

Florida Takes Collaboration to the Next Level

Collaboration Workshop

Florida has 27 Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs), the most of any State in the country. Effective coordination among and between the MPOs, the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), and their Federal partners is especially important. One element of this cooperation is a Statewide Meeting, held over one-and-a-half days and attended by representatives of the MPOs, FDOT, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA). The meeting provides opportunities for transportation staff from across the State to network, learn about current topics, and share ideas.

A full morning of the April 2014 meeting was devoted to a Performance Management Workshop. The Workshop included representatives from FHWA, FDOT, and nearly all of the Florida MPOs. FDOT selected performance management as the topic of special Workshop emphasis due to staff interest and questions about the new MAP-21 performance management requirements. Many MPO staff came to the Workshop with questions:

- What additional level of effort will performance management require?
- How will performance management become part of the Certification process?

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

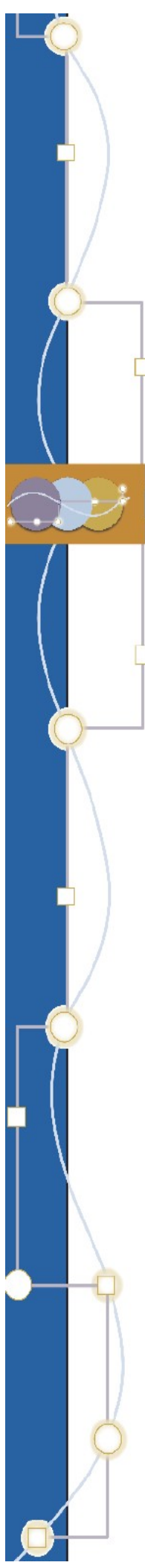
- **Early collaboration between Federal, State, and regional transportation agencies on performance management prepares Florida for successful implementation of the MAP-21 requirements.**
 - **FDOT has created a Performance Measurement Task Force, which includes representatives from DOT district offices and the MPOs.**
- How will performance management be useful for metropolitan planning if the data and targets are focused on the state level?



Figure 1. MPO participants at the Collaboration Workshop

The performance management session of the Workshop opened with a brief presentation on the performance management aspects of MAP-21 and on the process and schedule of rulemakings associated with performance management. The key message was that transportation funding will continue to be constrained at both the Federal and State levels, and performance management is a proven business practice to efficiently manage available funding around desired outcomes.





Following the presentation, the rest of the session was facilitated group discussion. According to FDOT staff, many participants who came to the Workshop concerned about the pending MAP-21 requirements left with a greater understanding of the work to be accomplished. The Workshop created a sense of collective responsibility for meeting the new Federal performance management requirements, and for using performance management as a way to communicate with the public about the transportation system.

The Workshop was just an early step in State and MPO coordination. Work still needs to be done, however, to reconcile State-level needs and perspectives with those at the MPO level. That discussion, which will focus on the establishment of targets, is ongoing and must be collaborative.

Performance Measurement Task Force

Following the Workshop, FDOT produced a [report](#) recording and summarizing the discussion and recommendations related to performance management.

The first of those recommendations – the establishment of a Performance Measurement Task Force – was implemented in July 2014. The Task Force is composed of representatives from each of the FDOT districts and an MPO representative from each district as well. The group has met to learn more about the MAP-21 rulemaking process and to strategize on and contribute to the development of comment letters related to the rulemakings. To amplify the voice of Florida, FDOT submits its own comment letters and encourages the MPOs to do likewise. The Taskforce met in February 2015 and discussed the ongoing rulemakings for pavement and bridge infrastructure.

Ongoing Collaboration

FDOT and the Florida MPOs want to move forward on discussing target-setting, and are currently considering these core issues:

- Will FDOT and the Florida MPOs share the same targets?
- Will large MPOs and small MPOs share the same targets?
- How will FDOT and the MPOs engage the public in performance management?
- What are the most effective ways to report on performance measurement?
- How will long-range plans become part of the performance management culture? How will they support the institutional changes necessary to advance performance management?

By initiating Statewide collaboration and discussion now on the topic of performance management, the State and regional transportation agencies in Florida will be well-positioned to respond to the final implementation of the MAP-21 requirements.

Contacts

David Lee

Office of Policy Planning
Florida Department of Transportation
david.lee@dot.state.fl.us
(850) 414-4802

LeeAnn Jacobs

Planning Team Leader
FHWA Florida Division
LeeAnn.Jacobs@dot.gov
(850) 553-2219

Beth Alden

Executive Director
Hillsborough Metropolitan Planning
Organization for Transportation
aldenb@plancom.org
(813) 273-3774

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