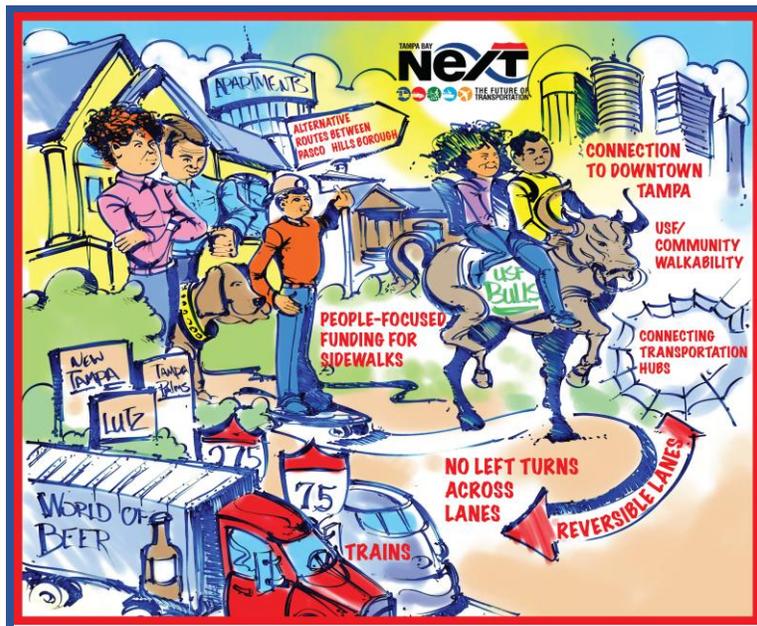




# Tampa Bay Next Community Working Group – Kickoff North and West Hillsborough County

July 20, 2017  
Real Time Record



## Executive Summary

The Tampa Bay Next North and West Hillsborough County Community Working Group had a successful kickoff on July 20, 2017 with over 40 participating community members. This Executive Summary provides some of the highlights from your discussions. The subsequent pages of this Real Time Record (RTR) provide all the supporting details.

### Top Priority Focus Areas & Activities That Can Be Undertaken

- Allocating funds to sidewalks and roads to neighborhoods that actually need it, keeping people as the focus of the transportation system
- First mile, last mile connections
- USF area connectivity and walkability
- Connecting transportation hubs of Tampa Bay with affordable transit option, with flexible transit options
- Equitable impact fees that cover cost of new development and address the road improvements and traffic handling
- Trains trains trains
- Reversible lanes
- No left turns – right turns only

### Top Ideas to Organize the North and West Hillsborough County Community Working Group

- Meet once a month, and have them be subject matter specific (not big picture)
- We need something to react to from FDOT, what is feasible, what are plans.
- Make and distribute agenda ahead of meetings
- Interactive mapping activities.
- FDOT should be present at all meetings
- Have meetings on weekends, diversity of meeting times, virtual option
- Field trips throughout the communities



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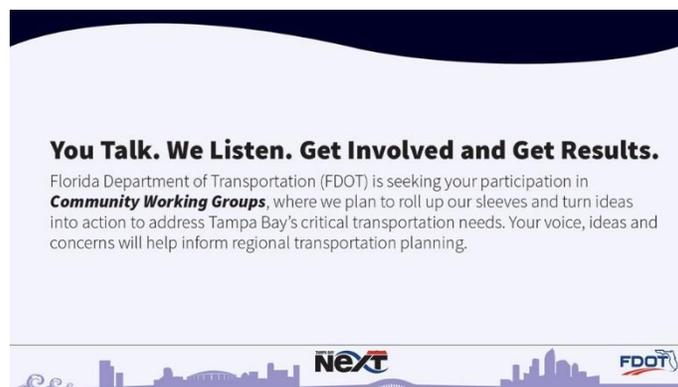
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**Community Working Group - Kickoff  
North and West Hillsborough  
July 20, 2017  
5:30pm – 7:30pm**

