad	Florida Transportation Builders Association	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
David Genson	Florida Transportation Commission	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ralph Yoder	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Alix Miller	Florida Trucking Association	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
Sally Patrenos	Floridians for Better Transportation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
Greg Slay	Metropolitan Planning Organization Advisory Council	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Jeff Kramer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Ken Bryan	Rails-To-Trails Conservancy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
Chris Doolin	Small County Coalition	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
Mark Bontrager	Space Florida	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
The Honorable Sean Parks	TEAM Florida	<input type="checkbox"/>	Brady Nepple	<input type="checkbox"/>
Janet Bowman	The Nature Conservancy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
John Renne	Urban Land Use Institute Florida	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
Katie Juckett	Visit Florida	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>

Staff/Consultant Support		
Dana Reiding	FDOT, Office of Policy Planning (OPP)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Huiwei Shen	FDOT, Chief Planner	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Kenyatta Lee	FDOT, Chief of Modal Development	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Brian Watts	FDOT, Forecasting & Trends Office (FTO)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Monica Zhong	FDOT, Forecasting & Trends Office (FTO)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
April Combs	FDOT, Office of Policy Planning (OPP)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Becky Marsey	FDOT, Office of Policy Planning (OPP)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Jennifer Carver	FDOT, Office of Policy Planning (OPP)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Romero Dill	FDOT, Office of Policy Planning (OPP)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Abra Horne	FDOT, Office of Policy Planning (OPP)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lora Hollingsworth	FDOT, Safety Office	<input type="checkbox"/>
Chris Edmonston	FDOT, Systems Implementation Office (SIO)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Gerald Goosby	FDOT, Systems Implementation Office (SIO)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Jennifer King	FDOT, Systems Implementation Office (SIO)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Brigitte Boisvert	FDOT, Office of Organizational Development (ODO)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Carey Caldwell	HDR (consultant support to SIO)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Briana Ozor	HDR (consultant support to SIO)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Santanu Roy	HDR (consultant support to SIO)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
John Kaliski	Cambridge Systematics (consultant support to OPP)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Sarah Walker	Cambridge Systematics (consultant support to OPP)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Danny Shopf	Cambridge Systematics (consultant support to OPP)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Alan Amidon	Cambridge Systematics (consultant support to OPP)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Others in Attendance	
Paul Calvaresi	Broward MPO
Don Scott	Lee MPO
William Cobb	Florida Transportation Commission
David Muntean	Kittleson & Associates
Dale Calhoun	Florida Natural Gas Association

MEETING SUMMARY

Welcome and Introductions

Brad Thoburn, FDOT, welcomed attendees and thanked them for their time and effort throughout this process. He applauded the consistency of the steering committee as plans are updated. He noted positive announcements related to projects coming American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding, including projects for Florida's seaports. He provided a brief update on the status of Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act under consideration by Congress. He then asked Rebecca Marsey, FDOT, to review the meeting procedures, take an attendance roll call and review the agenda.

FTP Implementation Outline and Sample Sections

John Kaliski, Cambridge Systematics, briefly reviewed the four elements of the FTP: Vision, Policy, Performance, and Implementation. Then he shared the Implementation Element draft outline and example pages to receive feedback from the committee on its format and overall structure. He noted that the pages on the safety, resilience, and technology infrastructure strategies were drafted and that the remaining sections will be provided to the committee before the next meeting.

Participants had the following questions and comments:

- A member noted that in the Policy Element there were call outs for specific initiatives in each emphasis area, and it may be beneficial to include similar callouts in this document. The Coast to Coast Trail was cited as a potential example for the safety strategy. Ken also suggested that the number of Floridians living within x miles of a trail network could be an example of an "indicator to watch," as it could help readers be aware of regional networks throughout the state.
 - This example could also apply to the strategy for Completing Transportation Networks.
- Another member agreed that the call out examples would be helpful for readers less familiar with the FTP.
- A member suggested including a link to each initiatives' website.
- A member recommended including "policy" in the "Planning and Decision Making" category as the adoption of rules and legislative changes could be relevant for some strategies.

