



Florida Department of Transportation

**RICK SCOTT
GOVERNOR**

605 Suwannee Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0450

**ANANTH PRASAD, P.E.
SECRETARY**

March 21, 2014

Mr. Brian D. Teeple, AICP
Chair, Florida Regional Councils Association
Executive Directors Advisory Committee
104 West Jefferson Street
Tallahassee, FL 32301-1713

Dear Mr. Teeple:

Thank you for your February 17, 2014 letter, on behalf of the Florida Regional Councils Association (FRCA), regarding the draft *Florida's Transportation Planning Process for Non-Metropolitan Areas* document. Florida's Regional Planning Councils (RPCs) are critical partners with the Florida Department of Transportation (Department). We recognize the key role of RPCs in regional planning and visioning, and welcome the feedback of FRCA regarding the non-metropolitan transportation planning process.

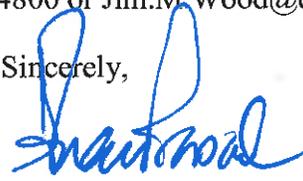
Partnerships with our regional and county stakeholders to provide effective regional transportation planning have long been a priority of the Department. These relationships have supported efforts to develop county plans, regional visions and action plans to more closely integrate transportation, land use, economic, and environmental decision making. As reflected in your comments, the Department has worked closely with RPCs to facilitate and advance rural transportation planning. We appreciate the perspective you provided and have revised the document to highlight specific activities undertaken by the RPCs to facilitate rural transportation planning. We look forward to continuing our partnership to support these targeted approaches as the most effective and efficient way to advance transportation planning tailored to the diversity of Florida's rural areas.

We value our longstanding collaboration with the RPCs. In addition to opportunities with non-metropolitan transportation planning, we appreciate your partnership and feedback in support of statewide efforts such as Future Corridors planning, and development of the Florida Transportation Plan and the Strategic Intermodal System Strategic Plan, both of which will be updated by December 2015.

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Thank you again for your input. If you have any questions, please contact Jim Wood with the Department's Office of Policy Planning at 850-414-4800 or Jim.M.Wood@dot.state.fl.us.

Sincerely,



Ananth Prasad, P.E.
Secretary

AP/jw

Cc: Bob Romig, Florida Department of Transportation
Jim Wood, Florida Department of Transportation
Sheri Coven, Florida Regional Councils Association
Chris Holley, Florida Association of Counties
Chris Doolin, Small County Coalition