Tampa Bay Next
Community Working Group – Kickoff
East and South Hillsborough/Polk Counties

August 15, 2017
Real-Time Record
Executive Summary

The Tampa Bay Next East and South Hillsborough/Polk Counties Community Working Group had a successful kickoff on August 15, 2017 with over 30 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

- Creating a master plan for regional hubs, to allow those on the outside town to come in and come out and disburse within the town. / Included in the conversation around the Regional Transit Feasibility Study.
- Review existing plans and make determination of whether they are realistic; are politicians ready to fund and/or implement the plans.
- Efficient multi-modal transit system throughout the region
- Build overpasses on future roads in regards to railroad crossings. Also, should do this with existing roads at major rail road crossings / develop a 2nd "floor" or lane for mass transit, future autonomous options, and/or rideshare [HOV] to bypass traffic on street level or highway.
- More frequency of public transit routes - cut back on size of buses for smaller busses to save overhead costs.

Top Ideas to Organize the Downtown Community Working Group

- Educate organizations and citizens on the overall process, including steps to solving the transportation issues, funding, phases, priorities, etc.
- Outreach to homegrown community and civic organizations / Need improve outreach to increase meeting participation. Special notice system for visually and hearing impaired.
- Come to the community meetings that are already established and scheduled monthly instead of having a whole new meeting and asking the community to come. This will guarantee more turnout. And bring food / work with HOA and community groups to survey residents’ ideas for transportation needs/concerns to support working groups meetings. i.e. provide feedback.
- Process reports on what FDOT is doing with these ideas and the funding that goes into it.
Welcome and Objectives

Part 1: Expanding and Prioritizing Ideas

Part 2: Organizing the Community Working Group

Expanding and Prioritizing Ideas – Team Reports

Prioritizing Top Ideas

Organizing the Community Working Group – Team Reports

Prioritizing Top Ideas

Public Comment/Closing

Artwork

Addendum
Please Join Us!

EAST & SOUTH HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY/POLK COUNTY COMMUNITY WORKING GROUP
Tuesday, August 15, 2017 @ 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

You Talk. We Listen. Get Involved and Get Results.

We had a productive Regional Kickoff, and now we’re seeking your participation in the first Community Working Group for East & South Hillsborough County / Polk County. This will be an ongoing conversation to address Tampa Bay’s critical transportation needs. Your voice, ideas and concerns will help inform regional transportation planning.

Mark your calendar, and RSVP for:
Tuesday, August 15, 2017 at 5:30 p.m.
Sheraton East, Palm Room
10221 Princess Palm Avenue (I-75 exit 5/Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.)
Tampa, FL 33610

RSVP to TampaBayNext@dot.state.fl.us or 813-975-NEXT
## Welcome and Objectives

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

### Part 1: Expanding and Prioritizing Ideas  
30-minutes

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  
20-minutes

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. Will we meet once per quarter; once per month, as needed, etc.)
- **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.

### Public Comment

7:15pm – 7:25pm

### Closing

7:25pm – 7:30pm
Welcome and Objectives

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

Edward McKinney, FDOT Planning and Environmental Administrator:
Welcome and thanks for participating tonight. My name is Ed McKinney, Planning and Environmental Administrator at FDOT District 7. This is a valuable conversation we are participating in tonight. We need your input and engagement. This is part of an effort to come to some consensus on how we move forward with transportation in the Tampa Bay region.

Are there any elected officials in the room? It looks like we do not have any tonight; however, we did for our past events.
Ed: What is TBNext? You may or may not be familiar with it. If you’ve been participating and reading the paper, we had a transportation plan. However, many individuals expressed concerns about its impact on the community. We took this feedback and decided to create a community dialogue to get information from you to decide whether we are taking the right steps moving forward.

One thing we have to do is modernize our infrastructure as we grow. Doing nothing is not a plan. It comes with extreme consequences. The census data for 2040 is predicting that we are going to look like Miami by then. We will have congestion, traffic, and it will hurt businesses in the future. Whether we like or not, growth is coming.

One thousand people are moving to Florida every day and one million every year. Plus, we have the tourist population. We must think about how we want to move forward as we embrace the future. We need some solutions, and maybe something that makes us less dependent on our cars. Miami has a variety of transportation options, and with all of that, they still have congestion problems.
For our new program, we need to be looking at everything. We need interstate modernization, transit, and better bike and pedestrian facilities. How do we do that?

