

# A Quick MPO Overview for the Gainesville MTPO

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# Why do MPOs Exist?

- Conflicts arise over Interstate plans
  - Cities were bypassed
  - Communities bulldozed, divided



- Cities (and counties) sought a voice
  - Used existing regional advisory bodies

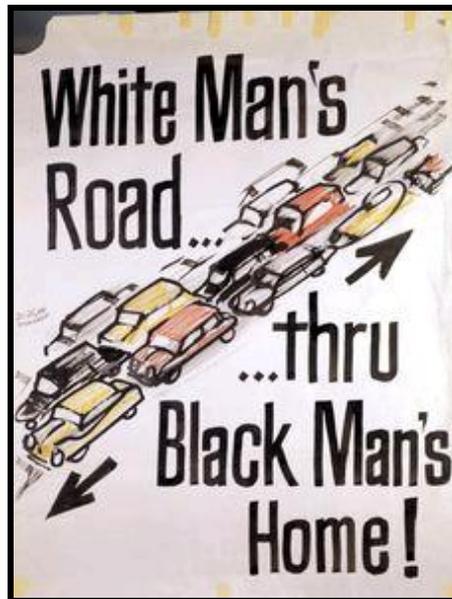
# Growing Tension Over the Urban Interstate

- Different priorities → Conflict
  
- Proponents
  - Efficient movement of goods and people
  - Economic impact of project expenditures
  - Project completion
  
- Opponents
  - Adverse impacts on neighborhoods
  - Loss of valuable land
  - Urban traffic congestion

# Civil Rights and Environmental Protection Reforms

## ■ Civil Rights Act of 1964

- Mandated nondiscriminatory conduct in all federally-supported programs



## ■ The National Environmental Policy Act of 1969

- Mandated consideration of environmental impacts



# The Creation of MPOs: The 1973 Highway Act

- Mandated MPOs for urban areas of over 50,000 in population
- Required MPOs to approach transportation planning in a multi-modal manner
- Allocated funds from the Highway Trust Fund for the purpose of funding the planning activities of these MPOs
  - PL funds

# What are MPO Responsibilities?

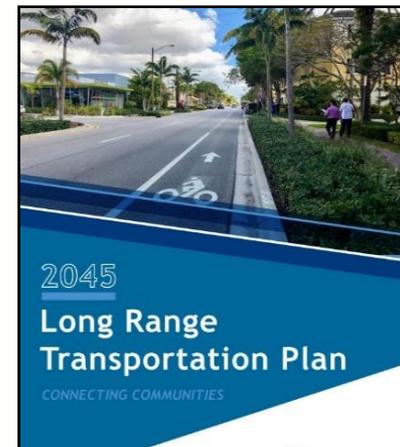
- Manage the '3-C' decision-making process
  - Continuing
  - Comprehensive
  - Cooperative
- Leading metropolitan transportation planning
- Coordinating transportation programming

# What is the MPOs Role for Federal Funds?

- MPOs have specific planning and programming authority for federal funds
- Federal transportation funds can be spent in an area covered by an MPO if:
  - The funding is identified in the MPO Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP)
  - The funding appears in an MPO Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

**AND**

  - The funding appears in the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP)



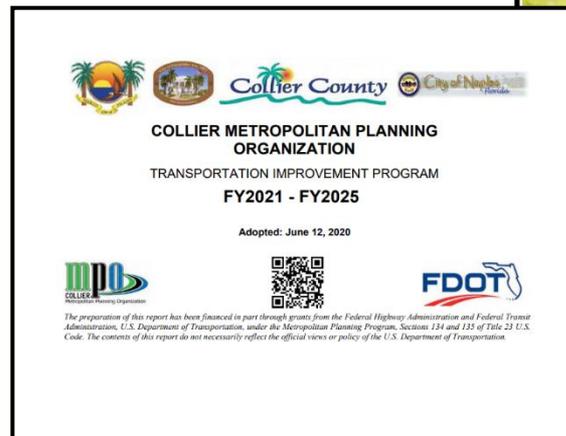
# Planning vs. Programming?