Implementation Element Actions Related to Mobility and Connectivity

Brad asked Dana Reiding, FDOT, to walk through the draft implementation actions for the following key strategies:

- Transform Florida's Major Transportation Corridors and Hubs
- Strategically Complete Transportation Systems and Networks

- Prioritize Mobility for People and Freight

Dana asked if the implementation actions displayed on screen were the right actions for each of the following topics:

- Collaboration
- Customers
- Performance and Data
- Planning and Decision Making
- Regional and Local Flexibility

Transform Florida's Major Transportation Corridors and Hubs

Participants had the following questions and comments:

- A member emphasized how the FHWA's recent Rail-with-Trail Report pointed out the stellar safety record of rail-with-trail projects. He said this could be an opportunity to expand rail service to move people as well as freight.
- A member suggested adding an action about enhancing coordination with partners. They said the action about regional and local flexibility may provide co-location opportunities could identify colocation opportunities to support both statewide and local trips.
 - It was recommended to expand call outs to specifically reference partners for each mode.
 - A member mentioned that this could get extensive. He said "other partners" should be defined and referenced throughout the document, possibly in a partner roles section.

Strategically Complete Transportation Systems and Networks

Participants had the following questions and comments:

- A member noted that the blank spaces under some of the implementation actions comes across to readers as incomplete. He suggested that some of the actions from other categories could be placed in the blank categories.
- A member asked about whether there should be an actin about clarifying eligibility for the transportation disadvantaged program under the customer category. She noted there needs to be more references to collaboration throughout the document.
 - Some of the actions could apply to more than one strategy, and that as all 12 sets of actions are drafted, staff will review for redundancy and consolidation.
- A member suggested adding a reference to seamlessness of customers moving across modes.

- Technology could be leveraged for that action, emphasizing the importance of customers accessing information about technology that allows for seamless movement across modes.
- This concept is also included in the mobility actions. This is another good example of needing to step back and tell the story of where the document has overlap.
- A member said to include an action to provide information connecting people to available resources
- Another member agreed and suggested making this document more operational to actualize these connections.

Prioritize Mobility for People and Freight

Participants had the following questions and comments:

- A member recommended making a stronger statement about the importance of mobility.
- A member said to add a reference under performance to more measures of trip quality.
- A member said to add reference to new PMs that go beyond the federal requirements.
- A member said to include a reference to trails that connect to the SIS.

Dana noted the committee would get a chance to add their input for the action items again in the future.

Refine SIS Policy Plan Recommendations

Brad asked Gerald Goosby, FDOT, to provide a status update on the SIS Policy Plan. Gerald gave a presentation that shared the current status of the plan update as well as partner feedback from outreach efforts to date. He highlighted topics that needed emphasis in the update process and gave a quick refresher on the history, purpose, and utility of the Strategic Intermodal System (SIS) as it relates to the FTP. He updated the committee on the schedule, noting that a draft plan will be available by the end of the year and finalized in early 2022. He reviewed what would be included in the plan, including objectives, focus areas, policies and strategies, and implementation guidance. Next, he reviewed the plan objectives and focus areas, as well as the public outreach efforts that included 29 briefings and 808 attendees. The feedback from the public outreach process included support for the greater emphasis on safety, resilience, and emerging mobility solutions; and support for a greater balance between statewide/interregional and regional/local needs, with particular emphasis on the need for flexibility.

Participants had the following questions and comments:

- A member appreciated the reference to being able to use SIS funds for projects on facilities off-SIS to improve the performance of the SIS, He suggested that if transit can be funded through this approach, trails should be too so the policy is more inclusive of walking and biking.
- A member asked what are some of the other sources for defining “interregional,” noting that Gerald said regions were being aligned with the Urban Area (UA) definitions from the 2020 census.
 - The distinction between Urbanized Areas and Urban Clusters may go away, creating single definition of Urban Area.
 - Some of the definitions can get complex and that feedback from the committee is good, but suggested it may be useful to convene a smaller work group to take deeper dive on technical questions such as definitions.
- A member stated that there are many different definitions from different partner perspectives. She emphasized the importance of getting consistent language especially if everyone does not understand the nuances of each issue.
- A member said that it was noteworthy to be moving towards reevaluating and adjusting these definitions.
 - The importance of having different perspectives at the table was emphasized.
- A member said they understood the importance of more focus on urban areas, but the focus on rural mobility is important too.
 - There was a general moving away from the rural and urban dichotomy with a larger emphasis being placed on regions and different geographic considerations.

Gerald reviewed what was next for the SIS Policy Plan update.

Brad said that recognizing the importance of this issue, he wanted to provide an opportunity for public comment period specific to the SIS Policy Plan at this time in the meeting.

