



The Florida Metropolitan Planning Organization Advisory Council

*Commissioner Nick Maddox
Chair*

MPOAC Legislative Newsletter

01/09/2021

Overview

Greetings, good morning and happy new year readers! Welcome to the first MPOAC Legislative Newsletter of the 2021 Florida Legislative Session. To kick off your weekend we have a status of where we are legislatively speaking and for the rest of your weekend there are many spectator sports coming up, NFL Wildcard Playoffs begin today, Monday evening is the college football championship and Monday is also the first of the Legislative Committee Meetings for the 2021 Legislative Session. While Legislative meetings may be a spectator sport for some, we know that being engaged and participating is important to our well-being. We are breaking with tradition and sending out the first legislative newsletter before the committees have met. This will allow you to know which committees are meeting and who is on each of the legislative committees that are important to us. Going forward, expect a Legislative Newsletter on Saturday mornings of weeks that the Legislature meets.

The first week of Legislative Committee meetings is usually fairly perfunctory, the Chair or Staff Director will explain the role and purview of the committee and you may hear a presentation by an agency that has their budget or bills run through a particular committee or appropriations subcommittee. Heads up, the Florida Department of Transportation is presenting on Tuesday at 3:30 in the Senate Transportation Committee. Overall, expect this coming week to be fairly light and relaxed. There are a number of bills that have been filed already and ones concerning transportation and/or local government (You!) are covered each week in your newsletter. We will take time and space in the front of the newsletter to tell you about significant events happening at the Capitol and maybe go into detail on a bill we are tracking.

What can you expect from this session? The issue that will overshadow this session has to do with the reduced state revenues and the reduced budget. COVID 19 has greatly reduced state income (revenues) and we could see a budget that is as much as \$4 to \$5 Billion smaller than last year. The Governor is required to submit a proposed budget in February to the Legislature and what is, or perhaps more importantly what is not, in his budget will be of great interest to all of us. COVID 19 is creating legislative anxiety over what stays and what gets cut! Don't expect member initiatives (earmarks) to do well and don't expect legislation that costs additional dollars to be popular. Sure, some bills of this nature will pass but bills that save money or are policy related without a budgetary impact are probably better bets.

One very significant change to the operations of the Legislature this year is how we will interact with members. COVID 19 has brought us this change and hopefully it will only last for one session. The days of walking through the Capitol and waiting outside a member's office hoping for a chance to drop in and quickly visit are no more. Only members, their staff and invited guests are allowed in the building. Meetings with Legislators are limited to 2 guests at a time. The busloads of citizens going to the Capitol to meet with numerous Legislators is gone for this year. If you wish to testify in committee, it will be done by arriving at the Tucker

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Center (the venue in Tallahassee for concerts, trade shows, etc.) and talking into a camera. The Tucker Center is about a ½ mile away from the Capitol. Only persons with material comments and a reservation or a specific committee invitation will be in the committee room. I personally will miss seeing and reading the side activities in the committee rooms. The interactions and physical reactions of members and their staff (as well as the attendees) is helpful in putting things into context. Watching the interactions among members is interesting to watch as well and can very telling. The committees will be live on The Florida Channel and each committee meeting video link can be accessed through that committee's webpage.

There is one very important thing for you to consider as you contemplate these changes to the business of the legislature and operations at the Capitol. Full-time lobbyists do not have the same level of access to legislators as they had in past sessions. Yes, there are still going to be meetings and discussions at social events will still take place. The social interactions after hours is probably not going to change unless there is a serious outbreak of COVID among the members. But you, and your phone call, have more weight this year because you are on a more equal footing with the professional that spends their entire day at the Capitol. Or at least the professional who used to spend their entire day at the Capitol. You both are much more similar in your method of access this year. You must also keep in mind that a locally elected official is very important to a legislator. Sure, there are exceptions and we don't need to go into those. I will always remember in my first year of covering the legislature when I met with a member. For this meeting I took a mayor from the member's district with me. The mayor made the case against the bill and at the end the discussion (OK, polite request to kill the bill), the member looked at the mayor and said "Well, I work for you and so I won't let the bill be heard in my committee." I learned two great lessons that day. One, my voice is not nearly as important as a mayor, commissioner or county official which is fine by me and secondly, your voice as an elected official is what needs to be heard by the members. If I call you seeking your assistance on a bill, you now know why I need your voice to be heard.

