MEETING REGIONAL CHALLENGES

Preserving Quality of Life
2011 Board

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St. Augustine/St.Johns Airport Authority

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Baker County Commission

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Putnam County Commission

**Capt. Jeffrey Maclay**  
U.S. Navy

**Nick Tsengas**  
Florida Dept. of Transportation – Interim District 2 Secretary

Flagler County – Vacant
Executive Letter

Our mission is to provide a regional forum for developing an effective transportation system that moves people and goods safely, economically and efficiently, maintaining a high quality of life in North Florida.

Though, safety is a consideration in everything we do, when we reflect on our efforts over the past year, the issue of safety comes to the forefront. We enhance safety through planning physical and operational improvements to our roadways and encourage safe, distraction-free driving. We use technology to improve awareness of changing road conditions and advance warnings to motorists. We plan and promote alternatives such as transit and rideshare to reduce the number of cars on the road, which in turn reduces crashes. And we encourage exploring alternative fuels to reduce petroleum dependence and increase our national security.

As funding will continue to be a challenge over the coming years, it is even more critical that we invest our limited resources in making the transportation system as safe and efficient as possible.

We wish you safe travels.

Jeff Sheffield
Executive Director
North Florida Strategic Safety Plan

From 2005 to 2010, 110,497 crashes were reported in the North Florida region encompassing Clay, Duval, Nassau and St. Johns counties with a cost of over $20 billion. More staggering is that nearly half resulted in injuries and 1,173 crashes caused one or more fatalities. The TPO is developing a plan to reduce these numbers by analyzing the causes and locations of these crashes. Seven categories were analyzed:

1. Aggressive driver behavior
2. Intersection crashes
3. Vulnerable road users (pedestrians and bicyclists)
4. Lane departure crashes
5. Impaired driving crashes
6. Young driver crashes (drivers 15-20 years old)
7. Elderly driver crashes (drivers 65 years and older)

In our region the most frequent types of crashes involved lane departures, intersections and aggressive driving behaviors, including driving while distracted, running traffic signals and stop signs. A “hot spot” analysis was conducted to identify priority corridors for each category. During the next phase of the study in 2012, countermeasures will be identified and evaluated for the various collision types.

Red “hot spots” show concentrations of “careless driving” crashes from 2005 – 2010.
Argyle Area Safe Driving Campaign

The Argyle Area Traffic Study completed last year identified short-term operational and safety improvements and long-term capacity improvements to reduce congestion and improve safety. However, these improvements will need to be coupled with changes in motorists’ driving behavior to address the alarmingly high accident rates. From 2005 to 2009, 2,761 crashes occurred in the Argyle area alone. Over half resulted in injuries. Eighteen people died. In partnership with local law enforcement, the TPO researched accident data to see the patterns and potential causes. Following too closely for road conditions, improper lane changes, failing to yield and driver inattention are the most frequent causes.
Intelligent Transportation Systems Deployment

The TPO continued its leadership role in the North Florida ITS Coalition by funding elements of the regional ITS Master Plan. Installations completed in 2011 include ITS systems on Blanding Boulevard (SR 21) from Collins Road to Old Jennings Road and on Roosevelt Boulevard (US 17) from Collins Road to Holly Point Road. Road Weather Information Systems technology was also installed on bridges in the region with additional installations planned for 2012.

BlueTOAD (Bluetooth Travel-time Origination and Destination) travel time sensors were installed on the first third of approximately 200 locations along the interstates and major arterials in the region. The sensors communicate travel times and road speeds to the Transportation Management Center (TMC) so staff can identify congestion and update dynamic message signs. The data is also saved for planners to study speed trends, origin-destination, route patterns, trip length analysis and signal timing.

With funding support from the TPO, Road Rangers made over 25,000 stops last year to maintain safe and clear traffic flow on the interstates. Finally, the new regional TMC moved closer to reality with a new site planned adjacent to the Florida Highway Patrol Regional Communications Center and funding committed by the TPO.
St. Johns County Transit Development Plan

This year the TPO worked with St. Johns County to update their Transit Development Plan. As part of the study, we conducted a ridership survey, evaluated potential route modifications and service enhancements and developed a financial plan. Recommendations include adding three new bus routes to the current seven, providing service to the World Golf Village and Nocatee areas, extending operating hours and initiating Sunday service on all routes. We identified locations for park and ride lots and intermodal centers, and recommended additional transit amenities, including shelters, bus stop signs and new buses.
Cool to Pool Rideshare

The Cool to Pool rideshare program launched a new matching database site that enables users to find a rideshare match and track commutes via carpool, transit, biking and walking. When you log your commute you can see the amounts of fuel saved and burned, money saved, calories burned, and the amount of emissions saved and produced. The next program phase will enable users to earn points based on their alternate commutes and win prizes.

www.northfloridatpo.com/cool_to_pool
Strategic Plan

Transportation planning and public works agencies, law enforcement, fire/rescue and emergency operations representatives in our region are developing a Dynamic Detour System that identifies freeway detour routes, traffic management plans and communication procedures to ensure an efficient and seamless detour operation when needed. Detours are needed when major or catastrophic events occur on I-95, I-295 or I-10 that last over 90 minutes.

Given that I-95 has several significant construction projects planned over the next five years, the portion of I-95 between International Golf Parkway and the Fuller Warren Bridge was selected as a case study to determine detour routes and potential sign locations. US 1/Philips Highway runs parallel to I-95 and may serve as an alternate route considering its proximity to I-95 and the number of lanes served in each direction. Detailed plans denoting the route, sign placement, costs and procedures were developed. Additional investment in equipment is needed for all identified detour routes to measure traffic flow, coordinate signal timing and disseminate traveler information.

The Dynamic Detour System will help you decide whether to “wait out” major delays or take an alternate route.
Clean Cities

The North Florida Clean Cities Coalition met ten times last year and covered a wide range of topics including propane, electric vehicles and infrastructure, agency green initiatives, biofuels and emission reduction technologies. The Coalition also participated in the Via Motors electric truck demonstration, tailpipe-free tailgate party, Ford’s Power of Choice Tour, Nissan LEAF test drive and the Florida Renewable Energy tour.

The Coalition’s current focus is gathering data to obtain official “Clean Cities” designation with the U. S. Department of Energy. Currently 23 public and private access alternative fuel stations in our region provide biodiesel, CNG, electric charging and propane. Over 46,000 alternative fuel vehicles are registered in our six-county area, with the majority being flex-fuel vehicles that can run on E-85. The benefits of official designation include access to technical experts, opportunities to network and share information with peers across the country and greater access to funding opportunities.

www.northfloridatpo.com/clean_cities

Brian Baker, Flagler; John Leon, Sawyer Gas/Metro Lawn; Rich Walters, Cornerstone Solutions Group teamed up to create propane-powered “green” landscape maintenance solutions.