Public Comment Specifically for SIS

- The public commenter said they liked the suggested approach for providing flexibility for quick response solutions involving technology. They asked if that approach could be applied to safety projects as well. They said that in South Florida, SIS facilities are important regional connectors, and that safety is critical as crashes impede access to highway on and off ramps. They said he appreciated the references to regional and local flexibility. Finally, they referenced the language in the SIS portion of Florida Statute that mentions “intercity economic centers”, saying that the Broward MPO has identified a half dozen growing economic centers in Broward County.

Break for Lunch

Welcome Back

Brad welcomed attendees back and reviewed the afternoon agenda. He then asked Dana and Jennifer Carver, FDOT, to lead the discussion of the next set of strategies, with Sarah taking on screen notes.

Initial Discussion of FTP Implementation Actions for Additional Strategies

Dana gave a quick overview of the additional strategies on the agenda before leading the discussion.

Further Access to Opportunity for Those Who Need It Most

Participants had the following questions and comments:

- A member said that biking and walking can play a key role in equity and access and suggested a stronger statement about these systems. He also suggested adding bike/ped Plans to the list of regional and local examples.
- A member suggested that that new infrastructure should not reduce access to existing communities.
- A member agreed that access should not be reduced, but also recommended that environmental restoration as well as undoing the damage done to communities by highway construction should be incorporated. This approach also is included in the current versions of the federal infrastructure bill.
 - The access question may tie into land use as well. As job centers move, if land use and infrastructure are not designed for all modes, there will be an adverse impact on access to opportunity. An awareness of access to opportunity should be incorporated in both transportation and land use strategies.
- A member mentioned that IJJA would provide direction to MPOs in considering housing access in their planning processes.
- A member said to use data to better define underserved populations.
- A member emphasized the affordability of transportation options such as biking and walking, highlighting the work of GroundWork Jax as a good example of creating connectivity and resiliency in traditionally underserved communities. He emphasized the importance of removing barriers to transportation and leveraging access to information about transportation services.
- A member highlighted Project Sunrise as a statewide initiative related to improving Florida's economic competitiveness.

Dana concluded the discussion saying that the committee will have more opportunities to contribute thoughts to action items to flesh out the document in the future.

Integrate Land Use and Transportation Decisions

Jennifer went through each action item with members of the committee and requested feedback.

Participants had the following questions and comments:

- A member mentioned the Florida 2070 study of growth trends in Florida as an example that looked at the state as a whole that included an analysis of the location of development based on transportation infrastructure.
- A member recommended including the Florida Wildlife Corridor as part of a regional vision consideration.
- A member mentioned the Miami Dade TPO Smart Plan.
- A member emphasized the regional and statewide approach of SUNTrail and that the Smart Plan has a trail component.
- A member recommended including Polk Vision and City of Lakeland: Our Community Vision 2030 as examples.
- A member recommended having better integration between regional and community visions and comprehensive plans and regional transportation planning conducted by entities like the Central Florida Expressway and the Miami Dade Expressway. They said that FDOT does a good job establishing a vision and collaboration with partners, but that road building agencies may not share this focus vision. She also emphasized the importance of community context.
 - The challenge of aligning transportation and economic development strategies was noted. It is difficult for transportation agencies to invest in things that are speculative. Opportunities are not necessarily predictable which necessitates the need to be nimble.
- A member said that FDOT District Five is leading a space coast subarea study to explore strategic transportation initiatives to enable connectivity to SIS hubs.
- A member also asked about the use of Economic Development Transportation as an action.
- FDOT recommended including emerging mobility solutions and innovation.
- A member said that the next TOD is "Trail Oriented Development." They wanted to include the Florida Greenways and Trail Network, as well as the Brightline project.

Develop Transportation Systems to Protect and Enhance Air Quality, Water Quality and Quantity, Critical Lands and Habitat.

Jennifer went through each action item with members of the committee and requested feedback.

