

MEETING REGIONAL CHALLENGES

Preserving Our Quality of Life



2010 ANNUAL REPORT

North Florida TPO
Transportation Planning Organization
PLAN • FUND • MOBILIZE

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN



I've been a member of the North Florida TPO Board much of the time that I have served the citizens of Clay County as a Commissioner. As an elected official I see the value of regionalism firsthand, because transportation problems and solutions do not stop or start at the county line.

The year 2010 was fast-paced for the TPO. Our focus remains sharp on our ITS (Intelligent Transportation Systems) Coalition as an integral part of our planning strategy that included a substantial update to the Regional ITS Master Plan in 2010. We were extremely pleased that we can provide \$500,000 annually over the next three years to

operate the Road Rangers and expand free highway assistance services during incidents to help improve safety for motorists and responders and reduce delays. And interest continued in our TIMe4Safety training video and Traffic Incident Management Handbook around the country.

We greatly expanded our efforts in developing the public-private Clean Cities Coalition, an initiative for the transportation sector encouraging businesses and government agencies to use hybrids and fuel alternatives to reduce U.S. dependence on foreign oil. Thus far nationwide, Clean Cities Coalitions have reduced dependence by 2 billion gallons.

Our long-standing commuter services program was rebranded to the Cool to Pool Rideshare program with an updated software database to include improved customer enhancements. Future plans include a ride reward program for carpooling and vanpooling frequency. Outreach and collaboration with area employers such as the City of Jacksonville, NAS Jacksonville and the Chambers are underway.

The Bicycle/Pedestrian Planning Group of transportation professionals from the four counties has been working on facility inventory maps to identify gaps and ensure roadway projects in the Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) include bicycle and pedestrian facilities. The TPO also began a Bicycle Study for the City of St. Augustine to develop a network of bicycle routes and an accompanying wayfinding system.

We continued our public discussions about effective transportation planning practices through our partnership with the *Jacksonville Business Journal* in hosting the annual Global Trade and Transportation Breakfast Update in the spring and the Symposium in the fall. Local, regional and national experts addressed a myriad of transportation and logistics issues important in our region. We have remained actively involved with the area counties in the Northeast Florida Regional Transportation Study Commission to explore establishing a regional transportation authority and how it can be shaped and funded.

With the mid-term Congressional elections, the leadership of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee changed, but Northeast Florida is extremely lucky to have two influential members of the committee: Representative John Mica who now chairs the committee and Representative Corrine Brown. Congressman Mica and his committee are full speed ahead in drafting a transportation reauthorization bill to replace the currently extended SAFETEA-LU. With a fragile economy, rapidly increasing gas prices, much needed infrastructure improvements and transportation challenges far surpassing the resources available, the need for regional partnerships, collaboration and cooperation becomes even more critical.

Commissioner Doug Conkey
2010 TPO Chairman



2010 BOARD MEMBERS

Doug Conkey, Chairman
Clay County Commission

Stephen Joost, Vice Chairman
Jacksonville City Council

Danny Leeper, Treasurer
Nassau County Commission

Mike Borno
Mayor, City of Atlantic Beach

Cari Cahill
*Nassau County Highway,
Ocean and Port Authority*

Michael Corrigan
Jacksonville City Council

Travis Cummings
Clay County Commission

Buck Fowler
Jacksonville Port Authority

E. Denise Lee
Jacksonville City Council

Phillip Mays
St. Johns County Commission

Ava Parker
Jacksonville Transportation Authority

Deborah Pass-Durham
Jacksonville Aviation Authority

John Peyton
Mayor, City of Jacksonville

Nancy Sikes-Kline
City of St. Augustine Commission

Carl Youman
St. Augustine/St. Johns Airport Authority

Alan Mosley (Ex-officio)
District Two Secretary, FDOT

Captain Jack Scorby (Ex-officio)
U.S. Navy

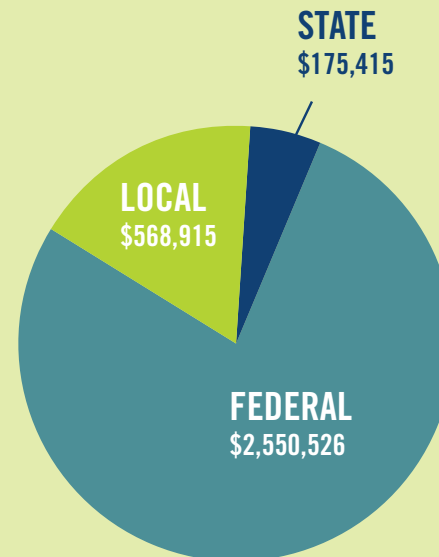
Captain Jeffrey D. Maclay (Ex-officio)
U.S. Navy

