



TRANSPLEX 2007 Conference

Survey Results

Please rate each session you attended using the following scale:

5–Excellent 4–Above Average 3–Average 2–Below Average 1–Poor

	<u>5</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>Avg.</u>
Part 1: Purpose-Driven Plans: <i>Why it matters</i>	5	29	16	6		3.59
Plenary Part 2: The Best Laid Plans: <i>Moving plans from . . .</i>	14	23	17	1		3.87
Session 1: New Data Needs: <i>What are they and how can . . .</i>	6	8	5	2	1	3.73
Session 2: Transportation Funding: <i>The future of . . .</i>	3	14	6			3.87
Session 3: Community Livability: <i>Accommodating the . . .</i>	3	7	3			4.00
Session 4: Freight Demand and Planning in Florida	5	3				4.63
Session 5: Corridors: <i>Transforming Florida's . . .</i>	4	10	4	2		3.80
Session 6: Growth Management: <i>An update . . .</i>	4	13	3			4.05
Session 7: Public Information: <i>The other P3 . . .</i>	5	6	2			4.23
Session 8: Transportation and Health: <i>How well-thought-out . .</i>	4	3	2			4.22
Session 9: Strategic Intermodal System: <i>Keeping the SIS . . .</i>	1	4	13	3	1	3.05
Session 10: Transportation and Land Use: <i>New tools for . . .</i>	1	6	7	1		3.47
Session 11: Performance Monitoring: <i>Improving the practice . .</i>	4	10	4			4.00
Session 12: Innovations in Funding: <i>Case studies of . . .</i>	2	6	2			4.00
Session 13: More Than Illusions: <i>Establishing and . . .</i>	3	11	7	3	1	3.48
Session 14: Passenger Rail Transportation: <i>Success today . . .</i>	2	7	1			4.10
Session 15: Improving Transportation Safety: <i>A focus on . . .</i>	4	3	3			4.10
Session 16: Moving Information: <i>Sharing data across . . .</i>	4	6	2			4.17
Plenary Part 3: Holding Us Accountable: <i>Do we make the . . .</i>	14	16	16	2	1	3.82
Plenary Part 4: Planning in the Real World: <i>Translating plans .</i>	21	15	10	1		4.19

Do you have any suggestions for TRANSPLEX 2009? (i.e. session topics, format, location, length, theme)

- Everything was great! Also, certificates should be given to speakers.
- Length is about right – maybe 1.5 days would work too. Consider rotating location around the state.
- More sessions oriented to “lessons learned” and “how-to” advice for small and medium-sized cities.
- There are so many good sessions that I wanted to attend but they occurred at the same time. Next time, have more session opportunities in a 1-hour time frame instead of 1½ hrs. Also, 1½ hrs. is a long time to sit; people get sleepy and antsy. Shorter sessions are better.
- More national focus/perspective – how Florida compares to other states.
- Sessions on transit-related; multi-modal; coordinated-human service transportation plans; etc. Keep location central (Orlando). Length is good.
- Plenary sessions were too long – suggest more, smaller focused sessions.
- Good format. Good mix of various groups from multiple disciplines.
- More technical material presentations. Topics should address “last two years” and “next two years”. Where we have been and where we are going.
- Include on name tags what offices in FDOT a person is from and/or job title. The booklet explaining panelists background is great!
- Get a tentative headcount on proposed sessions, some had very low attendance but were great. Need any new, inventive, creative ideas even from other states, think tanks, authors of relevant books, possible flying cars or any futuristic possibilities thought provoking.
- Do repeat sessions that focus on the key strategic issues facing the state. Provide USB drives to participants that contain presentations and reference documents.
- The hotel choice needs to accommodate smoker as well as non-smokers. If the hotel has smoke-free rooms then pick a hotel that has balconies!
- More case studies of transportation success stories.
- Sessions on transit planning.
- Please continue the tracks on data sharing. Depending on preliminary participation, maybe FDOT could supplement some of the city/county players.
- Good format – just long enough – many stayed to the end. Maybe too many concurrent sessions. Some non-traditional sessions were not well attended and should have been – keep including them (health, interrelations for example).
- Add glossary of terms (e.g. DRI, STIP, HOV, RCI . . . as relevant to this group).
- Trying to find the session I wanted to attend was way more complicated than it should have been, nice diversity.
- Some topics have been covered at other meetings. Need to provide new information and topics. Need to pull in partners to participate in the conference – it was predominantly DOT.
- First plenary session was 2 hours. It was too long – 1½ hours is ok.
- The conference was very well done; speakers, venue, food, session topics were all above average.
- Orlando is a good location.