<p><b>5:30pm – 5:50pm</b></p>	<p align="center"><b><u>Welcome and Objectives</u></b></p> <p>Welcome: <b>Edward McKinney, FDOT</b> Objectives and Collaborative Process: <b>Andrea Henning, Collaborative Labs</b></p>
<p><b>5:50pm – 7:15pm</b></p>	<p align="center"><b><u>Part 1: Expanding and Prioritizing Ideas</u></b> 30-minutes</p> <p>Participants will work in teams to link the regional focus areas to their community. Reference the Top Ideas from the Regional Kick-Off as a springboard for your Community-Focused Discussions.</p> <p>Brainstorm and reach consensus on the <b>Priority Focus Areas</b> and <b>specific activities that could be undertaken.</b></p> <p align="center"><b><u>Part 2: Organizing the Community Working Group</u></b> 20-minutes</p> <p>Determine how the group will <b>Organize to do Meaningful Work.</b></p> <p>Work together to brainstorm how you would like to see the work group organize. Consider things like:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Frequency/Length</b> (e.g. Will we meet once per quarter; once per month, as needed, etc.)</li> <li>• <b>Setting</b> (e.g. face-to-face; virtual; hybrid, etc.)</li> <li>• <b>Format/Structure</b> (e.g. Field Trips; Presentations; Project Focused; Team Focused, etc.)</li> </ul> <p>We will reconvene for team reports and additional prioritization to move forward.</p>
<p><b>7:15pm – 7:25pm</b></p>	<p align="center"><b><u>Public Comment</u></b></p>
<p><b>7:25pm – 7:30pm</b></p>	<p align="center"><b><u>Closing</u></b></p>

**Welcome and Objectives**

Welcome: **Edward McKinney, FDOT**  
 Objectives and Collaborative Process: **Andrea Henning, Collaborative Labs**



**Edward McKinney, FDOT Planning and Environmental Administrator:** We have various department folks here in the room, so if you have questions, comments, feel free to grab one of the staff and we'll be happy to talk to you about Tampa Bay Next.

What is Tampa Bay Next? How many of you have heard of it or TBX? (*A few*). Many of you remember last year and the year before that. The message got a little messy because the focus was on express lanes. People have mixed feelings about them. The messaging got a little ahead of us. We really were looking at interstate modernization and bring them up to standards and capacity so we can become a competitor in the Florida market. We had to address our growth with those interchanges.



The focus was so much on the managed lanes, that the message got confused. Those lanes were for express buses. We decided to rebrand this. It is not a project, it is a broader conversation. We have to talk about more than the interstate. There are local, state, and city roads that integrate together as a system. And most people don't know the difference between local and city. Fowler Avenue is a good example. People don't know that they are on a state road.

We need to be talking about everything. Transit opportunities, bicycling in the university area. They also want to walk to where they are going. These things all come together. Tampa Bay Next talks about all of these things. Technology solutions, innovation, connected vehicles. We are looking at all of these things. We can't forget about freight mobility. In order for us to deliver goods, we have to have an efficient system.



We are partnering with these agencies. All of these folks are involved in this discussion. This system works together and we have to partner on solutions.



There are six community groups around the area. If there are smaller groups that you want us to work with, we will coordinate to see if we can talk to your folks as well. We're also talking to people in Pasco and Pinellas County. We will be coming back to you. Any commitments or agreements will be incorporated into those documents. We will make you aware of construction and changes to construction.

**Public Involvement**



**COMMUNITY WORKING GROUPS**

## 6 Community Working Groups

- Downtown/East Tampa
- Westshore/West Tampa/South Tampa
- Pinellas
- North and West Hillsborough
- East Hillsborough/Polk
- Pasco/Hernando





Collectively, we will come up with ideas. We'll work together to find solutions to improve mobility in a manner that the community believes is money well spent.

