

## Project Delivery

### Improved Project Delivery is a Promise of MAP-21

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) supports the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21) legislative goals for improving project delivery. Several MAP-21 policy statements underscore the priority of improved project delivery:

- It is in the national interest to accelerate project delivery and reduce costs.
- Delay in the delivery of transportation projects increases project costs, harms the economy of the United States, and impedes the travel of the people of the United States and the shipment of goods for the conduct of commerce.
- Congress declares that it is in the national interest to expedite the delivery of surface transportation projects by substantially reducing the average length of the environmental review process.

### Federal Agencies and Regulations Must Empower States in Project Delivery

FDOT has been actively engaged in the federal rulemaking review process. This includes recent rulemaking on *Categorical Exclusions for Projects within an Existing Operational Right-of-Way* and *Projects Receiving Limited Federal Funding*. Pending project delivery regulations must empower and promote state-level innovation while, making review processes consistent and relatively simple. Further, partnership approaches must be encouraged consistent with the flexibility provided in MAP-21. Regulatory agencies must be especially cautious to not directly burden the states through onerous regulations or indirectly through the restrictive and cumbersome application of those regulations by their regional and state offices or other resource agencies.

We applaud the Congress for including Section 1323, Review of Federal Project and Program Delivery, in MAP-21. We strongly recommend that the reports required of the U.S. Department of Transportation, the Comptroller General and the U.S. DOT Inspector General be used to determine whether and to what extent project delivery improvements are being achieved.

### Florida's Environmental Process is a Model for Delivering Projects Efficiently While Protecting the Environment

Florida's transportation project development and environmental analysis process includes innovative and proven approaches to linking planning with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to expedite project delivery. This begins with early coordination and input from stakeholders through the Efficient Transportation Decision Making (ETDM) screenings for qualifying transportation projects. This helps to identify early project activities to simplify and focus NEPA review through Florida's proven project development and environmental review process.

Florida is simplifying project review processes to be more consistent, predictable and repeatable by targeting relevant activities to effectively meet obligations and requirements. These bold and innovative actions were strengthened by and are consistent with Subparts B (Sections 1201-1203) and C (Section 1301-1323) of MAP-21. Of particular note is the development of Florida's Alternative Corridor Evaluation process (ACE), which considers the use of planning products to inform and focus NEPA activities consistent with Section 1310.168.