

## **APA FLORIDA 2022 LEGISLATIVE MISSION, GUIDING PRINCIPLES, and POLICY POSITIONS**

*The American Planning Association (APA) and its professional institute, the American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP), are organized to advance the art and science of planning and to foster the activity of planning – physical, economic, and social – at the local, regional, state, and national levels. The objective of the Association is to encourage planning efforts that will contribute to the public well-being by creating communities and environments that meet the needs of people and of society more equitably and effectively, as well as meeting the challenges engendered by our changing society, population, economy, and environment.*

*The Florida Chapter of the American Planning Association (APA Florida) serves APA members in the state and is the state-level resource for professional development and networking. The Chapter provides members the opportunity to share experiences with colleagues and to broaden perspectives. The Chapter holds an annual conference, educational workshops and professional development seminars, and AICP exam preparation courses, as well as provides information through a variety of communication tools. APA Florida also conducts legislative programs, sponsors training workshops, conducts an awards program, provides input to various elected officials, and provides public information to and about the planning profession. APA Florida collaborates with other professional organizations for education and interdisciplinary best practices.*

*APA Florida's Legislative Program and Positions represent a general consensus of the Chapter's views on the diverse areas of interest found in professional planning related to the State's annual Legislative Session. Developed over time, there is a consistency over the years intended to offer background and guidance as issues evolve, emerge or change on an annual basis. The Program is adopted by the members as part of the annual members meeting during APA Florida's Annual Conference. This ensures regular updates and timely support. It is regularly reviewed and updated by the Chapter's Legislative Policy Committee (LPC), made up of representatives of each local Section and numerous at-large appointments ensuring depth and breadth of expertise. The LPC submits the Program for review to APA Florida's elected Executive Committee before the annual meeting, where it is adopted as is or with amendments. General members unable to attend the annual meeting may vote on it by proxy.*

*The Guiding Principles are intended as a tool for any APA Florida member to use articulating APA Florida's position to one of their Legislators. It can also simplify a member's focus and foster the use of APA Florida's positions to communicate on issues arising before local and regional decision-makers. This format has been successful in broadening APA Florida's impact and increasing its effectiveness, as the Chapter works with its Sections to expand the planning constituency through participating in the legislative process.*

*The Policy Positions assist and guide members, the Executive Committee, the Legislative Representative and the Chapter Office in allocating time and resources when responding to and prioritizing the overwhelming volume of issues that arise during the annual 60-day Legislative Session. It enables the APA Florida leadership to refine and adapt the Chapter's legislative response to meet its most pressing needs and those of the profession. It further benefits the Executive Committee and Legislative Policy Committee, which convene on a year-round basis, in being able to articulate a stand on issues between annual meetings.*

## LEGISLATIVE MISSION

The Florida Chapter of the American Planning Association (APA Florida) provides statewide leadership in developing equitable, vibrant, and sustainable communities by promoting excellence in planning, providing professional development for its members, serving as the state's collective technical resource, building partnerships, and working to protect and enhance the natural and built environments through a strong public affairs and advocacy program.

## GUIDING PRINCIPLES

*APA Florida* is committed to and supports policies, programs, funding, and legislation that:

- Create an **integrated and coordinated planning system** with clearly defined roles across all levels of government that reflects the long-standing commitment to growth management and is subject to judicial oversight and citizen input;
- Create **resilient and sustainable communities** through proper planning that focuses on sustainable resource management practices;
- Encourage using **appropriate techniques** that foster economic development, create jobs, and promote a healthy statewide economy;
- Assure access to traditional and innovative funding mechanisms to **fully fund** existing and future infrastructure needs;
- Provide **equal access** to safe, dynamic, equitable, convenient, attractive and healthy environments with employment and economic opportunities, friendly neighborhoods, and education, recreation, and personal growth opportunities for all generations;
- Strengthen, improve and integrate current planning processes consistent with Florida's long-standing **commitment to growth management**, sustainable economic development, and healthy communities;
- **Balance public and private sector perspectives** in state, regional and local planning, policy development and decision-making that does not preempt local government authority;
- Anticipate long-range **land and resource management** that conserves, protects, and enhances the state's natural resources;
- Effectively integrate the siting and planning of significant land uses with **greater public/private cooperation** and accountability;
- Provide open, collaborative, **meaningful and responsible citizen participation** and citizen standing and emphasizes dispute resolution alternatives as a preferred option to litigation; and
- Respect **local land use authority** and only pre-empt local regulation when there is a compelling state interest or need for statewide coordination.

