



The Metropolitan Planning Organization

Established in 1977, the Pinellas County MPO is comprised of eleven elected officials appointed by their local governments

and by the Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority (PSTA), and a representative of the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT). The county's ITS program has been a high-priority for the MPO for almost a decade.



Pinellas is the most densely populated of Florida's counties and the first to reach build-out. For this reason, the MPO has turned to technology as a way to deal with some of the traffic challenges that create congestion and burden its surface transportation network.

The MPO is supported in this effort by an ITS Advisory Committee. Drawing from county, local and state agencies, representatives' diverse professional expertise includes transportation planning and engineering, traffic management, law enforcement, emergency management, communications, transit and tourism. Public officials are also appointed to the committee.

The MPO partners with the Florida Department of Transportation and local governments, including Pinellas County and the cities of Clearwater and St. Petersburg, in coordinating the planning and deployment of a broad-spectrum ITS program. Components include the management of the signal system, incident detection and deployment of emergency and law enforcement teams, coordination of traveler advisory functions, and pedestrian crosswalk and transit applications.

In 2006 the signal system, Stage I Countywide Advanced Traffic Management System (ATMS) Adaptive Signal System, was launched in Pinellas County. It became America's largest traffic control installation using federally funded and developed Real-Time Traffic Adaptive Signal Control System (RT-TRACS) research project software. The results of one study for U.S. Highway 19 showed a \$600,000 annual savings in fuel costs to motorists while the study results for State Road 60 demonstrated a \$750,000 annual savings in fuel costs for the traveling public.

PINELLAS COUNTY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

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