Complete Streets are a new conversation in the Department. We need to make the roads fit for the community it’s serving. We must consider Transportation Innovation, like Autonomous Vehicles. What will the impact be? Will cars be able to ride closer together? There are many questions that are still unknown. Freight Mobility is key for having successful businesses. Think about the impact it has on Amazon. I love Amazon and would not want anything to get in its way.

Throughout these discussions, we’ve had many organizations and counties participate in this conversation. We are getting input from everybody.

This is not your only opportunity to participate. I see some of you who were here for the past Working Groups.

We need to know what we should invest in and how. You have been welcome to participate in any of these.
Ed: Your mission tonight is to engage in a thoughtful conversation. It’s amazing to me that when I talk to groups, many people have opinions about transportation. It impacts everyone. We must realize that it won’t get better if we don’t do something. How do we work with Hillsborough County to make improvements?

How many of you know the difference between state and county roads? Just a few. State Road 60 was not designed for what it is today, and this is just one example of why we need community and agency collaboration.

We want you to be involved. Come to the meetings and engage in the conversation. I have Bill Jones here. The folks in blue shirts are also representing the Department. Please don’t hesitate to ask us questions. With that, I’m going to turn it over to Andrea who will lead us this evening.
**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:**
We are so glad you are here! Your voice matters. We have a few objectives this evening. What is most important to you in your county?

We want you to expand and prioritize your ideas. You will also help us know how to best organize this Community Working Group in the future.

**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 24th  
  - 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

We are here to build consensus and find solutions. There may be quarterly or monthly meetings. You all will help us determine this. There will also be Regional events.

I’m curious to know how many of you were here for the meeting on May 24th for our big Regional Kickoff. A few of you.

This event was focused on coming up with a big picture idea. What you will find on your seats is a compilation of the executive summaries of what leads up to tonight.

These capture the key ideas of success from each Community Working Group along with the Regional Kickoff. Tonight, we are focusing on East and South Hillsborough and Polk County.
Andrea: This is the visual Jonathan captured for the Regional Kick-Off Meeting on May 24th. I want to introduce you all to my team members. This is Jonathan, and he is going to take our conversation and create a visual image to represent it. We also have Candace over on the keyboard. She is capturing the wisdom of this group. What you will want to do tonight is visit tampabaynext.com to view the real-time-records from our past events.

You will see all of what we’ve done up until this point. Candace will be capturing a real-time-record of tonight’s happenings. She’s not a stenographer, so if you see we did not catch something, please let us know so that we can make changes. Mike is our tech guru. In a moment, we will deploy into teams. Mike will help with the brainstorming software that we will be using. That’s our team, and we will be here to support you.
Four Focus Areas:
- Safety
- Multi-Modal / Options
- Technology
- Funding / Policy

As you look at the Regional Executive Summary, these are some of the main regional ideas. Here are the four key buckets that capture what we focused on in the Regional Meeting.

Expanding and Prioritizing Ideas

What is most important for our Community?
Why?

What you also have in your executive summary packets are executive summaries for each of our Community Working Group Events. They cover the priorities of each of these meetings. Reference those to get ideas flowing when you break into your teams. Now, I’m going to explain what we will be doing for both Part 1 and Part 2 of our team breakouts.
Part 1: Expanding and Prioritizing Ideas

30-minutes

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

20-minutes

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. Will there be two Pinellas Working Groups: North & South? Will we meet once per quarter; once per month, as needed, etc.)
- **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: How many of you know your team assignment? We have tables designated for all six of our teams. When you get into your teams, introduce yourselves and appoint someone to be your keyboarder. He or she will listen and make sure that everyone expresses their ideas.
Andrea: We don’t want them to add or take anything away from what is shared. Give everyone equal time to share. We will also ask you to appoint a spokesperson. They will share your top ideas. Those are the two key roles. Also, appoint a time keeper to make sure all of you have time to share ideas.

We will be working together to come up with priority focus areas and specific activities that could be undertaken. Let me show you how to use ThinkTank. Type in your idea and then hit enter. You will be able to see the ideas of all the other teams come up.

