

2018 Annual Report

# UNLEASHING INNOVATION

**North Florida**  
Transportation Planning Organization

PLAN • FUND • MOBILIZE



## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

It's been an exciting year for the North Florida TPO. We are at the forefront of metropolitan planning organizations with our Smart Region initiatives. Each day we identify more opportunities to improve our citizens' lives with new and emerging technologies. The BayJax Innovation Corridor, developed in partnership with fellow agencies and the private sector, will be a showcase for innovative projects that can be applied across the region.

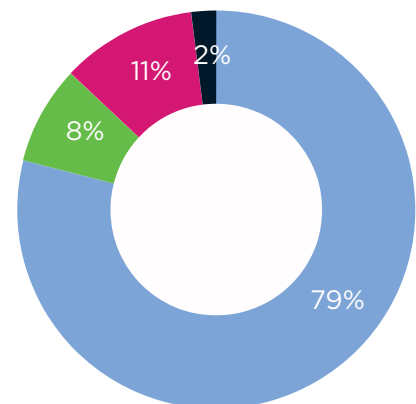
Many of the smart technologies work to improve safety and mobility for motorists, cyclists and pedestrians. The need to improve safety carried through many efforts this year including the Orange Park and US 17 traffic studies, Duval school walkability study, Care More Crossing Beach Boulevard campaign and Safe Streets Summit.

The first year of our Path Forward 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan Update was spent gathering and analyzing the data and public input that will be used to identify transportation system investments for the future. Studies on infrastructure resiliency and merchandise distribution centers will provide additional information that helps us anticipate future needs.

Finally, our ChargeWell EV charging network continues to grow with new stations in Fernandina Beach and Keystone Heights, helping drivers reduce fuel costs and emissions. Smart cities, safe streets, resiliency, e-commerce and clean fuels highlight the evolution of transportation planning and how we can unleash innovation to improve our region.

Diane Hutchings  
 Commissioner  
 2018 North Florida TPO Chairman

**FUNDING**  
 FISCAL YEAR 2017 / 2018



Federal	\$2,918,861
State	\$290,919
Local	\$402,532
Other	\$63,078
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,675,390</b>

## 2018 TPO BOARD

### CHAIRMAN

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*Planning Director*

**Marci Larson**  
*Public Affairs Manager*

## SMART REGION/ BAYJAX INNOVATION CORRIDOR

Since the release of the North Florida Smart Region Master Plan in late 2017, we have made over 100 presentations to stakeholders across the region. From large groups to one-on-one meetings, we've had the opportunity to explain the Smart Region strategy and tactical project options. More importantly, we've embarked on a shared discovery of how technology can help make our communities safer, more efficient and more livable.



Our ability to collect, analyze and apply data is the heart of this effort. The Integrated Data Exchange (IDE) will enable us to make data more useful in both real-time service delivery and long-term decision-making. The North Florida TPO is working with our partners across the region to define projects that can use similar technologies to meet communities' unique needs.

The BayJax Innovation Corridor along Bay Street in downtown Jacksonville will serve as a test bed for many of these projects including smart and connected signals, pedestrian sensors, street flood notification, smart lighting, solar paths, smart waste management, public Wi-Fi, wayfinding and event management, public safety and surveillance, and autonomous shuttles. Learn more at [www.thebayjax.com](http://www.thebayjax.com).







## STUDIES

### Orange Park Traffic Circulation Study

The Orange Park Traffic Circulation Study evaluates traffic conditions and needs within the area bounded by I-295 to the north, Doctors Lake to the south, Blanding Boulevard to the west and the St. Johns River to the east. The study recommendations incorporate technical analysis and citizen input of over 5000 survey responses and 500 comments.

### US 17 Safety and Operational Study

This detailed traffic study of US 17 from Fleming Island to Green Cove Springs identifies potential safety and traffic flow issues by reviewing crash histories, existing median openings and vehicle queues. Improvements focus on access management and intersection modifications.



### Duval Schools Walkability Study

The Duval Schools Walkability Study developed a six-step context-sensitive data-driven process for documenting school walking needs region-wide. Seven pilot schools were evaluated to determine their walkability needs and deficiencies, and provide recommendations with planning-level cost estimates. The study won the award for Outstanding Public Study from the Florida Planning and Zoning Association First Coast Chapter.



# STUDIES



## Resiliency and Vulnerability Study

Hurricanes Irma and Matthew showed us how devastating severe storms can be to our region's infrastructure. The Resiliency and Vulnerability Study evaluates tools to improve our region's resiliency and includes measures, objectives and recommendations for the Path Forward 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan update.

## Distribution Center Traffic Study

With the convergence of interstates, rail and ports, Jacksonville is a hub for distribution centers to serve the booming e-commerce channels. These local distribution centers provide same day/next day delivery and some operate 24 hours a day. The Distribution Center Traffic Study is collecting and analyzing data on their traffic impacts to be used in the 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan update.





## EVENTS



### Safe Streets Summit

Keynote Speaker Ryan Gravel shared the story of the Atlanta Beltline at the 2018 North Florida Safe Street Summit in St. Augustine. Local speakers highlighted mobility needs and challenges for seniors, children, the deaf and blind, and generation Z. Participants left with a greater appreciation of planning for users with diverse needs and modes.

### Path Forward 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) Update

The 2045 LRTP Update kicked off with a survey and outreach. Nearly 2,000 people participated in the online survey that queried travel behavior and opinions on transportation issues. Public engagement focused on reaching the underserved through community events. The 2045 Plan will be approved Fall 2019.



**IT'S TIME TO BE MORE CAREFUL WHILE DRIVING, WALKING OR RIDING A BIKE ON BEACH BOULEVARD.**

### Care More Crossing Beach Boulevard Pedestrian Safety Campaign

Beach Boulevard, between Southside Boulevard and I-295, is a hotspot for pedestrian and bicycle crashes. The TPO conducted the Care More Crossing Beach Boulevard campaign to remind pedestrians to cross with care and drivers to turn with concern by using crosswalks and following signals.

The campaign included a website with instructional video, sidewalk decals, direct mail to over 7,000 households in the corridor, radio and print advertising, reflective band and clip-on LED light giveaways and community outreach. A significant portion of corridor residents speak Spanish, so the campaign communications were bilingual.



# CLEAN FUELS

The North Florida TPO/Clean Fuels Coalition program added new ChargeWell EV charging stations in Fernandina Beach and Keystone Heights. Additional stations will be installed in St. Augustine in 2019. The ChargeWell network is making an impact in our region by supporting EV drivers, displacing petroleum use, reducing greenhouse gases and saving fuel costs.

## CHARGEWELL NETWORK IMPACT

