

## What is the Ocala Marion Transportation Planning Organization (TPO)?

Established in 1981, the **Ocala Marion Transportation Planning Organization (TPO)** is a federally-mandated agency responsible for allocating state and federal funds to roadway, freight, transit, bicycle and pedestrian projects within Marion County. The TPO serves the cities of Belleview, Dunnellon, Ocala and Marion County, and works to ensure improvements to the transportation system reflect the needs of both stakeholders and the public. Improvements to the transportation system are determined through a long-term visioning process. This process combined with short-term action steps necessary to implement the vision are developed in the TPO's core plans and programs.

The TPO is comprised of four staff and is governed by a 12-member Board of locally elected officials. The expertise of the staff and leadership of the **TPO Board** are supplemented by the **Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)**, **Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC)** and **Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board (TDLCB)**. Collectively, these boards and committees provide guidance and policy-



making decisions for the organization. The work of the TPO is guided by state and federal legislation, including Florida Statute 339 and U.S. Code Title 23 and 49.

Throughout the United States, there are over 400 MPO/TPOs and are represented in all 50 states. Florida is home to 27, the most of any state. MPO/TPOs are required by federal and state laws in areas with a population greater than 50,000.

The core plans and programs of the TPO include:

- **Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP)**
- **Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)**
- **Public Participation Plan (PPP)**
- **Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)**