There are a couple of bills that have come up in previous years and we are watching to see if they reappear in this session. Two that we were expecting have been filed. The red-light cameras bill which blooms each spring just like the flowers on my tea olive trees do each year, is back. Also, a bill prohibiting the use of handheld electronic devices while driving has been filed. This second bill is one that is a legislative priority for MPOAC and we are cautiously optimistic that this may be our year. Why you ask? It starts with the fact that Senator Wilton Simpson is the new Senate President. I will remind you that it was Senator Simpson who sponsored the texting while driving bill in the Senate two years ago and during one of the bill's committee stops he stated that really wanted a hands-free bill. He just didn't think it would pass at that time. Now he is Senate President and that position holds a lot of power to shape, influence and move legislation. Let's watch for a Senate companion bill to HB 91 which was filed by Representative Emily Slosberg. Hopefully this is our year.

The schedule of pre-session committee weeks is shown below along with key dates for the 2020 Florida Legislative Session. Typically, all new bills and any updates to bills shown below will be shown in **RED** so you can quickly distinguish between updates and old news. For our first newsletter of the session all bills are new and using red is not necessary for this first newsletter. The bills are all shown in black ink for your ease of reading. A few bills have been filed, many more will be filed over the coming months. Your MPOAC Legislative Update will keep you apprised of newly filed bills and changes to existing bills.

Grab a cup of coffee and enjoy this edition of the MPOAC Legislative Update. It's good to be back with you!

Important Dates for the 2021 Legislative Session

- August 1, 2020 - Deadline for filing claim bills (Rule 4.81(2))
- January 29, 2021 5:00 p.m. - Deadline for submitting requests for drafts of general bills and joint resolutions, including requests for companion bills
- February 26, 2021 5:00 p.m. - Deadline for approving final drafts of general bills and joint resolutions, including companion bills
- March 2, 2021 - Regular Session convenes (Article III, section 3(b), State Constitution) 12:00 noon, deadline for filing bills for introduction (Rule 3.7(1))
- April 17, 2021 - Motion to reconsider made and considered the same day (Rule 6.4.(4)) All bills are immediately certified (Rule 6.8)
- April 20, 2021 50th day – last day for regularly scheduled committee meetings (Rule 2.9(2))
- April 30, 2021 60th day – last day of Regular Session (Article III, section 3(d), State Constitution)

Committee Meeting schedule prior to the official Legislative Session beginning on March 2nd

January 2021 — Week of the 11th
January 2021 — Week of the 25th
February 2021 — Week of the 1st
February 2021 — Week of the 8th
February 2021 — Week of the 15th

Committee Meetings Next Week

Monday - January 11, 2021

1:00 – 1:30 – Procedural Briefing for Senate Committee Chairs and Vice Chairs
2:30 – 5:00 - Senate Commerce and Tourism
No House Committees

Tuesday - January 12, 2021

3:30 – 6:00 – Senate Community Affairs
3:30 – 6:00 – Senate Transportation
No House Committees

Wednesday - January 13, 2021

12:30 – 3:00 – Senate Appropriations Subcommittee for Transportation, Tourism and Econ Dev
12:00 – 1:00 – House Appropriations Committee
4:00 – 5:00 – House Infrastructure & Tourism Appropriations Subcommittee

Thursday - January 14, 2021

9:00 – 11:00 – Senate Appropriations
9:00 – 10:00 – House Commerce Committee
11:00 – 12:00 – House Local Administration & Veteran Affairs Subcommittee

Friday - January 15, 2021 — No Meetings of the House or Senate

Senate Transportation Committee

Members:

Chair: Senator Gayle Harrell (R)

Vice Chair: Senator Keith Perry (R)

- Senator Lori Berman (D)
- Senator Randolph Bracy (D)
- Senator George B. Gainer (R)
- Senator Shevrin D. "Shev" Jones (D)
- Senator Ana Maria Rodriguez (R)
- Senator Tom A. Wright (R)

Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Tourism and Economic Development

Members:

Chair: Senator George B. Gainer (R)

Vice Chair: Senator Ed Hooper (R)

