



Florida Department of Transportation and MPOs Work Together on Performance Management

Quick Information

Organization(s): Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT)

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Website: <http://www.fdot.gov/agencyresources/performance.shtm>

Cooperation Topic(s): Public Engagement; Statewide Planning

Cooperation Practice(s): Forums for Communication and Idea Sharing; Data Sharing and Developing Common Modeling and Forecasting Tools

Cost Information: Effort funded with Federal and State funds, including Statewide Planning and Research Program

Transportation performance is of paramount importance to State departments of transportation (DOTs) and their Federal and metropolitan planning organization (MPO) partners. Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) has been aggressively implementing performance-based management for many years. Florida's commitment to a culture of performance is underscored by its leadership and its comprehensive policy on performance management. FDOT's efforts to collaborate not only within the agency, but with multimodal planning agencies and operators such as MPOs, transit agencies, freight, and other stakeholder partners, are key aspects of the policy's success.

FDOT's performance policy, established in 2014, calls for performance-based programs and plans. In 2015, FDOT updated the Florida Transportation Plan (FTP), a performance-based long range transportation plan, with measures linked to performance reports that the department has produced annually for the past 20 years. FDOT has proactively collaborated with its partners to advance performance management and measurement principles into the department's planning, programming, and decisionmaking processes.

Motivation for Establishing the Collaboration

Having responsibility for the overall performance of the State's transportation system, FDOT established a broad statewide performance policy that emphasizes performance as a part of the planning, financing, and work program development processes. FDOT's transportation plans take into account both Federal policy and MPO planning. As such, it is important that these intergovernmental efforts align to the greatest extent possible. Doing so requires partnerships for performance, a concept promoted by FDOT. FDOT held its first statewide performance workshop in 2014, which established a shared need and motivation for collaboration on the PBPP in Florida to address five objectives:

Efficiency and Effectiveness – FDOT and MPO collaboration is essential and opportune, particularly in terms of ensuring an efficiency and effectiveness of effort.

Resource Optimization – MPOs are concerned about having the resources necessary to comply with pending Federal reporting requirements, as well as the expanded focus on performance measurement in general. For a collaborative approach to be truly innovative, it must consider ways to share noteworthy practices, data, and other resources.

Data Issues – There are many data issues related to performance measurement that need to be sorted out and prioritized by FDOT, MPOs, modal partners, and other stakeholders. FDOT's collaboration efforts have recognized that data issues such as availability, consistency, and cost are paramount concerns of all partners.

Multimodal Focus – Performance measurement should be multimodal with a focus on intended outcomes that tie to planning. There should be meaningful opportunities to collaborate with modal partners representing freight, public transportation, and bicycle/pedestrian concerns.

Public and Stakeholder Engagement – Performance measurement, if properly deployed, provides an opportunity for greater communication and engagement with the public and other transportation stakeholders. The internet and social media greatly enhance the potential possibilities for doing so.

Collaboration Structure

FDOT initiated its transportation performance collaboration with annual workshops that began in 2014. FDOT's performance reporting requirements are supported by State and Federal funds including the Statewide Planning and Research Program (SPR). Each annual workshop includes participation from FDOT, all of Florida's MPOs, and Federal partners. The workshops provide a forum for idea sharing and learning, which has resulted in a dramatic increase in communication and participation with Florida MPOs since the initial workshop. The first workshop in 2014 included briefings by FDOT, the Federal Highway Administration, and the Federal Transit Administration, as well as an interactive discussion with MPO partners. In the 2015 and 2016 workshops, the MPOs' role grew with more active participation and a greater partnership role in the performance planning discussion.

Takeaways

- FDOT's performance policy, established in 2014, guides performance-based programs and planning.
- FDOT initiated its collaborative effort on transportation performance with annual workshops that began in 2014.
- FDOT's performance reporting requirements are supported by State and Federal funds.
- The workshops spurred the creation of a pilot project that aims to develop standardized performance reports for the established Federal measures as a part of this pilot project. The product of this pilot will be standardized performance reports and datasets for all MPOs.
- Florida's collaboration efforts also include FDOT's Performance Summit for Transportation Partners, which included additional partners and stakeholders into the discussion of performance measures and planning.

