



26 authority's board receives a distribution generally in  
27 proportion to each entity's contribution to the acquisition of  
28 the assets.

29 Section 3. Paragraph (i) of subsection (6) of section  
30 339.175, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

31 339.175 Metropolitan planning organization.—

32 (6) POWERS, DUTIES, AND RESPONSIBILITIES.—The powers,  
33 privileges, and authority of an M.P.O. are those specified in  
34 this section or incorporated in an interlocal agreement  
35 authorized under s. 163.01. Each M.P.O. shall perform all acts  
36 required by federal or state laws or rules, now and subsequently  
37 applicable, which are necessary to qualify for federal aid. It  
38 is the intent of this section that each M.P.O. shall be involved  
39 in the planning and programming of transportation facilities,  
40 including, but not limited to, airports, intercity and high-  
41 speed rail lines, seaports, and intermodal facilities, to the  
42 extent permitted by state or federal law.

43 ~~(i) There is created the Chairs Coordinating Committee,~~  
44 ~~composed of the M.P.O.'s serving Citrus, Hernando, Hillsborough,~~  
45 ~~Manatee, Pasco, Pinellas, Polk, and Sarasota Counties. The~~  
46 ~~committee must, at a minimum:~~

47 ~~1. Coordinate transportation projects deemed to be~~  
48 ~~regionally significant by the committee.~~

49 ~~2. Review the impact of regionally significant land use~~  
50 ~~decisions on the region.~~

51 ~~3. Review all proposed regionally significant~~  
 52 ~~transportation projects in the respective transportation~~  
 53 ~~improvement programs which affect more than one of the M.P.O.'s~~  
 54 ~~represented on the committee.~~

55 ~~4. Institute a conflict resolution process to address any~~  
 56 ~~conflict that may arise in the planning and programming of such~~  
 57 ~~regionally significant projects.~~

58 Section 4. Paragraph (b) of subsection (3) of section  
 59 341.302, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

60 341.302 Rail program; duties and responsibilities of the  
 61 department.—The department, in conjunction with other  
 62 governmental entities, including the rail enterprise and the  
 63 private sector, shall develop and implement a rail program of  
 64 statewide application designed to ensure the proper maintenance,  
 65 safety, revitalization, and expansion of the rail system to  
 66 assure its continued and increased availability to respond to  
 67 statewide mobility needs. Within the resources provided pursuant  
 68 to chapter 216, and as authorized under federal law, the  
 69 department shall:

70 (3) Develop and periodically update the rail system plan,  
 71 on the basis of an analysis of statewide transportation needs.

72 (b) In recognition of the department's role in the  
 73 enhancement of the state's rail system to improve freight and  
 74 passenger mobility, the department shall:

75 1. Work closely with all affected communities along an

76 impacted freight rail corridor to identify and address  
77 anticipated impacts associated with an increase in freight rail  
78 traffic due to implementation of passenger rail.

79 2. In coordination with the affected local governments and  
80 CSX Transportation, Inc., finalize all viable alternatives from  
81 the department's Rail Traffic Evaluation Study to identify and  
82 develop an alternative route for through freight rail traffic  
83 moving through Central Florida, including the counties of Polk  
84 and Hillsborough, which would address, to the extent  
85 practicable, the effects of commuter rail.

86 3. Provide technical assistance to a coalition of local  
87 governments in Central Florida, including the counties of  
88 Brevard, Citrus, Hernando, Hillsborough, Lake, Marion, Orange,  
89 Osceola, Pasco, Pinellas, Polk, Manatee, Sarasota, Seminole,  
90 Sumter, and Volusia, and the municipalities within those  
91 counties, to develop a regional rail system plan that addresses  
92 passenger and freight opportunities in the region, is consistent  
93 with the Florida Rail System Plan, and incorporates appropriate  
94 elements of ~~the Tampa Bay Area Regional Authority Master Plan,~~  
95 the Metroplan Orlando Regional Transit System Concept Plan,  
96 including the SunRail project, and the Florida Department of  
97 Transportation Alternate Rail Traffic Evaluation.

98 Section 5. This act shall take effect June 30, 2024.