

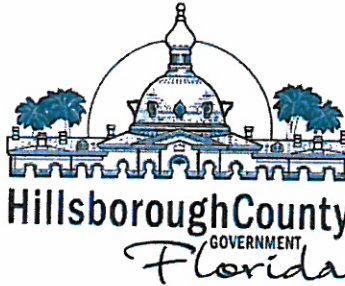
# BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Lesley "Les" Miller, Jr., District 3  
Chairman

Victor D. Crist, District 2  
Vice Chairman

Stacy R. White, District 4  
Chaplain

Sandra L. Murman, District 1  
Ken Hagan, District 5  
Kevin Beckner, District 6  
Al Higginbotham, District 7



Michael S. Merrill  
County Administrator

Chip Fletcher  
County Attorney

Peggy Caskey  
County Internal Auditor

August 17, 2016

The Hon. Gregory Nadeau  
Administrator  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
Federal Highway Administration  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, D.C. 20590

The Hon. Carolyn Flowers  
Acting Administrator  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
Federal Transit Administration  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: Metropolitan Planning Organization Coordination and Planning Area Reform Notice of Proposed Rulemaking ("NPRM")  
Docket No. FHWA-2016-0016  
FHWA RIN 2125-AF68; FTA RIN 2132-AB28

Dear Administrator Nadeau and Acting Administrator Flowers:

Hillsborough County, Florida fully supports the stated policy goals of the NPRM to "strengthen coordination of the MPOs and the States and promoting the use of regional approaches to planning and decisionmaking." *See* Supplementary Information: Summary, 81 FR 41473. We agree that the proposed definition of "metropolitan planning area" better aligns with the statutory requirement 23 U.S.C. 134 and 49 U.S.C. 5303, and that the rulemaking as a whole will better achieve the statutory goals and policies articulated by Congress.

We encourage FHWA and FTA to proceed with finalization of the rule in largely the form in which it is proposed. We do, however, request a change to paragraph 23 C.F.R. 450.310(e), that furthers the policy goals stated in the NPRM, is necessary to fully conform to the rule to the requirements of 23 U.S.C. 134 and 49 U.S.C. 5303, and essential to prevent institutional inertia from undermining the implementation of the stated policy objectives of the proposed rule.

Specifically, we recommend that paragraph 23 C.F.R. 450.310(e), be revised as provided in Exhibit A, attached. We believe these changes are necessary to conform to the requirement in 23 U.S.C. § 34(d)(7), which permits more than 1 metropolitan planning organization in a metropolitan planning area "only if the Governor and the existing organization determine that the size and complexity of the

Post Office Box 1110 • Tampa, Florida 33601  
Phone (813) 272-5660  
HillsboroughCounty.org

*An Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer*

## Exhibit A

§ 450.310

\* \* \*

(e) Except as provided in this paragraph, only one MPO shall be designated for each MPA. More than one MPO may be designated to serve an MPA only if the Governor(s) and the existing MPO(s), if applicable, determine that the size and complexity of the MPA make designation of more than one MPO in the MPA appropriate. In those cases where the Governor(s) and existing MPO(s) determine that the size and complexity of the MPA do make it appropriate that two or more MPOs serve within the same MPA, the Governor and affected MPOs by agreement shall jointly establish or adjust the boundaries for each MPO within the MPA, and the MPOs shall establish official, written agreements that clearly identify areas of coordination, the division of transportation planning responsibilities within the MPA among and between the MPOs, and procedures for joint decisionmaking and the resolution of disagreements. If multiple MPOs were designated in a single MPA prior to this rule or in multiple MPAs that merged into a single MPA following a Decennial Census by the Bureau of the Census, and within 6 months the Governor(s) and the existing MPOs do not determine that the size and complexity ~~do not~~ make the designation of more than one MPO in the MPA appropriate, then those MPOs must merge together in accordance with the redesignation procedures in this section.