**Community Working Groups Mission**

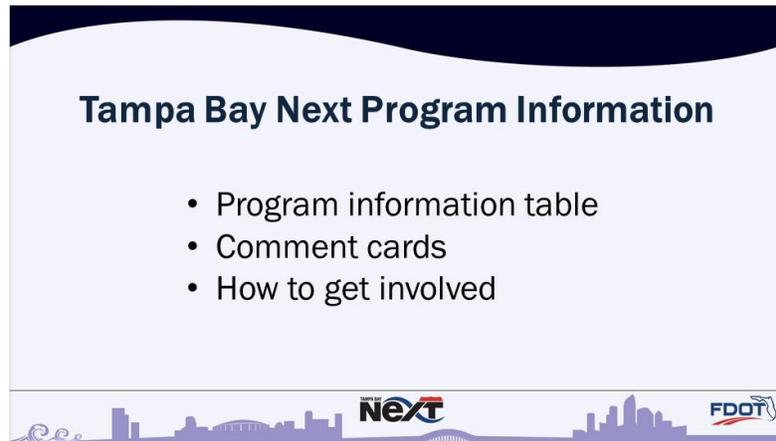
- Engage Tampa Bay in the transportation planning process
- Enhance cross-agency collaboration
- Provide a forum for the public to influence transportation decisions





## Tampa Bay Next Program Information

- Program information table
- Comment cards
- How to get involved



We have comment cards available. We appreciate your coming out. I'm going to turn this over to Andrea from the Collaborative Labs.

### Objectives and Collaborative Process

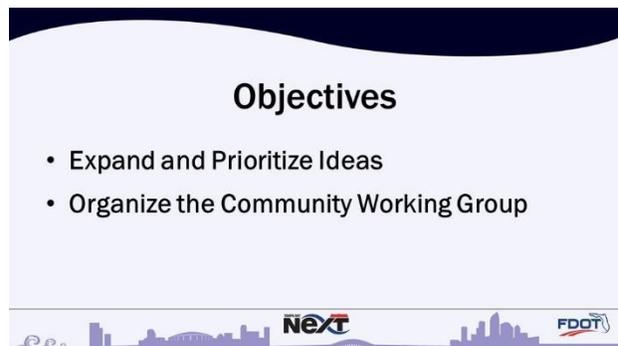
## Welcome

Andrea Henning  
Collaborative Labs at SPC



## Objectives

- Expand and Prioritize Ideas
- Organize the Community Working Group




### **Andrea Henning, Executive Director, Collaborative Labs, St. Petersburg College:**

Your perspective and voice matters, so thank you for coming. Our key objectives are to expand and prioritize your ideas and to ask you how you think to move forward. Perhaps we want to move these meetings around.

Our intent is to build consensus. We'll talk about how often you want to meet. We will also have regional events. How many of you were part of the May 24<sup>th</sup> regional kickoff? (*A few hands went up*) We had a big event to get input on the vision for Tampa Bay. You have a handout with some of the priorities from that meeting. We also we have the executive summaries from the community groups – you'll see what others are talking about.



## Community Working Groups

- Our intent is to “Build Consensus to Build Solutions”
- There will be quarterly (or more frequent) meetings with each Community Working Group
- There will be periodic Regional events to collaborate across all groups

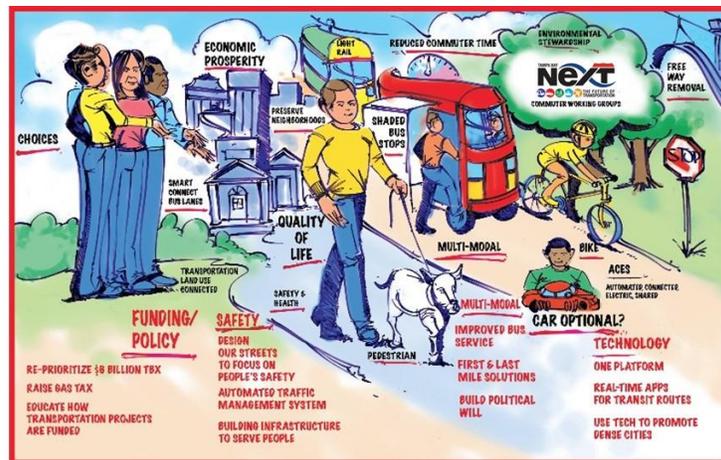


## Expanding and Prioritizing Ideas

- Community Working Groups – Regional Event
  - Met on Wednesday, May 24<sup>th</sup>
  - The focus was Regional
    - What is our vision of success across Tampa Bay?
    - What are the common needs and ideas?
- Today we are going to review the Regional results and have a more detailed conversation



