

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to transportation; creating s.
3 218.3215, F.S.; requiring counties to annually by a
4 date certain provide the Office of Economic and
5 Demographic Research with certain information;
6 requiring counties to report such information in the
7 format specified by the office; requiring the office
8 to compile the information into a report and submit
9 the report to the Legislature and the Department of
10 Transportation; amending s. 316.003, F.S.; revising
11 the definition of the term "vehicle"; amending s.
12 316.183, F.S.; requiring the Department of Highway
13 Safety and Motor Vehicles to determine certain speed
14 limits; amending s. 316.187, F.S.; increasing certain
15 speed limits; amending s. 316.20655, F.S.; authorizing
16 a local government to adopt certain ordinances and
17 provide certain training relating to the safe
18 operation of electric bicycles; amending s. 316.2128,
19 F.S.; authorizing a local government to adopt certain
20 ordinances and provide certain training relating to
21 the safe operation of motorized scooters and
22 micromobility devices; amending s. 316.88, F.S.,
23 prohibiting excessive wakes under certain
24 circumstances; creating s. 320.0849, F.S.; requiring
25 the department to issue expectant mother parking

26 | permits; specifying the validity period thereof;
27 | providing design requirements for expectant mother
28 | parking permit placards or decals; providing
29 | application requirements; authorizing such
30 | permitholders to park in certain spaces; amending s.
31 | 331.3051, F.S.; conforming provisions to changes made
32 | by the act; amending s. 334.044, F.S.; revising
33 | conditions under which the Department of
34 | Transportation may acquire property through eminent
35 | domain; amending s. 334.065, F.S.; removing the Board
36 | of Governors of the State University System as
37 | administrator of the Florida Center for Urban
38 | Transportation Research; revising membership of the
39 | Center for Urban Transportation Research advisory
40 | board; creating s. 334.63, F.S.; providing
41 | requirements for certain project concept studies and
42 | project development and environmental studies;
43 | amending s. 337.11, F.S.; providing competitive
44 | bidding and award requirements for contracts for
45 | certain projects; providing construction; revising
46 | requirements for requests for proposals for design-
47 | build contracts; revising requirements for selection
48 | and award of phased design-build contracts; removing
49 | provisions relating to design-build and phased design-
50 | build contracts and construction; requiring contracts

51 to contain protection and indemnity coverage; amending
52 s. 337.14, F.S.; authorizing the department to waive
53 certain requirements for push-button or task work
54 order contracts; revising the amount of contracts for
55 which the department may waive bonding requirements;
56 requiring a contractor seeking to bid on a certain
57 maintenance contract to possess certain
58 qualifications; amending s. 337.185, F.S.; revising
59 the amount of a contract that may be subject to
60 arbitration; revising the timeframe in which
61 arbitration requests must be made to the State
62 Arbitration Board; amending s. 337.19, F.S.; revising
63 the timeframe in which certain suits by and against
64 the department must commence; removing an obsolete
65 provision; amending s. 339.175, F.S.; revising
66 legislative intent; revising requirements for the
67 designation of additional M.P.O.'s; revising projects
68 and strategies to be considered in developing an
69 M.P.O.'s long-range transportation plan and
70 transportation improvement program; removing obsolete
71 provisions; requiring the department to convene
72 M.P.O.'s to exchange best practices; authorizing such
73 M.P.O.'s to develop committees or working groups;
74 requiring training for new M.P.O. governing board
75 members to be provided by the department or another

76 specified entity; removing provisions relating to
77 M.P.O. coordination mechanisms; including public-
78 private partnerships in authorized financing
79 techniques; revising proposed transportation
80 enhancement activities that must be indicated by the
81 long-range transportation plan; authorizing each
82 M.P.O. to execute a written agreement with the
83 department regarding state and federal transportation
84 planning requirements; providing that the department
85 is responsible for scheduling projects in the state
86 transportation improvement program in collaboration
87 with the M.P.O.'s; requiring the department and
88 M.P.O.'s to establish certain quality performance
89 metrics and develop certain performance targets;
90 requiring the department to evaluate and post on its
91 website whether each M.P.O. has made significant
92 progress toward such targets; removing provisions
93 relating to the Metropolitan Planning Organization
94 Advisory Council; amending s. 339.65, F.S.; requiring
95 the department, in collaboration with each M.P.O., to
96 prioritize certain Strategic Intermodal System highway
97 corridor projects; amending s. 339.84, F.S.;
98 authorizing the department to expend certain funds for
99 grants for the purchase of certain equipment within a
100 specified timeframe; providing requirements for grant

recipients; requiring the department to give certain priority in awarding grants; creating s. 339.85, F.S.; requiring the department to implement the Next-generation Traffic Signal Modernization Program; providing requirements for such program; amending s. 331.310, F.S.; conforming a cross-reference; providing legislative findings regarding widening of a certain roadway; requiring the department to develop and submit to the Governor and Legislature a report with certain specifications; requiring the department to submit to the Governor and Legislature a report regarding department districts; creating s. 332.136, F.S.; establishing an airport pilot program at the Sarasota Manatee Airport Authority; providing purpose of the pilot program; requiring the department to adopt rules; requiring the department, by a specified date, to submit a report to the Governor and the Legislature for specified purposes; providing for repeal on a specified date; amending s. 348.0304, F.S.; revising qualifications to be a member of the governing body of the Greater Miami Expressway Agency; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

125 **Section 1. Section 218.3215, Florida Statutes, is created**
126 **to read:**

127 218.3215 County transportation projects.—

128 (1) Each county shall annually by January 15 report to the
129 Office of Economic and Demographic Research the following
130 information, by county fiscal year, for revenues received
131 pursuant to s. 212.055(1), for the previous county fiscal year:

132 (a) The total proceeds from the surtax received by the
133 county.