## POLICY POSITIONS<sup>1</sup>

- **Adequate Public Facilities:** APA Florida supports programs that ensure that the impacts to public infrastructure and facilities (in particular, schools, transportation, health care, water and wastewater) that occur as a result of new development are adequately mitigated in a timely and financially feasible manner and that the construction of infrastructure is compatible with the character of the local community. APA Florida supports revisions to Florida's growth management laws, provided the revisions assure accountability to the public and a dedicated, recurring source of funding for mitigation.
- **Affordable/Workforce Housing:** Shelter is a basic human need. APA Florida supports efforts to identify and remove regulatory, social and economic barriers to housing affordability for working families, elders, children, and people with disabilities. In order to increase the supply of safe, quality affordable housing for all, APA Florida supports efforts of public and private housing partners to develop and implement incentive strategies, including fully funding the Sadowski State and Local Housing Trust Fund.
- **Agriculture & Food Systems:** APA Florida supports programs designed to ensure the ongoing viability of agriculture in communities and the expansion of new opportunities for local and regional food systems and urban agriculture, such as community gardens, farmers markets, local produce stands, small food processors and food processing spaces.
- **Annexation:** APA Florida supports annexation policies or legislation that provide coordinated land use planning and efficient provision of infrastructure and services between cities and counties.
- **Brownfields:** APA Florida supports funding to provide sufficient additional tax credits and other incentives to ensure the continued success of Florida's Brownfield Programs in the future. Brownfields are abandoned, idled, or underused industrial and commercial properties where expansion, reuse, or redevelopment may be complicated by real or perceived environmental contamination.
- **Carbon Sequestration/Credits:** APA Florida supports the promotion of carbon sequestration and a carbon credit system, through the use of agriculture, silviculture, urban forestry practices and the continued protection of natural systems, and the implementation of cap-and-trade and other methods of achieving GHG reduction targets, which create a market for carbon credits. To promote Florida as a desirable location for investment by institutional investors and for economic development, APA Florida supports laws, regulations, and policies that reward companies for implementing programs that reduce energy use in their supply chain, invest in energy efficiencies, voluntarily report their carbon emissions that can be independently verified, and have internal practices that incentivize emission reductions.
- **Citizen Standing:** APA Florida supports the rights of citizens to meaningfully participate in the planning process and will oppose proposals to weaken citizen standing, as public participation is fundamental to an effective growth management process. Judicial decisions impacting citizen standing should be reviewed periodically to consider whether legislative amendments are necessary. APA Florida further supports the adoption and implementation of appropriate review standards to ensure a

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<sup>1</sup> The Chapter's key position statements are listed below in alphabetical order, not in order of priority.

consistent and fair development review process for all participants in order to minimize the potential for disputes, and the utilization of dispute resolution alternatives as a preferred method to reduce litigation.

- **Climate Change:** APA Florida supports a growth management system at the state, regional and local level which recognizes and provides plans, incentives, standards, and regulations that address climate change adaptation and mitigation. APA Florida supports policies and programs, including APA's Climate Change Policy Guide, that will reduce long-term risk, promote economic development and sustainability, and provide transparent disclosure of the risk associated with climate change. APA Florida also supports state, regional and local policies, plans and safe development practices that promote sustainable Disaster Resistant Communities as a component of climate change resilience. Adaptation to climate change and mitigation of its impacts is important for the State's overall economy and the jobs that support it, business investments, infrastructure, the health of its people, and the conservation of its natural resources and protection of its natural amenities.
- **Community Engagement:** APA Florida strongly supports citizen access and public input to the planning process and is committed to improving citizen involvement. APA Florida supports an open and collaborative planning process that encourages meaningful citizen participation and environmental justice through reasonable notice, open public records and accessibility to all stages of the planning process, as well as promoting the use of citizen participation best practices at the local level.
- **Community Redevelopment:** APA Florida supports initiatives that promote quality urban development and redevelopment within our cities, especially new statutory and regulatory incentives for projects that involve infill development, job creation, and economic development. Infill development and redevelopment of blighted areas and of dilapidated or abandoned properties supports economic development and renewed essential services and infrastructure to improve the quality of life in our communities.
  - APA Florida also supports appropriate statutory and regulatory incentives to improve the form and pattern of development of areas with extensive antiquated and undeveloped subdivisions.
  - APA Florida supports legislation that preserves the home rule powers of local governments to create and effectively use community redevelopment agencies to redevelop and revitalize their declining areas, including the use of tax increment financing.
  - APA Florida supports local control and disposition of any disputes between local governments over the use of such agencies and financing and, to that end, supports current mechanisms for cities and counties to negotiate, establish, operate, and fund Community Redevelopment Agencies.
- **Economic Development:** APA Florida supports the attraction, development, and expansion of economically diverse mixed land uses to expand state and local economic bases and high-quality employment opportunities to be sustainable and resilient communities. To do so, all levels of government should ensure:
  - availability of appropriately entitled land and statewide economic development assistance and other incentives, consistent with each region's adopted Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy;
  - adequate infrastructure;