- Consider repeating some sessions. Several were very appealing, but ran concurrently.
- The location (hotel) was not up to par in many ways (prompt check-in, older facility with fewer elevator, etc.)
- Some of the PowerPoints had few or no pictures and some had fonts too small and/or too many words. Can you give presenters PowerPoint guidelines in the future? The bloopers reel was great!
- Same length as 2007.
- The reauthorization of SAFETEA-LU (or the status of it and what we should expect); vehicle miles traveled – Oregon example; improving roadway construction process (from PD&E to construction) to diminish the time it takes to build projects (especially at federal level); MPOs role – from capital improvement projects to system management approach).
- Include a section of sessions that deal with demand management techniques. Also, invite developers to 2009 and develop panels with topics that include their involvement – land use, etc.
- Transportation demand management. Not just your father's carpool anymore (congestion management) global warming and its implications on transportation – sustainable strategies for transportation.
- Location – have the next conference at a hotel on the beach.
- Invite local governments – they are a large part of the picture! Partnerships are so important! The locals need to be on board with us.
- Enough tables for everyone in the plenary sessions.
- Please change location.
- Consider one-hour sessions and shorter breaks.
- Start the Introduction on the wonderful programs that came out of 2007.
- Don't schedule more than 4 speakers in a 90-minute session – no time for Q&A. Session 4 added late speaker from CSX for total of 5 speakers and moderator. Need to recruit good speakers. One bad speaker puts audience to sleep. Moderators need to keep schedules on track. Nothing worse than bad speaker who goes way beyond their time allotment.
- The video intros were a very effective tool; however, it seemed like too much focus on a handful of key people vs. talking to a wider number of planners and non-planners.
- After 15-20 years of going to conferences similar to this, the dialogue may have changed to a limited extent, but really nothing has changed-very frustrating, we are still treating the symptoms and not the root cause (throwing \$ at it) and not limited by bureaucratic procedures or frameworks. It all comes down to quality of life; transportation is just one component and not an end unto itself. We need more people like Steve Seibert and Doug Callaway facilitating information and innovation exchanges where transportation planners are free to pool ideas and develop solutions. We hear too much of the same speakers speaking over and over again about the same things year after year. Florida is getting worse and not better. People are growing more and more disappointed and are looking at relocating elsewhere.
- Participants have included national/state/county/municipal/agencies perhaps drill down further, consider HOA's or other community Assoc/Groups communication-today's technology not enough consider going back to old way. Topics 1: effects of seasonal (snowbirds) residents to the transit system and

roads 2: vehicle performance/improvements (future) design and planning roadways/transit.

- This is the first Transplex conference I have had the opportunity to attend. I am a land use planner and am interested in transportation as it relates to my city. As far as presentations went the conference was just OK. I am excited that the presenters realize there needs to be a change in how things are run. I am hopeful that there will be some follow ups to this year's topics, i.e., what has come out of the 2nd legislative session regarding concurrency issues; central data collection, actual success stories regarding funding partnership. Land use and transportation are connected. I noticed there are a lot of questions being asked. This is a good sign, now I hope to see movement in the areas of performance measures, funding issues, partnerships etc. I am looking forward to next year's conference. This conference has left me with a lot of questions. What is working? Why is it working? What is the cost of data? Which methodology do we use?

Do you have any comments about the conference overall?

- I just loved it. I had a great time and learned a lot. It was well organized and I cannot wait for 2009!!!
- Overall conference 5!
- This is my third conference and I always learn more and even more important gain insight into what and how other planners are thinking.
- Change hotels. My room wasn't the best at the price we paid.
- Great mix of topics.
- Great job! – to all organizers.
- Last Transplex's hotel facilities were much nicer. Overall good job and good topics!
- Very good – enjoyed seeing everyone – hotel ok – length of conference and sessions and breaks good – would prefer less \$ for registration and no bag.
- Instead of coffee mugs, would have liked to have flash drives given out with conference presentations and reference materials on them. Also, reusable!
- Hotel accommodations could be better. Try another location.
- Presenters should be required to bring slides. Session 13 presenters did not have them. Not enough thought about what planners should be expecting/doing/between now and the next Transplex.
- It is very good, encouraging, and beneficial to FDOT and the outside entities to discuss and communicate about what Florida will do with the issues that face it – in how to plan for the future. We (FDOT) understand its mobility and not just building roads. This is encouraging, and it is too bad the public may not know this truth.
- Noise from adjacent session rooms was disturbing presenters need better graphics instead of all PowerPoints with words they read and maps you cannot see.
- Very good range of diverse topics. This is the first time I've attended a conference that used this format (videos, panelists, audience participation) and I found it to be very effective and enjoyable.