134 (b) The amount allocated by the county for road and bridge
135 projects. The Office of Economic and Demographic Research, in
136 consultation with the Department of Transportation, must
137 establish and define broad categories for reporting this
138 information, including, but not limited to, widening, repair and
139 rehabilitation, sidewalks, or payment or pledge of bonds for the
140 construction of roads and bridges.

141 (c) The total expenditures for road and bridge projects,
142 including by category established pursuant to paragraph (b).

143 (d) The unexpended balances of funds allocated to road and
144 bridge projects by category.

145 (e) A list of current road and bridge projects, including
146 the project cost, location, and scope.

147 (f) The amount allocated by the county to all other
148 authorized uses of the proceeds from the surtax, excluding road
149 and bridge projects and the payment or pledge of bonds for the

150 construction of roads and bridges.

151 (2) Each county shall report the information required in
152 subsection (1) in the format specified by the Office of Economic
153 and Demographic Research. The Office of Economic and Demographic
154 Research shall compile the information from each county into a
155 report and submit the report to the President of the Senate, the
156 Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the Department of
157 Transportation.

158 **Section 2. Subsection (109) of section 316.003, Florida**
159 **Statutes, is amended to read:**

160 316.003 Definitions.—The following words and phrases, when
161 used in this chapter, shall have the meanings respectively
162 ascribed to them in this section, except where the context
163 otherwise requires:

164 (109) VEHICLE.—Every device in, upon, or by which any
165 person or property is or may be transported or drawn upon a
166 street or highway, except personal delivery devices, mobile
167 carriers, and devices used exclusively upon stationary rails or
168 tracks.

169 **Section 3. Subsection (2) of section 316.183, Florida**
170 **Statutes, is amended to read:**

171 316.183 Unlawful speed.—

172 (2) On all streets or highways, the maximum speed limits
173 for all vehicles must be 30 miles per hour in business or
174 residence districts, and 55 miles per hour at any time at all

175 other locations. However, with respect to a residence district,
176 a county or municipality may set a maximum speed limit of 20 or
177 25 miles per hour on local streets and highways after an
178 investigation determines that such a limit is reasonable. It is
179 not necessary to conduct a separate investigation for each
180 residence district. The department shall determine the safe and
181 available minimum speed limit on all highways that are ~~comprise~~
182 a part of the National System of Interstate and Defense Highways
183 and have at least ~~not fewer than~~ four lanes ~~is 40 miles per~~
184 ~~hour, except that when the posted speed limit is 70 miles per~~
185 ~~hour, the minimum speed limit is 50 miles per hour.~~

186 **Section 4. Subsection (2) of section 316.187, Florida**
187 **Statutes, is amended to read:**

188 316.187 Establishment of state speed zones.—

189 (2)(a) The maximum allowable speed limit on limited access
190 highways is 75 ~~70~~ miles per hour.

191 (b) The maximum allowable speed limit on any other highway
192 that ~~which~~ is outside an urban area of 5,000 or more persons and
193 that ~~which~~ has at least four lanes divided by a median strip is
194 70 ~~65~~ miles per hour.

195 (c) The Department of Transportation is authorized to set
196 such maximum and minimum speed limits for travel over other
197 roadways under its authority as it deems safe and advisable, not
198 to exceed as a maximum limit 65 ~~60~~ miles per hour.

199 **Section 5. Subsections (8) and (9) are added to section**

200 **316.20655, Florida Statutes, to read:**

201 316.20655 Electric bicycle regulations.—

202 (8) A local government may adopt an ordinance providing
203 one or more minimum age requirements to operate an electric
204 bicycle and may adopt an ordinance requiring an operator of an
205 electric bicycle to possess a government-issued photographic
206 identification while operating the electric bicycle.

207 (9) A local government may provide training on the safe
208 operation of electric bicycles and compliance with the traffic
209 laws of this state that apply to electric bicycles.

210 **Section 6. Subsections (7) and (8) are added to section**
211 **316.2128, Florida Statutes, to read:**

212 316.2128 Micromobility devices, motorized scooters, and
213 miniature motorcycles; requirements.—

214 (7) A local government may adopt an ordinance providing
215 one or more minimum age requirements to operate a motorized
216 scooter or micromobility device and may adopt an ordinance
217 requiring a person who operates a motorized scooter or
218 micromobility device to possess a government-issued photographic
219 identification while operating the motorized scooter or
220 micromobility device.

221 (8) A local government may provide training on the safe
222 operation of motorized scooters and micromobility devices and
223 compliance with the traffic laws of this state that apply to
224 motorized scooters and micromobility devices.

225 **Section 7. Section 316.88, Florida Statutes, is created to**
226 **read:**

227 316.88 Creation of a wake on streets or highways.—A person
228 may not operate a motor vehicle, vessel, or any other conveyance
229 at a speed that creates an excessive wake on a flooded or
230 inundated street or highway.

231 **Section 8. Section 320.0849, Florida Statutes, is created**
232 **to read:**

233 320.0849 Expectant mother parking permits.—

234 (1)(a) The department or its authorized agents shall, upon
235 application, issue an expectant mother parking permit placard or
236 decal to an expectant mother. The placard or decal is valid for
237 up to 1 year after the date of issuance.

238 (b) The department shall, by rule, provide for the design,
239 size, color, and placement of the expectant mother parking
240 permit placard or decal. The placard or decal must be designed
241 to conspicuously display the expiration date of the permit.

242 (2) An application for an expectant mother parking permit
243 must include, but need not be limited to:

244 (a) Certification provided by a physician licensed under
245 chapter 458 or chapter 459 that the applicant is an expectant
246 mother.

247 (b) The certifying physician's name and address.

248 (c) The physician's certification number.

249 (d) The following statement in bold letters: "An expectant

250 mother parking permit may be issued only to an expectant mother
251 and is valid for up to 1 year after the date of issuance."

252 (e) The signatures of:

253 1. The certifying physician.

254 2. The applicant.

255 3. The employee of the department processing the
256 application.

257 (3) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, an
258 expectant mother who is issued an expectant mother parking
259 permit under this section may park a motor vehicle in a parking
260 space designated for persons who have disabilities as provided
261 in s. 553.5041.