Once we get a list of 30 or 40 priorities, we will ask each team to review the list and choose your top two priorities. You will see your team numbers attached to your ideas. This is part 1, and it will take about a half an hour. Then, we will move on to Part 2.

Part 2: Organizing the Community Working Group

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

For Part 2, we will be talking about how, when, and where we meet for future Community Working Group meetings. What is important is to decide on the frequency, setting, and format of the meetings. Are we going to organize by teams or topics? Will we be doing field trips? You can reference previous groups results in your packet to get ideas.

Our two goals for these next to breakout sessions is to come up with transportation priorities and then to figure out how we will organize in the future. When you are finished, pick your top two.

You will have about an hour to do this work. Are there any questions? Again, teams are spread throughout the room. Please go to your designated team table.

We will be here to help you if you need anything. Enjoy this and thanks for participating.
Expanding and Prioritizing Ideas – Team Reports

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

1. Safety as a priority on all roads/infrastructure
2. Light rail connecting Pinellas to Orlando
3. Increase funding so that more bus routes and increased frequency of routes are possible
4. Autonomous options
5. Open rideshare "carpooling" to cover 1st and last mile to mass transit options
6. Control residential development to prevent congestion and increased need for cars. Request mass transit fees from developer that pays for the startup. Don't expand the urban service core.
7. Truck traffic and separate roadways for truck traffic
8. More Public Transportation - specific to Progress Village
9. Low speed vehicles: designated roadways or corridors
10. HOV Lanes (Carpooling)
11. Jobs, service for seniors, transportation coverage from central Hillsborough County to the east side of Hillsborough, through transportation access throughout the region
12. See Bus Rapid Transit access for commuters (Utilize park and ride networks for bus network with commuters)
13. Carpool lanes utilized in left lane
14. Unincorporated Hillsborough County road maintenance needs to be a higher priority. For example, Williams Road needs better maintenance service. Another area is the Riverview area.
15. More pedestrian friendly and bike friendly options within towns.
16. Bus Systems jitney type system (small buses etc.)
17. Infrastructure - expanding on/off lanes to make for smoother transition into traffic
18. Lengthening of turn lanes on major thoroughfares and arterials in the Riverview/South Shore area
19. Improved public transportation; Amtrak is very useful, but it only runs once a day; too many cuts in public transportation services; need improved regional service, e.g., Tampa to Pasco to Polk
20. Separate Bicycle tracks for safer roads.
21. Improved connection points... coordination of buses and cars, connection stops for light rail system; people want to know they can rely on public transit system
22. Driverless transit
23. Synchronization of lights in a given corridor Ex) Causeway & Adamo Dr.
24. More emphasis on pedestrian safety.
25. Need system to connect Pinellas, Hillsborough, Polk, Pasco and Orange Counties; must plan strategically
26. Enforcement on traffic safety and pedestrian safety.
27. WAZE Type app to disperse traffic flow to other roads, county focus. Use with driver and eventually driverless application
28. Expand capacity of traffic for signalized intersections
29. Though it would most likely be a toll facility, revive the once planned extension of the Selmon Expressway east through Brandon to alleviate traffic on SR 60 (Adamo Drive). Perhaps route it near the Fishhawk area to serve those residence, then connect it to the Polk Parkway (SR 570).

30. Access for the visually disabled, physically challenged and other members of the disabled community is also important

31. Connecting small towns to larger cities (Tampa, Lakeland, St. Pete)

32. Carpool credits (gas credit, toll discount, etc.) for those who are carpooling (to encourage carpooling)

33. Were models from other cities in other regions of the country considered? Vancouver, Portland, Washington, D.C., Baltimore

34. Funding or the lack thereof is a concern

35. Light rail with an emphasis of branching out to all areas of the county, with a central hub

36. Lightweight rail, air induction, low cost

37. Dedicated bus lanes on major roadways to expedite riders

38. Water transportation Riverview/Gibsonton to MacDill...smaller boats.

39. Commuter rail on old/abandoned rail lines or lines shared with freight rail

40. Identify prioritize and fund closing of sidewalk gaps. i.e. have a continuous sidewalk to motivate walking

**Top Ideas**

1. Rails connecting in Tampa to Orlando. The two cities together.

2. Creating a master plan for regional hubs, to allow those on the outside town to come in and come out and disburse within the town.

