



# Charlotte County-Punta Gorda METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

*East Port Environmental Campus*

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Commissioner Richard Loftus

Chair

Commissioner Don Lee

Vice Chair

Mark L. Gumula

MPO Director

## **2010 MPO LEGISLATIVE POSITION STATEMENT**

*The MPO supports legislation that:*

- ▶ Supports a continued strong Federal role in transportation policy and funding, with an emphasis on system preservation, safety, and metropolitan congestion. States should maintain their historic lead role in planning and programming for inter-regional movement of people and goods, while MPOs continue their traditional role as the primary planning and programming agency in metropolitan areas. Federal program funds should be allocated in a manner that advances the ability of states and MPOs to meet their responsibilities under these traditional roles.
  
- ▶ Supports efforts to increase and index federal transportation revenue streams to, at a minimum, keep pace with inflation. The MPO also supports efforts to address future transportation funding needs through new and innovative mechanisms which could include a vehicle miles traveled based approach.
  
- ▶ Opposes legislation that would diminish the MPO's planning and programming autonomy and supports legislation that shields federal metropolitan planning (PL) Funds (or any successor program funds) from rescission budget reductions.
  
- ▶ Encourages the use of affordable, efficient and reliable alternative modes of transportation, including modes that use alternative fuels to help address such concerns as energy conservation, global warming, mobility of people and goods and the transportation disadvantaged.
  
- ▶ Prevents diversion of the State Transportation Trust Fund (i.e., projected diversion to be over \$200 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).
  
- ▶ Ensure that each county receive a fair and equitable return on state gas taxes, proportional to the amounts generated within each respective county, and additionally that the state remit data to the counties detailing an annual accounting of the collection and distribution of state gas taxes.
  
- ▶ Provides additional dedicated funding for paratransit services from existing and nontraditional sources, such as broader fines for speeding offenses and red light running.