262 **Section 9. Subsection (14) of section 331.3051, Florida**
263 **Statutes, is amended to read:**

264 331.3051 Duties of Space Florida.—Space Florida shall:

265 ~~(14) Partner with the Metropolitan Planning Organization~~
266 ~~Advisory Council to coordinate and specify how aerospace~~
267 ~~planning and programming will be part of the state's cooperative~~
268 ~~transportation planning process.~~

269 **Section 10. Subsection (6) of section 334.044, Florida**
270 **Statutes, is amended to read:**

271 334.044 Powers and duties of the department.—The
272 department shall have the following general powers and duties:

273 (6) To acquire, by the exercise of the power of eminent
274 domain as provided by law, all property or property rights,

whether public or private, which it may determine are necessary to the performance of its duties and the execution of its powers, including advance purchase of property or property rights to preserve a corridor for future proposed improvements.

Section 11. Subsections (1) and (3) of section 334.065, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

334.065 Center for Urban Transportation Research.—

(1) There is established within ~~at~~ the University of South Florida the Florida Center for Urban Transportation Research, ~~to be administered by the Board of Governors of the State University System.~~ The responsibilities of the center include, but are not limited to, conducting and facilitating research on issues related to urban transportation problems in this state and serving as an information exchange and depository for the most current information pertaining to urban transportation and related issues.

(3) An advisory board shall be created to periodically ~~and objectively~~ review and advise the center concerning its research program. ~~Except for projects mandated by law, state-funded base projects shall not be undertaken without approval of the advisory board.~~ The membership of the board shall consist of nine experts in transportation-related areas, as follows:

(a) A member appointed by the President of the Senate.

(b) A member appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

300 (c) The Secretary of Transportation or his or her
301 designee.

302 (d) The Secretary of Commerce or his or her designee.
303 ~~including the secretaries of the Department of Transportation,~~
304 ~~the Department of Environmental Protection, and the Department~~
305 ~~of Commerce, or their designees, and~~

306 (e) A member of the Florida Transportation Commission.

307 (f) Four members nominated by the University of South
308 Florida's College of Engineering and approved by the
309 university's president ~~The nomination of the remaining members~~
310 ~~of the board shall be made to the President of the University of~~
311 ~~South Florida by the College of Engineering at the University of~~
312 ~~South Florida, and the appointment of these members must be~~
313 ~~reviewed and approved by the Florida Transportation Commission~~
314 ~~and confirmed by the Board of Governors.~~

315 **Section 12. Section 334.63, Florida Statutes, is created**
316 **to read:**

317 334.63 Project concept studies; project development and
318 environmental studies.—

319 (1) All project concept studies and project development
320 and environmental studies for capacity improvement projects on
321 limited-access facilities must include the evaluation of
322 alternatives that provide transportation capacity using elevated
323 roadways above existing lanes.

324 (2) All project development and environmental studies for

325 new alignment projects and new capacity improvement projects
326 must be completed within 18 months after commencement to the
327 maximum extent possible.

328 **Section 13. Subsections (4), (7), and (15) of section**
329 **337.11, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:**

330 337.11 Contracting authority of department; bids;
331 emergency repairs, supplemental agreements, and change orders;
332 combined design and construction contracts; progress payments;
333 records; requirements of vehicle registration.—

334 (4)(a) The department may award the proposed construction
335 and maintenance work to the lowest responsible bidder, or in the
336 instance of a time-plus-money contract, the lowest evaluated
337 responsible bidder, or it may reject all bids and proceed to
338 rebid the work in accordance with subsection (2) or otherwise
339 perform the work.

340 (b)1. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the
341 contrary, if the department intends to reject all bids on any
342 project after announcing but before posting official notice of
343 such intent, the department must provide to the lowest
344 responsive and responsible bidder the opportunity to negotiate
345 the scope of work with the corresponding reduction in price, as
346 provided in the bid, to provide a reduced bid without filing a
347 protest or posting a bond under paragraph (5)(a). Upon reaching
348 a decision regarding such bidder's reduced bid, the department
349 must post notice of final agency action to either reject all

350 bids or accept the reduced bid.

351 2. This subsection does not prohibit the filing of a
352 protest by any bidder or alter the deadlines in s. 120.57.

353 3. Notwithstanding ss. 120.57(3)(c) and 287.057(25), upon
354 receipt of a timely filed formal written protest, the department
355 may continue with the process provided for in this subsection
356 but may not take final agency action as to the lowest responsive
357 and responsible bidder, except as part of the department's final
358 agency action in the protest or if the protesting party
359 dismisses the protest.

360 (7)(a) If the department determines that it is in the best
361 interests of the public, the department may combine the design
362 and construction phases of a project into a single contract.
363 Such contract is referred to as a design-build contract. For
364 design-build contracts, the department must receive at least
365 three letters of interest, and the department shall request
366 proposals from no fewer than three of the design-build firms
367 submitting such letters of interest. If a design-build firm
368 withdraws from consideration after the department requests
369 proposals, the department may continue if at least two proposals
370 are received.

371 (b) If the department determines that it is in the best
372 interests of the public, the department may combine the design
373 and construction phases of a project fully funded in the work
374 program into a single contract and select the design-build firm

in the early stages of a project to ensure that the design-build firm is part of the collaboration and development of the design as part of a step-by-step progression through construction. Such a contract is referred to as a phased design-build contract. For phased design-build contracts, selection and award must include a two-phase process. For phase one, the department shall competitively award the contract to a design-build firm based upon qualifications, provided that the department has received at least three statements of qualifications from qualified design-build firms. If the department elects, during phase one, to enter into contracts with more than one design-build firm based on qualifications, the department shall competitively select a single design-build firm to perform the work associated with phase two. For phase two, the design-build firm may independently perform portions of the work and shall competitively bid construction trade subcontractor packages and, based upon the design-build firm's estimates of its independently performed work and these bids, negotiate with the department a ~~fixed firm price or~~ guaranteed maximum price that meets the project budget and scope as advertised in the request for qualifications.