Jonathan will be capturing artwork this evening as you talk about what is important to you. I'll also introduce the rest of the team. Joyce is capturing the notes from this evening. TampaBayNext.com is the site to go to share ideas and read the document. This is not court stenography, but notes from the evening. PJ is our tech guru and we use a lot of technology like brainstorming software we'll be using.





### **Part 1: Expanding and Prioritizing Ideas**

Participants will work in teams to link the regional focus areas to their community. Reference the Top Ideas from the Regional Kick-Off as a springboard for your Community-Focused Discussions. Brainstorm and reach consensus on the **Priority Focus Areas** and **specific activities that could be undertaken**.

### **Part 2: Organizing the Community Working Group**

Determine how the group will **Organize to do Meaningful Work**.

Work together to brainstorm how you would like to see the work group organize. Consider things like:

- **Frequency/Length** (e.g. once per quarter; once per month, as needed)
- **Setting** (e.g. face-to-face; virtual; hybrid, etc.)
- **Format/Structure** (e.g. Field Trips; Presentations; Project Focused; Team Focused, etc.)

We will reconvene for team reports and additional prioritization to move forward.

**Andrea:** Here is your mission for this evening. We have team tables around the room. We'll ask you to assign a keyboarder. Try to capture each person's ideas and we want each person gets an opportunity to share their ideas. You will also need a spokesperson who will share your team's ideas with the whole group.

Once we get a great list of ideas, we'll ask each team to pick one. If you can't reach consensus on one, you can pick two. You'll brainstorm one idea at a time and you'll see your idea tagged with your team number. You will also see the ideas coming in from the other teams.

When we get a good list, we'll ask you to pick one or two to drag and drop them into the top bucket. That's how we further prioritize your ideas.

## **Part 1: Expanding & Prioritizing Ideas**

You will have 30 mins to work in your teams

1. Find your team (Appoint a Keyboarder & Spokesperson)
2. Reference the Ideas from the Regional Kick-Off as a springboard for brainstorming Community-focused Ideas
3. Work together to brainstorm **Priority Focus Areas & specific activities that could be undertaken**
4. Then select the Top 1 Idea



In Part 2, we'll ask how you want to organize as a community group going forward. Part 2 will be 20 minutes. Think about the frequency and length of meetings. Think about setting – here, across Hillsborough? Interact virtually? What format will be helpful to you. Do you want to focus on projects? Teamwork?

Again, we'll ask you to brainstorm your ideas and then pick your top one or two to drag into the top ideas bucket. Again, your spokesperson will share your team's ideas with the rest of the group.

## Part 2: Organizing the Community Working Group

You will have 20 mins to work in your teams

1. Work together to brainstorm how you would like to see the work group organize. Consider things like:
  - **Frequency/Length** (e.g. once per quarter; once per month, as needed)
  - **Setting** (e.g. face-to-face; virtual; hybrid, etc.)
  - **Format/Structure** (e.g. Field Trips; Presentations; Project Focused; Team Focused, etc.)
2. Then select the top 1 Idea



**Speaker:** If the group decides to meet once a month, will you help facilitate that?



**Bill Jones:** We can set up smaller groups. We are going out to communities now. Absolutely.

I want to stress that Tampa Bay Next is a process. We've been talking about connecting USF with downtown Tampa. Community Initiated Alternatives – express lanes, boulevard concept. It can be put into a program. We opened the bicycle trail today – it's part of a system. If you have an idea, please let one of us know.