- conservation of high value ecosystems, natural land areas, and coastlines that attract employers and tourists alike;
  - development design that promotes community resiliency and proactive pre-disaster planning to preserve public health, safety and welfare;
  - an appropriate mix of housing choices; and
  - the availability of affordable quality education and training.
- **Energy Policy:** APA Florida supports a State Energy Policy to meet the needs of the population of the State of Florida consistent with efficient conservation of natural resources, multi-modal transportation options, and flexible local land use planning programs that encourage a mix of uses. A statewide Energy Policy should provide incentives for renewable energy projects and programs that create jobs, redevelop existing buildings and infrastructure, attract and retain existing businesses, and encourage the location of new industries in Florida, without compromising the State’s natural resources. State, regional and local policies should encourage the manufacturing, distribution and use of alternative and renewable energy sources rather than methods such as hydraulic fracturing which significantly and negatively impact surface or sub-surface water and other environmental resources.
  - **Equity:** APA Florida supports statutes and rules that promote an “equity in all policies” approach to ensure inclusive, culturally-competent, and equitable planning in all Florida communities. APA Florida supports strategies that build access to opportunity for all, recognize and plan with diverse communities and their members, and acknowledge and take action to address inequity. APA Florida supports efforts to dismantle planning processes and techniques that result in systemic racism and other discriminatory practices to promote just, equitable, and inclusive communities.
  - **Everglades Restoration:** APA Florida supports Everglades Restoration and, to that end, encourages affected local governments to incorporate the needs of this restoration program into their land use decisions and comprehensive planning processes.
  - **Finance & Taxation:** APA Florida supports an equitable approach to finance and taxation that enables communities to adequately address local needs and priorities. APA Florida supports simplifying and stabilizing Florida’s state and local revenue structure to provide diverse and adequate fiscal resources to fully fund the existing and future infrastructure needs of the state on a continuing basis. APA Florida supports the re-examination of Florida’s tax system to address inequities in such areas as ad valorem taxation and sales tax exemptions. APA Florida supports the creation of local options for taxation that may be necessary to enable communities to finance local needs.
  - **Fiscally Sound Planning:** APA Florida supports comprehensive planning as an important foundation for economic development and job creation. These goals can only be realized if community infrastructure needs are fully funded. Local governments should be able to pursue flexible state and local option revenue sources to meet these important goals.
  - **Florida Forever Act:** APA Florida is a member of the Florida Forever Coalition and supports funding for the Florida Forever Act. Furthermore, APA Florida opposes any diversion of funds from this program for other uses. APA Florida supports innovative land protection acquisition strategies.

