



Charlotte County-Punta Gorda METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

East Port Environmental Campus

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Mayor Larry Friedman
Chair

Commissioner Richard Loftus
Vice Chair

Mark L. Gumula
MPO Director

2009 MPO LEGISLATIVE POSITION STATEMENT

The MPO supports legislation that:

- ▶ Supports the establishment of an infrastructure stimulus program beyond the Governor's recently launched "Accelerate Florida: Extending Florida's Economic Horizons" Program. The infrastructure stimulus program should speed up significant improvements to the state's transportation system and put people to work toward the strengthening of Florida's economy.
- ▶ Supports the creation of a Florida Transportation Revenue Study Commission to develop findings and recommendations to the Legislative addressing: transportation needs in light of the State's investment policy used to support the SIS; funding needs and the ability to address those needs; the stability of existing funding sources; and suggested changes to existing funding sources, including new and innovative funding options.
- ▶ Prevents diversion of the State Transportation Trust Fund (i.e., projected diversion to be \$ 210.4 Million last year) and transportation user fees to non-transportation purposes, recognizing that the diverted money would be unavailable to fund metropolitan area transportation improvement program needs.
- ▶ Continues to allocate State Documentary Tax Stamp proceeds to support the Transportation Regional Incentive Program (TRIP)
- ▶ Encourages the use of affordable, efficient and reliable alternative modes: of transportation, including modes that use alternative fuel to help address such concerns as: global warming; mobility of people and goods; and the transportation disadvantaged.
- ▶ Allows indexing local option gas taxes to the consumer price index in a manner similar to the current indexing of state gas taxes and provides each county a fair and proportional return on state gas taxes generated within the county, ensuring that financial information on the collection and distribution of state gas taxes is provided annually to the counties.
- ▶ Provides additional dedicated funding for paratransit services from existing and nontraditional sources as broader fines for speeding offences and red light running.
- ▶ Opposes legislation that would diminish the MPO's planning and programming autonomy.