- Do not re-use Royal plaza Hotel. Bad service, lost value for money compared to other Orlando Hotels. Some sessions were very loud and disruptive to other sessions (not enough insulation between rooms).
- Great networking opportunities. Give those of us whose day to day prevents us from looking at the BIG picture a chance over 2 days to do just that.
- A number of folks are a little disappointed that there was not as much participation by local government and cities and counties.
- One of the panelist in the last plenary session talked too much.
- Very good.
- First session was too long for this kind of setting. Folks could not stay focused.
- Partnership was talked about but we didn't have partners such as business community or local governments in panel or attendees. Need to bring them into participate. I liked the video interviews.
- First plenary was too long. Thursday sessions were good. The plenary sessions were boring. Better local outreach to advertise the conference. Not a lot of local government attendance.
- The only reason I didn't rate anything "excellent" is there is always room for improvement.
- Hotel = 3? (maintenance)
- Lose the Improv comedian.
- Seems very well organized. Particularly good plenary on accountability and best laid plans.
- The final day brought everything together. Thank you.
- Good topics.
- The panel plenary sessions were too long. About 1 – 1½ hours is the limit!
- Department Secretary (or at least Assistant Secretary) should address conference. Plenary topics should be more focused, less technical. Current DOT Senior management should lead.
- Well run conference.
- Good mix of topics, video segments were well done.
- Good conference overall.
- The very large sessions were not as personal as the smaller ones. Easy to get distracted in the larger sessions except for the last one on the "real world".
- Good conference overall – Keep it up!
- More materials to take back for reference. Hand-outs.
- Nice hotel and location. The videos at the beginning of the plenary sessions were just "talking heads" – consider more graphics, visualization techniques.
- Overall very good. One of the plenary session moderators should not be a plenary session moderator – the session was very boring (it would be more interesting to have a few former Secretaries sitting in a plenary session and discussing transportation planning). SIS is not a very hot topic after it's in the implementation stage.
- Great breadth of topics. There were times at which I would have liked to be in multiple sessions – a good problem to have. Lunch speaker – awful.
- Pretty good, more interaction with audience and more point/counterpoint discussion would be more stimulating – Session 13: Imagine Manatee was way too long – Plenary Part 3: Nothing new, "same old, same old" stuff" – The opportunity to explore many more viewpoints was missed. I never realized how tightly FDOT is tied to one consultant, you should broaden your horizons.

Way too much of some people in videos; way too much time with talking heads in last session – last session was too preachy, better to showcase “success stories” in moving plans to implementation. The format of the first day’s workshop was designed not to engage the audience, in both sessions the audience had to sit for over an hour before they were invited to participate – In today’s environment, too much time with “talking heads” isn’t stimulating. In the first two sessions, there was too much discussion of issues that were not engaging a better format for the first session would have been to ask audience members what they thought the planning challenges were vs non-present professionals.

- The second plenary had way too much focus on Dade County. It also focused on project implementation, not plan implementation! The transportation financing session was way too highway and toll road focused by FDOT and almost no discussion of funding transportation at the metropolitan community level scale, including transit, bike, pedestrian and intercity and freight rail. Its clear FDOT’s finance leadership is longing their complete basket on tolls which is only of minor value to the huge range of transportation systems needed in our state. The speaker on the federal transportation funding commission was great the local perspective was really focused on major toll facilities not the truly local perspective city/county/towns, etc. the growth management session needed visuals to help the discussion too difficult to engage with past talking heads. Good info/insights but would have been even better with visuals. Having consultants so prominently highlighted in the performance measurement sessions were inappropriate, the session was a free marketing opportunity for one firm that other firms were not given, other firms/entities with experience in this area should have been part of the conversation, too.
- Need to have more interaction with participants, small groups focused on solving problems. Plenary Part 3 was filler.
- Room never cooled down enough and A/C was too noisy. Vary the afternoon snacks do not repeat. Breakout sessions need more time to have audience/speaker discussion time.
- Speakers need to be enthusiastic; I enjoyed the portion of participation of the audience, questions and discussions.
- We really need copies of all presentations, please put them on the website quickly. Lunch speaker was great! I marked plenary session Part 2 down-the panelist was very knowledgeable and enjoyed their input but moderator participated and overshadowed the panelists. Food at the hotel was excellent-however the problems at check-in and check-out plus problems with rooms were not acceptable. Location was good, and if hotel can clean up problems it might be Ok next time. Conference was well organized and staff did a great job. Transplex committee did a good job but would like to hear speakers we don’t hear at other meetings. There were some great people coming in from outside DOT and MPO’s. Need to schedule people outside Florida DOT how about from other state DOT’s and MPO’s? Get some noteworthy practices brought here. Isn’t that what this is about –learning? Otherwise we are just hearing the same thing we hear at our jobs day in and day out. Would like a working session with Steve Seibert, he was great as always. Bring him back!! Registration staff was superb!! They were so helpful and always were smiley and were great representatives-Thank you!! For the next one, the registration

fee is really high, I understand to cover food, rooms etc-but could we at least get a decent bag and include a good pen, portfolio and pad with Transplex and maybe a lanyard with FDOT or Transplex on it? Other conferences I go to with half the registration price have had great portfolios etc. Drop the coffee mug!! Bring back Tim Lomax, Lance Neumann, Ben Warner, Marianne Trussell together but in a session not as filler on the last day. Tim Lomax – would like to learn more from him!! Doug Callaway is always great-need him to do a session (not moderate) also-what Floridians want and how to give it to them.