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Upcoming Meetings and Events

There are no TPO Board or Committee meetings in January.

Jan, 22, 10 -11:30 a.m.
North Florida Clean Cities Coalition
North Florida TPO Board Room

TPO Board Adopts 2035 Cost Feasible Plan

Following a public hearing November 12, the TPO Board officially adopted the 2035 Cost Feasible Plan. Plan highlights include over \$4 billion for roads, nearly \$700 million for transit including commuter rail, streetcars and BRT, and over \$55 million for bicycle/pedestrian projects from 2010 to 2035.

The 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan will now guide major transportation investments in our region until the next scheduled update in 2014. However, the TPO may consider Plan amendments as changes in funding programs or priorities warrant.



Please visit the [Envision 2035 website](#) to view the Adopted 2035 Cost Feasible Plan project list and map.

North Florida Clean Cities Coalition Underway and Seeking Members

The North Florida Clean Cities Coalition met last month to learn about the Coalition designation process and opportunities. The TPO is coordinating this effort to reduce petroleum usage and dependence on foreign energy sources, improve air quality and create transportation-related clean energy jobs in our region.

Jeff Greene from Wise Gas provided an overview of the Clean Cities program and explained the steps need to be officially designated and eligible for funding. In the past year **nearly \$300 million in federal funding has been awarded for Clean Cities projects** with additional funding forthcoming.

Public and private sector representatives from JEA, JaxPort, JTA, NAS Jax, the City of Jacksonville, Clay County, Nassau County, RunWays Transportation Company, Teco Partners and Wise Gas shared their experiences, accomplishments and interests in alternative fuels. They also viewed an alternative fuel vehicle (AFV) exhibition including an electric and solar powered car from NAS Jax.



Photo courtesy of the *Financial News & Daily Record*. [Read the article](#)

The next step in developing the Coalition is to identify Fleet Managers and those involved in the research, production and distribution of alternative fuels for transportation within the public/private sectors in Baker, Clay, Duval, Nassau, Putnam and St. Johns counties. If that's you or you know any potential members, please contact [Wanda Forrest](#) at 306-7514. The next Coalition meeting is **Friday, January 22, 10 – 11:30 a.m. at the North Florida TPO**.

Global Trade and Transportation Symposium Highlights

[READ THE JACKSONVILLE BUSINESS JOURNAL ARTICLE](#)

Tom Murphy, Urban Land Institute senior resident fellow, urged attendees to look at ways to cut down on gasoline use, pointing to the U.S.'s dependence of foreign oil, with much of it coming from unfriendly countries such as Venezuela and Russia.

George Gabel, the Jacksonville Regional Chamber of Commerce's international chair, stressed the importance of public-private partnerships.

Congresswoman Corrine Brown said the government needs to find ways to fund construction other than using fuel taxes.

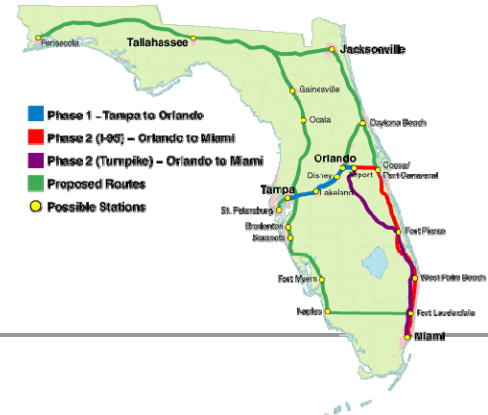
Rail Manufacturers and Suppliers Commit to Increased U.S. Presence

Though the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) includes \$8 billion to build high-speed rail corridors and improve intercity passenger rail service, transportation agencies are often challenged with “Buy America” provisions since a large number of manufacturers are located outside the U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood recently announced that more than 30 rail manufacturers and suppliers, both domestic and foreign, have committed to establish or expand their base of operations in the United States if chosen to build America’s next generation high-speed rail lines or improve intercity passenger rail service.

Florida’s Hunt for HSR Funding Continues

A hot topic continues to be Florida’s hunt for ARRA high speed rail (HSR) funding. The Florida HSR Vision Plan corridors span from Pensacola to Miami, with FDOT requesting \$2.6 billion to fund the implementation of the Tampa to Orlando route, and another \$30 million to advance planning on the Orlando-Miami route for the current ARRA appropriation. This month FDOT held an HSR industry forum in Orlando and has [event videos and materials online](#).

Also check out the [Florida High Speed Rail project site](#) for a wealth of information.



\$280 Million for Streetcars? Now that’s Desirable!

U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood announced the availability of \$280 million for urban circulator projects such as streetcars, buses, and bus facilities to support communities, expand business opportunities and improve people’s quality of life while also creating jobs.

The money represents the first batch of funding the Livability Initiative, a joint venture of the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). A maximum amount of \$25 million per project will be made available from approximately \$130 million in unallocated discretionary New Starts/Small Starts Program funds. Eligible projects include streetcars and other urban circulator systems. Priority will be given to projects that connect destinations and foster redeveloping communities into walkable, mixed use, high-density environments.

A second pot of money totaling \$150 million in unallocated discretionary Bus and Bus Facility funds will be available for projects that will foster preservation and enhancement of urban and rural communities by providing new mobility options for access to jobs, healthcare, and education, and/or contribute to the redevelopment of neighborhoods into pedestrian-friendly vibrant environments. The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) **plans to announce grants early in 2010**.

The Best Part of Transportation Planning in North Florida ...

is not having to plan for this!



Happy Holidays and Best Wishes for a safe, prosperous and mobile New Year!