## ■ Planning

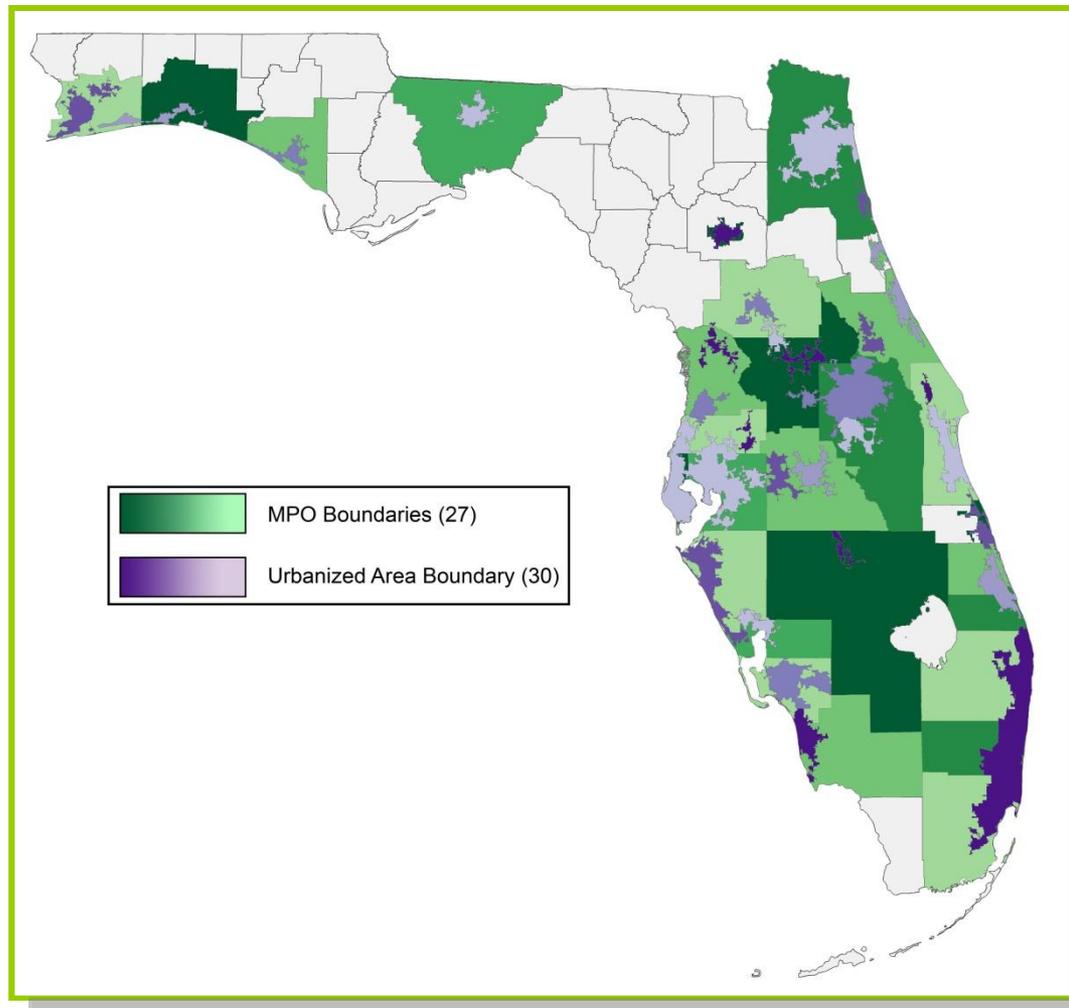
- Setting a strategy for meeting a need and/or achieving a desired outcome

## ■ Programming

- Scheduling work and assigning available funds to implement planned projects/activities

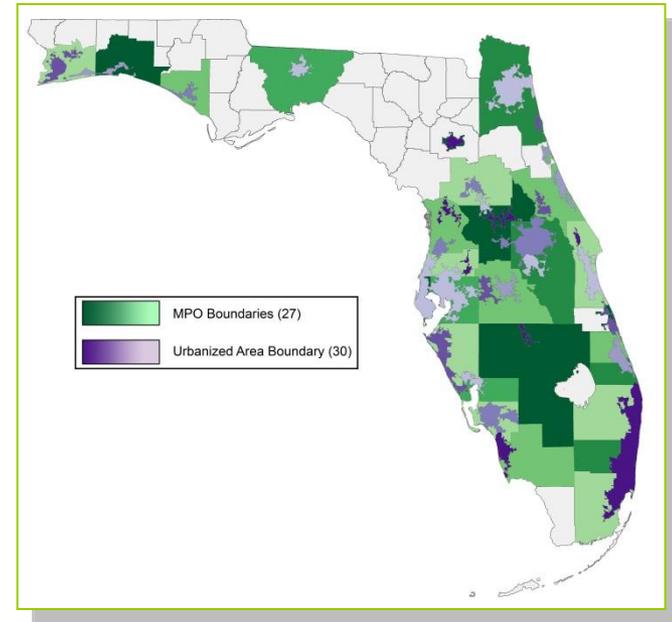


# Where are MPOs?



# Urbanized Areas v. MPO Planning Areas

- Separate urbanized areas historically functioned separately economically
- As urbanized areas grow together, economic impacts follow
- Some areas with more than one urbanized area and/or MPO are planning as “regions”
- Examine what MPO Planning Boundary makes sense in terms of the economy and regional transportation issues
  - Required following every Census



# Who is the MPO?

- Board members
  - Representing counties, municipalities and modal providers
  
- Committee members
  - Technical committee
  - Citizens committee
  - Other committees
  
