### **SOUTHEAST FLORIDA** REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN Miami-Dade Broward • Palm

Memorandum

### June 9, 2025

Project# 27613

Beach

To:	Regional Transportation Technical Advisory Committee (RTTAC)
From:	Jessica Josselyn – Kittelson & Associates, Inc.
Cc:	Franchesca Taylor, AICP – Miami-Dade TPO

•

RE: FINAL 2050 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) Public Participation Summary

# **Overview**

A successful plan needs public support. To help the Southeast Florida Transportation Council's (SEFTC) 2050 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) reflect residents' visions, a public participation program was created to raise awareness and involve people in regional transportation planning. This program builds on past RTP outreach and the region's MPOs' 2050 Long Range Transportation Plans (LRTP)/Metropolitan Transportation Plans (MTP) developed by Miami-Dade Transportation Planning Organization (TPO), Broward Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), and the Palm Beach Transportation Planning Agency (TPA).

This memorandum summarizes the public participation program implemented for the 2050 RTP, and specifically covers the following topics:

- the overall 2050 RTP outreach approach and the role of the RTTAC Public Participation Subcommittee (PPS);
- the 2050 RTP outreach related products (i.e., fact sheet, website, video, and survey);
- the 2050 RTP outreach methods (i.e., public meetings, social media, and newsletters); and
- the 2050 RTP survey findings.

# 2050 RTP Outreach Approach

The outreach approach for the 2050 RTP was developed with the RTTAC as part of the RTP's scoping process. The approach involved creating collaterals to educate and get the word out to the public about the regional planning effort, creating an interactive tool/survey to gather feedback and input that was intermittently shared with the MPOs and Council for plan alignment review, and to collaborate with and complement the local 2050 LRTP/MTP efforts. This approach was managed by the RTTAC Public Participation Subcommittee (PPS). The PPS, made up of the public information officers from the three MPOs and representatives from the Florida Department of Transportation Districts Four and Six, met on a recurring basis to lead and guide the 2050 RTP public participation program. This group was critical to helping distribute the 2050 RTP collateral and obtaining feedback through the survey. The outreach methods (i.e., events, newsletters, etc.) are further described in the Outreach Methods section of this memorandum.

# 2050 RTP Outreach Products Fact Sheet

The PPS and consultant team prepared a fact sheet describing the purpose of the project and the vision and desired outcomes. The fact sheet was created in English, Spanish, and Creole (see **Figure 1**).

Figure 1: 2050 RTP Fact Sheet (shown in English, Spanish, and Creole)



### Website

The SEFTC.org website served as a central hub for the 2050 RTP outreach efforts, providing comprehensive information on the project, its vision, and desired outcomes. The website featured multilingual fact sheets in English, Spanish, and Creole, ensuring accessibility and inclusivity for a diverse audience. In addition to descriptive content, the website included interactive elements such as videos and surveys to engage the public and gather valuable feedback. The site was regularly updated with news, events, and social media posts, fostering ongoing community involvement and transparency throughout the regional planning process. All final 2050 RTP documents, information, and interactive maps are located on the SEFTC.org to provide transparency and accessibility to stakeholders and the general public.



### **About the RTP video**

An "About the RTP" video was created and is hosted on the SEFTC.org website. The purpose of the video was to introduce the plan, ask thought-provoking questions and ultimately point viewers to the website and encourage them to take the survey. The video is a little over one-minute in length and represents diverse populations, geographic areas, and travel modes, along with futuristic ideas. It emphasizes the importance of community involvement in shaping the future of regional transportation. The video highlights the project's vision and desired outcomes, aiming to improve mobility, safety, and sustainability in the region.



### Survey

As stated previously, a survey was used to gather feedback for the 2050 RTP. Over 350 people conducted the survey. The questions asked in the survey are shown below. A summary of the findings is described later on in the memorandum. The survey responses were shared intermittently throughout the RTP development with the SEFTC and RTTAC for plan alignment review, and to collaborate with and complement the local 2050 LRTP/MTP efforts.

- 1. What zip code do you in and work in?
- 2. How often do you travel to neighboring counties in the Tri-County Southeast Florida (Miami-Dade, Broward and Palm Beach counties) region?
- 3. When taking longer distance trips within the Tri-County Southeast Florida region, which transportation mode do you use most often?
- 4. Please rate the following transportation modes [private vehicle, public transit, walking, cycling, ride-sharing services] based on how well they meet your needs, ranging from "Very well" to "Not at all".

