

# Central Florida MPO Alliance Meeting

**Date of Event:** January 16, 2009

**Audience Description:** Alliance Board members (3 from each: METROPLAN ORLANDO, the Volusia County MPO, the Space Coast TPO, the Polk TPO, the Lake-Sumter MPO and the Ocala/Marion County TPO), MPO staff directors and representatives from FDOT/D5 and FDOT/D1, other interested parties and members of the public.

## A. Summary of Event:

- This was the Alliance's first quarterly meeting in 2009. Its purpose was to exchange information on key projects/activities underway in the region (including SunRail and the FDOT/D1 rail study in Polk County), coordinate plans for the *myregion.org* Regional Transportation Summit (February 20) and the Regional Connectivity Summit (February 4) being planned by the City of Lakeland, be briefed on the proposed federal economic stimulus package, hear about work underway on a regional dedicated funding source for transportation and to get an update on the status of the Alliance's legislative priorities for the 2009 session in Tallahassee.

## B. Key Speakers:

- Harold Barley, METROPLAN ORLANDO
- Shelley Lauten, *myregion.org*
- Tawny Olore, Florida Department of Transportation
- Commissioner John Quiñones, METROPLAN ORLANDO
- Jennifer Stults, Polk TPO
- Kelley Teague, METROPLAN ORLANDO
- Karl Welzenbach, Volusia County MPO

## C. Key Issues Identified:

- Importance of visualization techniques for effective public involvement
- Rail transit is critical for our region's future – starting with SunRail
- Need for careful planning with numerous regional forums
- Positioning ourselves to benefit from federal economic stimulus package
- Need to monitor developments with important rail study in Polk County
- Unified messaging needed for effectiveness with legislative delegations

## D. Next Steps:

- Forward approved resolutions to appropriate organizations/individuals
- Get work underway to identify projects for federal economic stimulus package
- Continue to advance legislative priorities with delegation members
- Next meeting scheduled for April 17, 2009