

Hernando/Citrus Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) FY 2024 Major Accomplishments and FY 2025 Goals



FY 2024 Major Accomplishments

- County Line Road, a major east/west connector that borders Hernando and Pasco Counties, has been added to the Regional Priorities List that will be presented at the Sun Coast Transportation Planning Alliance Meeting on December 6 at the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council.
- Worked with FDOT District 7 on improvements to the Ayers/US41 intersection.
- The FDOT Signals team is working to develop the timing plan, gather available equipment, and will be coordinating with the local agency to add an eastbound protected left turn phase on the US 41 and CR 491.
- Finalized a Traffic Study for US 41 and County Line Road in Hernando County and for US 41 and SR 200 in Citrus County.
- Significant programmed improvements to the SR 50 Bypass and US 301 in Hernando County are nearing completion by FDOT. Significant improvements to US 19 are nearing completion and are in progress for US 41 in Citrus County.
- Continuing to work with FDOT District 7, Ocala-Marion TPO and FDOT District 5 on potential funding strategies on SR 200 in both Citrus and Marion Counties.
- The ribbon cutting ceremony for the Good Neighbor Trail was on May 22, 2024, culminating in many years of planning and funding for the 10.4 miles of trail in Hernando County and offering a connection to the State bicycle/pedestrian trail system via the Withlacoochee State Trail.
- Conducted annual review and evaluation of Community Transportation Coordinators for Hernando County and Citrus County.
- Continued coordination with FDOT and State Representatives on funding strategies for the MPO.
- Pursuant to federal requirements, the MPO Board adopted the 2050 Long-Range Transportation Plan on October 3, 2024. MPO staff participated in 2050 LRTP Technical Review Team Meetings with the Florida Department of Transportation and consultants.
- Completed the Transportation Improvement Program FY 2025-FY 2029 and the List of Priority Projects.
- Completed Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) FY2025-FY2026 and began implementation on July 1, 2024.
- Issued Task Order to Benesch & Associates for the major update of Citrus County Transit Development Plan.
- Pursuant to federal requirements, the MPO adopted the Apportionment Plan in November of 2023 based upon 2020 Census and submitted the plan to FDOT. On August 8, 2024, Florida's Governor Ron DeSantis approved the apportionment plan.
- Updated the Performance Measures.
- Provided for the administration and public involvement/engagement of the MPO Board and its advisory bodies including the Technical Advisory Committee, Citizens Advisory Committee, Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee, and the Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Boards for Hernando County and Citrus County. Updated Bylaws for MPO Board and advisory bodies.
- Received a favorable report from the Federal Highway Administration's Program Accountability Results (PAR) Report on the 2045 Long-Range Transportation Plan.
- Completed the Annual MPO Certification Summary and Joint Certification Statement.
- Completed the annual update of the Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP) for the MPO. The Plan served as a guide during the Hernando County's Cyber24 incident that began April 1, 2024, and the three major hurricanes (Debby, Helene, and Milton) that severely impacted Hernando and Citrus Counties and the State of Florida.
- The Hernando/Citrus MPO will be hosting the Sun Coast Transportation Planning Alliance (SCTPA) semi-annual meeting on December 6, 2024.
- Participated in the Florida Metropolitan Planning Organization Advisory Council (MPOAC) meetings.
- Participated in meetings and collaborated with Pasco County MPO, Lake-Sumter TPO, and Ocala-Marion TPO Jurisdictions.
- Participated in the meetings of the Florida Metropolitan Planning Partnership (FMPP), a collaboration effort on funding strategies and program implementation with the Florida Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, and the Federal Transit Administration.
- Attended the West Central Florida Community Traffic Safety Team (CTST) Meetings.

FY 2025 Goals

- Continue to work with FDOT, Hernando County and Pasco County on funding strategies for County Line Road improvements.
- Update the Congestion Management Process.
- Update the Complete Streets Program.
- Continue to seek funding for SR 200 Improvements in Citrus County.
- Finalize for adoption the Citrus County Major Transit Development Plan.
- Begin traffic counts for Hernando and Citrus counties.
- Continue networking with Pasco County MPO, Lake-Sumter MPO, and Ocala-Marion TPO Jurisdictions.
- Provide for the administration and public engagement of the MPO Board and its advisory bodies including the Technical Advisory Committee, Citizens Advisory Committee, Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee, and the Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Boards for Hernando County and Citrus County.
- Continue participation in the regional processes of the Sun Coast Transportation Planning Alliance (SCTPA).
- Continue implementation of the two-year UPWP FY2025-FY2026.
- Prepare the Transportation Improvement Program (FY2026-FY2030) and the List of Project Priorities
- Update Performance Measures.
- Update the Public Participation Plan (PPP), Limited English Proficiency Plan (LEP), and the Title VI Plan, as necessary.
- Annually review and update as necessary the Continuity of Operations Plan for MPO.
- Participate in the Sun Coast Transportation Planning Alliance (SCTPA) regional activities.