

Agenda Item: 2.a

Meeting Date: September 1, 2026

MEMORANDUM

To: City Commission

Through:

From: Nicole Delfino

Date: 2026-09-01

Subject: Forward Pinellas update on tri-county MPO Merger

Presenter(s): Whit Blanton, Forward Pinellas

Staff Recommendation: Informational presentation

Strategic Themes: Multi-modal Transit

Boards & Committees: N/A

Budget Impact: N/A

Past Action: On September 17, 2024, the City Commission approved the Interlocal Agreement with Forward Pinellas and the Reapportionment Plan.

Next Action: Review Final Apportionment Plan for the MPO Merger

Attachments: [A. 2026 MPO Update by Forward Pinellas.pdf](#)

Background: During the 2023 Legislative Session, state legislators proposed and passed a bill amending transportation legislation. Specifically, the enacted bill provided for: increased coordination and consultation between Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs); prohibiting an MPO from performing project production or delivery for capital improvement projects on the SHS; revising various provisions to apply to contiguous urbanized metropolitan areas; requiring certain MPOs to consider proportional representation of the area's population when selecting technical advisory committee membership; abolishing the Chairs Coordinating Committee and requiring the MPOs serving specified counties to submit a feasibility report by December 31, 2023, exploring the benefits, costs, and process of consolidation into a single MPO serving the contiguous urbanized area, with specified goals; and revises provisions relating to the MPO Advisory Council.

In response to state legislation in the 2023 Florida Legislative Session, the MPOs representing Hillsborough, Pasco, and Pinellas counties jointly submitted a report, including a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), to the Legislature and the Governor's Office outlining the process for creating a single metropolitan planning organization serving those three counties. Work with the three counties Planning Organizations have been taking place to understand how the combined MPO Board would be represented.

Forward Pinellas is providing an update to the City of Dunedin City Commission on September 1, 2026 on the status of the merger and the draft apportionment plan.