Brad Purcell (Ex-officio)
Putnam County Commission

Mike Griffis (Ex-officio)
Baker County Commission

Vacant (Ex-officio)
Flagler County Commission

FY 2010/2011 FUNDING



COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Mike Kloehn
Technical Coordinating Committee

Branch Davis
Citizens Advisory Committee

E. Denise Lee
*Duval County Transportation Disadvantaged
Coordinating Board*

STAFF

Jeff Sheffield
Executive Director

Denise Bunnewith
Planning Director

Wanda Forrest
Transportation Planning Manager

Milton Locklear
Transportation Planner/Modeling Specialist

Elizabeth De Jesus
Commuter Services Manager

Marci Larson
Public Affairs Manager

Angela Dixon
Fiscal Administrator

Bettie Barber
Administrative Assistant

Ginny Montgomery
Office Manager

CLEAN CITIES

In 2010 the North Florida Clean Cities Coalition kicked into high gear. The Coalition incorporated as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, established a Board of Directors and began collecting membership dues, which serve as seed money for future grant writing efforts on behalf of members.

The TPO is leading this effort by providing funding and staff support to the Coalition which includes public and private sector fuel producers and suppliers, fleet managers, businesses, nonprofit and individuals who support alternative fuels, new vehicle technologies and emissions reduction.

The Coalition met eight times during the year to discuss alternative fuel topics including biodiesel, ethanol, propane, compressed natural gas, electricity and tax incentives. Members also participated in the Green Expo, Earth Day and Clean Cities exhibit at the Riverside Arts Market with natural gas and propane vehicles, a solar electric car, a biofuels display and propane lawn maintenance equipment.

North Florida is making progress in reducing our dependence on imported petroleum. We toured the impressive array of alternatives in action including the St. Johns County and City of Jacksonville biodiesel production facilities. The City of Jacksonville also has an E85 fuel station serving the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office flex

fuel patrol vehicles. JEA has over 500 medium and heavy duty vehicles that can run on alternative fuels. The U.S. Navy will reduce petroleum use by 50 percent by 2015 and NAS Jax already has over half their fleet using some type of alternative fuel. The private sector is also learning that alternative fuels can benefit the bottom line. W.W. Gay Mechanical, a major contractor headquartered in Jacksonville, is converting their fleet to propane to save on fuel costs.

The Coalition's efforts in 2011 will be focused on making the case for official Clean Cities designation from the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) to enhance funding opportunities for our members. This effort involves working with the DOE to document the region's activities, accomplishments, goals and strategies related to increasing the production, distribution and use of alternative fuels, idle reduction technologies and development of alternative fuel infrastructure.





At NAS Jax over half their vehicle fleet uses some type of alternative fuel. They designed a solar-powered car that has been off the grid for nearly two years.



Ferrellgas is helping W.W. Gay convert their fleet to propane and achieve a 25 percent reduction in fuel costs.



St. Johns County is saving over \$37,000 in fuel costs and displacing over 70,000 gallons of petroleum per year by producing their own biodiesel from waste vegetable oil.



A third of the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office fleet is flex-fueled. Every time officers fill up at the City of Jacksonville E85 pump, it reduces emissions by 25 percent and saves about \$5 per tank in fuel costs.



Over half of JEA's fleet can run on alternative fuels, saving thousands of dollars in fuel costs, reducing emissions and displacing thousands of gallons of petroleum.

PLANNING STUDIES

Every year the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) is developed as the North Florida TPO's transportation planning work program, identifying the planning budget and activities for that year. In addition to our core plans and programs, the TPO conducts studies for and in concert with our member partners and stakeholders. A variety of studies commenced in 2010, addressing critical issues including land use and multi-modal transportation coordination, freight mobility and economic development, congestion, and bicycle and pedestrian mobility.

Design Principles for Mobility

The North Florida TPO is conducting a study to evaluate which design principles are most effective at maximizing mobility adjustments for various development and redevelopment scenarios under the City of Jacksonville Mobility Plan. Design principles include the mix of uses, household density, retail that serves the local neighborhood, transit service, and bicycle and pedestrian features. The study is exploring how these factors work together to reduce trip generation and provide credits for location-efficient projects to reduce their mobility fees.

North Florida Freight, Logistics and Intermodal Development Plan

This multi-phased study will develop a comprehensive freight, logistics and intermodal plan that will build consensus for a regional vision; explore opportunities to position Northeast Florida as a globally significant freight, logistics and intermodal hub; and identify regional infrastructure and policy needs. The study involves extensive coordination with area freight, logistics and intermodal stakeholders.