- 5. Which of the following barriers prevent you from getting where you need to go in a timely manner? Select up to three options.
  - Lack of connectivity
  - Lack of bicycle facilities
  - Limited access to transit (bus or train) routes and stops
  - Public transit long travel times, high costs, or inconvenient/limited transfers
  - Poor roadway conditions
  - Traffic congestion (due to crashes and/or demand)
  - Other (please specify)
- 6. When you think about traveling to adjacent counties, how important are these investments to you? Rank from the highest to the lowest importance.
  - Investing in more transit options
  - Providing safer and more infrastructure for pedestrians and bicyclists
  - Providing more micromobility options (i.e., scooters, e-bikes, etc.)
  - Providing more infrastructure for electric and/or autonomous vehicles
  - Improving connections between major regional destinations (e.g., airports, seaports, sporting venues, major shopping malls, etc.)
  - Enhancing safety through campaigns and improvements to roads where severe and fatal injury crashes frequently occur
  - Preparing for innovative regional transportation solutions
- 7. What do you think will be the #1 biggest transportation challenge of the Tri-County Southeast Florida region for the next 10 to 20 years? Rank from the highest to the lowest transportation challenge.
  - Providing more travel options (e.g., transit, bike, etc.)
  - Increasing and enhancing public transportation options and access
  - Increasing miles of safe bike/ped infrastructure
  - Providing more access to micromobility options (i.e., scooters, e-bikes, etc.)
  - Providing more infrastructure for electric, autonomous vehicles
  - Improving connections between major regional destinations (i.e., airports, seaports, sporting venues, major shopping malls, etc.)
  - Implementing land use policies that support transit
  - Preparing for innovative regional transportation solutions
- 8. When thinking about our future and expected population growth, what scenarios do you believe are most important for the Tri-County region to explore?
  - Preparing for and creating a resilient environment
  - Improving access to premium transit and densifying development around it
  - Adjusting for impacts related to emerging technology and telecommuting/telehealth
  - Additional and/or more flexible transportation funding options
  - More cost effective and equitable options for those traveling
  - Other (please specify)

# 2050 RTP Outreach Methods Public Meetings

The following series of public meetings were held during the 2050 RTP development process. Each of these meetings were open to the public.

#### **SEFTC Related Meetings**

The SEFTC is made of representatives of each MPO Board. It serves as a formal forum for policy coordination and communication and undertakes regional planning efforts for all transportation modes including:

- Regional transportation plans covering the tri-county region
- Regional project prioritization
- Regional transit and freight systems
- Regional public involvement
- Regional performance measurement
- Regional funding decisions (i.e., Transportation Regional Incentive Program (TRIP))

SEFTC meets regularly to discuss regional transportation planning and investments, typically on a quarterly basis to ensure ongoing coordination and consistency among the various transportation initiatives. The public is notified of these meetings through the various agencies online outreach platforms. Additionally, the Regional Transportation Technical Advisory Committee (RTTAC) meets typically monthly to discuss technical matters related to transportation planning. Staffed by the three MPOs, FDOT, Florida's Turnpike Enterprise, Greater Miami Expressway Agency, the three county-level transit agencies, South Florida Regional Transportation Authority (SFRTA), and the two Regional Planning Councils, the group recommends technical decisions to the SEFTC and is responsible for the development of the RTP. The RTTAC meetings are also open to the public.

SEFTC and RTTAC met recurringly throughout the two-year 2050 RTP development period. The 2050 RTP was included in each meeting's agenda, for both groups, throughout the plan's development process.



Photo from May 2025 SEFTC meeting. Shown from right to left: Miami-Dade TPO Executive Director Aileen Boucle, Miami-Dade TPO SEFTC Member Eric Diaz-Padron (City of West Miami Mayor), Broward MPO SEFTC Member and SEFTC Chair Beam Furr (Broward County Board of County Commissioners Mayor), Palm Beach TPA SEFTC Member and SEFTC Vice Chair Chelsea Reed (City of Palm beach Gardens Councilmember), and Palm Beach TPA Executive Director Valerie Neilson.

### Individual MPO Meetings

The three MPO Governing Boards, which are instrumental in overseeing the region's transportation planning, hold regular meetings to discuss and advance key initiatives. These meetings are strategically scheduled to ensure extensive public engagement and transparency. Typically held monthly, the Governing Board meetings provide a platform for stakeholders, including residents, business owners, and government officials, to voice their opinions and contribute to the decision-making process. The agenda often includes updates on ongoing projects, new proposals, and discussions on funding allocations. Public notifications for these meetings are disseminated through various channels, including the MPOs' websites, social media, and local news outlets.

### Individual LRTP/MTP Related Meetings and Events

Each of the three MPOs hosted a series of public meetings to engage with the community and gather valuable input throughout the development of their 2050 LRTPs/MTPs. These meetings provided a transparent platform for residents, business owners, and stakeholders to discuss and contribute to the future of regional transportation planning. Held at key milestones throughout the plan development process, the sessions were strategically scheduled to ensure maximum participation and inclusiveness. Notifications for these meetings were disseminated through various channels, such as the MPOs' websites, social media, and local news outlets.



