Fifth Annual Emerald Coast Transportation Symposium

February 25-26, SpringHill Suites - Navarre, Fla.
Welcome

The West Florida Regional Planning Council (WFRPC) welcomes you to the Fifth Annual Emerald Coast Transportation Symposium, an event recognized for presenting the unique opportunity to bring professionals and policymakers together to openly discuss ways to adapt local and regional transportation issues, transforming them into the economic and environmental successes of the future.

This year’s event will continue this rich tradition, offering unprecedented expertise presented through special guests, keynote speakers, and panelists.

If you require assistance at any time during the event, please feel free to seek out a WFRPC staff member for help. Meanwhile, enjoy the unrivaled beauty of the Emerald Coast as you listen, learn, engage, network, and garner insight and connections that are certain to create positive and lasting impacts in your community.

Inside, please find information on this year’s special speakers, presenters, and panels:

Special Guest Speakers

Kevin Thibault, Secretary, Florida Department of Transportation

John Cooper, Director, Alabama Department of Transportation

Keynotes

Veronica O. Davis, P.E., Nspiregreen, LLC
John Mica, Former Congressman

Panels

REMI
Complete Streets
Bicycle/Pedestrian - User Perspective
Transportation Funding Sources
Technology, Tourism, and Transportation
Environmental Protection in Transportation Planning
MOVING FORWARD: Hurricane Michael Regional Recovery

WFRPC proudly acknowledges the staff members who prepared this year’s event:

Brittany Ellers
Annie Walthall
Kathy Saldana
Tiffany Bates
Jill Lavender
Mary Beth Washnock
Kristen Barré
Garett Griffin
Gary Kramer
Jessica Paul
Dan Deanda
Dawn Schwartz
Austin Mount
Frances Bartholomew
Ada Clark
Cameron Smith
Romina Valerio
Megan Polk
Tammy Neal
Howard Vanselow
Caitlin Cerame
Katie Wilhelm
Monday, February 25, 2019

7:30 – 8:30 a.m. | Registration - Hotel Lobby

8 – 9:15 a.m. | Breakfast Buffet - BeachHouse Bar & Grille

9:15 – 10:15 a.m. | FDOT/ALDOT Transportation Leadership
Official Welcome - Ocean View Banquet Room

10:15 – 10:30 a.m. | Sponsored Break - Hotel Lobby
Sponsor - Carpe Diem

10:30 a.m. – noon | Breakout Sessions - Breakout rooms
A: REMI
B: Complete Streets

Noon – 1:30 p.m. | Lunch - BeachHouse Bar & Grille

1:30 – 2:30 p.m. | Keynote - Veronica Davis
Ocean View Banquet Room

2:45 – 4:15 p.m. | Breakout Sessions - Breakout Rooms
A: Bicycle/Pedestrian - User Perspective
B: Transportation Funding Sources

4:15 – 4:30 p.m. | Sponsored Break
Sponsor - HSA Consulting Group, Inc.

4:30 p.m. | WFRPC Board Meeting

5 - 7:30 p.m. | Dinner Buffet - BeachHouse Bar & Grille

6:30 - 10 p.m. | Reception/"Beach Party" (See posted announcement)

7 p.m. | Reception Official Welcome

8 p.m. | Reception Special Presentation

Tuesday, February 26, 2019

8 – 9:30 a.m. | Breakfast Buffet - BeachHouse Bar & Grille

9:30 – 10:30 a.m. | Keynote - John Mica
Ocean View Banquet Room

10:30 – 10:45 a.m. | Sponsored Break - Hotel Lobby
Sponsor - Vowells Printing, LLC

10:45 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. | Breakout Sessions - Breakout Rooms
A: Environmental Protection in Transportation Planning
B: Technology, Tourism, and Transportation

12:15 – 1:30 p.m. | Lunch - BeachHouse Bar & Grille

1:30 – 3:30 p.m. | Closing Session - Ocean View Banquet Room
Moving Forward: Hurricane Michael Regional Recovery
Kevin J. Thibault, Secretary of the Florida Department of Transportation

Kevin J. Thibault most recently served as Southeast Regional Senior Vice President of TranSystems Corporation. He was responsible for the management of $40 million in revenue and close to 200 employees. In that role, he deployed a streamlined team focused on delivering quality solutions to the transportation agencies across the Southeast.

Thibault previously served as Senior Vice President of Parsons Corporation where he developed a national toll practice and engineered the management of the $2.5 billion Gordie Howe International Bridge in Windsor, Ontario.

Thibault also has extensive experience in state government having previously served in senior leadership positions with the Florida Department of Transportation for more than 16 years.

In 1985, Thibault received his Bachelor of Science Degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth in North Dartmouth, Massachusetts. He has also been an Advisory Board Member of the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth since 2013.