Participants had the following questions and comments:

- A member discussed Senate Bill 100, which replaced M-CORES. He mentioned that the bill included specific provisions adopted by the M-CORES Task Forces that dealt directly with environmental resources in the process of corridor planning. He said the guiding principles should reference the recommendations found in the M-CORES Task Force reports.
 - The language was intended to reference those reports.
- A member recommended including Florida Wildlife Corridor Statute as well.
- A member recommended including the Southeast Florida Clean Cities Coalition as well as the East Central Florida Resilience Collaborative.
- A member recommended having better integration between regional and community visions and comprehensive plans and regional transportation planning conducted by entities like the Central Florida Expressway and the Miami Dade Expressway. They said that FDOT does a good job establishing a vision and collaboration with partners, but that road building agencies may not share this focus vision. She also emphasized the importance of community context.
 - The challenge of aligning transportation and economic development strategies was noted. It is difficult for transportation agencies to invest in things that are speculative. Opportunities are not necessarily predictable which necessitates the need to be nimbler
- FDOT suggested adding a placeholder as the federal infrastructure bill provides funding opportunities for items in the discussion. He emphasized that the committee needs to think about how to position itself as more funding opportunities come down regarding electric vehicles, resilience, and equity. He noted that these opportunities require members of the committee to think and work together as partners to leverage an equitable amount of the money from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.

Partner Roundtable

Brad oversaw a discussion that allowed attendees to provide updates on their organizations' work to the committee. He reminded partners to add to discussion.

- Pat Steed, Florida Regional Councils Association, provided an update on various competitive economic development grants from the U.S. Department of Commerce the various Florida regional planning council are pursuing, highlighting that some of them may include projects relevant to the action items discussed in today's meeting.
- Janet Bowman discussed The Nature Conservancy's work with Regional Resilience Collaboratives and informed the committee of the Women in Climate webinar scheduled for October 8.
- Mark Bontrager, Space Florida, gave an update on recent activities related to space travel. He said there was a successful lift off the night before, marking the first successful commercial flight with a crew comprising no trained astronauts in history. He suggested the future will bring commercial space stations, including consumers traveling to the moon. He emphasized Space Florida is doing everything they can to make Florida the place to be for commercial space flight. Lastly he informed the committee that there are two other spaceports in Florida besides Cape Canaveral and that growing them is a priority.
- Alix Miller, Florida Trucking Association, discussed supply chain issues affecting the trucking industry specifically delays and the lack of truck drivers. She noted that the flexibility to waive weight and size limitations during emergency events is a primary focus.
- Eric Frey, Florida Council of 100, discussed the three committees of talent and higher education, health care, economic competitiveness and how those committees' projects encompass some of the FTP goals.
- David Darm, Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged, said the biggest update is the challenge in finding paratransit drivers. He said demand and service levels are increasing, but that the supply shortage of drivers has been happening since the beginning of the pandemic. He said they were looking at exploring innovation grant programs, which were previously funded through M-CORES. He mentioned he was looking forward to what comes out of the future legislative discussions.
- Chris Stahl, Florida Department of Environmental Protection informed the committee of recent leadership changes at DEP.
- Michelle Harkins, Department of Health, gave an update on facilitating the new State Health Improvement Plan for 2022-2026. She informed the committee that the state health assessment was underway, that the advisory group for the assessment met the previous day, and that the recommended focus areas over the next five years will be presented.
- Paul Owens, 1000 Friends of Florida, informed the committee of an upcoming webinar that highlights state agency initiatives for community resilience.

- Ken Bryan, Rails to Trails Conservancy, informed the committee of a potential trail summit and future announcements concerning a series of grant awards.
- Chief Jeffrey Dixon, Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles, said there were no major changes, but that the highway patrol has 10 to 15 officers out on quarantine and that two officers lost their lives in the past month due to SARS-COVID-2.
- Chris Doolin, Small County Coalition, said that general revenue projections were up. He emphasized the importance of the economic role the Department of Corrections plays in rural areas, highlighting a number of temporary closures, as well as generous benefit packages to attract staffers. He noted the loss of funding through M-CORES, and shared his thoughts on the DEO Office of Broadband program.

Next steps

Dana reviewed the next steps for the committee. She said the Implementation Element would be revised based on today's . She said staff will be finishing up the draft of the Implementation Element before the next meeting with a final draft available in January, happening concurrently with the SIS Policy Plan Draft.

For the next meeting, Dana said the committee will be talking about the foundational strategies related to workforce, investments, and funding. She noted there would be an ad hoc work group meeting on the SIS Policy Plan, as well. Brad briefly discussed a possible transit strategy guidance document.

Public Comment

There were no comments from the public.

Adjourn

Brad thanked everyone for their participation and the robust discussion from today. He adjourned at 3:29 PM.