



Date: April 15, 2015

To: Jesus Guerra, Interim Executive Director
Miami-Dade MPO

From: Jean Monestime
Chairman
Miami-Dade MPO

Subject: **MPO Committees**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jean Monestime', is positioned to the right of the 'From:' field.

As we begin the 2015-16 term of the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), there is a renewed sense of urgency to improve transit mobility options and increase the capacity of our public transportation infrastructure. I am pleased that the public is focused on these important topics, and that the members of the MPO are united in seeking solutions. As the federally commissioned and state-authorized planning body for our metropolitan region, the MPO is ultimately responsible for setting and moving forward the transportation agenda for Miami-Dade County.

The most important task before this board at this time is the selection of an Executive Director. I am confident the committee assigned to screen and present candidates to the MPO will be concluding its efforts in the very near future. Once a permanent Executive Director is hired, a professional recommendation will be sought from the chosen individual regarding various suggestions to reform the MPO.

Effective immediately, to improve our operations as an MPO, and in accordance with Section 35H-1.15 of our rules, I am appointing the following standing committees: the Transit Solutions Committee and the Fiscal Priorities Committee. The membership of these committees will be limited to seven (7) members in order to facilitate decision-making. Below you will find a brief description of the scope and responsibilities for each of these committees.

The Transit Solutions Committee (TSC) will be responsible for identifying immediate opportunities to increase the integration and utilization of existing mass transit services. The committee will be asked to forward recommendations to improve the connectivity of the current mass transit providers (municipal circulators, jitney services, Miami-Dade Transit and Tri-Rail). The TSC will also be responsible for identifying gaps in service and offering solutions to expand transit access for residents and employers throughout our community. To the extent solutions require additional dollars for capital investments for new intermodal facilities, bus rapid transit or light rail, the TSC will identify and recommend to the MPO potential funding sources.

The Fiscal Priorities Committee (FPC) will concentrate on the programming of transportation dollars to better reflect the immediate priorities of the community. The FPC will thoroughly evaluate the staff recommendations embedded in the planning documents routinely submitted to the MPO for approval. The FPC will be responsible for realigning the allocation of dollars within each of these planning documents to respond to the claims our citizens are placing on elected officials throughout Miami-Dade County. Until additional funding sources are available, the FPC will be expected to make the difficult recommendations to advance and defer projects in order to respond to the needs of our current demographic-employment commuting trends.

Mr. Guerra, please request the members submit to your office a written expression of interest if they are willing to serve on either of these committees. After reviewing the submissions, I will make the appointments. Mayor Carlos Gimenez, or his designee, has been asked to serve as an ex-officio member of both committees.

Please advise interested board members that serving on a committee will require an additional commitment of time, as the TSC and FPC committees will be meeting monthly, at least one week prior to the regular meetings of the MPO. The appointed chairs of the committees will decide the dates, times and locations of the meetings in consultation with your office.

I want to thank all of the members and the staff for their dedication to improving the operations and work product of the MPO. While we have significant challenges ahead of us, I remain confident that we will forge a path toward greater prosperity through cooperation and mutual respect for each and every member of the MPO.

c: Vice-Chairman Francis Suarez and Members of the MPO
Zainab Salim, MPO Board Administrator
Gerald Sanchez, Assistant County Attorney