

NFTCA Master Plan Update

In cooperation with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), and other State, regional and local agencies, the Northwest Florida Transportation Corridor Authority (NFTCA) is performing a major update to its Master Plan. We will be refocusing our efforts to include a business case analysis which will examine the social and economic needs of the region and assess how those needs can be met through investments in our transportation infrastructure. The objective of the business case approach is to identify and evaluate projects that can provide social and economic benefits to the region in addition to provide added transportation capacity. Projects will be evaluated based on their potential to create jobs, minimize infrastructure costs, contribute to the region's economic competitiveness, enhance livability and benefit the environment. Once projects are evaluated, we will develop an investment plan and identify viable funding strategies for project implementation.

Partnership Outreach Activities

As part of our extensive public involvement program, the NFTCA is reaching out to the regional planning councils in the eight-county geographic area covered by the NFTCA and its Master Plan. In January and February, presentations about the Master Plan update process were made to the Bay County Transportation Planning Organization (TPO), the Northwest Florida Regional Transportation Planning Organization (RTPO), the Okaloosa-Walton TPO and the Bay, Gulf, Holmes, Washington Regional Transportation Partnership (RTP). Future presentations include the following:

- **Florida-Alabama TPO** – March 12th & 14th, 2012
- **Apalachee Regional Planning Council** – March 29, 2012
- **Capital Region Transportation Planning Agency (TPA)** – March 26, 2012

Upcoming Activities

As part of the business case analysis, a series of workshops will be held with various agencies and stakeholders in the region to ensure consensus and buy-in at all levels. The first series of workshops are tentatively scheduled for March 13th & 14th 2012 in Bay and Santa Rosa Counties. The main objective of these workshops will be to discuss existing conditions and transportation infrastructure needs in the region. Detailed information on the workshops will be provided in the coming weeks.

In addition to the workshops, the following upcoming activities are planned:

- Coordination and outreach will continue with the TPOs of the West Florida Regional Planning Council, the Apalachee Regional Planning Council, and the Capital Region TPA.
- A review of the Long Range Transportation Plans and other planning documents applicable to the eight-county region is underway. More than 100 approved planning documents have been identified that will need to be coordinated with the NFTCA Master Plan to ensure consistency.

The next NFTCA Board meeting is scheduled for March 22, 2012 at 10:00 a.m. Central Time, Panama City Hall, 9 Harrison Avenue, Panama City, FL. Meeting information is available on the NFTCA website.

Updated NFTCA Website

Communication and a transparent planning process is a vital aspect of the NFTCA's day-to-day activities. Our goal is to inform the public about the NFTCA's efforts and encourage positive and open interaction between the public and our project team through our website, quarterly newsletters, emails, public meetings and other public involvement opportunities.

To ensure open communication, the NFTCA website has recently been revamped to include additional information about the NFTCA and the Master Plan update process. This website is your portal for information and can be accessed at:

<http://www.nwftca.com>