CENTRAL FLORIDA MPO ALLIANCE

Approved
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2016 Legislative Session Transportation Priorities

Safety

Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety

Support legislation that increases funding to improve bicycle and pedestrian safety awareness programs, facility improvements, and seeks to reduce bicycle and pedestrian injuries and fatalities statewide. This includes support for reexamining current legislation to strengthen laws to protect bicyclists and pedestrians.

Strengthen Ban on Use of Hand-held Electronic Devices While Driving

Support legislation that reduces distracted driving by regulating as a primary offense the use of electronic wireless communications devices and other similar distracting devices while operating a motor vehicle.

Currently a secondary offense, the use of electronic wireless devices while driving leads to distracted drivers who may be manually texting, emailing, messaging, or utilizing the device without the hands-free feature. Bills increasing the penalty have been introduced in 2014 and 2015. The strengthening of the 2013 "Florida Ban on Texting While Driving Law" by establishing the violation as a primary offense would lead to stronger enforcement.

Funding

Support Continued Funding for the Central Florida Coast-to-Coast Trail and Other Regional Trail Projects such as the Heart of Florida Loop

The development of the Coast to Coast Connector, the Heart of Florida Loop and other trails of statewide significance will provide an international attraction for ecotourism. Great momentum is underway in the closing of gaps in the Coast to Coast Trail between existing trails from Brevard County to Pinellas County. The CFMPOA supports the continuation of funding for regional multi-use trails and the allocation of a portion of funds generated from Amendment 1 to trail development and maintenance which would allow local agencies to expand and sustain these vital regional assets.

Enhance and Protect the State Transportation Trust Fund and Transportation Disadvantaged Trust Fund

In addition to revenues generated by transportation-related surcharges already directed outside the Transportation Trust Fund, millions of transportation dollars have been diverted from the Transportation Trust Fund for other purposes. Overall, such diversions and lost revenues degrade the state's infrastructure

and impact Central Florida's competitiveness for federal discretionary funding. Likewise, negative impacts to the Transportation Disadvantaged Trust Fund should also be discouraged.

Amend Charter County and Regional Transportation System Surtax to Make Eligible to all Counties with an MPO

The current legislation allows a surtax to be taken before voters as a referendum to fund transportation projects through an up to one percent consumption tax. The law has evolved through the last 25 years to now be eligible to all charter counties, as well as to any non-charter county that is part of a Regional Transportation Authority. The transportation surtax is an appropriate referendum option for urban counties and therefore should be extended to all counties served by a metropolitan planning organization in order to provide funding for cost-feasible transportation plans.

The CFMPOA will support legislation that:

- Restores funding for the Transportation Regional Incentive Program (TRIP) to promote regional planning and project development.
- Authorizes a local option rental car surcharge (implemented through a public referendum) with proceeds committed to regional transportation projects.
- Preserves transportation funding and provides greater flexibility of funding options at the state and local level that support the transportation system.
- Allows up to a one-cent municipal option sales tax for cities with population in excess of 150,000 (or the largest municipality in a county).
- Allows for indexing of local option fuel taxes to CPI, consistent with indexing allowed for state fuel taxes.
- Allows Strategic Intermodal System (SIS) funds to be used on roads and other transportation facilities not designated on the SIS if the improvements will relieve congestion on the SIS.
- Preserves the existing coordinated system for paratransit service.
- Advances Florida's Comprehensive, Statewide Rail System Plan.
- Continues investments in Space Transportation Infrastructure.
- Prohibits additional increases in federal truck weight limits in the State of Florida.

The CFMPOA will monitor legislation that:

- Seeks to alter or repeal Red Light Camera Enforcement legislation.

- Legislation on Developments of Regional Impact (DRIs)

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