

## Frequently Asked Questions:

**Why do costs keep increasing for road building projects?** Road construction has become increasingly expensive during recent years due to the rising costs of available land and building materials (concrete, steel, etc.). For this reason the MPO takes a broad, multi-modal approach to transportation planning that supports a variety of transportation alternatives including roadways, transit, sidewalks, trails, and bicycle lanes.

**Where can I find transportation plans for my neighborhood? Where can I find information that will help me locate my business?** Answers to both questions can be found on the MPO's website. Use the drop-down menus to locate the most recent versions of maps and documents, including Traffic Count Maps and Pinellas County's twenty-year transportation plan and five-year improvement program. All are available at no charge on the web, or if you don't have access to the web or prefer a print out, copies are available at a nominal fee to cover printing costs. Contact the MPO.

**How do I provide input on transportation plans and priorities?** Bring your issues and concerns to the attention of members at the public comment segment of an MPO meeting or send a letter or E-mail to the MPO.



## Special Needs Accommodations:

Enhanced listening devices are available in the Assembly Room during each MPO meeting. If you are a person with a disability who needs an accommodation in order to access a meeting and participate, you are entitled to certain assistance at no cost. Within two (2) working days prior to the event, please contact the Office of Human Rights, 400 South Fort Harrison Avenue, 5th Floor, Clearwater, Florida 33756; (727)464-4062 (V/TDD). Transportation to and from MPO meetings is not provided.

*Si usted necesita la ayuda de un traductor del idioma español, por favor comuníquese con la Oficina de Derechos Humanos situada en la siguiente dirección, 400 South Fort Harrison Avenue, Piso 5th, en la Ciudad de Clearwater, Florida 33756; Telefono: (727) 464-4062; (V/TDD). Favor de comunicarse cuando menos 48 horas antes de la junta.*



### Metropolitan Planning Organization

600 Cleveland Street, Suite 750  
Clearwater, Florida 33755

(727)464-8200; fax (727)464-8201

E-mail: [mpo@pinellascounty.org](mailto:mpo@pinellascounty.org)

Web: [pinellascounty.org/mpo](http://pinellascounty.org/mpo)

Citizens-Guide Brochure 3-Fold - 1/07

# A Citizens Guide to the Metropolitan Planning Organization



Metropolitan Planning Organization  
Pinellas County, Florida

# Citizens Can Play an Important Role in Transportation Planning

Transportation decisions require the cooperation of all levels of state, federal and local governments. Which roads will be improved? How can we improve travel safety for bicyclists and pedestrians? How do we provide more public transit? These are examples of questions that need to be addressed.



**The Pinellas County Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)** is a government agency responsible for developing transportation plans and programs and for determining how and where certain transportation dollars will be spent. Eleven elected officials appointed by their local governments serve on the MPO Board, including mayors, county commissioners, city council members, and a representative of the Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority. The Florida Department of Transportation also serves as a non-voting member.

The MPO's approach to transportation planning is "multi-modal", that is, it focuses on all forms of travel including automobile, pedestrian, bicycle and mass transit (bus, trolley, etc.) and commercial goods movement. The MPO also provides for the essential needs of over one hundred thousand individuals who lack access to transportation due to disability or low income.

## MPO Meetings:

The MPO meets on the second Wednesday of each month, 1 P.M., at the Pinellas County Courthouse, 315 Court Street in Clearwater. All meetings are open to the public. Agendas are posted on the MPO website one week in advance. MPO meetings can be viewed live at Channel 18 TV and on the Pinellas County website at [pinellascounty.org/media](http://pinellascounty.org/media). A video archive on this web page also permits users to view agendas and videos from previous meetings.

## MPO Public Outreach:

The MPO hosts public hearings and workshops and provides presentations, on invitation, for education and events meetings of homeowners association, civic, business and professional organizations. To learn more about these events, or to request a speaker for your organization, visit the website at [pinellascounty.org/mpo](http://pinellascounty.org/mpo), look for announcements in local newspapers, or contact the MPO.



## MPO Advisory Committees:

A number of advisory committees, comprised of citizens and transportation professionals, assist the MPO in their decision-making.



Committees that include citizen members are: The *Bicycle Advisory Committee*, the *Pedestrian Transportation Advisory Committee*; the *Intelligent Transportation Systems Committee*; the *School Transportation Safety Committee*; the *Pinellas Mobility Initiative Steering Committee*; the *Local Coordinating Board*; and the *Livable Communities Task Force*.

If you are interested in serving on one of the MPO's citizen committees, call or send an E-mail to the MPO introducing yourself and describing your interest. New appointments are considered when openings become available.

Visit the Pinellas County MPO on the web at: [pinellascounty.org/mpo](http://pinellascounty.org/mpo)