Argyle Area Transportation Circulation Study

The Argyle study is evaluating transportation network improvements in the area bound by Collins Road, Blanding Boulevard, Argyle Forest Boulevard and Rampart Road. This study considers not only existing traffic operations and safety needs within the study area, but also evaluates alternatives for improvements to support the shift in traffic that is anticipated as a result of the I-295/Blanding Boulevard to Collins Road project.



SR 21 (Blanding Boulevard) Corridor Study

This study of Blanding Boulevard from SR 16 to the Duval County line analyzes multiple transportation modes including vehicle, pedestrian, bicycle, commercial traffic and public transit. The study team is documenting existing conditions, developing traffic forecasts, evaluating future baseline operations, identifying and evaluating improvement options and making mobility recommendations.

In addition, the study is looking at opportunities to enhance and/or reshape development form in the corridor's key areas. This place-making effort includes creating distinct districts along the corridor as well as making recommendations for nodes that encourage transit-supportive development patterns.



The St. Augustine Bicycle Plan will develop a network of bicycle routes and an accompanying wayfinding system within the City of St. Augustine. The study team is working with the public to identify popular destinations, preferred routes and obstructions to bicycling within and around the City.

INTELLIGENT TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS

Since forming the ITS Coalition in 2003, deploying technology to improve the safety, efficiency and cost effectiveness of our transportation system has become an integral part of our planning efforts. With our Coalition partners we completed the first Regional ITS Master Plan in 2007 and a substantial update in 2010. This recent ITS study evaluated progress to date and identified needs

to complete the network with signal system upgrades, cameras, sensors and message signs on dedicated roadways and implement transit technologies. The future of ITS in our area will include new technologies such as a dynamic detour system and IntelliDrive using dedicated short range communications.

TRAFFIC INCIDENT MANAGEMENT

Traffic incidents are the top cause of delays on our roads and managing them effectively requires having the right technology in place and the right people.

The North Florida TPO was pleased to provide a \$500,000 annual sponsorship for FY 2010/11 – FY 2012/13 to expand Road Ranger services to Baker, Nassau and St. Johns counties and implement a new communication system allowing Road Rangers to talk directly to FHP officers handling an incident instead of going through a third-party communications center. Road Rangers assist disabled motorists and help other first responders at traffic

incidents by securing the scene and directing traffic. This enables fire rescue personnel and law enforcement to focus on saving lives and investigating accidents. This teamwork is critical in preventing, managing and clearing traffic incidents. So critical in fact that in 2009 the TPO produced the TIme4Safety handbook and video training series as a tool for responders in our region. The training program has been highly successful locally, as well across the United States and abroad. In 2010, the Federal Highway Administration included TIme4Safety in its Best Practices in Traffic Incident Management.



ITS ACCOMPLISHMENTS 2003 – 2010

- Completed 54 miles of freeway management systems with 17 miles under construction
- Completed 35 miles of arterial management systems with 72 miles under construction
- Installed a stadium contraflow signal system for the Jacksonville Sports Complex at Bay Street
- Installed transit signal priority on Atlantic Blvd. from San Pablo Road to Regency Square
- Installed automatic vehicle location and automatic passenger counters on all JTA buses
- Installed I-Stop electronic lighted JTA bus stop signage at 15 locations
- Installed on-board cameras on 68 JTA buses
- Activated My Florida 511 web and phone personal traffic alert service
- Installed Road Weather Information Systems on the Dames Point, Buckman, Vilano and SR 302 bridges with six additional locations programmed

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



As we move through 2011 and continue to face economic uncertainty, the TPO will play an ever-increasing role in economic development. Transportation is a key element in fueling our economic engine to support job growth. With limited funding, we must apply stringent criteria in our planning processes and emphasize infrastructure investments needed to maintain national and global competitiveness.

Through our North Florida Clean Cities Coalition, we will continue to encourage expansion of alternative fuel infrastructure and consumer and fleet conversions to advanced technology vehicles.

We champion the use of alternative fuels to reduce dependence on foreign oil, improve air quality and reduce fuel costs for businesses and individuals, while creating new energy sector jobs.

Our ITS Coalition is staying abreast of evolving technology that provides cost-effective transportation improvements to enhance the efficiency and safety of the existing network. This year we will be implementing new technology to encompass data collection for better decision making and prepare for the next phase of wireless vehicle-infrastructure communications.

We will continue to provide the framework for our region's efforts to work collectively on transportation issues. As we expand the depth and breadth of our partnerships with stakeholders, it is evident that now more than ever we must focus our efforts on developing collective goals for our region and collaborate to achieve them.

Jeff Sheffield





North Florida
Transportation Planning Organization

PLAN • FUND • MOBILIZE



www.northfloridatpo.com

1022 Prudential Drive • Jacksonville, Florida 32207

tel 904.306.7500 • fax 904.306.7501 • toll free 1.888.488.4898