



Florida Department of Transportation  
Office of Policy Planning

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# **ADDENDUM**

## **Partner and Public Involvement Plan**

For the update of the

**Florida Transportation Plan**

and

**Strategic Intermodal System Policy Plan**

April 2020

As identified in the Partner and Public Involvement (PPI) Plan dated May 2019, the purpose of the PPI plan is to provide early and continuous opportunities for public and partner input into statewide transportation needs, opportunities, and decision-making. Since the kickoff of the FTP in May 2019, FDOT has conducted partner and public involvement activities as planned and has received valuable feedback to this point. At this time in the update process, FDOT is in the process of planning regional workshops to gather partner and public input through face-to-face meetings around the state during May-July.

However, in light of the global pandemic resulting from the novel coronavirus called COVID-19, FDOT recognizes the emergency situation calling for alternative public involvement strategies. The call for social distancing and the statewide order to be safer at home will prohibit typical in-person outreach activities during this crisis.

As a result, FDOT is evaluating the best way(s) to provide opportunities for public and partner input during this time/phase of the FTP update. FDOT's alternative approach to face-to-face public meetings is intended to provide temporary options to gather partner and public input but not to replace the proven in-person strategies. The emergency procedures for public involvement are considered temporary as the Governor's stay at home order is set to expire April 30, 2020. However, it may be extended depending on the circumstances at that time, and there may be some public reluctance to participate in large in-person gatherings for an extended period of time. Options being considered, depending on the audience, include:

- Virtual meetings through a platform such as GoToMeeting or Zoom
- Virtual public workshop on the FTP website recreating an in-person design into a virtual format
- Telephone Town Hall meetings reaching a large random sample of the public via phone or internet
- Focus groups using existing platforms such as internet panels or virtual meetings
- Meeting in a box/mailers gathering input via physical surveys and comment forms

In addition to these input alternatives, the FTP website will remain active to receive comment on any aspect of the FTP at any time. The surveys also will remain available as input is needed.

Depending on the type of input being sought, public involvement strategies will be chosen to be as inclusive as possible to the extent that they comply with emergency executive orders to protect public health.

If the public involvement strategies are not sufficiently inclusive due to public health concern limitations, FDOT may consider holding in-person meetings, as originally planned, at a later time in the year and after the emergency is over to ensure the public is informed and has the ability to provide comment on the draft FTP. Either way, an online 45-day public comment period is still planned for October 2020 to receive comment on the draft plan.



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