- **Funding:** Effective planning and growth management requires adequate funding to address the challenges of Florida's growth. APA Florida supports provision of adequate funding for sound planning and growth management capabilities at all levels of government, with State Government being of primary importance as a model for regional and local efforts.
- **Governmental Roles:** APA Florida supports adjusting governmental roles to respect the capabilities of local and regional entities to implement the vision of individual communities and meet the long-term needs of the public at large. Recognizing that State and local governments, Regional Planning Councils, and other governmental entities each play vital roles in managing growth, APA Florida supports legislative authority to support local planning and zoning options, as operating within the state framework is preferable to legislative mandate.
- **Hazard Mitigation:** APA Florida supports the integration of hazard mitigation principles into the local comprehensive planning process, including pre-disaster resilience and post-disaster redevelopment planning for both coastal and inland communities.
- **Healthy Communities:** APA Florida recognizes the positive and negative health impacts the built environment has on the people that live, work, and play there. To that end, APA Florida supports policies and programs at all government levels that:
  - encourage a holistic, multi-disciplinary approach to planning, redeveloping, and retrofitting communities that promotes physical activities and active transportation for all ages;
  - provide for management of health risks and public health emergencies to prepare for and be resilient to natural and manmade negative health impacts;
  - preserve and promote public health, safety, welfare, and social justice;
  - measure and monitor community health indicators, using the best available information, such as rates of obesity, diabetes, heart disease, regular exercise, and consumption of fresh fruits and vegetables;
  - forge collaboration of planners with public health officials, public and civic organizations, and private business to improve community health efforts;
  - promote community participation in the provision of and access to open space and adequate recreational services for all ages;
  - improve access to healthy, nutritious foods, identify areas prone to food deserts, resolve the impetus for food deserts, and eliminate food deserts; and,
  - promote greater physical activity among the population in both scheduled or non-scheduled opportunities.
- **Impact/Mobility Fees:** APA Florida supports the ability of local governments to establish a system of impact fees based on local needs in accordance with existing case law. APA Florida supports a structure of impact fees, or mobility fees based on a locally adopted mobility plan, as funding for additional capacity needs to address the impacts created by new development. The fee payment amount should ensure that developers are not charged twice for the same improvement; that total long-term costs are considered; and that public subsidies, investments or costs to be borne by others are transparent.
- **Infrastructure Planning:** APA Florida supports intergovernmental coordination to secure and allocate scarce resources for the construction of infrastructure such as roads, bridges, transit systems,

trails and sidewalks, stormwater and wastewater reuse systems, schools and related infrastructure, more efficient capital improvements planning, governmental and public-private partnerships, and shared use of systems. Additionally, APA Florida supports the application of a wide range of funding tools including bonding, grants, tax increment financing, and matching appropriation from multiple governmental levels to satisfy the demand for infrastructure maintenance and improvements.

- **Intergovernmental and Regional Coordination:** APA Florida supports multiple approaches to ensure that communities and agencies work with outside partners so that potential development impacts and collaborative opportunities can be assessed regionally.
  - APA Florida advocates revisions to growth management law(s) that will assure that the intent of the statute regarding regional review and intergovernmental coordination is maintained as a requirement under Chapter 380.06 FS and Chapter 163.3177 5 (4)(a) F.S.
  - APA Florida supports implementation of a comprehensive planning process that will address regional and intergovernmental impacts of major development in order to understand and plan for the regional and extra-jurisdictional impacts of development in order to maintain and enhance a strong Florida economy and a sound Florida environment.
  - APA Florida supports efforts to minimize unintended and unmitigated extra-jurisdictional impacts and to ensure that the mitigation of impacts occur in a timely manner. Such efforts could be through historically significant processes such as the Development of Regional Impact programs, or the newer process such as Sector Planning, but should be coordinated at all levels and for all sizes of development exhibiting significant impacts across jurisdictional boundaries.
  - APA Florida supports growth management processes that will adequately serve to ensure that developments are sufficiently reviewed for their regional impacts to ensure necessary intergovernmental coordination for the mitigation of regional impacts.
- **Integrated Transportation and Land Use Planning:** APA Florida supports planning and development in communities that is not singularly focused but incorporates consideration of walkable, mixed-use projects to create housing and transportation choices. These choices would lower household costs and reduce travel demand, provide multimodal transportation systems to serve all users safely, create sustainable infrastructure to minimize future maintenance and replacement costs, and anticipate impacts that could occur related to climate change. APA Florida supports and advocates statutes and rules, including close coordination of MPOs, transit, transportation authorities, FDOT and local governments, to provide for the integration of land use and transportation planning. APA Florida further supports the development and implementation of context-sensitive transportation solutions appropriate to the communities they serve.
- **Land Acquisition Trust Fund:** APA Florida supports an implementation program for the 2014 Land Acquisition Trust Fund constitutional amendment which will maintain a significant, dedicated stream of funding for the acquisition and improvement of land, water areas, and related property interests. APA Florida believes that such a program should be a priority for the Legislature's expenditure of Land Acquisition Trust Fund, and related monies, and that any expenditure which might undermine

public support for the preservation goals of this constitutional amendment should not be approved. APA Florida supports land acquisition should be at or greater than the historic (~\$300 million/year) funding level of the previous Florida Forever program. APA Florida supports use of Trust Fund monies to be spent on land management, restoration of natural systems, and the enhancement of public access or recreational enjoyment of conservation lands to improve water quality, augmentation of land acquisition, protection of vital estuarine and terrestrial habitat, and to complement the management of existing public lands.

