



Sarasota/Manatee Metropolitan Planning Organization

2012 Legislative Priorities

1. JOBS

- The number one priority this year of the MPO is to create jobs and economic prosperity for our citizens and businesses through investment in transportation projects and programs.
- Every \$100 million invested in transportation creates 1,075 jobs and \$500 million in economic benefit.

2. REDUCE UNNECESSARY FEDERAL REGULATIONS TO LOWER PROJECT COSTS

- Support increased efficiency of transportation project delivery through reduced federal regulations and streamlined programs.
- Consolidate transportation funding streams to increase flexibility and improve efficiency.
- Assist in seeking a higher rate of return of federal gas tax revenues to the State of Florida.

3. RESTORE and PROTECT TRANSPORTATION TRUST FUNDS

- Restore and replenish the \$383 million diverted from the State Transportation Trust Fund last year for non-transportation uses.
- Restore funding to Transportation Regional Incentive Program (TRIP) and County Incentive Grant Program (CIGP), which are 50 percent funded by local jurisdictions.

4. SUPPORT LEGISLATION AUTHORIZING FDOT TO ADVANCE PROJECTS

- Advancing projects will create jobs now.
- Advancing projects will save millions of dollars.

Sarasota/Manatee Metropolitan Planning Organization
2012 Federal Legislative Priorities

- 1. Reduce unnecessary federal regulations to lower project costs.**
 - **Support increased efficiency of transportation project delivery through reduced federal regulations and streamlined programs.**
 - **Complex federal regulations and administrative costs cause transportation projects to take longer and cost more.**
- 2. Assist in seeking a higher, more equitable rate of return of federal gas tax revenues to the State of Florida.**
- 3. Consolidate transportation funding streams to increase flexibility and improve efficiency.**
- 4. Support continued investments for Port Manatee, a deepwater port that is strategically located as the closest deepwater cargo port in the United States to the Panama Canal and Cuba.**



About the Sarasota/Manatee MPO

- **The Sarasota/Manatee Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) is a regional transportation planning agency, which provides a forum for cooperative decision-making concerning regional and local transportation issues.**
- **The MPO was created by Federal and State law to develop transportation plans and programs which encourage and promote the implementation of transportation facilities which include all modes of transportation in a manner that will maximize the mobility of people and goods.**
- **The Sarasota/Manatee MPO area encompasses the entire counties of Sarasota and Manatee, nine (9) cities, the Sarasota-Bradenton International Airport and Port Manatee Seaport; estimated 2010 U.S. Census population Sarasota 389,320 and Manatee 318,404.**
- **The Sarasota/Manatee MPO is a regional partner in producing a cost-efficient regionally integrated transportation system, with numerous partnerships and relationships:**
 - **The West Central Florida Chairs Coordinating Committee (CCC) (all MPOs in the Tampa Bay Region)**
 - **Tampa Bay Area Regional Transportation Authority (TBARTA) (7 Counties in Tampa Bay Area)**
 - **Interlocal Regional Planning Agreement with the Charlotte County-Punta Gorda MPO**
 - **Participation with both Tampa Bay and Southwest Regional Planning Councils**
 - **State and nationally recognized Tamiami Trail (US 41) Scenic Highway, which spans the entire length of Manatee and Sarasota Counties and 5 municipalities**
 - **Interlocal agreements for regional inter-county bus travel service by Manatee and Sarasota transit entities.**



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