

First Coast
Metropolitan Planning Organization

Bylaws

Citizens Advisory Committee

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Article I: Preamble

The following sets forth the Rules of Procedures and Bylaws of the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) of the First Coast Metropolitan Planning Organization (First Coast MPO).

Article II: Creation

The First Coast MPO shall appoint a Citizens Advisory Committee, the members of which serve at the pleasure of the First Coast MPO. The membership must reflect a broad cross-section of local residents with an interest in developing an efficient, safe and cost-effective transportation system. The membership must also include representation of communities within the urbanized area, persons with disabilities, women, minorities and persons with low income.

Article III: Purpose and Responsibilities

The Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) is established to provide citizen comments and views on the metropolitan planning process and to serve in an advisory capacity to the First Coast MPO on matters related to transportation planning. Responsibilities of the CAC include:

1. Review and comment on proposed goals and policies for the transportation planning process,
2. Review and comment on developing the long range transportation plan,
3. Review and comment on specific projects and corridor studies,
4. Review and comment on short range transportation planning, and
5. Carry out other tasks as requested by the First Coast MPO.

Article IV: Membership

Section 1: Appointing Members

The CAC shall be composed of no fewer than fifteen (15) and no more than thirty (30) members. Any person residing within the First Coast MPO geographical boundary is eligible for membership unless that person holds elective office or a non-elective position in any unit of state or local government having jurisdiction.

Members of the public wishing to serve on the Citizens Advisory Committee should submit a letter of interest and a completed membership application a copy of which is available on-line at www.firstcoastmpo.com. Applications are also available at the First Coast MPO offices and can be requested by telephone at 904-306-7500. Completed applications and letters of interest will be forwarded to an elected official/board within the jurisdiction from which the individual resides for endorsement. Endorsed applications will be forwarded to the

CAC for the committee's endorsement and then forwarded to the First Coast MPO for approval.

Membership applications will be accepted at any time and will be held one year for consideration when a vacancy occurs. Vacancies will be posted on the website. In addition, the local governments in which the vacancy occurs may wish to nominate a member.

Care will be taken to insure that the membership represents a socio-economic, racial and geographic cross section of the population within the First Coast MPO boundary. Table 1 summarizes the percentage of minority population reported in the 2000 U.S. Census for Clay, Duval, Nassau and St. Johns Counties. Table 2 applies the percentage of minority participation to the CAC membership.

**Table 1
2000 Population by Race**

	Clay		Duval		Nassau		St. Johns		Total	
		%		%		%		%		%
Total Population	140,814		778,879		57,663		123,135		1,100,491	
Caucasian	123,128	87%	512,469	66%	51,909	90%	111,955	91%	799,461	73%
African American	9,439	7%	216,780	28%	4,465	8%	7,744	6%	238,428	22%
Asian	2,797	2%	21,137	3%	263	0%	1,172	1%	25,369	2%
Other	5,450	4%	28,493	4%	1,026	2%	2,264	2%	37,233	3%

Source: U. S. Census

**Table 2
CAC Membership
Minority Participation as a percent of
Total Membership (30)**

Percent Caucasian	66	20
Percent Minority	34	10

Consistent with the apportionment of elected officials on the First Coast MPO Board and to insure compliance with **Title VI of the Civil Rights Act**, CAC membership is as follows:

Clay County (Maximum 4)

- At least one (1) member from the Town of Orange Park
- At least one (1) member from the City of Green Cove Springs
- The remaining two (2) members are at large and may include members of civic organizations, environmental groups, community redevelopment authorities, homeowner associations and other similar organizations.

Duval County (Maximum 18)

- At least one (1) member from each Planning District (6)
- At least one (1) member from the three Jacksonville Beaches communities (Cities of Atlantic Beach, Neptune Beach and Jacksonville Beach)
- At least one (1) member from the Town of Baldwin
- The remaining ten (10) members are at large and may include members of civic organizations, environmental groups, community redevelopment authorities, homeowner associations and other similar organizations.

Nassau County (Maximum 4)

- At least one (1) member from the Amelia Island/City of Fernandina Beach
- At least one (1) member from the Town of Callahan
- The remaining two (2) members are at-large and may include members of civic organizations, environmental groups, community redevelopment authorities, homeowner associations and other similar organizations.

St. Johns County (Maximum 4)

- At least one (1) member from the City of St. Augustine
- The remaining three (3) members are at large and may represent civic organizations, environmental groups, community redevelopment authorities, homeowner associations and other similar organizations.