John R. Cooper became Alabama’s Transportation Director effective January 18, 2011, at the beginning of Governor Robert Bentley’s Administration. Governor Kay Ivey subsequently appointed Mr. Cooper upon taking office on April 10, 2017.

From 2002 to 2008, Mr. Cooper was chief executive officer of Avocent Corp. in Huntsville, a global provider of information technology infrastructure management. In addition to serving as CEO, he was chairman of Avocent from 2003 to 2008.

He has a business background that has seen him serve as a CEO, chief financial officer, corporate vice president and as a partner in large accounting firms.

Director Cooper holds bachelor’s and master’s degrees in accounting from the University of Alabama.
Veronica O. Davis, P.E. is a self-described transportation nerd. She believes all people should have access to safe, reliable, and affordable transportation. She has more than 16 years of experience in civil engineering and planning. She is currently a co-owner and Principal Planning Manager at Nspiregreen LLC.

At Nspiregreen, she is responsible for managing the Multimodal Transportation and Community Planning projects, which include surface transportation planning, policy development, and long-range planning. She was the Principal-in-Charge for the Vision Zero Action Plans for the District of Columbia and the City of Alexandria in Virginia. This included guiding the team to develop strategies to prioritize the safety of people biking and walking.

Veronica is one of the co-founders of Black Women Bike (BWB), an organization and movement that encourages African American women to use biking for health and wellness as well as an alternative form of transportation for commuting. In under two years, the organization has grown, with more than 1,500 African American women ranging in age from late twenties to early seventies.

She earned dual Master’s Degrees (Engineering Management and Regional Planning) from Cornell University. She has a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from the University of Maryland. She is a registered professional engineer in the District of Columbia, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, and Georgia.

In July 2012, the White House recognized her as a Champion of Change and Transportation Innovator for her professional accomplishments and community advocacy in the District of Columbia.

She currently lives in Washington, D.C. with her husband and dog.

John Mica, former Congressman, is considered one of the most knowledgeable experts and leaders in American transportation and infrastructure. Serving in Congress until 2017, his leadership helped shape almost every major American transportation policy and legislative initiative for the past two decades. He served as the Chairman and Ranking Member of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and chaired five major subcommittees.

As leader of the Aviation Subcommittee following 9/11, he helped bring the American aviation industry back from some of its most difficult days. He was the primary author of the Americas Transportation Security Act.

In addition to MAP-21, a major transportation legislative act, other measures Mica authored include two long-term aviation authorizations, water and resources, Coast Guard and pipeline safety measures. His support of major infrastructure projects has significantly impacted American communities from New York to Seattle and the Mid-West to the Gulf Coast. His P3 initiatives have helped launch dozens of major transportation projects.

As a champion of Open Skies, he advocates international aviation competition. His leadership was instrumental in implementing the Cape Town Treaties that established a financial protocol enabling aviation and transportations asset stability.

Just prior to Mica’s leaving Congress, he was recognized by an independent university study as one of the two most effective members of congress. Former President George W. Bush said about Mica, “In Congress there are talkers and doers. John Mica is a doer.”

Mica’s business and political careers span four decades covering real estate, communications, and international trade.
REMI

REMI is the economic impact software that can predict the impact of various events (transportation projects, natural disasters, company expansions, transit routes, government shutdowns, and the like) on emergency planning and disaster recovery. This panel will discuss best practices when evaluating the macroeconomic impacts over time and the benefits and costs of proposed transportation policy.

Moderator
Managing Economic Associate, REMI
Chris Judson

Complete Streets

Complete streets are multi-use environments that enable safe and comfortable access for all users, including pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists, and public transportation patrons of all ages and abilities. This panel will discuss the roles complete streets plays in creating a more vibrant, productive, and sustainable community. Panelists will also address the implementation of transit elements in complete streets and the connection between transit and road planning.

Moderator
Okaloosa County Commissioner and O-W TPO Chair
Nathan Boyles

Randy DeShazo
Tampa Bay RPC

Tyrone Parker
Okaloosa County Transit Manager

Artie White
Principal Planner Tallahassee-Leon Planning Department

DeWayne Carver, AICP
Complete Streets Program Manager FDOT
Making bicycling and walking safe and convenient are keys to improving public health, reducing traffic congestion, and improving both air quality and quality of life. A dynamic panel of professionals will examine challenges faced by cyclists and pedestrians, share success stories, and explore ways to build better bicycle and pedestrian-friendly communities throughout the state.