3. Review existing plans and make determination of whether they are realistic; are politicians ready to fund and/or implement the plans

4. Efficient multi-modal transit system throughout the region

5. Outer eastern Tampa bypass (north-south and limited access) running between I-75 in southern Hillsborough County and I-75 in southern/middle Pasco County, serving the Brandon and Plant City

6. Ferry service between South Shore area to Tampa Bay areas, including MacDill, St. Petersburg, and Clearwater areas

7. Locate or fund research so that current traffic patterns and trip data can be evaluated to make decisions on transportation needs including mass transit. Locations of "current and future commuters [tourist, work, home to from destination]" concentration.

8. Build overpasses on future roads in regards to railroad crossings. Also, should do this with existing roads at major rail crossings

9. Beltway development - what areas of congestion, considerations of safety, to bypass areas of congestion

10. More frequency of public transit routes - cut back on size of bus for smaller busses to save overhead costs

11. Develop a 2nd "floor" or lane for mass transit, future autonomous options, and/or rideshare [HOV] to bypass traffic on street level or highway.

12. Included in the conversation around the Regional Transit Feasibility Study
Team 1

**Mike:** Our first priority is to have an efficient multimodal transportation system throughout the region. We had many at our table who rely on public transit. One of the things we believe is that we need to review the wheel rather than simply recreate the wheel. We need to understand the current plans to see if they effectively address this goal.

If they do, then maybe the issue is funding. If it isn’t, then we can make changes and then address funding. We chose items three and four.

Team 2

**Linda:** If you look at number seven, that’s our first suggestion. We want to locate and fund research so that current traffic patterns and trip data can be evaluated to make decisions on transportation needs. We need to know how people are traveling and using transportation to make improvements. We want to account for all the footprint. How can that time spent on the road be lessened? We want to capture the total transport needs of a person.

Then, we chose number eight. The second part of it is that we want to have overpasses built on existing roads at major railroad crossings. We also want them build on future roads as well. We are looking at how we can lessen cars on the road by having different methods of getting around, whether it be ride sharing, futuristic cars, or having a rail on the side.

Being able to elevate the mass transit over the local traffic can help with this. We are thinking outside of the box to make improvements.
**Team 3**

**Patrick:** Our topics are related to each other. The first is talking about a rail system. This is something that was discussed in the past but was shot down. The second part is about the longer commute rails. We are talking about having rail systems or bus systems that would bring individuals into places like downtown Tampa. It would take people off the road and help them get to work. I’m from the Washington D.C. area, and we have park and ride lots.

They offer internet, air conditioning, and a carefree ride to your destination where you can read or fall asleep if you would like. It takes many off the road. This is an option we are looking at in the future.

**Team 4**

**Rich:** We were attracted to another team’s idea here, number six. This is to offer a ferry service between South Shore area to Tampa Bay areas. There are a lot of commuters in Brandon and Riverview, which is where we are from, and this would be very helpful. The other one we talked about is number nine. We want to find ways to bypass the congested areas. These are our two ideas.

**Team 5**

**William:** We chose number five and six. We think that an outer eastern Tampa bypass would be helpful. We envision a wrap-around 275. Team 4 already covered number six. This is of interest because we have waterway access here and it will help alleviate congestion.
**Andrew:** We chose number 10. We want there to be more frequency of public transit routes. The idea is to have smaller buses or a shuttle so that it is actually full and will decrease costs. We also chose number two, which is to create a master plan for regional hubs. We want to make sure there is coordination between Tampa Bay Next and the feasibility study. We also want to make sure there is a good transit connection.

I moved from Phoenix, Arizona, and they built a light rail there that cost one million. However, it ended up bringing in developments into the area that brought in much more revenue than the cost of building it.

**Andrea:** Are there any comments?

**Speaker:** I want to comment on the smaller buses. They have something like this overseas. If we make sure the buses are electric, it would be low-cost. It can make it so that we run fewer big buses.

**Andrea:** Thanks for your input. Now, I will read through the top 10, and we will see if there are any items that can be combined so that we do not split the vote. When I’m finished, I want you to take your polling device to vote on your top three.  
*Andrea reads the list.*

Are there any combination opportunities? No. Okay, let’s go ahead and vote. Choose your top priority first, then your second, and so on. It looks like number two came in as your top priority. Number three came in second at thirteen percent. There was a lot of energy around three others, which tied for third at twelve percent. So, we have a list of your top five. All the ideas you generated will be included in the real-time-record.

