MEMORANDUM

To: Council Members

From: Staff

Date: July 18, 2014 Council Meeting

Subject: Interlocal Agreement with Palm Beach Metropolitan Planning Organization

Introduction

The purpose of this item is to request Council approval to amend an existing interlocal agreement with the Palm Beach Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) to provide additional professional services relating to land use and planning assistance in support of MPO projects and priorities.

Background

For the past several years, Council staff has assisted the Palm Beach MPO with a broad range of land use planning, evaluation, and public outreach. The current agreement provides $125,000 in funding annually and expires in June 2015. The amendments under consideration would extend the agreement through Fiscal Year 2018-2019 at the current level of funding.

Council has been engaged in several planning assistance agreements with the Palm Beach MPO since 2008. A portion of Council’s assistance has focused on general land use, transportation, and outreach assistance with local governments and agencies. Additionally, Council has provided project-specific assistance including: station-area planning around existing and anticipated Tri-Rail commuter rail stations; quiet zones and the evaluation impacts regarding the proposed All Aboard Florida project; regional greenways and trails; and the Intracoastal Waterways Plan for Palm Beach County. Council staff has also provided assistance on MPO documents, such as the Long-Range Transportation Plan and the Transit Development Plan, as well as evaluations of land use, project design components, and mobility enhancements. Council staff has also assisted the MPO with representation on various local government and regional committees, task forces, and at public hearings and workshops.

The Palm Beach MPO has requested Council staff continue to provide planning assistance to the MPO and local governments, including general planning services as well as project-specific assistance to be determined by the MPO.
**Conclusion**

Improving the relationship between land use patterns and transportation planning will improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the transportation network, create better opportunities for multi-modal success, and enhance quality of life throughout the Region. Additional funding will allow Council to assist in the advancement of these goals, enhance the transit-supportive land use and policy framework in the County, provide direct assistance to local governments, and implement the Strategic Regional Policy Plan.

**Recommendation**

Council should authorize the Executive Director to execute the final contract agreement on behalf of Council.