



Florida Department of Transportation
District Seven

PLANNING ACTIVITIES

Access Management

Assist in reviewing and commenting on driveway access as it relates to local government planning initiatives, Project Development and Environment (PD&E) Studies, corridor studies, access management plans, zoning requirements, development agreements, Work Program and Developer projects along State Highway System (SHS) facilities and access management standards.

Air Quality Analysis

Assist the Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) in performing Air Quality Conformity Determination Analysis for their Long Range Transportation Plans, Transportation Improvements Programs and associated amendments. Assist the MPOs in evaluating the air quality impacts of individual transportation improvements and programs. [U.S. E.P.A. did not modify the NAAQS as anticipated; therefore the Tampa Bay airshed remains in attainment. This activity is not required at this time.]

Bicycle and Pedestrian Activities

Maintain a comprehensive database of bicycle and pedestrian facilities on the State Road system. Assist in review and commenting on bicycle, pedestrian, and transit plans. Identify gaps and list possible improvements. Evaluate potential corridors and the adaptability for bike lanes.

Community/Government Liaison

Provide policy, technical advice, administrative support, overall coordination, cooperation and assistance to District Seven MPO staffs, MPO Boards, local governments, and community; including full participation in technical and staff support for advisory committees. Assist MPOs in conducting effective on-going transportation planning programs and processes, developing, maintaining and implementing plans and programs which meet State and Federal requirements, and promote coordination, cooperation, and consistency among their planning processes and programs. Major programs include the Unified Planning Work Program, Transportation Improvement Priorities and Transportation Improvement Program, Long Range Transportation Plans, Public Participation Plan, and Congestion Management Process. Conduct annual Joint Certification with the MPOs. Coordinate and facilitate implementation of the Transportation Alternatives Program.

Corridor Planning Studies

Conduct studies of major corridors to identify and evaluate travel issues, and determine the effectiveness and impacts of proposed alternatives to address those issues. The results may range from a set of recommended improvements that address specific problems to a comprehensive action plan for improving the corridor.

On the Strategic Intermodal System (SIS) and SHS, these studies include the development of strategies and plans for implementing and maintaining SIS and SHS standards such as those for level of service, interchange spacing and access management. This may include preparation of action plans, master plans, corridor studies, and others as identified.

Design Traffic Forecast

Develop and update traffic projections for state highway corridors and supporting regional roadways. These traffic projections are necessary to support the road design for capacity and operational improvements and the pavement design for resurfacing.

Development of Regional Impact (DRI)

Assist in reviewing, monitoring, updating and providing support for DRI. The District will review DRIs pursuant to Rule 73C-40, Florida Administrative Code, and Sub-DRIs to ensure that developer proportionate share mitigation or proportionate fair share mitigation is requested to offset impacts to the roadway network as related to the SIS and SHS. In all of these areas, the District typically coordinates the review process as needed with the Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO), the Regional Planning Councils (RPC), local governments, and with the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) Central Office staff, if necessary.

Efficient Transportation Decision Making (ETDM) Process

The ETDM process was designed to accomplish the streamlining objectives that were identified in Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21). The District will implement the ETDM process in a five county area. The District ETDM Coordinator will coordinate training and provide guidance to the MPOs and District staff on the implementation of the ETDM process. Each MPO will designate an MPO ETDM Coordinator to work closely with the District ETDM Coordinator and Environmental Technical Advisory Team agency representatives so that the MPO can fully participate in all aspects of ETDM.

Comprehensive Plan Amendments

The District will review amendments made to local government comprehensive plans and comment on their potential impact to transportation facilities of state importance in accordance with Chapter 163.3184, Florida Statutes, which may include the SIS and the SHS. The District typically coordinates the review process as needed with the Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO), the Regional Planning Councils (RPC), local governments, and with FDOT Central Office staff if necessary.

Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) Planning

The Department will support the MPO's efforts to plan the ITS program and to structure ITS into their respective organizations. These ITS planning activities include developing an ITS Management Plan and Program Plan for each county, developing the MPO's capability to manage the Regional ITS Architecture and developing ITS programs and projects for the MPO's Long Range Transportation Plan and Transportation Improvement Program. Further, this support includes integrating intra-regional ITS deployment and operations, as well as assuring that intra-regional and inter-regional operations are coordinated.

Interchange Analysis

Conduct analysis of interchanges to identify and evaluate travel issues, and determine the effectiveness and impacts of proposed alternatives to address those issues. The results may range from a set of recommended improvements that address specific problems to a comprehensive rebuild of the interchange for improving the safety and operation of the ramps and the entire interchange. Provide coordination with the Federal Highway Administration and Central Office and provide technical support and review for interchange operations, interchange modification, and new interchanges.

