



MPOAC and Legislative Update

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Tampa Bay TMA Leadership Group

www.mpoac.org

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2019 State Legislative Overview



- Overall Conciliatory Tone among leaders
- Not a good session for VISIT Florida
- Home Rule still under attack
- Rather smooth for Transportation
 - Couple of touch-and-go issues during session

- This presentation:
 - Key Bills
 - The Budget

Key Transportation Bills



- HB 5: Discretionary Sales Surtaxes
- HB 107: Use of Wireless Communications Devices While Driving
- HB 341: Motor Vehicles and Railroad Trains
- HB 385: Transportation
- HB 453: Micromobility Devices and Motorized Scooters
- HB 611: Motor Vehicle Racing
- HB 905 : Department of Transportation
- SB 7068: Public Financing of Construction Projects



Key Transportation Bills



- **HB 5: Discretionary Sales Surtaxes**



- Sales Tax Referendums must be on general election ballots.
- 180 days prior to referendum, must submit a notice to the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability.



Key Transportation Bills



- **HB 107: Use of Wireless Communications Devices While Driving**



- Ban on texting while driving.
- Changes from Secondary to Primary Offense.
- Effective October 1st.
- Actual tickets begin January 1st.
- Other uses of hand-held electronic devices OK.



— Except in School and Work Zones.

Key Transportation Bills



- **HB 341: Motor Vehicles and Railroad Trains**



- Deals with crashes between trains and automobiles.
- Only have to interview persons who actually saw something.



Key Transportation Bills



- HB 385: Transportation
- Title is misleading.
 - Call this the Miami-Dade bill.
- Only affects Miami-Dade.



Key Transportation Bills



- **HB 453: Micromobility Devices and Motorized Scooters**
- General intent was to treat scooters the same as bicycles.
- Preserves local control over where scooters can go.
- Max speed of 20 MPH.
- Vendors must secure scooters in advance of tropical storms or hurricanes.

Key Transportation Bills



- **HB 611: Motor Vehicle Racing**
- Allows officers to make an arrest for street racing.
- Still a misdemeanor offense.



Key Transportation Bills



- **HB 905 : Department of Transportation**



- Deals with local aggregate specifications.
- Contractors bidding on projects above \$50M must have previously completed two \$15M projects.
- Raises Small County threshold from 170K to 200K population.



Key Transportation Bills



- **SB 7068: Public Financing of Construction Projects**
- AKA: The toll road bill, MCORES, etc.
- More than transportation
- Three Corridors identified.
- Task Force – report due 10/01/2020
- Construction by 12/31/2022
- Open to traffic by 12/31/2030
- Includes \$135M per year additional funding.

Proposed 2020 Budget – SB 2500



- Not yet presented to Governor
 - Subject to line item veto
- \$91.1B Statewide Budget
- 113,000 State Employees
- \$21.1B for Education
 - Up \$242 per student
- \$33M for State Land Purchasing
- \$200M for Sadowski Housing Fund
- \$1.85B for Hurricane Michael recovery
- \$682 for Water Quality and Protection

Proposed 2020 Budget



Transportation \$10.8B (Trust Fund)



- 6212 State Employees
- \$85M of Earmarks
- Last Year was \$150M (\$50 after vetoes)
- Legislature and Governor seem to trust Transportation
- Track Record of Accomplishments



Getting the Newsletter?



If No,
See me!

MPOAC

The Florida Metropolitan Planning Organization Advisory Council

*Commissioner Nick Maddox
Chair*

Legislative Update for the week ending 03/22/2019

Overview

This week's MPOAC Legislative Newsletter has the honor of starting out with a bit of good news. HB 107, the distracted driving bill is going to be heard in its first House committee stop on Tuesday!!!! A shout-out to one of my colleagues, Lauren, for tipping me off that the good news was coming. She and her team are part of a valuable coalition of transportation lobbyists who help to make sure our local voices are heard in the Legislature. Please share your thanks and support for HB 107 by calling your legislator. The Senate version, SB 76 is being heard in Judiciary Committee on Monday. Let's hope this is the year that distracted driving becomes a primary offense. We may need your calls soon to help HB 107 to be heard in the second committee stop.

The other big news this week was that each chamber announced their proposed budgets. In the Senate, we anxiously waited for Senator Hutson, Chair of the Transportation, Tourism and Economic Development Subcommittee on Appropriations, to share with us the news related to the Senate's proposed transportation budget. It was great news, transportation is fully funded. For many of my audience, the other piece of good news is that the Senate is also proposing to not remove funds from the Sadowski Housing Fund for affordable housing.

A little more about the budget proposals..... Please remember that these are proposals and must go through the horse-trading process of aligning the spending priorities of each chamber in the final budget and in this process we must not forget that the governor also gets to weigh in either early in the process or later with his veto pen (or both times). The budget details of each chamber will have to change since the House and Senate budgets are about \$400 Million apart. This sounds bad when considering the amount is \$400 Million but they actually are not that far apart in the scheme of our total state budget amounts when you consider the Senate has proposed spending \$90.3 Billion and the House has proposed spending \$89.9 Billion. To help put things in perspective, last year the Legislature and Governor approved a statewide budget of \$88.7 Billion and Governor DeSantis proposed a budget this year of \$91.3 Billion. House Speaker Olivia has clearly stated that one of his priorities is to spend less per capita this coming state fiscal year than the current year. Now we are spending about \$4800 per capita in Florida. How each chamber spends the money is where we get into the differences.

Transportation is proposed to be fully funded and we should be thankful for that, quickly knock on a block of wood! One good part of Florida transportation is the fact that our money comes from a trust fund that is filled with dollars from the USDOT and state transportation sources such as our state gas tax and motor vehicle license registration fees. Those dollars are dedicated to transportation and in the case of the federal dollars they must be spent on transportation, the federal dollars cannot be spent on other purposes. The other interesting detail of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Tourism and Economic Development is

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Let's Talk Earmarks



Priorities

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Gone!!!

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Thank You!!