

Statewide Advocacy by the Florida MPO Advisory Council

National Association of Regional
Councils

Presented by

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MPO Involvement in Advocacy

- Emerging activity among MPOs, but not widely practiced today
 - Federal funding restrictions
 - MPOs rarely organized statewide
 - Reliance on NARC and AMPO
 - Accept representation by State DOTs

- Growing Interest in Statewide MPO Organizations
 - Acceptance of statewide advocacy organizations
 - Florida MPO Advisory Council
 - New York State Association of MPOs
 - Georgia, North Carolina, Texas and other states

Creating a Statewide MPO Organization

- Options include legislation, interlocal agreements, resolutions, etc.
- Florida Legislation in 1984 (updated in 1994)
- Powers of MPOAC
 - Principal forum for collective policy discussion
 - Augment, not supplant role of individual MPOs
 - Clearinghouse for review of State Transportation Plan by MPOs
 - Independent organization with authority to hire staff, enter into contracts, etc.

MPOAC Organizational Structure

- Governing Board of local elected officials
 - An local elected official from each MPO
- Staff Directors Advisory Committee
 - Staff director from each MPO
- Policy and Technical Subcommittee

Major Activities of MPOAC

- Exchange of information
- Technical and policy development
- Legislative advocacy & lobbying
- “MPO Day” at Florida Capitol
- Training MPO Members “MPOAC Institute”

Funding the MPOAC

- Off-the-top in state PL formula
- State DOT provides office space & support services
- MPOs provides non-federal local funds for advocacy activities
- Started in 1994 with \$200,000 annually, today \$475,000

Advocacy Activities

- Create Policy and Technical Subcommittee
- Develop annual legislative policy positions
- Involve local elected officials (Governing Board)
- Develop Legislative Proposals
- Network with other statewide associations

Advocacy Actions

- Distribute legislative policy positions to legislators, Governor's office, key stakeholders
- Hold "MPO Day" at state capitol
- Build MPO representation on legislative committees
- Partner with other organizations on legislative proposals (FDOT and FPTA)

Questions?

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