- **Land Use Board of Appeals:** APA Florida supports the creation of a Land Use Board of Appeals as an efficient and expert means to settle disputes on certain local or state land use decisions in place of the circuit court. APA Florida believes such a Board could be an appointed panel of attorneys and related professionals with expertise in land use matters and could be established either on a regional basis or statewide basis.
- **Military Installations:** APA Florida supports policies and legislation that provide for the viability and continued presence of military installations within the State, protect against incompatible land uses, which may affect vital military missions, and provide for the continuity of operations while adequately protecting private property rights and community visions. To further this aim, APA Florida supports the creation of a voluntary, willing seller state land acquisition program and fund for the purchase of buffers. In addition, APA Florida promotes cooperation and open communications between military installations, local governments and the general public, including but not limited to the collaborative exchange of information regarding official plans and programs.
- **Plan Amendment Review Process:** APA Florida continues to support maintaining a streamlined plan amendment review process that provides both meaningful input and enforcement on issues related to important regional and state interests, and, possibly, to assign certain review duties to the regional level. APA Florida also supports and advocates that the term “important regional and state interests” be defined by statute or that existing statutes be amended to include criteria for defining such interests and that the state land planning agency be required to undertake rulemaking to define such interests.
- **Preemption of Local Government Authority:** APA Florida supports local government authority to fund and implement sound planning practices and opposes preemption or incremental erosion of local planning, zoning, regulatory and taxing authority, as this substantially diminishes the ability of local governments to carry out comprehensive planning activities.
- **Private Property Rights:** APA supports a citizen’s right to use their property in accordance with applicable laws, to the extent there are no negative impacts to the public, neighboring properties or surrounding community or such impacts are adequately mitigated. APA supports the local government’s responsibility to protect the public interest, and their obligation to balance protection of the rights of both property owners and users or developers of property within their jurisdictions. To that end, APA Florida supports legislation that upholds the following principles:
  - **Eminent Domain.** APA Florida supports the balancing of public interests with private property rights and adherence to a thorough, open and transparent planning process before invoking the use of eminent domain.

- ***Inverse Condemnation and Bert Harris Act.*** APA Florida supports the protection and exercise of private property rights but opposes any expansion of existing statutory rights of compensation for regulatory impacts to property rights.
- ***Comprehensive Planning.*** APA Florida supports the continued balancing of the private property rights of those who seek to make use of or modify their properties with the rights of those who may be affected by the impacts of those uses or modifications in comprehensive planning and zoning decisions, with due consideration for the public interest.
- **Referenda for Comprehensive Planning:** APA Florida supports local government authority to fund and implement sound planning practices and opposes preemption of this authority by referenda. APA Florida believes the use of referenda is neither an effective growth management tool nor a means for effective citizen participation in the community planning process.
- **Regional Boundaries:** APA Florida supports improved regional integrated planning for jobs creation and economic development, integrated and efficient transportation systems, and environmental resource management to create a more efficient and strategic selection of infrastructure improvements and the associated allocation of fiscal resources. APA Florida supports existing regional jurisdictional boundaries unless a compelling rationale can be demonstrated for changing such boundaries, such as achieving more effective regional governing structures or intergovernmental coordination. APA Florida supports coordination and cooperation among Florida’s regional entities accomplished under the existing structure, and supports the Legislature in promoting regional cooperation by supporting and funding regional visioning and regional planning initiatives.
- **Regional Planning:** APA Florida supports expanding the role of Regional Planning Councils (RPCs) to promote enhanced regional visioning and planning, and better address regional needs. APA Florida encourages and supports efforts that give more authority to Regional Planning Councils along with the funding necessary to support their duties and responsibilities.
- **Resilience:** APA Florida supports a growth management system at the state, regional, and local levels which recognizes and provides plans, incentives, standards, and regulations that address resilient planning and development practices. APA Florida supports an integrated planning and emergency management system that increases resilience such as post-disaster recovery plans, adaptation action areas, adaptation planting plans or other means of restoring natural features to mitigate the effects hazards may have on our communities. To promote resilience, APA Florida recommends:
  - Infrastructure that can withstand natural hazards and increasing risks of climate change;
  - Development patterns that occur away from high hazard areas;
  - Threatened or vulnerable facilities relocated to safer areas;
  - Protected environmental systems that assist in hazard mitigation;
  - Streamlined Economic Recovery Programs;
  - Regional plans for recovery and redevelopment; and
  - Private and public pre-disaster planning initiatives that seek to provide public health, safety and welfare responses for assistance during and after catastrophic events.

