

The Metropolitan Planning Organization Advisory Council (MPOAC), in partnership with the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), has developed the **Freight Priorities Program (FPP)** to annually **identify and promote** high-priority **freight projects** within the planning boundaries of Florida's Metropolitan Planning Organizations **for consideration in FDOT's 5-Year Work Program** and other potential funding sources. One of the **FPP's objectives** is to **foster collaboration** among the **MPOAC's members** and its **partners to develop a critical list** of freight projects **that represent the unified input of the MPOAC**.

Why is Interfacing with Your FDOT District Freight Coordinator (DFC) Important?

A critical resource that each MPO should consider in the FPP process is the knowledge and input of their **FDOT District Freight Coordinator (DFC)**. Part of each DFC's job is to **understand the federal and state funding processes** (e.g., [Work Program](#), [Freight Mobility and Trade Plan](#), [National Highway Freight Program](#), [Strategic Intermodal System](#)) that can support freight projects in Florida. **They will know which projects** within your region align well with the criteria for each program, as well as which ones **stand a better chance for funding** when the FPP list reaches higher levels of review.

It benefits each MPO to work directly with their DFC to make a more informed decision about which project(s) they should nominate for the MPOAC's FPP. **Remember that your DFC must also submit a District Priority Project list**, which Central Office will consider, so it is beneficial to know if any MPO freight priorities may also be on their list because those projects could score higher during FDOT's internal project prioritization process.

Note that **this exercise is meant to create a stronger partnership between the MPOAC and FDOT** and to **inform your decision-making**. We are not encouraging MPOAC members to allow FDOT to choose MPO priorities. We are simply calling for more coordination between the FPP and the DFC's District Priority Lists. Below is a checklist that can help your MPO choose which projects to submit for this year's FPP.

What to Cover when Working with your FDOT District Freight Coordinator

- ☐ Identify your MPO's assigned [District Freight Coordinator](#). If your FDOT District has a vacancy for that position, work with Holly Cohen from Central Office.
- ☐ Let your DFC know that your MPO is considering submitting a project(s) as part of this year's MPOAC Freight Priorities Program.
- ☐ Ask them to share the list of projects they are considering for their District Priority Project List that are located within your MPO's planning boundary. Note that their list may still be in development.
- ☐ Compare their list to the projects you may be considering from your MPO's products (e.g., Regional Freight Plan, Transportation Improvement Program, Long Range Transportation Plan).



DFC CHECKLIST

- ☐ Work with your DFC to understand any differences between both lists. They might not be considering your project(s) for several reasons (e.g., ineligible for NHFP funding, ineligible for SIS funding, the project is new), or they may have projects your MPO has not considered yet.
- ☐ Choose up-to-six projects for the FPP. Each MPO is limited to three State Highway System (SHS) roadway projects and three non-SHS roadway projects. Note that **you do not need to choose projects that appear on your DFC's District Priority Project List**, but doing so can strengthen the case for the project.
- ☐ If your project aligns with your DFC's list, work with them to define the Project Rationale for each chosen project to explain how the project advances goods movement in Florida.
- ☐ Ask your DFC if they are considering any project(s) within your MPO's planning boundary for other funding opportunities (e.g., [INFRA](#), [BUILD](#)). These opportunities can be added to the eligible funding programs question on the application.