- Senator Lorraine Ausley (D)
- Senator Jim Boyd (R)
- Senator Janet Cruz (D)
- Senator Ileana Garcia (R)
- Senator Audrey Gibson (D)
- Senator Debbie Mayfield (R)
- Senator Keith Perry (R)
- Senator Annette Taddeo (D)
- Senator Tom A. Wright (R)

Senate Appropriations Committee

Members:

Chair: Senator Kelli Stargel (R)

Vice Chair: Senator Aaron Bean (R)

- Senator Ben Albritton (R)
- Senator Lauren Book (D)
- Senator Randolph Bracy (D)
- Senator Jeff Brandes (R)
- Senator Doug Broxson (R)
- Senator Manny Diaz, Jr. (R)
- Senator Gary M. Farmer, Jr. (D)
- Senator George B. Gainer (R)
- Senator Audrey Gibson (D)
- Senator Ed Hooper (R)
- Senator Travis Hutson (R)
- Senator Debbie Mayfield (R)
- Senator Kathleen Passidomo (R)
- Senator Keith Perry (R)
- Senator Jason W. B. Pizzo (D)

- Senator Bobby Powell (D)
- Senator Darryl Ervin Rouson (D)
- Senator Linda Stewart (D)

Senate Commerce and Tourism Committee

Members:

Chair: Senator Ed Hooper (R)

Vice Chair: Senator Tom A. Wright (R)

- Senator Danny Burgess (R)
- Senator Manny Diaz, Jr. (R)
- Senator Ileana Garcia (R)
- Senator Joe Gruters (R)
- Senator Travis Hutson (R)
- Senator Jason W. B. Pizzo (D)
- Senator Bobby Powell (D)
- Senator Annette Taddeo (D)
- Senator Victor M. Torres, Jr. (D)

Senate Community Affairs Committee

Members:

Chair: Senator Jennifer Bradley (R)

Vice Chair: Senator Ileana Garcia (R)

- Senator Dennis Baxley (R)
- Senator Jason Brodeur (R)
- Senator Janet Cruz (D)
- Senator Ed Hooper (R)
- Senator Travis Hutson (R)
- Senator Tina Scott Polsky (D)
- Senator Bobby Powell (D)

House Tourism, Infrastructure & Energy Subcommittee

Members:

Chair: Representative Brad Drake (R)

Vice Chair: Representative Chip LaMarca (R)

Democrat Ranking Member: Representative Emily Slosberg (D)

- Representative Mike Beltran (R)
- Representative Kamia L. Brown (D)
- Representative James Buchanan (R)
- Representative Linda Chaney (R)
- Representative Tracie Davis (D)
- Representative Randy Fine (R)
- Representative Dotie Joseph (D)
- Representative Fiona McFarland (R)

- Representative Rick Roth (R)
- Representative Jason Shoaf (R)
- Representative David Silvers (D)
- Representative Kelly Skidmore (D)
- Representative Dana Lee Trabulsy (R)
- Representative Jayer Williamson (R)
- Representative Clay Yarborough (R)

House Infrastructure & Tourism Appropriations Subcommittee

Members:

Chair: Representative Jayer Williamson (R)

Vice Chair: Representative Bob Rommel (R)

Democrat Ranking Member: Representative Dianne Hart (D)

- Representative Kristen Aston (D)
- Representative Melony Bell (R)
- Representative Joseph Casello (D)
- Representative Linda Chaney (R)
- Representative Dan Daley (D)
- Representative Brad Drake (R)
- Representative Chip LaMarca (R)
- Representative Fiona McFarland (R)
- Representative James Mooney Jr. (R)
- Representative Jenna Persons-Mulicka (R)
- Representative David Silvers (D)
- Representative Rene Plasencia (R)

House Appropriations Committee

Members:

Chair: Representative Jay Trumbull (R)

Vice Chair: Representative Lawrence McClure (R)

Democrat Ranking Member: Representative Bobby B. DuBose (D)

- Representative Ramon Alexander (D)
- Representative Bryan Avila (R)
- Representative Colleen Burton (R)
- Representative Dr. James Bush III (D)
- Representative Ben Diamond (D)
- Representative Brad Drake (R)
- Representative Nicholas X. Duran (D)
- Representative Randy Fine (R)
- Representative Joseph Geller (D)
- Representative Erin Grall (R)
- Representative Michael Grant (R)
- Representative Blaise Ingoglia (R)
- Representative Evan Jenne (D)
- Representative Chris Latvala (R)
- Representative Thomas J. Leek (R)
- Representative Ralph E. Massullo MD. (R)
- Representative Anika Tene Omphroy (D)