~~(c) Design-build contracts and phased design-build contracts may be advertised and awarded notwithstanding the requirements of paragraph (3)(c). However, construction activities may not begin on any portion of such projects for~~

400 ~~which the department has not yet obtained title to the necessary~~
401 ~~rights-of-way and easements for the construction of that portion~~
402 ~~of the project has vested in the state or a local governmental~~
403 ~~entity and all railroad crossing and utility agreements have~~
404 ~~been executed. Title to rights-of-way shall be deemed to have~~
405 ~~vested in the state when the title has been dedicated to the~~
406 ~~public or acquired by prescription.~~

407 (c)~~(d)~~ The department shall adopt by rule procedures for
408 administering design-build and phased design-build contracts.
409 Such procedures shall include, but not be limited to:

- 410 1. Prequalification requirements.
- 411 2. Public announcement procedures.
- 412 3. Scope of service requirements.
- 413 4. Letters of interest requirements.
- 414 5. Short-listing criteria and procedures.
- 415 6. Bid proposal requirements.
- 416 7. Technical review committee.
- 417 8. Selection and award processes.
- 418 9. Stipend requirements.

419 (d)~~(e)~~ For ~~design-build contracts and~~ phased design-build
420 contracts, the department must receive at least three letters of
421 interest, and ~~in order to proceed with a request for proposals.~~
422 the department shall request proposals from no fewer than three
423 of the design-build firms submitting such letters of interest.
424 If a design-build firm withdraws from consideration after the

department requests proposals, the department may continue if at least two proposals are received.

(15) Each contract let by the department for performance of bridge construction or maintenance on ~~over~~ navigable waters must contain a provision requiring marine general liability insurance, including protection and indemnity coverage, in an amount to be determined by the department, which covers third-party personal injury and property damage caused by vessels used by the contractor in the performance of the work. Protection and indemnity coverage may be covered by endorsement on the marine general liability insurance policy or may be a separate policy.

Section 14. Subsections (1), (2), and (8) of section 337.14, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

337.14 Application for qualification; certificate of qualification; restrictions; request for hearing.—

(1) (a) A Any contractor desiring to bid for the performance of a ~~any~~ construction contract in excess of \$250,000 which the department proposes to let must first be certified by the department as qualified pursuant to this section and rules of the department. The rules of the department must address the qualification of contractors to bid on construction contracts in excess of \$250,000 and must include requirements with respect to the equipment, past record, experience, financial resources, and organizational personnel of the applying contractor which are necessary to perform the specific class of work for which the

450 contractor seeks certification.

451 (b) A ~~Any~~ contractor who desires to bid on contracts in
452 excess of \$50 million and who is not qualified and in good
453 standing with the department as of January 1, 2019, must first
454 be certified by the department as qualified and must have
455 satisfactorily completed two projects, each in excess of \$15
456 million, for the department or for any other state department of
457 transportation.

458 (c) The department may limit the dollar amount of any
459 contract upon which a contractor is qualified to bid or the
460 aggregate total dollar volume of contracts such contractor is
461 allowed to have under contract at any one time.

462 (d)1. Each applying contractor seeking qualification to
463 bid on construction contracts in excess of \$250,000 shall
464 furnish the department a statement under oath, on such forms as
465 the department may prescribe, setting forth detailed information
466 as required on the application.

467 2. Each application for certification must be accompanied
468 by audited, certified financial statements prepared in
469 accordance with generally accepted accounting principles and
470 auditing standards by a certified public accountant licensed in
471 this state or another state. The audited, certified financial
472 statements must be for the applying contractor and must have
473 been prepared within the immediately preceding 12 months.

474 3. The department may not consider any financial

information of the parent entity of the applying contractor, if any.

4. The department may not certify as qualified any applying contractor who fails to submit the audited, certified financial statements required by this subsection.

5. If the application or the annual financial statement shows the financial condition of the applying contractor more than 4 months before the date on which the application is received by the department, the applicant must also submit interim audited, certified financial statements prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles and auditing standards by a certified public accountant licensed in this state or another state. The interim financial statements must cover the period from the end date of the annual statement and must show the financial condition of the applying contractor no more than 4 months before the date that the interim financial statements are received by the department. However, upon the request of the applying contractor, an application and accompanying annual or interim financial statement received by the department within 15 days after either 4-month period under this subsection shall be considered timely.

6. An applying contractor desiring to bid exclusively for the performance of construction contracts with proposed budget estimates of less than \$2 million may submit reviewed annual or reviewed interim financial statements prepared by a certified

public accountant.

(e) The information required by this subsection is confidential and exempt from s. 119.07(1).

(f) The department shall act upon the application for qualification within 30 days after the department determines that the application is complete.

(g) The department may waive the requirements of this subsection for:

1. A push-button contract or a task work order contract that has a contract price of \$1 million or less; or

2. A project that has ~~projects having~~ a contract price of \$500,000 or less if the department determines that the project is of a noncritical nature and the waiver will not endanger public health, safety, or property.

(2) Certification shall be necessary in order to bid on a road, bridge, or public transportation construction contract of more than \$250,000. However, the successful bidder on any construction contract must furnish a contract bond before ~~prior~~ to the award of the contract. The department may waive the requirement for all or a portion of a contract bond for contracts of \$250,000 ~~\$150,000~~ or less under s. 337.18(1).

(8) This section does not apply to maintenance contracts. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a contractor seeking to bid on a maintenance contract for which the majority of the work includes repair and replacement of safety appurtenances,

including, but not limited to, guardrails, attenuators, traffic signals, and striping, must possess the prescribed qualifications, equipment, past record, and experience required to perform such work.

