

# WATER IS THE LIFEBLOOD OF FLORIDA

## TO MEET THIS CHALLENGE,

No area of infrastructure is more important to the prosperity of the State of Florida than its water resources. According to the Florida Office of Economic and Demographic Research, Florida will need more than \$136 Billion over the next 20 years to address its water resource protection and infrastructure needs. This figure, while staggering, does not include the projected funding needs for implementing adaptation strategies for inland and coastal flooding associated with climate change and sea level rise.

Florida needs a comprehensive framework for coordinating and prioritizing water project funding for, among other needs:



algal blooms



water conservation



marine resources/habitat/coral reef protection



water quality protection



minimum flows and levels



stormwater management



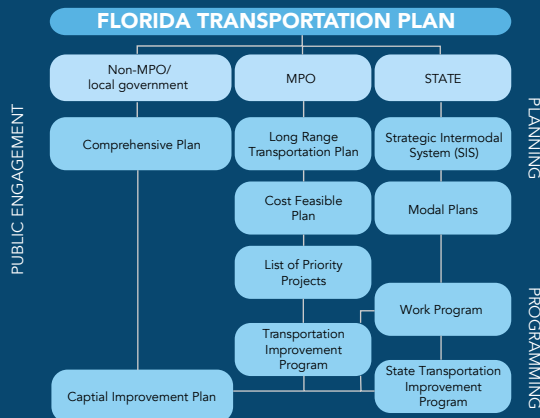
climate change adaptation and resiliency

# STRATEGIC PLANNING & STRUCTURE



## The Florida Association of Counties SUPPORTS:

- Creating a recurring five-year water-related work plan and statewide strategic plan.
- Increasing funding for local water infrastructure projects with direction for coordination of the various state/regional entities



- The State of Florida already has a successful framework for planning and delivering large scale transportation infrastructure projects under the Florida Transportation Plan, which includes a rolling Five-Year Work Plan.
- Water stakeholders should view this as viable model for planning, funding, and implementing critical water resource projects.

## FLORIDA MUST REPEAT ITS SUCCESS WITH SIMILAR STRUCTURE FOR WATER RESOURCES PLANNING & FUNDING

# A CONCEPT: FLORIDA WATER WORK PLAN & WATER POLICY COMMISSION (WPC)

- Establish similar planning structure as the Florida Transportation Plan for “All Things Water”
  - Water Quality, Water Supply, Ecosystem Restoration, Flood Control, Water Resources Management, and Regulatory Implementation
  - Delineate roles for State, Local, WMDs, & Private sector partners
  - Structure provides: Coordination, Predictability, Accountability
  - Outcomes focused
- Led by FDEP, the WPC is appointed by the Governor to coordinate Water Work Plan
- Underneath the WPC, a Strategic Water Policy Planning Committee provides recommendations from local governments and water management districts
  - Chaired by DEP Secretary
  - This group represents all stakeholders: State Agencies, WMDs, Local Governments, Industry, Water Utilities, Environmental Groups, and more
- The WPC reviews and approves the 5-year water work plan and statewide strategic plan



## Transportation Work Plan Strengths: A Comparison

- Strategically aligns investments with goals
- Collaboration promotes partnerships beyond jurisdictional boundaries eliminating barriers
- Provides sustainable & reliable funding
- Develops & retains a skilled workforce

## BUDGETS REFLECT OUR VALUES

# 1%

Water Infrastructure expenditures account for less than 1% of the entire state budget



Water Management Districts have had their revenue growth frozen for approximately 15 years leaving the state to supplement their expenditures in an amount that today surpasses the combined ad valorem revenues of the water management districts.