Level of Service (LOS)

Identify roadways that have a deficient LOS for existing and future conditions; determine level of need and determine timing of improvements. Assist Citrus, Hillsborough, Hernando, Pasco and Pinellas County staff in the update of their Level-of-Service analysis to current conditions and with Level-of-Service issues and training. Review and participate in the development of Action Plans/Corridor Studies on Level-of-Service issues. Advise and assist the Metropolitan Planning Organization(s), the Regional Planning Council and Local Government Staff. Apply LOS for Transportation Concurrence, where it is utilized, and Comprehensive Plan Amendment reviews. Update the database, charts and maps.

Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) Update and Maintenance

Provide technical and policy advisory assistance to the District MPOs in developing, updating and maintaining their LRTP through a coordinated and consistent effort using a single regional travel demand forecasting model, a single regional planning database and a mutually agreed upon set of modeling and planning assumptions. Provide State and Federal revenue forecasts and District transportation costs.

Conduct corridor studies, sub-area studies, and special transportation studies to support the on-going maintenance, update and implementation of the MPOs adopted LRTPs. This includes modeling support and other technical assistance, as needed, for Project Development and Environment (PD&E) and other special studies.

Develop, validate and maintain a set of systems planning models, land use allocation models and other analytical tools needed by the Department and MPOs to maintain their LRTPs and other planning studies and analysis. Models are used to validate the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Model and Tampa Bay Regional Land Use Allocation Model, including initial design and development of enhancements and initial testing of model performance and also validate special modeling techniques and analysis methodologies, as needed, for corridor, sub-area and special transportation studies.

Review the overall performance of the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Model and the Tampa Bay Regional Land Use Allocation Model in the maintenance of the MPOs LRTP and in the conduct of corridor and sub-area transportation studies to identify needed model enhancements and refinements.

Assist the MPOs with developing their long-range transportation plan by integrating the Strategic Intermodal System Second Five-Year Work Program and Cost Feasible Plan.

Mapping/Database Development

Create maps of the District's multi-modal facilities using GIS and ArcMap®. This includes maps of the FDOT Five-Year Work Program showing capacity projects, resurfacing projects, public transit and other special areas. For each Legislative District in District 7, capacity and resurfacing project maps are produced. Maps of existing bicycle and pedestrian facilities are also produced. GIS maps of all past PD&E Studies, with a summary of the recommended improvements are maintained by the District. Provides technical support to other FDOT disciplines and areas as requested.

Modal Development

Modal Development Systems is the conduit that provides research and technical assistance to District agencies and MPOs concerning guidance and administration of State and Federal grants with the purpose of presenting economic growth through various multi-modal opportunities. Monitor and provide input on proposed and adopted State and Federal legislative issues related to transportation programs. Review and analyze availability of innovative financing methods and techniques for agency use. Participate in agencies' planning activities and coordinate agencies' planned freight movement and public transportation improvements with the Department's roadway improvement projects. Coordinate and participate in the development and implementation of the Strategic Intermodal System.

Multi-Modal Transportation Studies

Conduct or provide technical assistance for Multi-Modal transportation studies and other special transportation analysis and interactive transit/technology application research studies when those opportunities become available. The specific studies will be identified as needs arise.

Regional Goods Movement Study

Develop an overall coordinated regional strategy for addressing goods movement needs in the Tampa Bay Region. Identify and assess the needs and issues of major regional freight activity centers (including major intermodal facilities) and regional significant freight corridors, through a series of sub-area and corridor studies. Conduct inventories of the characteristics of goods movement in the Tampa Bay Region. Assist the MPOs in establishing on-going Goods Movement Management Systems to address goods movement issues and advance goods movement programs and improvements to the MPO.

Regional Transportation Planning Coordination

Support and participate in all levels of regional coordination and proposed activities among the Tampa Bay Area Regional Transportation Authority (development of a regional transportation master plan) and District MPOs including the Sun Coast Transportation Planning Alliance (SCTPA) (broad level policy direction for development of the regional transportation system); and the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Model Technical Review Team (coordination of the development and update of the MPOs Long Range Transportation Plans).

Provide on-going technical and policy advisory assistance to the MPOs in the development of regional planning products, including the Tampa Bay Regional Profile, the Tampa Bay Regional Roadways Strategic Plan and the Tampa Bay Regional Congestion Management System Plan.

Maintain a database of existing (2010) socioeconomic and travel characteristics for District MPOs, including information on population, dwelling units, hotel/motel units, school enrollment, current land uses, traffic

counts, transit usage, special generators activity, and other variables essential to the validation and operation of the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Model.

Travel Characteristics

Prepare and conduct surveys and analysis to maintain a current set of travel characteristics of the Tampa Bay area needed to validate planning models and provide needed data for plan updates, corridor and sub-area studies and special transportation studies.

Consultants may assist with tasks listed.