Section 15. Subsections (4) and (5) of section 337.185, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

337.185 State Arbitration Board.—

(4) The contractor may submit a claim greater than \$250,000 up to \$2 million ~~\$1 million~~ per contract or, upon agreement of the parties, greater than ~~up to~~ \$2 million per contract to be arbitrated by the board. An award issued by the board pursuant to this subsection is final if a request for a trial de novo is not filed within the time provided by Rule 1.830, Florida Rules of Civil Procedure. At the trial de novo, the court may not admit evidence that there has been an arbitration proceeding, the nature or amount of the award, or any other matter concerning the conduct of the arbitration proceeding, except that sworn testimony given in connection with ~~at~~ an arbitration hearing may be used for any purpose otherwise permitted by the Florida Evidence Code. If a request for trial de novo is not filed within the time provided, the award issued by the board is final and enforceable by a court of law.

(5) An arbitration request may not be made to the board before final acceptance but must be made to the board within 820 days after final acceptance or within 360 days after written

notice by the department of a claim related to a written
warranty or defect after final acceptance, whichever is later.

**Section 16. Subsection (2) of section 337.19, Florida
Statutes, is amended to read:**

337.19 Suits by and against department; limitation of
actions; forum.—

(2) Suits by and against the department under this section
shall be commenced within 820 days after ~~of~~ the final acceptance
of the work or within 360 days after written notice by the
department of a claim related to a written warranty or defect
after final acceptance, whichever is later. ~~This section shall~~
~~apply to all contracts entered into after June 30, 1993.~~

**Section 17. Subsection (10) of section 339.175, Florida
Statutes, is renumbered as subsection (11), subsection (1),
paragraph (a) of subsection (2), paragraphs (b), (i), and (j) of
subsection (6), paragraphs (a), (b), and (d) of subsection (7),
and present subsection (11) are amended, and a new subsection
(10) is added to that section, to read:**

339.175 Metropolitan planning organization.—

(1) PURPOSE.—It is the intent of the Legislature to
encourage and promote the safe and efficient management,
operation, and development of multimodal ~~surface~~ transportation
systems that will serve the mobility needs of people and freight
and foster economic growth and development within and through
urbanized areas of this state in accordance with the

575 department's mission statement ~~while minimizing transportation-~~
576 ~~related fuel consumption, air pollution, and greenhouse gas~~
577 ~~emissions through metropolitan transportation planning processes~~
578 ~~identified in this section.~~ To accomplish these objectives,
579 metropolitan planning organizations, referred to in this section
580 as M.P.O.'s, shall develop, in cooperation with the state and
581 public transit operators, transportation plans and programs for
582 metropolitan areas. The plans and programs for each metropolitan
583 area must provide for the development and integrated management
584 and operation of transportation systems and facilities,
585 including pedestrian walkways and bicycle transportation
586 facilities that will function as an intermodal transportation
587 system for the metropolitan area, based upon the prevailing
588 principles provided in s. 334.046(1). The process for developing
589 such plans and programs shall provide for consideration of all
590 modes of transportation and shall be continuing, cooperative,
591 and comprehensive, to the degree appropriate, based on the
592 complexity of the transportation problems to be addressed. To
593 ensure that the process is integrated with the statewide
594 planning process, M.P.O.'s shall develop plans and programs that
595 identify transportation facilities that should function as an
596 integrated metropolitan transportation system, giving emphasis
597 to facilities that serve important national, state, and regional
598 transportation functions. For the purposes of this section,
599 those facilities include the facilities on the Strategic

Intermodal System designated under s. 339.63 and facilities for which projects have been identified pursuant to s. 339.2819(4).

(2) DESIGNATION.—

(a)1. An M.P.O. shall be designated for each urbanized area of the state; however, this does not require that an individual M.P.O. be designated for each such area. Such designation shall be accomplished by agreement between the Governor and units of general-purpose local government representing at least 75 percent of the population of the urbanized area; however, the unit of general-purpose local government that represents the central city or cities within the M.P.O. jurisdiction, as defined by the United States Bureau of the Census, must be a party to such agreement.

2. To the extent possible, only one M.P.O. shall be designated for each urbanized area or group of contiguous urbanized areas. More than one M.P.O. may be designated within an existing urbanized area only if the Governor and the existing M.P.O. determine that the size and complexity of the existing urbanized area makes the designation of more than one M.P.O. for the area appropriate. After July 1, 2025, no additional M.P.O.'s may be designated in this state except in urbanized areas, as defined by the United States Bureau of the Census, where the urbanized area boundary is not contiguous to an urbanized area designated before the 2020 census, ~~in which case each M.P.O. designated for the area must:~~

~~a. Consult with every other M.P.O. designated for the urbanized area and the state to coordinate plans and transportation improvement programs.~~

~~b. Ensure, to the maximum extent practicable, the consistency of data used in the planning process, including data used in forecasting travel demand within the urbanized area.~~

Each M.P.O. required under this section must be fully operative no later than 6 months following its designation.

(6) POWERS, DUTIES, AND RESPONSIBILITIES.—The powers, privileges, and authority of an M.P.O. are those specified in this section or incorporated in an interlocal agreement authorized under s. 163.01. Each M.P.O. shall perform all acts required by federal or state laws or rules, now and subsequently applicable, which are necessary to qualify for federal aid. It is the intent of this section that each M.P.O. be involved in the planning and programming of transportation facilities, including, but not limited to, airports, intercity and high-speed rail lines, seaports, and intermodal facilities, to the extent permitted by state or federal law. An M.P.O. may not perform project production or delivery for capital improvement projects on the State Highway System.

(b) In developing the long-range transportation plan and the transportation improvement program required under paragraph (a), each M.P.O. shall provide for consideration of projects and

strategies that will:

1. Support the economic vitality of the contiguous urbanized metropolitan area, especially by enabling global competitiveness, productivity, and efficiency.

2. Increase the safety and security of the transportation system for motorized and nonmotorized users.

3. Increase the accessibility and mobility options available to people and for freight.

4. Protect and enhance the environment, conserve natural resources ~~promote energy conservation~~, and improve quality of life.

