

Member Municipalities

Lake County
 Sumter County
 Town of Astatula
 City of Clermont
 City of Eustis
 City of Fruitland Park
 City of Groveland
 Town of Howey-in-the-Hills
 Town of Lady Lake
 City of Leesburg
 City of Mascotte
 City of Minneola
 Town of Montverde
 City of Mount Dora
 City of Tavares
 City of Umatilla

Regional Transportation Summit a Success

LEESBURG — More than 100 transportation planners and policymakers turned out for the Lake~Sumter Metropolitan Planning Organization's first hosted Transportation Summit.

The theme of the 2005 summit was "building regional partnerships." The idea behind the Regional Transportation Summit was to invite all the stakeholders and all the current and potential partners of the Lake-Sumter MPO for a day of discussing transportation in a regional context.

Attendees of the summit heard an overview of the many agencies with which the MPO coordinates and of the many modes of transportation addressed through the MPO. Summit details are available at LakeSumterMPO.com.

The keynote speaker of the event was Robert Romig,

Director of the Office of Policy Planning for the FDOT Central Office in Tallahassee. Other speakers at the summit included: Mike Snyder, Executive Director of the Orlando-Orange County Expressway Authority; Randy Fox, Florida's Turnpike Enterprise; Lisa Bacot, Executive Director of the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged; and George Gilhooley, FDOT Secretary for District 5.

At the conclusion of the summit, a memorandum of agreement to begin a tri-county transit initiative was signed by local officials declaring the intention to provide unified public transportation services to The Villages and surrounding areas, which

will include portions of Sumter, Lake and Marion counties.

The summit was the first hosted by the Lake~Sumter MPO, which was created February 2004. Lake County government, through Public Works Director Jim Stivender, Jr., originated the event. The MPO adopted the summit as a way to focus on regional transportation issues. The summit has become a bi-annual event, the next planned in 2007.



The Tri-County Transit Initiative began with the signing of an agreement by leaders from three counties.

Inside this issue:

| | |
|---|---|
| Calendar of Meetings | 2 |
| Messages from the Director and Chairman | 2 |
| Public Encouraged to Comment on Transportation Plan | 3 |
| Website Assists Public Involvement | 3 |
| Transit Initiative Targets Lady Lake, The Villages | 3 |

Lake~Sumter Partners with FDOT for \$5 Million

TAVARES — On Dec. 6, officials from Lake County, Sumter County, The Villages and the Lake~Sumter MPO announced \$5 million in proposed funding from the Florida Department of Transportation to improve County Road 466.

"To make this funding a reality, it could not have been done without the local cooperation of Lake County, Sumter County, The Villages and the Town of Lady Lake," said Lake County Commissioner Debbie Stivender.

In partnership with FDOT, the Lake~Sumter MPO was able to secure the funding to improve CR 466 from Rolling Acres Road east to U.S. Highway 441/27, which is Phase 2 of the total project. Lake County and The Villages have already partnered on Phase 1 of the project, from the Lake-Sumter county line to Rolling Acres Road. The project is to be completed in 2008.

According to the Lake County Department of Public Works, the two-lane CR 466 currently serves about 14,000 cars a day, which is about 2,000 more than its designed capacity. The improvements would widen the road to four lanes, with a grass median and sidewalks.

The funding announced Tuesday comes under the Transportation Regional Incentive Program (TRIP). The new transportation program is part of Senate Bill 360, which is commonly referred to as the "pay-as-you-grow" plan.

The growth management legislation was signed into law by Gov. Jeb Bush on June 24. In particular, TRIP provides incentive for local governments and/or the private sector to partner with FDOT for critically needed projects that would improve regional travel and commerce. Locals are required to contribute a 50 percent match for TRIP funds.

Message from the Director



has expanded staff, which now includes a planning engineer, two office associates, and a GIS analyst shared with Lake County.

As the calendar year concludes, the MPO is finalizing the 2025 Long Range Transportation Plan. In addition, major advances have been made in terms of transit planning, coordination with other agencies, forging new partnerships, and adopting a regional approach to community needs.

2006 promises even more excitement as the Lake-Sumter Region looks to the future.

2005 has been an amazing year for the Lake~Sumter MPO. The organization has evolved from its formation period in 2004 into a regional planning catalyst.

The year began with the MPO selecting the first executive director for the agency. It remains a tremendous honor for me to have been selected for that role. The organization

Message from the Chairman



Lake County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board and feel that this service to our residents is essential for their continued quality of life.

Much has been accomplished in a short time—even more is on the horizon! I truly believe that the staff, which has been hand-picked by the executive director, will move the Lake~Sumter MPO into a realm we have only imagined—here's to the future of regional transportation, and its evolution!!

God bless and may your holiday season extend throughout the year!

It has been a distinct honor and privilege to serve the citizens of Lake and Sumter counties as chairman of the Lake~Sumter MPO since its creation in 2004.