### **Social Media**

The PPS and consultant team prepared social media posts to promote the 2050 RTP efforts and survey. Posts were made by the three MPOs on X, Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn as available for the following:

- Summer 2023 Announced the SEFTC.org website refresh
- Fall 2023 Released the 2050 RTP Survey
- Winter 2023 Released the RTP video
- Spring 2024 Two, 'Take the Survey' reminders



### **Newsletters**

Each of the three MPOs shared within their respective newsletter updates on the 2050 RTP throughout the plan's development process.

- To learn more about the Miami-Dade TPO's newsletter click this link: TPO Weekly Newsletter
- To learn more about the Broward MPO's newsletter, click this link: <u>Broward Metropolitan Planning</u> <u>Organization (MPO): Newsletters & Presentations</u>
- To learn more about the Palm Beach TPA's newsletter, click this link: sign-up form

# **2050 RTP Survey Findings**

Over 350 people responded to the survey. The survey responses were shared intermittently throughout the RTP development with the SEFTC and RTTAC for plan alignment review, and to collaborate with and complement the local 2050 LRTP/MTP efforts. The results of the survey are summarized below:

Percentage of Survey	Miami-Dade County	43%
Respondents per County	Broward County	30%
	Palm Beach County	26%
	Undisclosed	1%



When taking longer distance trips within the Tri-County Southeast Florida region, which transportation mode do you use most often?



Please rate the following transportation modes based on how well they meet your needs, ranging from "Very well" to "Not at all"



Which of the following barriers prevent you from getting where you need to go in a timely manner? Select up to three options.



When you think about traveling to adjacent counties, how important are these investments to you? Rank from the highest to the lowest importance.



What do you think will be the #1 biggest transportation challenge of the Tri-County Southeast Florida region for the next 10 to 20 years? Rank from the highest to the lowest transportation challenge.



When thinking about our future and expected population growth, what scenarios do you believe are most important for the Tri-County region to explore?



# **2050 RTP Public Participation Conclusion**

A successful plan needs public support. To help the SEFTC's 2050 RTP reflect residents' visions, this public participation program was created to raise awareness and involve people in regional transportation planning. This program aimed to build on past RTP outreach and the region's MPOs' 2050 LRTP/MTP developed by Miami-Dade TPO, Broward MPO, and the Palm Beach TPA.

The outreach approach for the 2050 RTP was developed with the RTTAC as part of the RTP's scoping process. The approach involved creating collaterals to educate and get the word out to the public about the regional planning effort, creating an interactive tool/survey. Among the survey responses, the following themes arose:

#### HOW ARE PEOPLE GETTING AROUND?

- 20% travel to neighboring counties in the region almost daily; 50% do so occasionally or rarely.
- > Over 70% drive for longer trips in the region while 17% take transit.

#### TRAVEL MODES

- More than 50% said private vehicles meet their needs very well.
- 65% said public transit meets their needs either moderately or not very well.
- 65% said walking either does not meet their needs well or does not meet them at all.
- > Over 40% said cycling does not meet their needs at all.
- > 40% said rideshare met their needs moderately well.

#### WHAT KEEPS PEOPLE FROM GETTING WHERE THEY NEED TO GO?

- > Over 60% selected traffic congestion.
- Nearly 60% also stated public transit travel times, costs, or inconvenient transfers.
- Pedestrian safety, construction, unsafe speeds/ distracted driving, and limited first -and lastmile connectivity were also mentioned.

#### WHAT TRANSPORTATION INVESTMENTS ARE MOST IMPORTANT TO PEOPLE?

- > Top response was more transit options.
- Next highest response was more and safer walking and bicycling infrastructure.

#### FUTURE POPULATION GROWTH

- One third of respondents believe improving access to premium transit and densifying development around it is the most important scenario for the region to explore.
- More cost effective and equitable options for those traveling was the secondmost identified scenario, with almost 20% of respondents choosing this option.

### TRANSPORTATION CHALLENGES (NEXT 10-20 YEARS)

TOP

3

- Top response was enhancing public transportation options.
- Next highest ranked: Providing more travel options.

The survey feedback was periodically shared with the MPOs and Council for plan alignment review. Each 2050 LRTP/MTP adopted by the TPO/MPO/TPA recognized regional travel and regional multimodal travel needs. Additionally, each TPO/MPO/TPA shared education (i.e., overview video, fact sheet, etc.) regarding the regional planning initiatives being undertaken in Southeast Florida to enhance awareness and offer further opportunities for engagement and opinion-sharing.