**Charlotte:** We're talking about regional. If North Hillsborough and Pasco come up with what they want and the rest of the county wants something else – what happens?

**Ed:** We're focused on regional. Pieces of that will be specific needs, and there are components to that that interact. It's not about solving specific needs in specific communities, it's about a regional infrastructure.

If out of this we get a consensus, that's something we can look at.

**Charlotte:** Which group in this region can get out-voted? How do you solve that dilemma?



**Danielle Moran:** We can find the consensus points. There is not one group that will outweigh another. What are the consensus points that we can move forward on.

**Ed:** We're going through an environmental impact process now. What problem are we trying to solve? As we collect information from the community, that will feed into the purpose of need. If one idea is transit, we'll evaluate that. How we pay for it, those questions would need to be addressed by all those folks in the circles I showed you before.

**Speaker:** I would suggest that we realign our teams.

**Andrea:** We ended up with three teams.

**Ed:** There will be series of workshops and we'll go through a screening process. Out of those concepts, the different ideas will be screened. Maybe workshoping those to get additional feedback.

**Bill Ross:** By the end of 2018, we want to have a concept. The first workshop is coming this fall.

**Andrea:** We'll have about 45 minutes in teams, so we'll reconvene about 7 pm.



## Expanding and Prioritizing Ideas – Team Reports

### Brainstorm Priority Focus Areas and specific activities that could be undertaken.

1. Something that works - (Team 3)
2. Assuring passenger safety and convenience. (Team 5)
3. Roads improvements and traffic handling (Team 1)
4. Ferry service from south county to Macdill (Team 5)
5. No left turn lanes - right turns only (Team 3)
6. remember that there are other perspectives than those of drivers (Team 3)
7. encourage higher density development (Team 3)
8. More capacity on roads (Team 5)
9. Include North County and Pasco in urban transportation vision (Team 1)
10. Reversible lanes to increase capacity depending on direction of traffic flow (Team 5)
11. Connect USF to the downtown area with reliable and affordable transit options (Team 1)
12. Include carpool/HOV lanes on 275 (Team 1)
13. transit options that are flexible (Team 1)
14. have bikes travel against traffic (Team 3)
15. identify a spine around which to build a transit system (Team 3)
16. people focused active transportation (Team 1)
17. sync the lights (Team 3)
18. build small segments - between downtown and westshore/airport, or USF - downtown (Team 3)
19. reversible lanes (Team 3)
20. New Alternative routes between pasco and pinellas (Team 5)



### Top Ideas

1. Allocating funds to sidewalks and roads to neighborhoods that actually need it, keeping people as the focus of the transportation system (Team 1)
2. First mile, last mile connections (Team 5)
3. USF area connectivity and walkability (Team 5)
4. Connecting transportation hubs of Tampa Bay with affordable transit option, with flexible transit options (Team 1)
5. Equitable impact fees that cover cost of new development and address the road improvements and traffic handling (Team 1)
6. Trains trains trains (Team 3)
7. Reversible lanes (Team 3)
8. No left turn lanes - right turns only (Team 3)

**Andrea:** We are going to reconvene in the main area. I would like to invite Team 1 to share their idea.

### Team 1



**Chris:** Our three priorities are allocating funds to neighborhoods that actually need it and keeping transportation people focused. Our second was connecting transportation with affordable options, and our last one was forcing equitable impact fees to cover cost of new development.

**Beth:** Can you elaborate on flexible transit options?



**George:** Flexible means having more than one way to get from suburban area across town or to downtown. Most feasible means how to get there, will it be rail or bus.



**Speaker:** Flexibility is also using things that can be moved as communities change. Buses can be rerouted, Uber can go wherever people are. If you have rail, it is fixed.

### Team 3



**Russell:** Trains, trains, trains – despite we know there are issues with expense. We also like reversible lanes, although they are underutilized on the Crosstown Expressway.

