



Florida Department of Transportation Research

Multimodal Transportation Best Practices and Model Element

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Florida will soon overtake New York as the third most populous U.S. state. This growth has benefits, but experience shows that planning is needed to achieve transportation and land use objectives and to balance urban growth with the preservation of Florida's natural areas. Florida law requires local governments to prepare and adopt comprehensive plans to guide development and growth. These plans must consider many issues, including land use and transportation needs and objectives. Add to this the new focus on multimodal travel, shifting from an emphasis on cars to providing many travel modes serving a range of users and moving people and goods as efficiently as possible. Comprehensive plans must now provide for multimodal travel and transportation, ensuring that the transportation system will be able to adapt to future growth patterns.

In this project, researchers at the University of South Florida National Center for Transit Research (NCTR) developed model multimodal transportation elements to guide local governments in updating comprehensive plans. The models are tailored to address recent changes in Florida law, which require that local plans anticipate and provide for future transportation needs for various transportation modes. This is a complex activity for which guidance is needed. Two models were developed. The first provides guidance for large local governments and those within the boundary of a metropolitan planning organization (MPO). The second provides guidance for smaller or more rural communities outside of an MPO.

Each model element encourages a range of best practices in multimodal transportation planning identified through extensive review of the literature, agency plans, and related documents. Emphasis is placed on ensuring a multimodal transportation system appropriate to the community, providing for and promoting public transportation, improving accessibility

and connectivity between modes – transit stations, intermodal terminals, bicycle and pedestrian facilities – and coordination with land use.

The models guide local planners in various activities involved in preparing

multimodal transportation plans, beginning with identifying a community's vision and priorities, as well as local conditions that affect transportation and land use planning. These activities create a framework for analysis of the system with regard to contemporary land use and transportation objectives. Together with the new requirements for incorporating multimodal transportation, the analysis of the contemporary situation suggests future needs. The models then lead planners through steps to develop the future multimodal transportation plan.

The guidance provided by these models will provide local governments in Florida and across the U.S. with a better understanding of state requirements, deeper insight into their transportation situation, and a clearer path to creating a multimodal transportation element for the local comprehensive plan.



A computer generated vision of a complete street that supports safe walking, bicycling, and transit use, as well as on-street parking in an economically vibrant urban environment.