- Representative Daniel Perez (R)
- Representative Scott Plakon (R)
- Representative Rene Plasencia (R)
- Representative Paul Renner (R)
- Representative Rick Roth (R)
- Representative Cyndi Stevenson (R)
- Representative Josie Tomkow (R)
- Representative Matt Willhite (D)
- Representative Patricia H. Williams (D)
- Representative Jay Williamson (R)

House Local Administration & Veterans Affairs Subcommittee

Members:

Chair: Representative Jackie Toledo (R)

Vice Chair: Representative David Smith (R)

Democrat Ranking Member: Representative Joy Goff-Marcil (D)

- Representative Webster Barnaby (R)
- Representative Robin Bartleman (D)
- Representative Christopher Benjamin (D)
- Representative Dan Daley (D)
- Representative Nick DiCeglie (R)
- Representative Mike Giallombardo (R)
- Representative Joe Harding (R)
- Representative Dotie Joseph (D)
- Representative Lauren Melo (R)
- Representative Tobin Rogers Overdorf (R)
- Representative Jenna Persons-Mulicka (R)
- Representative Anthony Sabatini (R)
- Representative Michelle Salzman (R)
- Representative John Snyder (R)
- Representative Marie Paule Woodson (D)

Legislation of interest to the membership

This is a summary of transportation related bills filed and published on the legislature’s website as of January 09, 2021. More bills will be filed during the 2021 session and as they are made available the newly filed transportation bills will be added to this list. The bills are listed in numerical order for your convenience. As the session progresses and the number of bills tracked in this newsletter grows, this ordering of bills will make it easier to follow the status of any particular bill you are tracking. All new bills and any updates to bills shown below are typically shown in **RED** so you can quickly distinguish between updates and old news. For the first newsletter of the 2021 session all bills are new to the newsletter and all are shown in black for ease of reading.

HB 35: Legal Notices – (Fine; Co-Introducer: Grieco) – Provides for website publication of legal notices; provides criteria for such publication; authorizes fiscally constrained county to use publicly accessible website to publish legally required advertisements & public notices; requires government agency to provide specified notice to residents concerning alternative methods of receiving legal notices. Filed in the House.

HB 57: Transportation – (Andrade) – Revises provisions relating to motor vehicle sales tax, competitive solicitations, vehicles displaying flashing lights, annual cap on project contracts, airport restrictions, arbitration of contracts by & membership of State Arbitration Board, borrow pit operation, & performance standards for certain extraction locations. Filed in the House.

HB 59: Growth Management – (McClain; Co-Introducer Sabatini) – Similar Bill SB 496 by Perry. Requires local governments to include property rights element in their comprehensive plans; provides statement of rights that local government may use; requires local government to adopt property rights element by specified date; prohibits local government's property rights element from conflicting with statutorily provided statement of rights; provides that certain property owners are not required to consent to development agreement changes; prohibits municipality from annexing specified areas; requires DOT to afford right of first refusal to certain individuals; provides requirements & procedures for right of first refusal; authorizes certain developments of regional impact agreements to be amended. Filed in the House.

SB 62: Regional Planning Councils – (Bradley) – Revising a requirement for the Executive Office of the Governor to review and consider certain reports, data, and analyses relating to the revision of the state comprehensive plan; eliminating the advisory role of regional planning councils in state comprehensive plan preparation and revision; repealing provisions relating to the Florida Regional Planning Council Act; authorizing local governments to recommend areas of critical state concern to the state land planning agency, etc. This bill would prohibit RPCs from staffing MPOs. Not yet referred to Committees.

SB 138: Electric Vehicles – (Brandes) – Related Bill SB 140 by Brandes. Revising the Department of Transportation's goals relating to mobility; requiring the department to establish the Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Grant Program; providing for the distribution of grants to certain entities to install electric vehicle charging infrastructure; specifying that certain rules adopted by the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services may not require specific methods of sale for electric vehicle charging equipment used in, and services provided in, this state, etc. APPROPRIATION: \$5,000,000. Referred to Transportation; Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Tourism, and Economic Development; Appropriations.

