

Member Governments

- 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

State Says Developers to ‘Pay as You Grow’

MINNEOLA – Planners and administrators from throughout Lake and Sumter Counties gathered recently at Minneola City Hall to discuss growth management reform resulting from the 2005 passage of Senate Bill 360. Of direct impact to transportation planning is the concept of proportionate share, or “pay as you grow.”

If a development is proposed that does not meet transportation concurrency tests, local governments must provide a method for that development to potentially participate in a proportionate share agreement guided by local ordinance.

“This method of addressing concurrency could result in a major leveraging of private investment in public infrastructure,” explained MPO Executive Director T.J. Fish.

“There must first be a concurrency deficiency for there to be a proportionate share discussion,” said Fish. “Then the means by which concurrency is satisfied becomes a pay as you grow discussion.”

Examples were offered of potential proportionate share projects. Candidates included the upgrade of sub-standard two-lane roads to improved two-lane roads, two-lanes expanded to four lane facilities, four-lane arterials expanding to six lanes and even transit contributions.

Failure to comply results in rejection by DCA of amendments to comprehensive plans.

Lake~Sumter MPO staff provided a presentation of the new growth management requirements. A panel discussion followed, moderated by Fish, featuring Susan Sadighi and Jon Weiss of the Florida Department of Transportation District 5, MPO Attorney, Sandy Minkoff and MPO Transportation Planner, Tom Burke.

It was apparent that the SB 360 requirements are front and center in the minds of most local planners. Questions were raised as to who would guide the process. Many attendees spoke of the need for coordination between local governments.

With a Dec. 1 deadline quickly approaching for all local governments to adopt the required proportionate share ordinance, Fish offered the assistance of the MPO staff. The discussion among the panelists and the audience led to the conclusion that a county-wide ordinance approach may work best.

The message from MPO staff was supportive of governmental coordination. “The key is counties and cities uniting on transportation concurrency,” Fish explained. “Otherwise, there will not be many proportionate share projects to leverage those private dollars, which is what the legislature appears to have intended.”

Inside this issue:

Messages from the Director and Chairman	2
Calendar of Meetings	2
South Clermont Connector Groundbreaking	2
Sumter Commissioner Elected MPO Vice-Chairman	3
Transit Coming to Lake County	3
MPO Ready to Tackle Bicycle & Pedestrian Needs	3
2025 Plan a New Horizon for Local and Regional Planning	4

Mayor Now Chairman of the Lake-Sumter MPO

TAVARES — Taking the helm in 2006, Mount Dora Mayor James Yatsuk replaced Lake County Commissioner Debbie Stivender as board chairman of the Lake~Sumter Metropolitan Planning Organization.

Mount Dora’s mayor since 2000, Yatsuk is widely known in the community for his support of issues such as transportation and environmental protection.

“This is one of the best forums to bring the counties and cities together for the common good,” said Yatsuk. “There is a real sense of collaboration.”

Outgoing MPO Chairwoman Debbie Stivender was the first to



chair the regional transportation organization’s board. She led the agency since its inception in early 2004. She is credited with

guiding the development of the first long-range transportation vision and aiding the organization with receiving \$5 million in funding to improve County Road 466.

Stivender ceremoniously passed the gavel to Yatsuk, at which time he presented the Lake County commissioner with a plaque commemorating her service since the birth of the MPO.

Yatsuk becomes the first municipal elected official to lead the regional transportation planning agency.

Message from the Director



We are entering a new era in growth management and transportation planning.

Our legislature has provided us with new tools such as TRIP funding and Proportionate Share. Nonetheless, it will come down to community vision to determine how we shall grow.

The purpose of the MPO is not to take a stance on whether we will or will not grow. The mission for the MPO is to take seriously the projections that our region will grow by more than

100 percent during the next 30 years.

How do you accommodate this influx of residents to our region?

The question is not for the MPO to answer. To reach a consensus on the vision for the Lake~Sumter region, we must look to the residents.

Through the coming months, myregion.org is helping the region embark on this bold journey.

Should we look at ourselves in the context of the Central Florida region? How can we not?

Message from the Chairman



Beginning the year as the new chairman of the Lake~Sumter MPO, it is my goal that 2006 be a year that the MPO makes great leaps toward a multi-modal transportation plan for our region.

We often focus on needed road improvements and that is likely to continue in light of the many roadway needs that we face in the coming years. However, it is critical that our region recognizes the need for more than one transportation option.