**Speaker:** We had one on our list that didn't make it to the top ideas list which was no left turns across oncoming traffic. Instead, go around a circle or go an extra block to reduce traffic accidents and reduce tie-ups to clear roadways.

*Team 3's idea was added to the top ideas list.*

### Team 5



**Tyler:** I am a USF student and part-time transportation planner, and a resident of Forest Hills. For Team 5, we had first mile, last mile connections. The problem with arterial bus routes is that your house may be a mile away from the bus stop. We need more connections to get people onto the main lines.

Also important to me is USF connectivity. There is a difference to University of Florida because USF is wrapped by three high speed roads which makes it difficult to walk, especially with 40,000 students.

We also had reversible lanes to control directional traffic on I-275 especially north of Tampa. This will increase the capacity of the interstate.

**Speaker:** Can I get a clarification about allocating funds to sidewalks and roads?

**Speaker:** It was about neighborhoods that need it.

**Speaker:** In New Tampa, Bruce B Downs has been under construction all fifteen years I have lived there. I work in the university area and there are no sidewalks and roads that need repair. For a wealthy community in New Tampa, we have this, but in this neighborhood where they need sidewalks repaired, allocating funds to areas that need it.

**Speaker:** Is it because it is not tax-based?

**Speaker:** If you live in many of the planned communities, you pay for the roads, sidewalks and streetlights. In the older communities, it's up to the local jurisdiction to take care of streetlights and sidewalks and there are bonds issued. The roads and the parks were designated to the city of Tampa, such as the community of Hunter's Green. The bond issues are paid off by the residents. The need that you expressed is a definite need. It would come out of the tax base.





## **Organizing the Community Working Group – Team Reports**

### **How should the Community Working Group organize?**

1. Quarterly meetings, unless there is a reason to meet more frequently. (Team 5)
2. What ultimately will come from these meetings? (Team 1)
3. Have virtual option (Team 1)

### **Top Ideas**

1. meet once a month, and have them be subject matter specific (not big picture) (Team 1)
2. We need something to react to from FDOT, what is feasible, what are plans. (Team 5)
3. Make and distribute agenda ahead of meetings (Team 5)
4. Interactive mapping activities. (Team 5)
5. FDOT should be present at all meetings (Team 1)
6. have meetings on weekends, diversity of meeting times, virtual option (Team 1)
7. Field trips throughout the communities (Team 1)



**Andrea:** Let's move to how best to organize the community working group.

### Team 1



**Chris:** We stated once a month and have them be subject matter specific, and a FDOT rep should be present. Field trips throughout the communities and diverse and virtual meetings.

### Team 3



**Russell:** Our team did not have any ideas. We didn't know what we would be meeting about.

### Team 5



**Tyler:** We need something to react to from FDOT and right now it feels very vague – talking about specific plans and if we can distribute the agenda ahead of time. For example, I didn't know what tonight's meeting was about. Also mapping activities, and find out where people are going and what routes they take.



**Andrea:** Please select your top three in order of priority.

**Top 3 Ideas – How should the Community Working Group Organize?**

1. **Meet once a month, and have them be subject matter specific (not big picture) – 23%**
2. **We need something to react to from FDOT, what is feasible, what are plans. – 23%**
3. **Make and distribute agenda ahead of meetings – 17%**
4. Interactive mapping activities – 8%
5. FDOT should be present at all meetings – 12%
6. Have meetings on weekends, diversity of meeting times, virtual option – 10%
7. Field trips throughout the communities – 7%

**Top Ideas to Organize the Community Working Group**

- Meet once a month, and have them be subject matter specific (not big picture) – 23%
- We need something to react to from FDOT, what is feasible, what are plans. – 23%
- Make and distribute agenda ahead of meetings – 17%



## Public Comment/Closing



**Andrea:** Any there public comments?



**Charlotte:** The meetings are as the teams choose, right?

**Andrea:** You would be in charge of that.

**Charlotte:** Would there be any opportunities to present material?

**Andrea:** Your group will decide that.



**Robert:** Why are our lights not synchronized? It is not that hard to synchronize them. We are burning gas that does not need to be burned. Also, we expanded the entrance way to be five lanes onto the highway from the Howard Frankland bridge, then it reduces to two lanes. We need to have five lanes. Why is that not being done? We are spending billions of dollars to get people from point A to B. Why not fix what we have and have the same amount of lanes coming off the bridge that we have off?