As a native of Lake County and now commissioner on the Lake County Board of County Commissioners, transportation needs have always been a priority of mine. I currently chair the

December 2005

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|-----|-----|-----|-----------------|-----|-----|-----|
| | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | |
| 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 TAC/CAC | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 MPO; BPAC | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |

Upcoming Meetings

- **Dec. 7, 2pm/4pm** — TAC/CAC, MPO Office, Leesburg
- **Dec. 14, 2pm** — MPO Board Meeting, Adoption of 2025 LRTP, Lake County Administration Building, Room 233, Tavares
- **Dec. 14, 4pm** — Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee, Lake County Public Works Conference Room, Tavares
- **Jan. 11, 4pm** — Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee, Lake County Public Works Conference Room, Tavares
- **Jan. 18, 2pm/4pm** — TAC/CAC, MPO Office, Leesburg
- **Jan. 25, 2pm** — MPO Board Meeting, Lake County Administration Building,

January 2006

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|-----|-----|-----|---------------|-----|-----|-----|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 BPAC | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 TAC/CAC | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 MPO | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| 29 | 30 | 31 | | | | |

Public Encouraged to Comment on Transportation Plan

LEESBURG — The Lake~Sumter MPO is encouraging citizens of Lake and Sumter counties to view and comment on the recently adopted 2025 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP).

The 16-page plan identifies many improvements for all modes of transportation, including public transportation, sidewalks and bicycle facilities. The 2025 LRTP is the first long-range plan to be completed by the Lake~Sumter MPO. The improvements identified in the plan are intended to provide the mobility and enhance safety and

economic development potential of Lake and Sumter Counties.

“The plan spells out the need for increased road capacity, enhanced trails and public transportation over the next 20 years,” said T.J. Fish, Executive Director of the Lake-Sumter MPO.

At the Oct. 26 meeting of the Lake~Sumter MPO Board, the final cost-feasible plan was agreed to through a unanimous vote. At that point, the MPO Board opened the required 45-day public comment period in order to receive input on the plan from the residents of the

Lake-Sumter region.

A final adoption hearing for the \$700 million plan is scheduled at the Wednesday, Dec. 14, as part of the 2 p.m. regular meeting of the Lake~Sumter MPO Board. The location is Room 233 of the Lake County Administration Building. Citizens can view the 2025 LRTP at www.LakeSumterMPO.com/2025.

To submit comments, contact the Lake~Sumter MPO office: (352) 315-0170 or email comments@LakeSumterMPO.com.



Website Promotes Public Involvement

LEESBURG — A main objective of the Lake~Sumter MPO is to provide the public with timely information on developments in transportation planning. One means by which the MPO is achieving this goal is through the website, LakeSumterMPO.com.

LakeSumterMPO.com serves as the best destination for area citizens to become engaged in the region’s transportation planning process. The website provides access to a wealth of information, including recent news, a calendar of upcoming meetings, and the near-complete 2025 Long Range Transportation Plan. “It is the MPO’s goal to make the planning process

as transparent as possible for the benefit of our citizens,” said MPO executive director T.J. Fish. “The website features an amazing array of information about transportation in the Lake-Sumter region. This is a major component of our Public Involvement Plan”

Visitors can access documents, maps, news releases, and general information about the MPO. The website also provides the advantage of 24-hour access, which allows the public to access information at their leisure and not have to rely on the strict nature of a typical workweek schedule.

Visit the website today at LakeSumterMPO.com.

“The website features an amazing array of information about transportation in the Lake-Sumter region.”

— MPO Executive Director T.J. Fish

Transit Initiative Targets Lady Lake, The Villages

LADY LAKE/VILLAGES — With a population that has spiked by more than 50 percent since the 2000 U.S. Census, transportation officials from Sumter, Lake and Marion counties have recognized the need for regional cooperation and collaboration to serve the public transportation needs of Lady Lake and The Villages.

The community was designated an official urbanized area through the 2000 Census when the population exceeded 50,000. The growth of the area

has sparked transportation leaders to jointly address public transportation needs.

At the Lake~Sumter MPO Regional Transportation Summit, the announcement was made through the signing of a memorandum of agreement for the tri-county transportation initiative.

The agreement to pursue the initiative is the first step toward Sumter County Transit expanding its role from serving only the Sumter portion of the Villages to serving villagers in all

three counties. Planning for the expanded services is underway. Residents should benefit from enhanced services beginning in late 2006.

“I’m pleased the three counties have recognized that the Lady Lake and Villages area has matured to the extent that mass transit services are a community need,” said Lake-Sumter MPO Chairman and Lake County Commissioner Debbie Stivender. “This is truly a worthy public goal.”



Typical vehicle utilized by the Lake County Connection Transportation Disadvantaged program.



Lake-Sumter Metropolitan Planning Organization

1616 South 14th Street
Leesburg, Florida 34748

Phone: (352) 315-0170
Fax: (352) 315-0993
E-mail: tjfish@LakeSumterMPO.com

**“Building a Path to Efficient
Transportation”**

LakeSumterMP

Thanks to the following Regional Transportation Summit sponsors:

Platinum



**Tindale-Oliver
&
Associates, Inc.**
Planning and Engineering

Gold



Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc.



Silver



Carter Burgess



Bronze

