

Dear Community Member,

Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) is seeking your participation in Community Working Groups, where we plan to roll up our sleeves and turn ideas into action to address Tampa Bay's critical transportation needs. To initiate the Community Working Groups, we are holding a Regional Kickoff Meeting on:

**Wednesday, May 24 at 5:30 p.m.**  
**Bryan Glazer Family Jewish Community Center**  
**522 N. Howard Avenue**  
**Tampa, FL 33606**

Over the last couple years, FDOT received extensive feedback from the community regarding Tampa Bay Express (TBX). A dominant message emerged from District Seven's interaction with residents, business leaders, and elected officials:

*Tampa Bay wants FDOT to approach interstate improvements as part of a broader vision for truly integrated, multimodal regional transportation solutions, and they want transportation agencies and government organizations to work together. Our stakeholders also expect clear, transparent communication with transportation agencies.*

These Community Working Groups are FDOT's response to the call for a broader conversation on transportation, and we're committed to evaluating infrastructure improvements in the context of a comprehensive regional transportation system. We also know that there are significant challenges to balancing regional level needs with community level concerns, and we've developed these Community Working Groups to have open and transparent conversations about addressing those issues. We want to hear from you about your transportation needs and your values because these will inform our decisions as an agency.

The focus of the Community Working Groups also resulted from the "reset" FDOT announced in December 2016. The reset is FDOT's commitment to research, reevaluate and respond to community feedback about TBX. We are working with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) on a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) to evaluate environmental and social impacts and consider community-initiated concepts as alternatives to the proposed project. This SEIS process will take at least two years, and it is the most rigorous evaluation for transportation projects.

These Community Working Groups are a long-term commitment for FDOT to collaborate transparently with stakeholders. We have invited local agencies and partners to the table to improve integration with local transportation planning. Community Working Groups will be comprised of a cross-section of the community: individual citizens, neighborhood/HOA association representatives, civic and faith-based leaders, small business owners, and business leaders, among others. An independent facilitator will lead the Community Working Group sessions.

There will be six Community Working Groups across our region (see attached map). You are invited to participate in the North and West Hillsborough Working Group. If you are interested in participating or have questions about the process, please contact Madeline Pfingsten at [madeline.pfingsten@dot.state.fl.us](mailto:madeline.pfingsten@dot.state.fl.us) or 813-532-5148. **Please RSVP by Friday, May 19.**

Thank you in advance for your time, and we appreciate your commitment to transportation in Tampa Bay. We look forward to collaborating with you to solve Tampa Bay's transportation challenges.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bill R. Jones". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Bill Jones  
Director of Transportation Development  
Florida Department of Transportation District Seven

For more information and to RSVP:

**Madeline Pfingsten**

**Public Involvement Coordinator**

FDOT D7, TBX Owner's Representative

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