

June 2012

Master Plan Approach

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 using a business case approach. The business case analysis is a series of steps aimed at identifying the social and economic needs of the region and then assessing how those needs can be met through investments in transportation infrastructure. Steps in the business case analysis include:

- 1 identifying regional needs;
- 2 identifying projects to meet those regional needs;
- 3 evaluating the benefits of each project;
- 4 analyzing the investment returns and prioritizing projects; and
- 5 identifying funding sources.

The Master Plan update thus far has focused on identifying regional needs and is now moving into project identification and evaluation of project benefits.

NFTCA Master Plan Update

During the past several months, the project team continued its data collection effort and stakeholder outreach. The team collected existing and projected traffic data for the region, reviewed more than one hundred local and regional plans to further understand regional needs and potential solutions, and reviewed recent and projected social and economic trends for the region. The team presented their preliminary findings at the first of three stakeholder workshops held March 13th and 14th in Panama City and Navarre. During the workshops, regional needs were discussed and the following objectives were presented for the future screening of projects: support of regional plans, productivity, connectivity, environmental sustainability, community impacts, funding opportunities, economic vitality, safety and security, and land use/growth management.

Since the workshops, the project team conducted follow-up meetings with workshop attendees and other stakeholders throughout the region to identify potential projects for consideration in the Master Plan. Through the stakeholder outreach and data collection efforts, a preliminary list of 47 projects was developed. The team screened the projects using the criteria presented during the first workshop to generate a list of 29 projects for consideration in the update of the Master Plan. Potential projects span the eight-county region and include road widening projects, new corridors, bridge replacements, rail improvements and Bus-Rapid Transit.

Next Steps

A second workshop is planned for **July 10th and 11th**. Attendees will have the opportunity to review and comment on the preliminary list of projects and discuss parameters that guide the evaluation and prioritization of investments. The economic and social benefits for two sample projects will also be presented in order to help demonstrate the benefits that will be generated for all projects as part of the business case analysis. For the convenience of those attending, two meeting locations are available for the workshop.

Tuesday, July 10th

1:00 pm to 4:00 pm Central Time
Days Inn & Suites
Navarre Conference Center, Room D
8700 Navarre Parkway
Navarre, FL 32566

Wednesday, July 11th

9:00 am to 12:00 pm Central Time
Florida State University, Panama City Campus
Holley Academic Center, Room A301
4750 Collegiate Drive
Panama City, FL 32405

Once a consensus is reached on which projects to advance, the economic and social benefits of each project will be evaluated. For more information on the upcoming workshops or Master Plan update, please visit www.nwftca.com.

The next NFTCA Board meeting is scheduled for July 26, 2012 at 10:00 a.m. Eastern Time, Robert Moore Administration Building, 1000 Cecil G. Costin Boulevard, Port St. Joe, FL.

The Northwest Florida Transportation Corridor Authority (NFTCA) continues in our mission to **improve** mobility, to **enhance** traveler safety, to provide for hurricane evacuation routes, and to **promote** economic development. As authorized by Florida Statute Section 343.80, we seek to **construct** feeder roads, reliever roads, connector roads, bypasses, or other facilities to improve mobility along the US 98 Corridor throughout Northwest Florida.