**Speaker:** I can answer that. The other directions also want to get the lights synchronized and we are working with the City of Tampa and the traffic engineers to come up with a solution to get them synchronized. As far as the Howard Frankland bridge, we are working on getting the bottleneck fixed and it is a process we are going through.



**George:** If we have our Monday meetings, are you going to collect the information and compile it for the quarterly meeting and what happens to the decisions we make?

**Andrea:** We will have a record after every quarterly meeting.

**George:** If you have software that everyone's ideas go into, but we have groups that meet at different times, can we get input from these other meetings?

**Andrea:** We will help with that process. Anything we do will be documented and can be found at Tampabaynext.com.

**Charlotte:** Will of the results, not just the top three, be in the document?

**Andrea:** Yes, all of your ideas will be included.



**Karen:** What is the purpose of the next meeting in East Tampa? Also, we participated when it was TBX but nothing seems to have changed. We listen is a good slogan.

**Ed:** This is not a project. We haven't presented any projects to you. You are presenting ideas to us, to MPO and to our agency partners to determine how to move forward. A lot has changed – opportunity for input and feedback from the community has changed. If there is something that interests you, tell us. We have comment cards.

The biggest change of all is that it is all on the table. For example, trains, trains, trains. Let's have that conversation. Where are the needs at. This is what the conversation is about. For the vast majority of us, this is a different conversation than last year where we had a plan on the wall and asked what you thought.

**Speaker:** How do we give feedback if we can't make the meeting?

**Ed:** Please enter your comments on the website.

**Speaker:** The Howard Frankland bridge is going to be rebuilt, and there are projects that are under discussion already. There are mixed messages coming out with different facts and statements. What is actually going on?



**Ed:** There are things the department has to do such as the Howard Frankland bridge. It has to be replaced. We will be presenting the concept of express lanes in February. For this we are talking about the Westshore area and downtown Tampa. We heard different things from Pinellas county. What caused this discussion was generated on the Hillsborough side. People said we don't want expresslanes or widen the highways.

**Speaker:** What about the projects that are already ongoing?

**Ed:** Each of those projects are independent. Expresslanes you would bleed through – like coming off the Howard Frankland.

**Charlotte:** You said Hillsborough didn't want TBX.

**Ed:** There were a lot of stipulations around that. We presented TBX as our way of moving forward. Something has to be done. We have congestions. We are growing three percent by the day. What are the 2040 projections?



**Speaker:** About 1.8 million people

**Ed:** How are those people going to get around? Maybe there are solutions around transit, expresslanes. It's going to take a lot of everything. We may not be able to solve this. The problem is large. Where I live, there used to be nothing around me. We are all dealing with these things. Do we want to do something about it or not. The population of Miami-Dade is where we will be in twenty years.

**Speaker:** What happens next? What does it mean? There are community working groups, and it comes back to what happens to the information. What happens while the projects are moving forward?

**Ed:** We are going to keep having conversations. We will have public workshops to get input from the community. From your input, we would like to build a solution. There is a regional transit study. At some point, there will be a plan.

**Speaker:** Is that time specific?

**Ed:** We talked about the SEIS project that will be done by early 2019. What are the options? We can't just say we don't do anything.

**Speaker:** You know what I want and that we should do other things first.



**Andrea:** Thank so much for lending your voice and valuable perspective this evening. I invite you to catch Ed or other FDOT staff to talk further about your comments.