- **Rural Lands:** APA Florida supports and advocates sustainable planning for rural lands requiring long-range efforts for sustainability, economic diversification, and protection of scenic, natural, and environmentally significant areas to:
  - protect environmentally valuable lands and resources;
  - maintain and enhance the economic viability of agricultural and other predominantly rural land uses;
  - promote economic diversification while reducing premature urban conversion;
  - allow limited future development in appropriate locations using a compact mixed-use form that ensures compatibility with surrounding rural lands; and
  - provide cost-efficient delivery of public facilities and services.

APA Florida also supports the continued funding of state land acquisition and the use of rural land programs, conservation easements and other incentive-based initiatives to preserve agriculture and rural lands and to help plan for future growth outside urban areas. APA Florida supports the continued funding of state land acquisition and the use of rural land programs, conservation easements and other incentive-based initiatives to preserve agriculture and rural lands and to help plan for future growth outside urban areas.

- **Schools:** APA Florida supports programs that coordinate planning and intergovernmental coordination between state, local governments, and school districts for school siting, construction and supporting infrastructure, including support for remote education options where appropriate. APA Florida encourages this planning and coordination with an emphasis on sharing data, adaptively reusing existing facilities, being proactive in the acquisition of land and construction of schools, and expanding new funding sources.
- **Sound Planning:** APA Florida supports a fully-funded, integrated state growth management program established in state statutes and rules and adequate funding to prepare and implement local comprehensive plans and regional policy plans. APA Florida supports statutory changes which promote sustainability and resiliency planning initiatives seeking proactive planning efforts supporting public health, safety and welfare in local communities to remain economic viability, environmental integrity, and social equity in our communities. APA Florida further supports policies which strengthen, improve and integrate current planning processes without sacrificing accountability on the local, regional and state scale.
- **State Plan:** APA Florida supports efforts to insure the State Comprehensive Plan is an integral component of Florida’s planning and growth management policy framework, and supports restructuring of this long-standing statute (Chapter 187, F.S.) to link the plan to the state budget in accordance with Article III, Section 19(h) of the Florida Constitution, officially designating it as the “state planning document” and clearly delineating state level priorities, within and beyond the growth management realm.
- **State Priority Interests:** APA Florida believes that ‘state priority interests’ should be compelling, clearly defined and designated for long-term planning purposes. (See Plan Amendment Review Process above.)

- **Sustainability:** APA Florida supports the incorporation of new community and redevelopment practices, standards, policy regulations, and measurable outcomes that balance the impact of the built environment on natural ecosystems, minimizes impacts to surrounding rural lands or water bodies, enhances natural biodiversity, and incorporates wise use of all resources to provide compatible infrastructure and services. APA Florida strongly encourages and supports using a combination of incentives for sustainable and livable communities and regulatory frameworks to mitigate problems caused by climate change and wasteful energy consumption, as well as fostering the redevelopment and revitalization of urban areas, local hazard mitigation, sustainability action plans, and proactive post-disaster redevelopment planning.
  
- **Transportation:** APA Florida supports provision of safe multimodal transportation systems, with a diversity of modal choices with balanced emphasis on the pedestrian, bicycle, automobile, freight, and public transit as the best strategy to serving the public need for comprehensive accessibility and mobility solutions and congestion reduction.
  - APA Florida supports planning and development in communities that is not singularly focused but incorporates consideration of walkable, mixed-use projects to create housing and transportation choices that lower household costs and reduce travel demand, multimodal transportation systems to serve all users safely, sustainable infrastructure to minimize future maintenance and replacement costs, and the anticipation of the impacts that could occur related to climate change.
  