To the maximum extent possible no fewer than seven members of the CAC shall be African American and at least one member must be Hispanic/Latino. Persons with disabilities should also be represented.

Section 2: Membership Term

Members shall serve a term of four years. A member may be re-appointed for additional terms.

Section 3: Terminating Membership

A member's term may be declared vacant by the Citizens Advisory Committee for either of the following causes:

1. The member no longer resides within the geographical boundaries he/she was appointed to represent.
2. A member who misses three (3) consecutive meetings will be notified by U.S. mail that his/her membership will be terminated unless he/she attends the next regularly scheduled meeting. There are no excused absences.

A vacancy shall be filled appropriately.

Section 4: Resigning Membership

A member wishing to resign prior to the end of his/her term shall submit a resignation letter to the CAC Chairman stating the effective date of such resignation.

Article V: Electing Officers

Section 1: Electing Officers

Officers of the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) are chairman and vice-chairman. Officers shall serve a one-year term and shall be elected at the last meeting of the calendar year.

1. **Chairman:** The Chairman shall be elected from the CAC membership. The Chairman shall preside at all CAC meetings. He/she shall appoint all subcommittee members and subcommittee chairmen and shall have the authority to call special CAC meetings or to cancel any regularly scheduled CAC meetings.
2. **Vice-Chairman:** The Vice-Chairman, during the absence of the Chairman or his/her inability to serve, shall perform the duties as may be assigned by the CAC that are consistent with the Chairman's authority. He/she shall appoint all subcommittee members and subcommittee chairmen and shall have the authority to call special CAC meetings or to cancel any regularly scheduled CAC meeting.

Section 2: Establishing Committees

1. The Chairman may establish committees from time to time on an as-needed basis.
2. The Chairman will establish a Bylaws Committee at least every two years on odd-numbered years to review the Bylaws and report their recommendations to the CAC.

Article VI: Meetings

Section 1: Meetings

Regular meetings shall be held at 6 p.m. monthly the first Wednesday, except January and July. When conflicting with a national, state or local holiday the meeting will move to the following Wednesday or as otherwise agreed to by the CAC by a majority vote. The meetings shall be held in a facility that is readily accessible to all citizens including those with disabilities.

Section 2: Meeting Notices

All meetings shall be noticed in accordance with Chapter 285.01, *Florida Statutes*.

Section 3: Special Meetings

The Chairman may call special meetings or they may be called by a majority vote of the Committee members.

Section 4: A Quorum of Voting Membership

The CAC membership present shall constitute a quorum.

Section 5: Parliamentary Procedures

All questions or procedures shall be governed by the most current edition of "Robert's Rules of Order," unless superseded by law or these Rules of Procedures.

Article VII: Public Participation in CAC Meetings

Persons attending a CAC meeting have the opportunity to address the Committee during a scheduled public hearing and at all regularly scheduled business meetings and when otherwise invited by the Chairman. A time limit of three minutes will be allowed for presentation unless extended by the Chairman. If the speaker is reading from a prepared text, a copy should be provided for the recording secretary. The following guidelines should be observed when a speaker is addressing the Board or Committee:

1. When called upon, the speaker should come promptly to the podium (if available), speak clearly into the microphone (if available), and state name and address.
2. The speaker should identify the organization being represented, if any.
3. The speaker must limit remarks to three minutes.
4. The speaker may direct questions to the Chairman only.
5. Members of the audience must refrain from audible comments and/or applause during the meeting. Under no circumstance may any audience member interrupt a speaker or otherwise attempt to intimidate or discourage a speaker from addressing the Committee through audible comments or noise making.
6. No speaker may indulge in personal attacks on any Committee or staff member. The Chairman will revoke the speaker's privilege to address the Committee if this rule is violated.
7. Once a public hearing has been closed, no further audience participation is allowed or tolerated. Violating this rule may result in removing the violator from the meeting room.

Article VIII: Administrative Services

All general administrative services shall be provided by the designated First Coast MPO staff member(s).

Article IX: General Information Concerning Agency

Location of Offices

The First Coast MPO office is located at 1022 Prudential Drive, Jacksonville, with telephone number 904-603-7500 and facsimile number 904-306-7501. The TDD number is 904-603-7502. All First Coast MPO publications, forms and documents are available at this location from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays.