

TREASURE COAST REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

MEMORANDUM

To: Council Members

AGENDA ITEM 9

From: Staff

Date: October 16, 2015 Council Meeting

Subject: Resolution in Support of the Federal Metropolitan Planning Enhancement Act

Introduction

The purpose of this item is to request Council approval of a resolution in support of the federal Metropolitan Planning Enhancement Act, which has been introduced by Congresswoman Frankel. The legislation would increase the amount of available funding to designated high performing metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs).

Overview and Analysis

MPOs are federally designated transportation planning entities, directed by local government and transportation authorities, that are responsible for prioritizing the expenditure of federal transportation funding, including federal funding that passes through state departments of transportation. The Federal Highway Act of 1962 requires MPOs to be formed in all urbanized areas with populations exceeding 50,000. There are four MPO entities in the Treasure Coast Region: Metropolitan Planning Organizations in Palm Beach, Martin, and Indian River, and a Transportation Planning Organization in St. Lucie County.

The proposed Metropolitan Planning Enhancement Act would provide criteria for the designation of “high-performing MPOs” for MPOs representing urbanized areas in excess of 200,000 individuals. The criteria would include regional cooperation with other MPOs, technical capacity, and achievement of MPO performance targets. For high-performing MPOs, the proposed legislation would enable a greater allocation and more flexibility for Surface Transportation Funds and Transportation Alternatives Program funds, which would be available for multi-modal projects such as transit, bike paths, and safe routes to schools.

Conclusion

Expanding resources for region’s transportation facilities is beneficial to the region’s mobility and economic potential. Approval of the Metropolitan Planning Enhancement Act can help secure additional resources and advance the multi-modal transportation network, benefitting the region’s residents and visitors.

Recommendation

Council should adopt the resolution in support of the federal Metropolitan Planning Enhancement Act and transmit to the congressional delegation.

Attachment

**RESOLUTION #15-05**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE TREASURE COAST REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL REPRESENTING THE LOCAL GOVERNMENTS OF INDIAN RIVER, MARTIN, PALM BEACH, AND ST. LUCIE COUNTIES, FLORIDA IN SUPPORT OF THE FEDERAL METROPOLITAN PLANNING ENHANCEMENT ACT**

**WHEREAS**, Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) are federally mandated and federally funded transportation policy-making organizations comprised of representatives of local governments and governmental transportation authorities per the Federal Highway Act of 1962; and

**WHEREAS**, MPOs, which are sometimes referred to as Transportation Planning Organizations (TPOs), are established in urbanized areas with populations greater than 50,000; and

**WHEREAS**, the Treasure Coast Region has MPOs and TPOs in Indian River, Martin, Palm Beach, and St. Lucie counties; and

**WHEREAS**, there are higher demands on transportation service delivery in urbanized areas that have populations in excess of 200,000; and

**WHEREAS**, there are efficiency benefits resulting from regional cooperation among MPOs and TPOs for the delivery of transportation services; and

**WHEREAS**, the proposed "Metropolitan Planning Enhancement Act" (Act) would allow for the designation of "high-performing MPOs" in urbanized areas where the population exceeds 200,000 and there is evidence of regional cooperation, among other performance criteria; and

**WHEREAS**, the proposed Act could provide additional transportation planning resources to designated high-performing MPOs, such as expanded use of Surface Transportation Funds and Transportation Alternatives Program Funds, which could be used to fund projects such as roads, bridges, public transit, bicycle paths, and safe routes to schools; and

**WHEREAS**, several MPOs in the region could potentially qualify for designation as high-performing MPOs under the proposed Act, which could bring additional transportation planning resources into the region.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE TREASURE COAST REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL SUPPORTS THE ADOPTION OF THE METROPOLITAN PLANNING ENHANCEMENT ACT TO EXPAND THE AVAILABILITY OF TRANSPORTATION PLANNING RESOURCES IN THE REGION.**

**DULY ADOPTED** by the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council this 16<sup>th</sup> day of October 2015.

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Tod Mowery  
Chairman

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Michael J. Busha  
Executive Director