5. Enhance the integration and connectivity of the transportation system, across and between modes and contiguous urbanized metropolitan areas, for people and freight.

6. Promote efficient system management and operation.

7. Emphasize the preservation of the existing transportation system.

8. Improve the resilience of transportation infrastructure.

9. Reduce traffic and congestion.

~~(i) By December 31, 2023, the M.P.O.'s serving Hillsborough, Pasco, and Pinellas Counties must submit a feasibility report to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives exploring the benefits, costs, and process of consolidation into a single~~

675 ~~M.P.O. serving the contiguous urbanized area, the goal of which~~
676 ~~would be to:~~

677 ~~1. Coordinate transportation projects deemed to be~~
678 ~~regionally significant.~~

679 ~~2. Review the impact of regionally significant land use~~
680 ~~decisions on the region.~~

681 ~~3. Review all proposed regionally significant~~
682 ~~transportation projects in the transportation improvement~~
683 ~~programs.~~

684 (i)1. To more fully accomplish the purposes for which
685 M.P.O.'s have been mandated, the department shall, at least
686 annually, convene M.P.O.'s for the purpose of exchanging best
687 practices. M.P.O.'s may ~~shall~~ develop committees or working
688 groups as needed to accomplish such purpose. Training for new
689 M.P.O. governing board members shall be provided by the
690 department or, at the discretion of the department, by an entity
691 pursuant to a contract with the department, by the Florida
692 Center for Urban Transportation Research, or by the Implementing
693 Solutions from Transportation Research and Evaluation of
694 Emerging Technologies (I-STREET) living lab ~~coordination~~
695 ~~mechanisms with one another to expand and improve transportation~~
696 ~~within the state. The appropriate method of coordination between~~
697 ~~M.P.O.'s shall vary depending upon the project involved and~~
698 ~~given local and regional needs. Consequently, it is appropriate~~
699 ~~to set forth a flexible methodology that can be used by M.P.O.'s~~

~~to coordinate with other M.P.O.'s and appropriate political subdivisions as circumstances demand.~~

2. Any M.P.O. may join with any other M.P.O. or any individual political subdivision to coordinate activities or to achieve any federal or state transportation planning or development goals or purposes consistent with federal or state law. When an M.P.O. determines that it is appropriate to join with another M.P.O. or any political subdivision to coordinate activities, the M.P.O. or political subdivision shall enter into an interlocal agreement pursuant to s. 163.01, which, at a minimum, creates a separate legal or administrative entity to coordinate the transportation planning or development activities required to achieve the goal or purpose; provides the purpose for which the entity is created; provides the duration of the agreement and the entity and specifies how the agreement may be terminated, modified, or rescinded; describes the precise organization of the entity, including who has voting rights on the governing board, whether alternative voting members are provided for, how voting members are appointed, and what the relative voting strength is for each constituent M.P.O. or political subdivision; provides the manner in which the parties to the agreement will provide for the financial support of the entity and payment of costs and expenses of the entity; provides the manner in which funds may be paid to and disbursed from the entity; and provides how members of the entity will resolve

disagreements regarding interpretation of the interlocal agreement or disputes relating to the operation of the entity. Such interlocal agreement shall become effective upon its recordation in the official public records of each county in which a member of the entity created by the interlocal agreement has a voting member. Multiple M.P.O.'s may merge, combine, or otherwise join together as a single M.P.O.

(7) LONG-RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN.—Each M.P.O. must develop a long-range transportation plan that addresses at least a 20-year planning horizon. The plan must include both long-range and short-range strategies and must comply with all other state and federal requirements. The prevailing principles to be considered in the long-range transportation plan are: preserving the existing transportation infrastructure; enhancing Florida's economic competitiveness; and improving travel choices to ensure mobility. The long-range transportation plan must be consistent, to the maximum extent feasible, with future land use elements and the goals, objectives, and policies of the approved local government comprehensive plans of the units of local government located within the jurisdiction of the M.P.O. Each M.P.O. is encouraged to consider strategies that integrate transportation and land use planning to provide for sustainable development and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The approved long-range transportation plan must be considered by local governments in the development of the transportation elements in local

750 government comprehensive plans and any amendments thereto. The
751 long-range transportation plan must, at a minimum:

752 (a) Identify transportation facilities, including, but not
753 limited to, major roadways, airports, seaports, spaceports,
754 commuter rail systems, transit systems, and intermodal or
755 multimodal terminals that will function as an integrated
756 metropolitan transportation system. The long-range
757 transportation plan must give emphasis to those transportation
758 facilities that serve national, statewide, or regional
759 functions, and must consider the goals and objectives identified
760 in the Florida Transportation Plan as provided in s. 339.155. If
761 a project is located within the boundaries of more than one
762 M.P.O., the M.P.O.'s must coordinate plans regarding the project
763 in the long-range transportation plan. ~~Multiple M.P.O.'s within~~
764 ~~a contiguous urbanized area must coordinate the development of~~
765 ~~long-range transportation plans to be reviewed by the~~
766 ~~Metropolitan Planning Organization Advisory Council.~~

767 (b) Include a financial plan that demonstrates how the
768 plan can be implemented, indicating resources from public and
769 private sources which are reasonably expected to be available to
770 carry out the plan, and recommends any additional financing
771 strategies for needed projects and programs. The financial plan
772 may include, for illustrative purposes, additional projects that
773 would be included in the adopted long-range transportation plan
774 if reasonable additional resources beyond those identified in

the financial plan were available. For the purpose of developing the long-range transportation plan, the M.P.O. and the department shall cooperatively develop estimates of funds that will be available to support the plan implementation. Innovative financing techniques may be used to fund needed projects and programs. Such techniques may include the assessment of tolls, public-private partnerships, the use of value capture financing, or the use of value pricing. Multiple M.P.O.'s within a contiguous urbanized area must ensure, to the maximum extent possible, the consistency of data used in the planning process.

