

Tampa Bay MPO Board Transit Operator Options

TPO Special Board Meeting

April 30, 2024

Purpose

- TMA requested that staff present options for transit operator's role
- Results of today's discussion will inform conversations at the TMA meeting on May 17

Goals & Expectations

- Part of a larger conversation on apportionment: developing consensus on a final apportionment will take time – this won't get resolved today!
- Clarify TPO Board's position on role of transit operators to facilitate meaningful discussion at TMA

What Do Things Look Like Today?

- Hillsborough Transit Authority (HART) – Appointed official is currently voting member of TPO Board
- GOPASCO– Part of County government; therefore, is represented by BOCC members on MPO
- Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority (PSTA) – Elected official on PSTA Board is voting member of MPO Board

There are state and federal laws regarding transportation operators to consider.

Major Decision Point for Transit Operator Role

A. Voting Member

B. Non-Voting Advisor

Option A: Voting Member

At a minimum, one public transportation operator (e.g. HART, PSTA, GOPASCO representative) would be a voting member of the merged MPO

Option A: Voting Member

- Would provide a direct public transportation operator voice
- Options for the voting member include an elected or appointed official (e.g. like PSTA and HART today)
- Could have one seat per operator or a rotating seat (e.g. HART for one term, followed by GOPASCO for one term, followed by PSTA for one term)

Option B: Non-Voting Advisor

Public transportation operators (e.g. HART, PSTA, GOPASCO) could provide a similar role as FDOT District 7 Secretary does today through acting as an advisor to the MPO

Option B: Non-Voting Advisor

- Allows public transportation operators to communicate freely with voting board members (similar to Secretary Gwynn today)
- An appointed official or staff would serve in this role (e.g. transit operator CEO or Planning Director)
- Could have one per county, a rotating seat or other arrangement

Recommended Action:

Discuss the benefits & challenges of each and select a preferred option (A/B) for Transit Operator Role to inform discussions at the TMA meeting

Future Topics at TMA Leadership Group

May: Continue apportionment discussion related to **number of seats and role of Aviation & Port Authorities**; begin discussing role of **transit operators**

September: Carry over any outstanding topics; begin discussing role of **small cities**

Questions & Discussion

Discuss the benefits & challenges of each and select a preferred option (A/B) for Transit Operator Role to inform discussions at the TMA meeting