The 2015 workshop included a panel discussion with four MPOs that highlighted detailed data sharing results. As a result, FDOT initiated a pilot in early 2015 to assess the level of effort needed to develop performance reports for Florida's MPOs. The four MPOs, who participated in the panel discussion at the workshop, were selected to develop standardized performance reports for the established Federal measures as a part of the pilot project. Still underway, the pilot project requires collaboration between FDOT and the MPOs on a frequent basis. The product will be a standardized performance report and dataset that all Florida MPOs can utilize for future performance reporting.

Another facet of Florida's collaboration efforts was FDOT's implementation of the [*Performance Summit for Transportation Partners*](#), which was held in May 2016. This major milestone brought additional partners into the performance dialogue including other State agencies, transportation modes, public health and safety officials, and other stakeholders. The results of the summit are being used by FDOT to inform its annual performance reports and the implementation of the State's long range transportation plan, the Florida Transportation Plan (FTP). Partner connections will be a new component of FDOT's performance reports.

Collaboration Accomplishments

Florida's collaboration accomplishments as a result of the three annual workshops highlighted the following themes:

- Standardize the data framework and process for performance measurement.
- Standardize performance reports.
- Improve communication and collaboration around performance.
- Consider the implications of MPO size relative to performance requirements moving forward.
- Ensure performance measurement incorporates planning visions and that it is relevant to the public.
- Consider performance measurement in relation to the various transportation systems and networks (e.g., higher statewide and lower order local networks as well).
- Communicate performance measurement expectations and align expectations with the level-of-effort required.
- Improve long range transportation plans by making them more performance-focused.

Performance Summit Panelists	
Opening (May 10) Brian Blanchard Assistant Secretary FDOT  <hr/> Jim Wood State Transportation Planning Administrator	Preservation (May 11) James Cromar Broward MPO  <hr/> Jim Warren Asphalt Contractors Association  <hr/> Chris Cochran Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority 
Mobility (May 10) Beth Alden Hillsborough MPO  <hr/> Brad Thoburn Jacksonville Transportation Authority  <hr/> Michael Stewart Jacksonville Aviation Authority 	Environment (May 12) Chris Stahl Department of Environmental Protection  <hr/> Sam Poole Urban Land Institute  <hr/> Julie Dudley FL Department of Health 
Economy (May 11) Mark Bontrager Space Florida  <hr/> Tisha Keller Florida Trucking Association  <hr/> Natacha Yacinthe Port Everglades 	Safety (May 12) James Hightower Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles  <hr/> Steve Myers Lee Tran  <hr/> Don Scott Lee MPO 
	Results (May 25) Carl Mikyska MPOAC  <hr/> Becky Afonso Florida Bicycle Association  <hr/> Lee Ann Jacobs FHWA  <hr/> Mike Rubin Florida Ports Council 

Figure 16. Performance summit panelists. Source: FDOT

Focusing on a variety of topics related to Florida’s transportation system performance, the summit included six webinars conducted within a single week in May 2016, along with a concluding Results webinar that occurred two weeks after the initial summit. The summit was structured with a moderator and three panelists per webinar. Each panelist discussed what performance means to them in relation to the focus of each webinar (e.g., mobility, economy, preservation, environment, and safety).

Challenges and Lessons Learned

FDOT’s primary performance challenge, which is fundamental to the collaboration process, is ensuring that performance is an integrated element of the transportation planning, financing, programming, and decisionmaking processes. There is often a tendency associated with Federal rulemakings to fall into a compliance-only mindset. It is essential that leaders be involved in performance management in ways that add value to the decisionmaking process and also provide meaningful feedback on transportation system performance. FDOT strongly recommends the value of a statewide performance management policy.

Other lessons learned include:

- Keeping performance measurement visual, so agencies can clearly communicate its value in the overall planning/collaboration process.
- More measures does not mean better performance or better performance measurement. Throughout FDOT’s collaboration process, the agency has continuously emphasized the practical

importance of establishing core measures that effectively tell the performance story.

- Transportation system performance is not the responsibility of any single agency, but a collaboration among all organizations that plan, operate, and maintain transportation facilities and services.

Through the collaboration processes, including the annual statewide workshops and Partner Summit, FDOT is working with its partners to develop measures and reports that are more multimodal and incorporate measures and data beyond FDOT's sphere of direct influence, such as population and socioeconomic data. FDOT anticipates beginning a collaborative conversation with its partners on performance targets. FDOT understands that partners with a stake in a multimodal transportation system should work together on performance measures and targets, information sharing, and finding ways to carry out strategies that achieve desired results.

Additional Resources

- [FDOT Performance Resources](#)
- www.fdotperforms.org