(d) Indicate, as appropriate, proposed transportation enhancement activities, including, but not limited to, pedestrian and bicycle facilities, trails or facilities that are regionally significant or critical linkages for the Florida Shared-Use Nonmotorized Trail Network, scenic easements, landscaping, integration of advanced air mobility, and integration of autonomous and electric vehicles, electric bicycles, and motorized scooters used for freight, commuter, or micromobility purposes ~~historic preservation, mitigation of water pollution due to highway runoff, and control of outdoor advertising.~~

In the development of its long-range transportation plan, each M.P.O. must provide the public, affected public agencies, representatives of transportation agency employees, freight

800 shippers, providers of freight transportation services, private
801 providers of transportation, representatives of users of public
802 transit, and other interested parties with a reasonable
803 opportunity to comment on the long-range transportation plan.
804 The long-range transportation plan must be approved by the
805 M.P.O.

806 (10) AGREEMENTS; ACCOUNTABILITY.—

807 (a) Each M.P.O. may execute a written agreement with the
808 department, which shall be reviewed, and updated as necessary,
809 every 5 years, which clearly establishes the cooperative
810 relationship essential to accomplish the transportation planning
811 requirements of state and federal law. Roles, responsibilities,
812 and expectations for accomplishing consistency with federal and
813 state requirements and priorities must be set forth in the
814 agreement. In addition, the agreement must set forth the
815 M.P.O.'s responsibility, in collaboration with the department,
816 to identify, prioritize, and present to the department a
817 complete list of multimodal transportation projects consistent
818 with the needs of the metropolitan planning area. It is the
819 department's responsibility to schedule projects in the state
820 transportation improvement program, in collaboration with the
821 M.P.O.'s, considering the annual M.P.O. list of priority
822 projects, as available funding allows.

823 (b) The department must establish, in collaboration with
824 each M.P.O., quality performance metrics such as safety,

infrastructure condition, congestion relief, and mobility. Each
M.P.O. must, as part of its long-range transportation plan, in
direct coordination with the department, develop targets for
each performance measure within the metropolitan planning area
boundary. The performance targets must support efficient and
safe movement of people and goods both within the metropolitan
planning area and between regions. Each M.P.O. must report
progress toward establishing performance targets for each
measure annually in its transportation improvement plan. The
department shall evaluate and post on its website whether each
M.P.O. has made significant progress toward its target for the
applicable reporting period.

~~(11) METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION ADVISORY COUNCIL.—~~

~~(a) A Metropolitan Planning Organization Advisory Council~~
~~is created to augment, and not supplant, the role of the~~
~~individual M.P.O.'s in the cooperative transportation planning~~
~~process described in this section.~~

~~(b) The council shall consist of one representative from~~
~~each M.P.O. and shall elect a chairperson annually from its~~
~~number. Each M.P.O. shall also elect an alternate representative~~
~~from each M.P.O. to vote in the absence of the representative.~~
~~Members of the council do not receive any compensation for their~~
~~services, but may be reimbursed from funds made available to~~
~~council members for travel and per diem expenses incurred in the~~
~~performance of their council duties as provided in s. 112.061.~~

850 ~~(c) The powers and duties of the Metropolitan Planning~~
851 ~~Organization Advisory Council are to:~~

852 ~~1. Establish bylaws by action of its governing board~~
853 ~~providing procedural rules to guide its proceedings and~~
854 ~~consideration of matters before the council, or, alternatively,~~
855 ~~adopt rules pursuant to ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 to implement~~
856 ~~provisions of law conferring powers or duties upon it.~~

857 ~~2. Assist M.P.O.'s in carrying out the urbanized area~~
858 ~~transportation planning process by serving as the principal~~
859 ~~forum for collective policy discussion pursuant to law.~~

860 ~~3. Serve as a clearinghouse for review and comment by~~
861 ~~M.P.O.'s on the Florida Transportation Plan and on other issues~~
862 ~~required to comply with federal or state law in carrying out the~~
863 ~~urbanized area transportation and systematic planning processes~~
864 ~~instituted pursuant to s. 339.155. The council must also report~~
865 ~~annually to the Florida Transportation Commission on the~~
866 ~~alignment of M.P.O. long-range transportation plans with the~~
867 ~~Florida Transportation Plan.~~

868 ~~4. Employ an executive director and such other staff as~~
869 ~~necessary to perform adequately the functions of the council,~~
870 ~~within budgetary limitations. The executive director and staff~~
871 ~~are exempt from part II of chapter 110 and serve at the~~
872 ~~direction and control of the council. The council is assigned to~~
873 ~~the Office of the Secretary of the Department of Transportation~~
874 ~~for fiscal and accountability purposes, but it shall otherwise~~

~~function independently of the control and direction of the department.~~

~~5. Deliver training on federal and state program requirements and procedures to M.P.O. board members and M.P.O. staff.~~

~~6. Adopt an agency strategic plan that prioritizes steps the agency will take to carry out its mission within the context of the state comprehensive plan and any other statutory mandates and directives.~~

~~(d) The Metropolitan Planning Organization Advisory Council may enter into contracts in accordance with chapter 287 to support the activities described in paragraph (c). Lobbying and the acceptance of funds, grants, assistance, gifts, or bequests from private, local, state, or federal sources are prohibited.~~

Section 18. Subsection (4) of section 339.65, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

339.65 Strategic Intermodal System highway corridors.—

(4) The department shall develop and maintain a plan of Strategic Intermodal System highway corridor projects that are anticipated to be let to contract for construction within a time period of at least 20 years. The department, in collaboration with each M.P.O., shall prioritize projects that address gaps in a corridor so that the corridor becomes contiguous. The plan shall also identify when segments of the corridor will meet the

standards and criteria developed pursuant to subsection (5).

Section 19. Section 339.84, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

339.84 Workforce development.—

(1) Beginning in the 2023-2024 fiscal year and annually thereafter for 5 years, \$5 million shall be allocated from the State Transportation Trust Fund to the workforce development program as provided in s. 334.044(35) to promote career paths in Florida's road and bridge industry.