That is why I feel strongly that the MPO should focus on all modes of transportation, including trails, transit, bicycles and pedestrians.

Staff is working diligently this year to advance the MPO's first Regional Trails Plan. In addition, planning is now underway for a fixed-route transit system to serve the US 441 corridor.

I was left a great foundation on which to build by our past chairman Debbie Stivender and the MPO Board. I am excited by the unlimited potential for our future and I know the MPO is destined for major successes.



Dignitaries turning golden shovels of soil at the South Clermont Connector groundbreaking ceremony included (left to right) Jim Stivender, Jr., Director of the Lake County Department of Public Works, Lake County Commission Chairman Catherine C. Hanson, City of Clermont Mayor Pro Tem Keith Mullins, City of Clermont Council Member Ray Goodgame, Lake County Commissioner Bob Pool, City of Clermont Mayor Harold Turville, Jr. and T.J. Fish, Executive Director of the Lake~Sumter Metropolitan Planning Organization.

South Clermont Connector Groundbreaking

CLERMONT — On Thursday, April 6th, Lake County Commissioners held a groundbreaking ceremony for the South Clermont Connector. The commuter link will provide a connection between Lakeshore Drive and Citrus Tower Boulevard. It is expected to decrease traffic on Lake Louisa Road and Lakeshore Drive.

The new South Clermont Connector plans include a four-lane paved road with curbs, gutters and bicycle lanes. The project is expected to start later this month and take more than one year to complete.

May/June 2006

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- **May 2—Proportionate Share, 9:30 a.m.**
DCA & FDOT, Maitland Civic Center
- **May 9—Sumter County TDCB, 2 p.m.**
Historic Courthouse, Bushnell
- **May 17—Smart Growth Alliance, 12:30 p.m.**
ECFRPC, Maitland
- **May 17—TAC/CAC, 2 p.m./4 p.m.**
Lake Sumter MPO, Leesburg
- **May 18—BPAC, 2 p.m.**
Lake Sumter MPO, Leesburg
- **May 24—MPO Board, 2 p.m.**
Tavares Civic Center
- **June 5-9—TD Conference**
Gaylord Palms Hotel, Orlando
- **June 7-9—FPZA Conference**
Coronado Springs Resort, Orlando
- **June 9—CFMPOA Joint Mtg. with Tampa Bay CCC, 10 a.m.**
Bok Sanctuary, Lake Wales

Sumter Commissioner Elected MPO Vice-Chairman

BUSHNELL — Sumter County Commissioner James Roberts has been installed as vice chairman of the Lake~Sumter MPO.

He has served on the MPO board since its inception in 2004. The MPO Board has informally established a system of rotating leadership between municipal and county elected officials.

Roberts enters a MPO leadership role as vice chairman, with the anticipation of assuming the chair in 2007. The next vice chair will likely be filled with a municipal elected official.

“One of the strengths of the Lake~Sumter MPO is that it is a two-county MPO,” Roberts said.

He continued, “In state and Central Florida affairs, the Lake~Sumter MPO is viewed as a true regional organization.”

The Lake~Sumter MPO Board consists of 20 board members, 14 voting and six non-voting, representing 16 urban governments of the Lake~Sumter region.

Roberts is active in the Florida Association of Counties and the MPO Advisory Council, the legislative arms of counties and MPOs respectively.



“One of the strengths of the Lake~Sumter MPO is that it is a two-county MPO.”

- MPO
Vice Chairman
James Roberts

Transit Coming to Lake County—441 Corridor to See Busses by December

LEESBURG — This community may become the center for the forthcoming fixed-route transit system for Lake County.

Looking at the US 441 corridor, planners see a logical center point for a new transit system to be somewhere near Lake Square Mall and Lake-Sumter Community College.

“We are planning a system to run the length of the US 441 Corridor,” said Ken Harley, who oversees the provision of public transportation in Lake County. The system would begin in December.

The new transit plan relies on a revised funding structure that focuses on migrating appropriate clients from the Transportation

Disadvantaged program to fixed-route transit. No new funding will be needed for the project.

“Truly challenged clients will still receive the services of the TD program,” explained Harley. “Meanwhile, those that can use mass transit will be encouraged to utilize the new system.” Analysis indicates a predominate number of TD clients would use the new fixed-route system.

