

**Issue
#6**

Broward Metropolitan Planning Organization Legislative Priorities 2026

ISSUE SUMMARY

Every year, the Broward MPO reviews its legislative priorities to align with the federal needs of ourselves and partners across the United States. Our legislative priorities for 2026 are to increase planning funds to meet Federal planning requirements, MPO's becoming direct recipients for certain federal funds, reducing local match for federal transportation programs, allowing for carryover of federal funds, and shifting certain discretionary funding to formula funding. These priorities reflect the shared needs of MPOs nationwide and will strengthen our ability to deliver future-ready, resilient, and reliable transportation systems.

FULL DETAILED BACKGROUND

At the Broward Metropolitan Planning Organization, we plan for the future of transportation across Broward County across 31 cities, serving almost 2 million residents. We oversee approximately \$21 million annually as well as millions of dollars in grants for federal transportation funding, working to improve safety, reduce congestion, and support economic development. Guided by a board of local elected officials and supported by professional planning staff, we ensure federal dollars are invested strategically to deliver transformative projects.

Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) are federally required regional policy-making bodies responsible for developing the long-range transportation blueprints that guide critical infrastructure investments. By law, MPOs coordinate multimodal transportation plans using Congressionally mandated performance measures, in collaboration with local governments, transit agencies, state DOTs, and the public. This ensures that federal investments are cost-effective, locally informed, and nationally aligned.

The Broward MPO's priorities reflect the shared needs of MPOs nationwide and will strengthen our ability to deliver future-ready, resilient, and reliable transportation systems:

- **Increase Planning Funds to Meet Federal Planning Requirements** - Planning is the foundation of effective project delivery. Despite expanding responsibilities, PL funds remain below 1% of total formula dollars. At the Broward MPO, we are responsible for efforts such as freight coordination, congestion management, housing and land use integration. These activities require sophisticated modeling, public engagement, and interagency coordination. We advocate for an increase in the total amount of metropolitan planning funds and an increase in the federal share to adequately meet the needs of the evolving role of MPOs. These funds empower MPOs to plan for transportation systems

that are responsive to the needs of our communities, fostering economic growth, safety, and mobility.

- **MPOs Becoming Direct Recipients for Certain Federal Funds** - As the organization charged with federally required transportation planning, the Broward MPO supports greater flexibility in granting direct recipient status to MPOs for certain federal funds. This will streamline the funding process, eliminate bureaucratic hurdles, and empower MPOs to make decisions that directly benefit their respective communities, while reaching national goals.
- **Reducing Local Match for Federal Transportation Programs** - The Broward MPO is tasked with developing federally required transportation blueprints that guide billions in public investment and are central to meeting national performance goals. Yet, we must secure local funds just to access the planning resources needed to carry out these obligations. For our region this requirement poses a recurring challenge. By reducing local match requirements for federal transportation funds, we aim to give MPOs the flexibility to address critical infrastructure needs. Reducing match requirements supports rural and economically distressed communities that struggle to access critical federal funds.
- **Allowing for Carryover of Federal Funds** - Many of the Broward MPO's projects require extensive coordination and span multiple fiscal years. Often times, these critical efforts do not align neatly with the federal fiscal calendar. Allowing the carryover of federal funds from one fiscal year to the next ensures uninterrupted progress on essential long-term projects, promoting consistent infrastructure improvements that enhance safety, mobility, and economic vitality for residents.
- **Shifting Certain Discretionary Funding to Formula Funding** - While competitive grants like RAISE, SS4A, SMART, etc. are valuable, the Broward often lacks the non-federal match needed for extensive grant applications. A shift to formula-based funding for certain federal programs ensures a more predictable and equitable distribution of resources, allowing MPOs to strategically plan for the long-term growth of their communities.

BENEFITS/EXPECTED OUTCOME

These changes will allow the MPO to respond quickly and efficiently to the needs of the region.

POINT OF CONTACT

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