- MPO staff
  
- Public/Stakeholders



# Who is on the MPO Board?

- MPO governing board membership in TMA areas is to include three groups of individuals:
  - Local elected officials
  - “officials of public agencies that administer or operate major modes of transportation in the metropolitan area, including representation by providers of public transportation.”
  - “appropriate State officials”

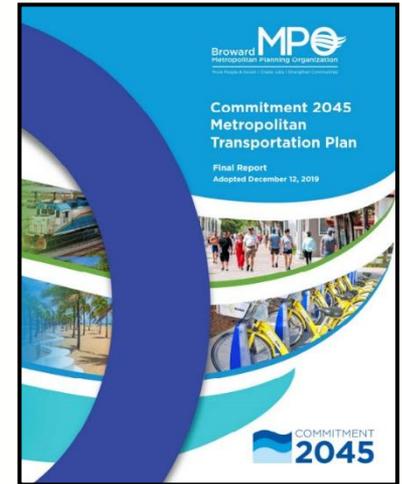


# What is the Role of the MPO Board?

- To set the big-picture framework for transportation decisions
  - Vision
  - Goals
- Make planning and programming decisions
  - Direct authority for MPO plans and programs
  - Discussing and vetting other agency planning and programming decisions

# What are Required MPO Products?

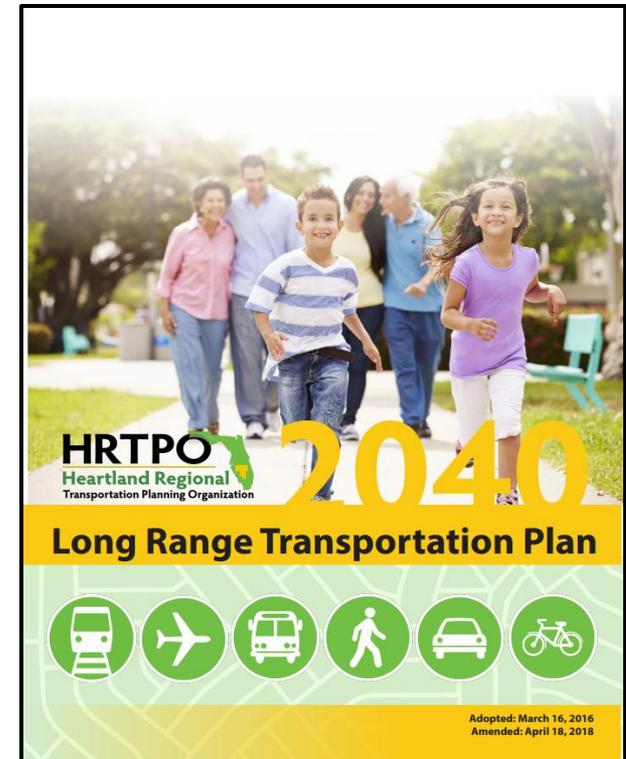
- Long Range Transportation Plan
- Transportation Improvement Program
- List of Priority Projects
- Unified Planning Work Program
- Public Participation Plan
- Congestion Management Process



# Product Requirements – LRTP

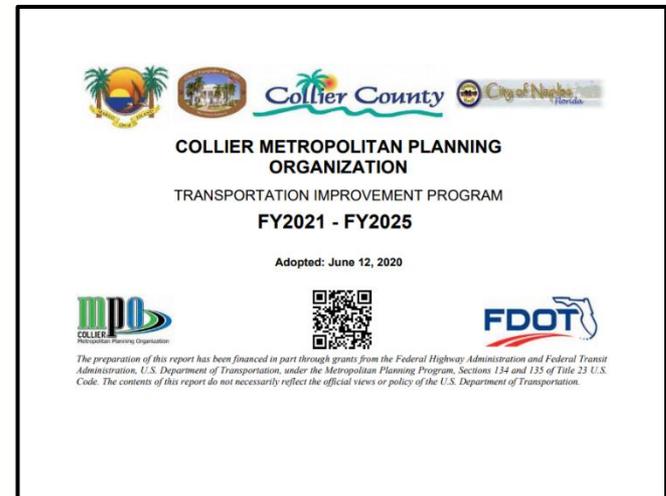
## ■ Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP)

- At least a 20-year horizon
- Updated at least every 5 years
- Affordable with reasonably-expected resources
- Performance-based



# Product Requirements – TIP

- Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)
  - Covers a period of 5 years
  - Updated annually
  - Affordable with reasonably-expected resources
  - Performance-based



# What Else Can MPOs Do?

- Corridor
- Sub-Area
- Freight Movement
- Economic Impact
- Safety/Crash
- Intersection Operations
- Access Management
- Civil Rights/EJ
- Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS)
- Origin-Destination (O-D)
- Sociocultural
- Transit
- Land Use
- Bicycle/Pedestrian
- Greenway
- Transportation Demand Management (TDM)
- Operations & Management (O&M)

# Questions?