Now, let’s have the spokesperson from Team 1 come up to share your top choices for Part 2, which is on how we organize in the future.
## Prioritizing Top Ideas

Choose the Top 3 Focus Areas and specific activities that can be undertaken

1. Creating a master plan for regional hubs to allow those on the outside town to come in and come out and disburse within the town. / Included in the conversation around the Regional Transit Feasibility Study — 16%
2. Review existing plans and make determination of whether or not they are realistic; are politicians ready to fund and/or implement the plans. — 13%
3. Efficient multimodal transit system throughout the region — 12%
4. Outer eastern Tampa bypass (north-south and limited access) running between I-75 in southern Hillsborough County and I-75 in southern/middle Pasco County, serving the Brandon and Plant City — 6%
5. Ferry service between South Shore area to Tampa Bay areas, including MacDill, St. Petersburg, and Clearwater areas — 9%
6. Locate or fund research so that current traffic patterns and trip data can be evaluated to make decisions on transportation needs including mass transit. Locations of "current and future commuters (tourist, work, home to/from destination)" concentration. — 6%
7. Build overpasses on future roads in regards to railroad crossings. Also should do this with existing roads at major rail road crossings / develop a 2nd "floor" or lane for mass transit, future autonomous options, and/or rideshare [HOV] to bypass traffic on street level or highway. — 12%
8. Beltway development - what areas of congestion, considerations of safety, to bypass areas of congestion — 6%
9. More frequency of public transit routes - cut back on size of buses for smaller buses to save overhead costs — 12%

## Top Priority Focus Areas

- Creating a master plan for regional hubs, to allow those on the outside town to come in and come out and disburse within the town. / Included in the conversation around the Regional Transit Feasibility Study — 16%
- Review existing plans and make determination of whether they are realistic; are politicians ready to fund and/or implement the plans. — 13%
- Efficient multi-modal transit system throughout the region — 12%
- Build overpasses on future roads in regards to railroad crossings. Also should do this with existing roads at major rail road crossings / develop a 2nd "floor" or lane for mass transit, future autonomous options, and/or rideshare [HOV] to bypass traffic on street level or highway. — 12%
- More frequency of public transit routes - cut back on size of buses for smaller buses to save overhead costs — 12%
- Ferry service between South Shore area to Tampa Bay areas, including MacDill, St. Petersburg, and Clearwater areas — 9%
- Rails connecting in Tampa to Orlando. Tie the two cities together. — 8%
- Outer eastern Tampa bypass (north-south and limited access) running between I-75 in southern Hillsborough County and I-75 in southern/middle Pasco County, serving the Brandon and Plant City — 6%
- Locate or fund research so that current traffic patterns and trip data can be evaluated to make decisions on transportation needs including mass transit. Locations of "current and future commuters (tourist, work, home to/from destination)" concentration. — 6%
- Beltway development - what areas of congestion, considerations of safety, to bypass areas of congestion — 6%

There was a three-way tie for third.
Common Themes
Organizing the Community Working Group – Team Reports

How should the Community Working Group Organize?
1. Quarterly meetings.
2. Outreach to neighborhood associations, chambers, community stakeholders, and apartment complex. Be more pro-active in the community.
3. E-mail all meetings summaries to all attendees.
4. Conference calls/webinars for updated information
5. Quarterly face-to-face meetings
6. Quarterly meeting
7. Online forum for more participation
8. Weekend meetings or later evening time for more participation
9. Where are the elected officials in these meetings?
10. Later evening time to account for traffic
11. Bring food
12. Come to the community instead of having the community come to you
13. Need to improve communication and outreach to visual and hearing impaired

