



Florida Department of Transportation

JEB BUSH
GOVERNOR

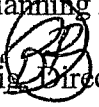
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Tallahassee, FL 32399-0450

JOSE ABREU
SECRETARY

MEMORANDUM

DATE: December 8, 2004

TO: District Planning Managers

FROM: Bob Romig , Director, Office of Policy Planning

SUBJECT: Fiscal Year 2006 Planning Emphasis Areas

Every December, the Office of Policy Planning and the Transit Office send information to the Districts on statewide and regional tasks and any Planning Emphasis Areas (PEAs) that have been identified. Around the same time, the Program Development Office provides the Districts with the latest balance sheet. In January, the Districts share this information with the Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) as they begin the development of the next Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP).

Attached to this memorandum are the State and Federal PEAs for Fiscal Year 2006. These PEAs were reviewed by the FDOT Central Office and District staff as well as the Metropolitan Planning Organization Advisory Council (MPOAC). A new Federal emphasis area that has been added is the "Coordination of Human Services Transportation." At the request of the MPOAC Technical Subcommittee, this emphasis area was made a State emphasis area as well. Another modification over last year's list is that we have tried to combine State and Federal PEAs to avoid duplication where possible:

Please use the attached PEAs as you begin the development of the next UPWP with your MPOs. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Brian Pessaro of my staff at (850) 414-4816, SC 994-4816.

BP/AW
Attachment

cc: District Metropolitan Planning Organizations/Government Liaisons

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State and Federal Planning Emphasis Areas for FY 2006

Item No.	Name	Level	Description
1	Consideration of Safety and Security in the Transportation Planning Process	Federal	This entails communication and collaboration among safety professionals, the enforcement community, and transportation planners in order to successfully integrate safety and security into all stages of the transportation planning process.
2	Linking the Planning and NEPA Processes	Federal / State	Federal: FHWA and FTA are developing guidance on the appropriate use of planning results during a NEPA review. State DOTs, MPOs, and transit agencies will be expected to develop action plans based on this guidance. Florida is satisfying this emphasis area through the ETDM process. <u>State</u> : MPOs should continue to integrate ETDM into their transportation planning processes.
3	Consideration of Management and Operations within Planning Processes	Federal / State	Federal: TEA-21 challenges FHWA and FTA to move beyond traditional capital programs for improving the movement of people and goods - focusing on the need to improve the way transportation systems are managed and operated. <u>State</u> : MPOs should update their CMS plan as necessary and integrate it more fully into their transportation planning process.
4	State DOT Consultation With Non-Metropolitan Local Officials	Federal	<u>Not applicable to MPOs</u> . Pursuant to 23 CFR 450.212(i), within two years of process implementation (February 24, 2006) and every five years thereafter, States must review and solicit comments (for a minimum of 60 days) from non-metropolitan local officials and other interested parties on the effectiveness of the existing consultation process(es) and proposed modifications. As part of this requirement, a "specific request for comments shall be directed to the State association of counties, State municipal league, regional planning agencies, or directly to non-metropolitan local officials."
5	Enhancing the Technical Capacity of Planning Processes	Federal	An evaluation is needed of the quality of information provided by the technical tools, data sources, and forecasting models, as well as the expertise of staff to ensure its adequacy to support decision-making. If this expertise is found to be lacking, the responsible agencies within metropolitan and statewide planning processes are encouraged to devote appropriate resources to enhance and maintain their technical capacity.
6	Coordination of Human Service Transportation	Federal / State	Federal: Human Service Transportation refers to programs that provide for the basic mobility needs of certain groups. It refers, for example, to services that get people with disabilities to work, give older citizens access to medical care, and provide people joining the labor market a ride to work. Through United We Ride Initiative, Federal, state, and local agencies are being encouraged to work together to ensure that transportation services are seamless, comprehensive and accessible to all citizens. <u>State</u> : UPWPs should address how the MPO will develop local service needs and provide information, advice, and direction to the community transportation coordinator in accordance with Subsection 427.015 and Subsection 427.1057 Florida Statutes.

State and Federal Planning Emphasis Areas for FY 2006

Item No.	Name	Level	Description
7	Regional Planning	State	The UPWP should provide for products and processes that result in regional planning and cooperation between MPOs and integration of the SIS. These regional plans should include regional project prioritization and ranking.
8	Public Involvement	State	MPOs should work to increase participation in the planning process by traditionally underserved segments of the population. In addition, MPOs should develop evaluation systems in regards to the effectiveness of their public involvement processes.
9	Transit Quality of Service	State	In conjunction with preparing LRTP updates, MPOs should assess the transit quality of service using Chapter 3 of Part 3 of the Transit Capacity and Quality of Service Manual. Funds are provided for this through the Section 5303 Grant Program.
10	Three-Year Business Plan	State	MPOs should include in their UPWP a plan that describes major planning activities anticipated 2 to 3 years from now. It is meant to illustrate the need for maintaining PL funds carryover balances in excess of 50%.