

ESTABLISHMENT OF A FREIGHT TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Purpose

Freight is one of the economic pillars of South Florida and the efficient movement of goods from the source of extraction, to production and storage, then to the shelves in retail facilities are all reliant on the local transportation system. Decisions about transportation inherently impact freight movement and this symbiotic relationship makes it essential that groups making decisions about the programming of transportation funds understand the needs of the freight community. The establishment of a Freight Transportation Advisory Committee (FTAC) is intended to become part of a two-way dialogue where, 1) the freight community can gain insight into public decisions and upcoming projects, and 2) the public sector can improve projects by obtaining early input from the freight community on projects and plans.

A freight committee that can communicate with decision makers regarding transportation priorities and expenditures is the primary driving force behind the creation of this FTAC.

Membership

- The FTAC will consist of **private sector** members that are directly involved in the movement, storage and distribution of freight.
- The FTAC will have **Advisors** representing: Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), Port Everglades, Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport, and the Broward Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO).
- The ideal size of the FTAC will be 15 to 20 members (recommended by MPO staff but **approved** by the MPO Board).

Organization

- The FTAC shall elect a Chair and a Vice-Chair that serve two year terms.
- MPO staff shall serve as the Secretary to the FTAC.
- The FTAC shall meet no less frequently than quarterly, but may meet as frequently as issues and interest dictates. The establishment of subcommittees would be at the discretion of the Chair.
- Meetings shall be held at the MPO offices in a room suitable for the committee size and function.

Function

- Consider general freight related topics such as updates on the Panama Canal, the status of warehousing in the County, bottlenecks, operations, safety and security.
- Provide a freight industry perspective on the Regional Freight Plan in relation to other MPO work products.
- Provide input on MPO projects, studies and core functions such as the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP).
- Identify freight related studies to be undertaken by the MPO.
- Request that FDOT, and the other Advisors, take steps to respond to specific freight related issues that would benefit freight movement in and around Broward County.
- Stay current on local, State and Federal legislation that would impact the freight industry.
- Lobby/advocate for freight-related efforts (but they may not imply that they represent a local agency).
- Tour facilities related to freight movement such as the Port, cargo facilities at the Airport, State of the Art cargo handling facilities, etc.

Reporting

- At the conclusion of each meeting, the FTAC shall suggest topics for the next meeting.
- Advisors shall advise on upcoming plans and actions that should be brought before the FTAC for their review and comment.
- The Secretary shall notify the FTAC of pending MPO actions that require their attention.
- A meeting summary and potential action items will be provided to the MPO Board and made available to the public.