Top Ideas
1. Outreach to homegrown community and civic organizations
2. Educate organizations and citizens on the overall process, including steps to solving the transportation issues, funding, phases, priorities, etc.
3. Meeting summaries to attendees or interested parties (via email) after workshops and other transportation meetings
4. Come to the community meetings that are already established and scheduled monthly instead of having a whole new meeting and asking the community to come. This will guarantee more turnout. And bring food
5. Once a quarter but specific agenda, could add more meetings if goals are accomplished, or as needs arise.
6. Setting: Face to Face Quarterly, if monthly meeting (Webinars). Format: Structure-Project Focus
7. Virtual Meetings and live webinar
8. Process reports on what FDOT is doing with these ideas and the funding that goes into it.
9. Review of TBARTA Regional Transit Plan
10. Need improve outreach to increase meeting participation. Special notice system for visually and hearing impaired
11. Work with HOA and community groups to survey residents’ ideas for transportation needs/concerns to support working groups meetings. i.e. provide feedback
12. Meeting every other month, this can combine virtual and face to face meetings.
Mike: There is a need to improve the outreach process. This is important to our group because it needs to get to those who are hearing and visually impaired. We do want to make sure they are accommodated. The second is before we reinvent the wheel, we want to see what plans are already out there. We are interested in reviewing the current TBARTA Regional Transport Plan. We would like to hear where they are going with that.

Speaker: They have no power over that.

Andrea: Are there any other comments? Team 2, it is your turn to share.

Linda: We chose number four. We want to include this as an agenda item at existing community events because we think it would lead to better turnout. And we need to bring food. One suggestion was to get more people involved in the meetings. We think having meetings later or on the weekend to avoid rush hour. Another idea is to have a representative from each community attend the meetings. They can then share the highlights with their community.

This would be a way of getting more participation without everyone having to attend the actual meeting. Our second is number 10, which is improving outreach to increase meeting participation. In addition, we need a special notice system for those who are visually and hearing impaired.

We could use different social media outlets, like Facebook. We could also offer online surveys and send out letters. Another idea is to have a call where we can share this information.
Team 3

**Patrick:** One idea is to have virtual meetings to supplement the in-person meetings. It is not always easy to get here in the evening. We could record the meetings and leave an open window of time to receive input from those who were not able to attend. Our other idea is to have process reports on what the FDOT is doing with these ideas along with the funding that is going into it. If we see that money is being put into programs that are ineffective, we can give feedback.

Team 4

**Rich:** We think having a meeting with a specific agenda once a quarter is good. We feel that it should be flexible so that we can add more meetings if they are needed. For setting, we feel that face-to-face quarterly meetings are more effective because we can get a visual reaction to the input we are receiving. If we go to monthly meetings, a webinar may be more appropriate. The format can be structure-project focus.

Team 5

**William:** We chose number two, which is educating citizens and organizations on the process and steps required to solve the transportation issues. This ties into what all talking about tonight. There were some concerns about the May 24th meeting. Was there adequate follow-up to make sure the participants are engaged?

Being transparent and using plain language where people can understand it is important. For example, maybe we can explain the process of building a road and make sure it’s in language we understand.
Andrew: We chose number one. The idea is that we want to make sure there is more involvement in the community. This is for all of South and East Hillsborough County. The other is number four, which Team 2 covered earlier. Rather than creating new meetings, we can include this in existing meetings. It will improve turnout, especially if we bring food.

Andrea: I’m going to read this list, and when I’m finished, please choose your top three. It looks like number two is our top vote, followed closely by number one. There is a tie between number four and eight. Give yourselves a hand!
Prioritizing Top Ideas

Choose the Top 3 Ideas for how the Community Working Group Should Organize?

1. Outreach to homegrown community and civic organizations / Need improve outreach to increase meeting participation. Special notice system for visually and hearing impaired — 17%
2. Educate organizations and citizens on the overall process, including steps to solving the transportation issues, funding, phases, priorities, etc. — 18%
3. Meeting summaries to attendees or interested parties (via email) after workshops and other transportation meetings — 5%
4. Come to the community meetings that are already established and scheduled monthly instead of having a whole new meeting and asking the community to come. This will guarantee more turnout. And bring food / work with HOA and community groups to survey residents’ ideas for transportation needs/concerns to support working groups meetings. i.e. provide feedback — 14%
5. Once a quarter but specific agenda, could add more meetings if goals are accomplished, or as needs arise. — 7%
6. Setting: Face to Face Quarterly, if monthly meeting (Webinars). Format: Structure-Project Focus — 6%
7. Virtual Meetings and live webinar — 7%
8. Process reports on what FDOT is doing with the these ideas and the funding that goes into it. — 14%
9. Review of TBARTA Regional Transit Plan — 7%
10. Meeting every other month, this can combine virtual and face-to-face meetings. — 5%