SB 140: Fees/Electric Vehicles – (Brandes) – Related Bill SB 138 by Brandes. Creating additional fees for electric vehicles; creating a license tax and an additional fee for plug-in hybrid electric vehicles; requiring, on specified dates, the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles to increase the additional fees, subject to certain requirements; providing that certain vehicles are exempt from specified fees, etc. Referred to Transportation; Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Tourism, and Economic Development; Appropriations.

HB 91: Use of Wireless Communications Devices While Driving – (Slosberg; Co-Introducer: Grieco) – Revises short title & legislative intent; prohibits operation of motor vehicle while holding or touching wireless communications device; provides exceptions; revises information that may be admissible as evidence in proceeding to determine whether violation has been committed; revises procedures for collection & reporting by DHSMV of information recorded on citation; conforms provisions relating to use of wireless communications devices in school & work zones. Filed in the House.

HB 139: Electronic Transactions for Title Certificates and Registrations – (Fernandez-Barquin) – Authorizes tax collectors to accept applications for motor vehicle & vessel certificates of title by electronic or telephonic means, to collect electronic mail addresses for use as method of notification, & to contract with vendors to provide electronic & telephonic

transactions; provides that electronic signature that meets certain requirements satisfies signature required for application for certificate of title; specifies tax collection systems for which certain fees may be used for integration with Florida Real Time Vehicle Information System; requires DHSMV to provide tax collectors & approved vendors with certain data access & interface functionality; specifies authorized uses; requires DHSMV to ensure approved vendors protect customer privacy & data collection. Filed in the House.

SB 278: Traffic Offenses – (Baxley) - Creating the “Vulnerable Road User Act”; providing criminal penalties for a person who commits a moving violation that causes serious bodily injury to, or causes the death of, a vulnerable road user; requiring that the person who commits the moving violation pay a specified fine, serve a minimum period of house arrest, and attend a driver improvement course; requiring that the court revoke the person’s driver license for a minimum specified period, etc. Filed in the Senate.

SB 342: Vehicle and Vessel Registration – (Diaz) – Requiring tax collectors to determine service charges collected by privately owned license plate agents for motor vehicle titles; requiring that additional service charges be itemized and disclosed to the person paying them; requiring a license plate agent to enter into a contract with the tax collector for a certain purpose; requiring tax collectors and approved license plate agents to enter into a memorandum of understanding with the department for a certain purpose, etc. Filed in the Senate.

SB 376: Jacksonville Transportation Authority Leases – (Gibson) – Related Bill HB 6015 by Duggan. Removing a limitation on the term of a lease into which the authority may enter, etc. Filed in the Senate.

SB 422: Tampa Bay Area Regional Transit Authority – (Rouson) – Renaming the Tampa Bay Area Regional Transit Authority Metropolitan Planning Organization Chairs Coordinating Committee as the Chairs Coordinating Committee; providing that a mayor’s designated alternate may be a member of the governing board of the authority; revising a provision requiring the authority to present the regional transit development plan and updates to specified entities, etc. Filed in the Senate.

SB 496: Growth Management – (Perry) - Similar to HB 59 by McClain. Specifying requirements for certain comprehensive plans effective, rather than adopted, after a specified date and for associated land development regulations; requiring local governments to include a property rights element in their comprehensive plans; prohibiting a local government’s property rights element from conflicting with the statement of rights contained in the act; providing that the consent of certain property owners is not required for development agreement changes under certain circumstances; requiring the Department of Transportation to afford a right of first refusal to certain individuals under specified circumstances, etc. Filed in the Senate.

HB 6009: Traffic Infraction Detectors – (Sabatini; Co-Introducers: Borrero; D. Smith) - Repeals provisions relating to Mark Wandall Traffic Safety Program & authorization to use traffic infraction detectors; repeals provisions relating to distribution of penalties, transitional implementation, & placement & installation; conforms cross-references & provisions to changes made by act. Filed in the House.

HB 6015: Jacksonville Transportation Authority Leases – (Duggan) – Related Bill SB 376 by Gibson. Removes limitation on term of lease into which authority may enter. Filed in the House.