On January 31st the MPO hosted a Safe Streets Summit. To kick off the event, many of the attendees participated in a VIP bike ride sponsored by B-Cycle, the Broward County bike share program. The event featured speakers and panelists from a variety of backgrounds who spoke on the economic, health, and safety impacts of Complete Streets. Additionally, a technical session focusing on the implementation of Complete Streets projects was provided.

As part of the summit, Safe Streets Awards were presented highlighting various cities in the County that have led by example in creating better streets for all users. Three awards were voted upon by locals through the website, receiving a total of 117 votes nominating 18 cities as well as county and state roads. The first award “Making Bike Lanes a Big Hit” went to the City of Fort Lauderdale who worked closely with the Florida Department of Transportation to assure a quality bicycle facility in their City. The second award, “Not So Fast! Best Jurisdiction to Implement Traffic-Calming Tactics” went to the City of Hollywood. For the third award, “All Hail to the Broward Champion of Safe Streets”, more than a dozen jurisdictions were nominated. The award went to Broward County with longtime champion for Complete Streets, Commissioner and MPO Board member Kristin Jacobs accepting the award on behalf of Broward County.

The MPO continues to provide technical assistance to cities interested in implementing Complete Streets and is offering Walkability Audits which takes a look at the existing walking conditions in an area by inviting people of all ages and backgrounds to participate in a walking tour of the areas.

DID YOU KNOW?
Reversible Express Lanes on I-595 will be opening at the end of March

Eastbound Traffic Flow
M-F, 4 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Westbound Traffic Flow
M-F, 2 p.m. to 2 a.m.

For more information visit www.i-595.com

Pictured above (from the left to right): Stewart Robertson, Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc., Gregory Stuart, MPO Executive Director, Commissioner of Miramar Yvette Colbourne, Commissioner of Deerfield Beach Richard Rosenzweig, and Vice Mayor of Davie Bryan Caletka
Message From The Chair

2014 is off to a great start. In an effort to make the MPO more competitive, keep our pulse on important transportation and infrastructure legislative issues, and strengthen our legislative voice in Washington, DC, and Tallahassee, our Board approved a Membership Fee. This fee is raised from local funds to be used for advocacy related activities and services and is based on the population of each Broward County city. These services provide the MPO with opportunities to advance and promote legislative priorities, like funding for complete streets, community shuttles, mass transit freight movement and governance issues. MPOs across the county are competing for grants and funding, so it is important for us to make these efforts to stay ahead of the competition.

Sometimes rules get enacted which have unintended consequences. One example is that MPOs that are recipients of Federal Funds are prohibited from using those funds to lobby at the Federal level. Actually, that makes sense, since the funds should go only to accomplish the project for which they were intended. On another, it prohibits MPOs from advocating for their priorities.

Last year, the MPO approved a process to raise funds to engage a Washington lobbying firm which would be a persistent face in front of numerous committees that approve projects and allocate funds. To implement this process, each city in the county was asked to make a contribution based on five cents per resident. The County, School Board, and the SFRTA were also included.

Through our procurement process, the Board selected Holland & Knight, as its lobbyists. They have already begun advocating on our behalf and keeping the Executive Committee apprised on the latest TIGER grant information. With a new transportation authorization bill being drafted as you read this article, we have opportunities to increase transportation funding to our region that will further our planned transportation projects that are part of the MPO’s long range goals and priorities. We are enthusiastic about our advocacy services to help grow the MPO’s influence for transportation and I personally look forward to reporting to you more secured funding as we move forward in 2014/2015.

Commitment 2040 is Almost Complete!

Commitment 2040, your long range transportation plan update, is almost complete! After concluding the final phase of public outreach in November, we have drafted Commitment 2040 and are currently meeting with our partner agencies to finalize it in time for a month-long public comment period in April 2014. During that time, the plan and its recommended projects will be available to the public for their input. This plan is the culmination of a year-long process and is drafted with input from the over 1,800 people that have participated in our outreach efforts and our partner agencies who will implement the plan.

Two versions of the plan will be available: one specifically for the public and another for agencies who will be responsible for constructing and maintaining the projects outlined in the plan. We are excited to show you what you have helped us create!

Please visit www.Commitment2040.org for more information. The website will be updated in April with drafts of the plan, an interactive map with projects we can afford to construct and ways to give input on individual projects and the overall plan itself.

Regional Travel Survey

We Want to Hear from You

The Southeast Florida Transportation Council is a partnership of the Broward, Miami-Dade, and Palm Beach MPO’s and they are continuing to create the 2040 Southeast Florida Regional Transportation Plan. If you drive or travel to Palm Beach or Miami-Dade Counties, you would like to hear from you and receive your important input.

To participate in the Regional Travel Survey, please visit www.seftc.org/regionalplan.

Regional Education and Outreach

In fulfills a new proclamation signed by Governor Rick Scott establishing the first week in December to be Older Driver Safety Awareness Week in Florida, the MPO staff participated in an inaugural Safety is Golden Mobility Fair on December 5, 2013, along with the Safe Mobility for Life Coalition, the City of Tamarac, CarFit and the Florida Department of Transportation.

To promote transportation and civil engineering professions, the MPO staff, during the week of December 4, 2013, along with the Federal Highway Administration, hosted training for educational outreach programs that are designed for use in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) classes. Fun, interactive, and hands-on activities (pictured below) were introduced to the educators who attended, to teach them more about the transportation and civil engineering profession and inspire them to consider careers in those fields.