Top Ideas to Organize the Community Working Group

- Educate organizations and citizens on the overall process, including steps to solving the transportation issues, funding, phases, priorities, etc. — 18%
- Outreach to homegrown community and civic organizations / Need improve outreach to increase meeting participation. Special notice system for visually and hearing impaired — 17%
- Come to the community meetings that are already established and scheduled monthly instead of having a whole new meeting and asking the community to come. This will guarantee more turnout. And bring food / work with HOA and community groups to survey residents’ ideas for transportation needs/concerns to support working groups meetings. i.e. provide feedback — 14%
- Process reports on what FDOT is doing with these ideas and the funding that goes into it. — 14%
- Once a quarter but specific agenda, could add more meetings if goals are accomplished, or as needs arise. — 7%
- Virtual Meetings and live webinar — 7%
- Review of TBARTA Regional Transit Plan — 7%
- Setting: Face to Face Quarterly, if monthly meeting (Webinars). Format: Structure-Project Focus — 6%
- Meeting every other month, this can combine virtual and face to face meetings. — 5%
- Meeting summaries to attendees or interested parties (via email) after workshops and other transportation meetings — 5%

There was a two-way tie for third.
Common Themes
Andrea: Are there any public comments that we want to bring forward?

Karen: I want to make a comment. Most of us come from a metropolitan city and appreciate mass transit. But when you come here, it doesn’t exist largely due to issues with taxes and development. Mass transit is the answer. If it is frequent and reliable, you can schedule your life around it. On Thursday at 6 p.m., there is going to be a meeting about opening agricultural land for development.

Right now, our mass transit budget, which is just 39 million, is does not equal to the 100-million-dollar mess-up that is requiring the widening of 2.7 miles of a road. Also, our citizens are not protesting. If we do not come up with a mass transit solution, the impact will be on healthcare. We will have asthma. If you have money, you can afford to treat it.

If you don’t, you will simply suffer. Tampa won’t be the great city. People aren’t going to come here if they have to drive in traffic.

Andrea: We have one other comment.

Christopher: Thank you. I have two points. First, it’s great that you are here, but we must have our voices heard at a county and city level. They are doing more next fall. We need to get this done through community involvement and elected commissioners.
Christopher: NPO and FDOT will get this done through collaboration. There is a lack in county commissioners’ desire to fund public transportation even when the money is there.

Andrea: If you have any concerns that you would like to see addressed, there are comment cards you can fill out on your way out.

Bill Jones, FDOT: Thank you all for being here. We heard a comment earlier about educating the community about public transportation, and we want you to know that we have plans to do so. On September 8th, we are going to roll out educational webinars on how transportation is funded. If you are on the email list, it will be pushed out to you. It will also be posted on our website.

Speaker: What are the next steps after our meeting tonight?

Bill: Tomorrow, we are getting together to review your comments. This is probably the most robust discussion we’ve had. Team 3 brought up having a need and desire for transparency.

This is what we are focusing on. Often, information is brought to the community too late. We want to bring it to you earlier. At our next meetings, we want to focus on what we are really going to do. We are collaborating with the County and City and are very excited.

Speaker: How do we get on the email list?

Bill: You can add your email address on the sign-in sheet. Now, I’m going to pass it off to Jonathon, who will be share his drawing.
**Artwork**

**Jonathon:** Over here on the left, we started with the idea of a hub system. I wanted to give a visual to that important concept. I thought it would be great to live in Riverview and get on a hub system to go to the beach. Mickey Mouse could live in Riverview rather than Orlando. I also represented a built overpass, looking at the master plans, and revisiting existing plans. I’m going to add color tonight to enhance it a little more.
Andrea: Thank you all for your participation. We will be posting the results from tonight on tampabaynext.com. Please be sure to check it out.

Addendum

Gerald, a community member and meeting participant, asked to have his comment below added to the real-time-record.

Gerald: We need a separate road system for low-speed vehicles, including bicycles, golf carts, and mopeds. We need a grid around town so that these inexpensive, easy-to-park vehicles can be used for commuting. Thanks.