The plan will result in a map of defined routes and bus stops generally along the US 441 corridor. Routes will also incorporate the downtowns of communities.

“We are seeking to serve residential communities of a sufficient density and need,

as well as employment and commercial centers,” said MPO Executive Director T.J. Fish.

Concurrently, the MPO has taken steps toward a Regional Transit Circulator Plan that would incorporate connections to the Sumter County Transit System and LYNX, the Regional Transit Authority for Orange, Seminole and Osceola counties.

South Lake will be the next area of focus. Said Fish, “Plans are underway for regional connections with LYNX where appropriate.”

MPO Ready to Tackle Bicycle & Pedestrian Needs

LEESBURG — Major changes are in the works as Lake County dissolves its Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) and turns the reigns over to the Lake~Sumter MPO.

The new BPAC shall be a formal advisory body to the Lake~Sumter MPO. The function of the BPAC is to assist the Lake~Sumter MPO in the formation of goals and objectives for shaping the urban and rural environments through effective regional planning for bicycle and pedestrian projects.

Each voting and non-voting governmental member of the MPO Board shall appoint a BPAC representative. Appointments may consist of non-MPO elected officials, staff, residents, or property and business owners within any jurisdiction.

Appointments should have an interest in the development of an efficient, safe, and cost-effective alternative transportation system.

Minorities, the elderly, and the physically challenged will be adequately represented.

An emphasis for 2006, the MPO is looking to make advances toward a Regional Trails Plan. The MPO looks to facilitate planning between Lake and Sumter county communities to create a two-county vision for trails.

Opportunities exist for Lake-Sumter connections between the South Lake Trail in Lake County and the Van Fleet Trail in Sumter County.

In addition, Leesburg and Wildwood have an option for a trail to replace the old rail line between the two burgeoning cities.

The new BPAC begins conducting meetings in May. For more information, contact Mike Woods, (352) 315-0170.



The Lake~Sumter MPO is pleased to announce the hiring of Michael Woods to serve as the Transportation Coordinator. Michael will oversee the BPAC and Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board. He brings an expertise of bicycle, pedestrian and multi-use trail planning to the MPO.

2025 Plan a New Horizon for Local and Regional Planning

LAKE~SUMTER — The Lake~Sumter MPO's first Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) has already proven to be a document of significance for many of the MPO's member governments.

The 2025 LRTP contains a couple of important elements that substantially aid regional planning efforts. First, the plan addresses the region's transportation improvement needs through 2015 and through 2025. This includes roads, as well as pedestrian and bicycle facilities. The plan covers all of Lake County and The Villages portion of Sumter County.

Secondly, the plan addresses the cost feasibility of meeting those needs. "We have \$1.7 billion in needs through 2025 while we project only around \$700 million in revenues," explained consultant William Roll of Tindale-Oliver and Associates, which prepared the 2025 LRTP.

This means decisions will be made throughout the next decade on how to close the gap between needs and cost feasibility.

Local governments are quickly relying on the 2025 LRTP to create their own long-term visions. Minneola has held several visioning sessions through early 2006 that incorporate aspects of the 2025 plan.

Leesburg, Groveland, and Lady Lake are already fusing the new data into their comprehensive planning efforts. Other municipalities are working with MPO staff to utilize the plan for their own planning needs.

Perhaps the most significant aspect of the plan is its link to the new Lake County comprehensive plan: *Planning Horizon 2025*.

"We did not have very good science behind the previous comprehensive plan," said Amye King, Lake County's Deputy



Director of Growth Management and lead on *Planning Horizon 2025*. "Very early in this process, we set a goal for the County and the new MPO to share the same data so that we are all playing off the same sheet of music."

With the MPO's plan now adopted and Lake County's plan moving toward approval, the region is making strides toward a big-picture approach to planning.

"In our next LRTP, we want to include all of Sumter County," stated MPO Executive Director T.J. Fish. "This is a great plan, but we were able to include only The Villages portion of Sumter. Next time, we hope to create a 2030 plan that addresses 100 percent of both counties."

Meanwhile the 2025 LRTP serves as a definitive guide to transportation needs of 14 municipalities and two counties.



Lake-Sumter Metropolitan Planning Organization

1616 South 14th Street
Leesburg, Florida 34748

Phone: (352) 315-0170
Fax: (352) 315-0993

**"Building a Path to Efficient
Transportation"**

LakeSumterMPO.com