Introduction

The purpose of this item is to request Council approval to amend an existing agreement with the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) relating land use and planning assistance as well as provide authorization for the execution of a new agreement for Fiscal Year 2015-2016.

Background

Council has been engaged in a long-term planning assistance agreement with FDOT since 2008. A portion of Council’s assistance has focused on general land use, transportation, and outreach assistance with local governments, agencies, and the public. Additionally, Council has provided project-specific assistance, including corridor plans along state roadways, station-area planning around existing and anticipated Tri-Rail commuter rail stations, outreach and planning related to the Tri-Rail Coastal Link and Amtrak/FEC Corridor project, and identification of livable communities project to inform FDOT project development and implementation. Council staff has assisted FDOT with facilitation of and participation in various committees, task forces, public hearings, and workshops.

Council staff has been requested by FDOT to continue to provide planning assistance to the agency and public, including general planning services as well as project-specific assistance related to the proposed Coastal Link project as determined by FDOT. Council’s current agreement expires in June 2015. The proposed amendment to the agreement would extend Council’s professional services relationship with FDOT through June 2016. In addition, FDOT is seeking to initiate a new multi-year planning services agreement, beginning in 2016, with a similar set of services that would allow FDOT to continue to utilize Council staff assistance.

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 region, provide direct assistance to local governments, and help implement the SRPP.

Recommendation
Council should authorize the Executive Director, in consultation with Council’s attorney, to amend the existing contract for transportation planning services with FDOT for Fiscal Year 2014-2015 and execute a new agreement for Fiscal Year 2015-2016.