Technology and transportation play a significant role in the tourism industry. Join panelists in discussing how cutting-edge technology and transportation can aid in the advancement of the tourism industry as they share how other tourist communities have successfully implemented emerging technologies to boost their economies.
**Transportation Funding Sources**

Financial support is critical to a stable infrastructure. Transportation industry professionals and national organizations aimed at cultivating key partnerships for funding will address this multi-faceted topic that involves innovation and collaboration. This panel will also highlight how a small community can leverage local assets and partnerships for large funding opportunities.

**Environmental Protection in Transportation Planning**

The sky is the limit for renewable resources and sustainability and efficiency are currently at the forefront of policy decisions and planning priorities. Panelists will explore environmental aspects of transportation planning that are key to protecting communities and ensuring equity.

**Moderator**

Pamn Henderson

*Mayor of Callaway and Bay County TPO Chair*

**Moderator**

Robert Carroll

*Bay County Commissioner and Bay County TPO Vice Chair*

**Panelists**

- Maria Showalter: FDOT
- Mark Reichert: Administrator for Metropolitan Planning FDOT
- Chad Christian: Engineer, City of Foley
- Jim Roberts: Public Information ECUA
- Britney Moore: Florida Greenways and Trails
- Dave Robau: National Energy USA
Celebrate! at the Emerald Coast Beach Party featuring live music and a WFRPC surprise.

Please join us on the Beachfront Deck*
6:30 - 10 p.m.
7 - Official welcome
8 - Special presentation

*weather contingency location ballroom

Attire: Casual
MOVING FORWARD: Hurricane Michael Regional Recovery

Disaster recovery involves immense coordination of policies, tools, people, and procedures. Ensuring the ability to enable a recovery or continuation of vital technology infrastructure and systems following a natural or human-induced disaster is imperative, multi-faceted, time-sensitive, and complex. Hurricane Michael recently devastated the easternmost part of the WFRPC region. This special panel will examine the local and regional impacts of the event as well as discuss future planning and restoration for northwest Florida.

It is with deep sorrow that we dedicate the final portion of the Emerald Coast Transportation Symposium to those who lost their lives in Hurricane Michael.

It is with renewed strength, in their honor, that we forge ahead, embracing the camaraderie often discovered in such loss.

It is with unending hope, witnessed in those who have risen to the occasion, displaying selflessness, untiring commitment, and heroic works, both immediate and ongoing, that we, too, rise to meet the challenges set before us, to heal our region, communities, and citizens.

It is with unswerving faith in the goodness of our fellow citizens that we join together to sort through the debris and the pain, so that we may discover the path to restoration and wholeness.

Thank you to all who are helping us realize recovery.
Ideas transform communities

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Featured Project: FDOT D1, I-75 at University Parkway Diverging Diamond Interchange, Sarasota, FL (winner of ACEC State Grand, Outstanding Major Project and National Recognition awards; FTBA Best in Construction - Interchange; and Road and Bridges Top 10 Roads - #7)
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REMI’s Chris Judson will be leading a breakout panel at 10:30am 2/25
REMI is pleased to support the Emerald Coast Transportation Symposium 2019 and transportation professionals everywhere.

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Visit navyfederal.org for a complete list of the nine gulf area branches.

Promoting resilience

In April 2014, two feet of rain fell in a single day along the Emerald Coast. Drivers were stranded, homeowners took shelter, and our transportation infrastructure was severely damaged.

In response, Mott MacDonald provided immediate support for the Florida Department of Transportation to repair and reinforce the roadway, embankment slopes, and drainage system on US 90 along the Escambia Bay to better weather future storms.

Learn more at mottmac.com
West Florida Regional Planning Council wishes to acknowledge the following partners and stakeholders who ensure quality and timely transportation planning in our region. We are grateful for:

- the diligent insight of our elected officials who faithfully serve on the TPO boards
- the skilled professionals who serve on the Technical Coordinating Committees
- the devoted community members who comprise the Citizens’ Advisory Committees

We also wish to acknowledge the consistent support and institutional knowledge of ALDOT and FDOT, especially recognizing the liaisons for the Florida-Alabama, Okaloosa-Walton, and Bay County TPOs:

Vince Beebe  
Bryant Paulk  
Christy Johnson  
Donna Green

How can we identify improvements needed to safely and efficiently move people and goods across all modes of transportation?

The answer is: **We walk the walk.**

East Cervantes Street in Pensacola has its challenges when it comes to mobility. In an effort to provide innovative solutions that integrated the needs and wants of the community, we needed to walk the walk. We sent transportation planners out on the street to assess and identify the challenges and barriers to mobility.

And through concentrated community engagement, we came up with creative solutions that will increase multi-modal mobility throughout the corridor.

STREET SMART
Thank you for joining us for the Emerald Coast Transportation Symposium and being an integral part of our mission to preserve and enhance the quality of life in northwest Florida.