(2) In fiscal years 2025-2026 through 2029-2030, the department may expend up to \$5 million each fiscal year for grants to Florida College System institutions and high schools for the purchase of equipment simulators with authentic original equipment manufacturer controls. Each grant recipient must offer an elective course in heavy civil construction the curriculum of which is specifically designed to use an equipment simulator and other instructional aides to, at a minimum, provide the student with OSHA 10 Construction certification and an equipment simulator certification. In awarding such grants, the department shall give priority to Florida College System institutions and high schools in rural communities as defined in s. 288.0656(2).

Section 20. Section 339.85, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

339.85 Next-generation Traffic Signal Modernization Program.—

(1) The department shall implement the Next-generation Traffic Signal Modernization Program. The Next-generation Traffic Signal Modernization Program shall consist of retrofitting existing traffic signals and controllers and providing a communication backbone for remote operations and management of such signals on the State Highway System and the nonstate highway system. Such signal upgrades shall be prioritized based on average annual daily traffic and the impact of adding to an existing interconnected system.

(2) The program shall consist of an advanced traffic management platform that uses state-of-the-art technology to deliver accurate detection in all weather conditions, offering fully integrated stop bar and advance detection management to improve safety and vehicle movement at intersections, including pedestrian protection. In addition to supporting time-of-day signal timing plans, the program shall provide real-time traffic optimization to improve flow and enhance safety. The program must comply with leading cybersecurity standards, such as SOC 2 and ISO 27001, ensuring robust data protection.

Section 21. Paragraph (e) of subsection (2) of section 331.310, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

331.310 Powers and duties of the board of directors.—

(2) The board of directors shall:

(e) Prepare an annual report of operations as a supplement to the annual report required under s. 331.3051(15) ~~or~~.

950 ~~331.3051(16)~~. The report must include, but not be limited to, a
951 balance sheet, an income statement, a statement of changes in
952 financial position, a reconciliation of changes in equity
953 accounts, a summary of significant accounting principles, the
954 auditor's report, a summary of the status of existing and
955 proposed bonding projects, comments from management about the
956 year's business, and prospects for the next year.

957 **Section 22.** The Legislature finds that the widening of
958 that portion of Interstate 4 between U.S. Highway 27 in Polk
959 County and Interstate 75 in Hillsborough County is in the public
960 interest and in the strategic interest of the region to improve
961 the movement of people and goods. The Department of
962 Transportation shall develop a report that includes, but is not
963 limited to, detailed costs for project development and
964 environmental studies, design, acquisition of rights-of-way, and
965 construction and a schedule to complete the widening as
966 expeditiously as possible. Such report shall identify funding
967 shortfalls and strategies to address such shortfalls, including,
968 but not limited to, using express lane toll revenues generated
969 on the Interstate 4 corridor and other available department
970 funds for public-private partnerships. The department shall
971 submit the report by December 31, 2025, to the Governor, the
972 President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of
973 Representatives.

974 **Section 23.** By October 31, 2025, the Department of

975 Transportation shall submit to the Governor, the President of
976 the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives a
977 report that provides a comprehensive review of the boundaries of
978 each of the department's districts and whether any district's
979 boundaries should be redrawn as a result of population growth
980 and increased urban density.

981 **Section 24. Section 332.136, Florida Statutes, is created**
982 **to read:**

983 332.136 Sarasota Manatee Airport Authority; airport pilot
984 program.—

985 (1) There is established at the Sarasota Manatee Airport
986 Authority (SMAA) an airport pilot program. The purpose of the
987 pilot program is to determine the long-term feasibility of
988 alternative airport permitting procedures such as those provided
989 in ss. 553.80, 1013.30, 1013.33, and 1013.371.

990 (2) The department shall adopt rules as necessary to
991 implement the pilot program.

992 (3) By December 1, 2027, the department shall submit
993 recommendations to the President of the Senate and the Speaker
994 of the House of Representatives about how to expand the pilot
995 program to additional airports, amend the pilot program to
996 increase its effectiveness, or terminate the pilot program.

997 (4) This section shall stand repealed on June 30, 2028,
998 unless reviewed and saved from appeal through reenactment by the
999 Legislature.

Section 25. Paragraph (a) of subsection (3) of section 348.0304, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

348.0304 Greater Miami Expressway Agency.—

(3)(a) The governing body of the agency shall consist of nine voting members. Except for the district secretary of the department, each member must be a permanent resident of a county served by the agency and may not hold, or have held in the previous 2 years, elected or appointed office in such county, except that this paragraph does not apply to any initial appointment under paragraph (b) or to any member who previously served on the governing body of the former Greater Miami Expressway Agency. Each member may only serve two terms of 4 years each, except that there is no restriction on the term of the department's district secretary. Four members, each of whom must be a permanent resident of Miami-Dade County, shall be appointed by the Governor, subject to confirmation by the Senate at the next regular session of the Legislature. Refusal or failure of the Senate to confirm an appointment shall create a vacancy. Appointments made by the Governor and board of county commissioners of Miami-Dade County shall reflect the state's interests in the transportation sector and represent the intent, duties, and purpose of the Greater Miami Expressway Agency, and have at least 3 years of professional experience in one or more of the following areas: finance; land use planning; tolling industry; or transportation engineering. Two members, who must

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1025 be residents of an unincorporated portion of the geographic area
1026 described in subsection (1) and residing within 15 miles of an
1027 ~~area with the highest amount of~~ agency toll road ~~roads~~, shall be
1028 appointed by the board of county commissioners of Miami-Dade
1029 County. Two members, who must be residents of incorporated
1030 municipalities within a county served by the agency, shall be
1031 appointed by the metropolitan planning organization for a county
1032 served by the agency. The district secretary of the department
1033 serving in the district that contains Miami-Dade County shall
1034 serve as an ex officio voting member of the governing body.

1035 **Section 26.** This act shall take effect July 1, 2025.