

B4  
Programs to Reduce Vehicle Dependence

NOT YOUR GRANDFATHER'S DOT: HOW FDOT DISTRICT 5 IS STRENGTHENING  
MULTIMODAL PLANNING TO SUPPORT COMMUNITIES

Heather Garcia  
Florida Department of Transportation, District 5  
719 S. Woodland Blvd.  
DeLand, FL 32720  
386-943-5077  
[heather.garcia@dot.state.fl.us](mailto:heather.garcia@dot.state.fl.us)

Mary Taylor Raulerson  
Kittelton & Associates, Inc.  
225 East Robinson Street  
Orlando, Florida 32801  
407-373-1105  
[mraulerson@kittelton.com](mailto:mraulerson@kittelton.com)

Today's changing financial, environmental, social, and economic realities are requiring Departments of Transportation (DOTs) around the Country to rethink the previous approach towards transportation planning and decision-making. FDOT District 5 recognizes this new challenge facing the Department and has refined its transportation planning approach, particularly on transportation solutions for urban, suburban, and rural town corridors that require multimodal considerations. The District recognizes that effective and efficient planning can lead to better defined problems, exceptional project development and delivery, more streamlined and stable work program, and eventually to implemented projects that are supported by community stakeholders.

***The Guidebook as a Tool for Communities***

This session will present how the District has taken a proactive step in developing and implementing a set of Planning Guidance for Multimodal Corridor Planning Studies. For FDOT, strengthening planning at the corridor level is critical in bridging community visions and project programming. Planning at FDOT District 5 is not about "blue sky visioning", but entails truly understanding a problem through real data and stakeholder engagement, defining a broad range of solutions, and advancing solutions that are fiscally responsible and community supported. The Planning Guidance is a tool that is helping not only the DOT but small and medium sized city partners of DOTs:

- Define a consistent approach for multimodal corridor planning that results in well-defined problem, a range of solutions, understanding of costs, schedules, and level of community support
- Understand the unique roles and responsibilities for DOT staff and partner agencies for each of the project development phases (from planning to construction/maintenance)
- Define the elements needed for a well-defined planning solution (or set of solutions) that can be delivered to the concept development, environmental review (NEPA), and design phases

***Institutionalizing a Stronger Planning Phase***

District 5 sees the Planning Guidebook as a key step to advance FDOT's recently adopted Complete Streets policy. To communicate its commitment to this new approach, the District is currently conducting internal DOT training and external workshops on the Guidebook across all of Central Florida. In the last two years, ten external and internal workshops have been conducted to almost 400 external partners and internal FDOT staff. Workshop participants learn how land use and transportation strategies should be integrated to sustainably address future multimodal mobility needs while meeting local community goals. Participants also learn about innovative planning tools and techniques available to understand issues, synthesize information, and engage stakeholders.

The Guidebook is being already used as a tool by small and medium sized communities throughout District 5. It will continue to help transportation and land use planners, engineers, and designers, elected officials, who plan transportation facilities understand how stronger planning can help streamline the project development process and develop alternatives that are more fiscally realistic and community acceptable, before these are even put on a priority list or programmed.