  - APA Florida supports sustainable economic development and job creation based on an efficient, interconnected, multi-modal network of transportation facilities including port, waterway, aviation, rail, highways, transit, trails, bicycle, and pedestrian modes of transportation.
  
  - APA Florida supports the application of innovative approaches and growth management practices in all facets of public infrastructure planning, funding and construction, including improved measures to mitigate development impacts, implementation of accessibility and multi-modal level of service standards, and the application of new and approved technologies to be used to identify vehicle miles traveled versus trip production. APA Florida supports reduction of parking requirements and incentives for location efficiency that result in affordable transit-oriented development that fits the context of the community.
  
  - APA Florida recognizes that the safety and security of the transportation system is of utmost importance for all users and supports the implementation of strategies that reduce the number of crashes, particularly those of the most vulnerable, including pedestrians and bicyclists.
  
  - APA Florida supports the adopted “Complete Streets” and “Vision Zero” policies of the Florida Department of Transportation and the importance that is placed on context sensitive design to promote mobility for people and goods, and for coordinated transportation and land use initiatives that promote transportation modal choice and reduce vehicle miles traveled. APA Florida supports and advocates statutes and rules, including close coordination of MPOs, transit, transportation authorities, FDOT and local governments, to provide for the integration of land use and transportation planning.

- APA Florida supports an increased allocation of state and federal funding for projects and programs that will advance innovation to support and sustain the use of public transportation in all its forms, increase the resources devoted to existing local and regional public transportation properties, improve the connectivity of our neighborhoods to transit services and enhance the non-motorized elements of the transportation infrastructure. APA Florida supports funding, whether it is public, private or an appropriate public/private partnership (P3) and whether it is on a statewide or local level, for new transportation initiatives, such as transit and rail construction and re-use of existing transportation rights-of-way and infrastructure. APA Florida requests additional State resources that enhance the safe and efficient movement of goods that minimize impacts to communities and implement investments in Freight Logistics Zones developed in compliance with State statutes. APA Florida requests additional State resources that support research and development of autonomous, connected, electric and shared-vehicles and capture the economic benefits of these systems and standards for the incorporation of necessary infrastructure in the planning of new and retrofitted corridors. APA Florida supports continued local government authority to regulate micro-mobility usage (including electric scooters and bike share infrastructure) on streets or trails separate from the State Highway System.
- APA Florida supports legislation and policies that align statewide modal transportation plans and that increase the State's role in the planning, funding, implementation and operations of passenger rail and transit services in existing and future corridors to provide viable options for intercity travel and encourage private investment in the necessary infrastructure and lands adjacent to existing and planned passenger stations. APA supports the inclusion of intercity mass transportation as a critical component of any managed lane corridor planning and implementation developed by the Florida Department of Transportation in consultation with local and regional stakeholders, including transit agencies. APA supports the principle that any new limited-access expressway/highway corridors planned and funded must be multi-modal, be developed based on policies that discourage inefficient and unsustainable land use patterns, and should not re-allocate existing funding sources from local transportation safety and multi-modal needs. APA Florida also supports local and regional government authority, and the formation of new regional authorities, to manage, fund and implement recurring revenue sources for the ongoing operations and development of multi-modal transportation systems.
- **Trust Funds:** APA Florida supports the integrity of all Trust Funds for their stated use.
- **Urban Areas:** APA Florida supports statutory and regulatory incentives, policies, and programs that:
  - encourage development and redevelopment of underutilized land to maximize the use of existing infrastructure, including transportation facilities, utilities, public safety resources, parks, schools and other community facilities;
  - promote quality development and redevelopment projects that involve infill development, job creation, and economic development;
  - improve the form and pattern of development of areas with extensive antiquated and undeveloped subdivisions;

- preserve the home rule powers of local governments to create and effectively use community redevelopment agencies to redevelop and revitalize their declining areas, including the use of tax increment financing; and
- **Water Resource Protection:** APA Florida supports planning and funding efforts which seek to conserve water resources; provide for an adequate supply of water resources; protect Waters of the State for use by all citizens of the state, and not allow them to become a privately held, property-based right. APA Florida further supports the removal of septic tanks and other pollutant sources near springs, estuaries and other sensitive environmental areas.

*(Approved at Annual Meeting on August 31, 2021)*