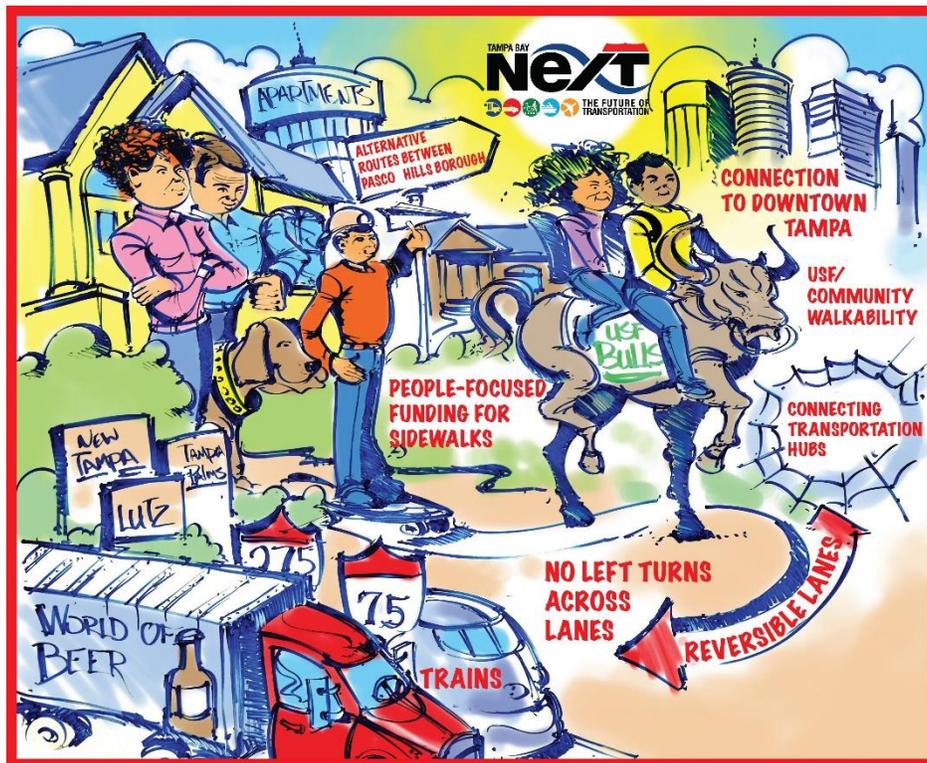
**Your input matters. Your ideas help shape the Tampa Bay Next program.**

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**Artwork**





## Tampa Bay Next

Community Working Group Meeting  
North & West Hillsborough



**TAMPA BAY**  
**Next**  
THE FUTURE OF  
TRANSPORTATION

**Thursday, July 20, 2017 at 5:30 p.m.**  
University Area Community Development Corporation Community Center  
14013 N. 22nd Street, Tampa, Florida 33613

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### COMMENT FORM

Comments (please print)

Sync  
The  
Lights

(If more space is needed, please continue on back.)

Name	Organization (if applicable)	<input type="checkbox"/> Please add me to the project notification list.  <b>PLEASE RETURN COMMENTS TO:</b> Florida Department of Transportation 11201 N. McKinley Drive, MS 7-500 Tampa, Florida 33612 TampaBayNext@dot.state.fl.us 
Email		
Address		
City	State      Zip	
County		
Phone		

Note: This is a public record. Public participation is solicited without regard to national origin, age, sex, religion, disability or family status. You may submit comments at this event or email comments to: [Madeline.Plafington@dot.state.fl.us](mailto:Madeline.Plafington@dot.state.fl.us) and/or mail to Florida Department of Transportation, 11201 N. McKinley Drive, MS 7-500, Tampa, Florida 33612.

**Comuníquese Con Nosotros**  
 Nos invitamos a todos los ciudadanos a participar en este evento. No se toman en cuenta las solicitudes de exención de información por raza o discapacidad. Puede comunicarse con nuestro representante, Callam Escobedo, 813-975-6402, Departamento de Transportación de Florida, 11201 N. McKinley Dr., MS 7-500, Tampa, FL 33612, [Madeline.Plafington@dot.state.fl.us](mailto:Madeline.Plafington@dot.state.fl.us)