



# Next Steps Newsletter

August 2017

Modernize infrastructure | Prepare for the future | Embrace collaboration and innovation

## What is Tampa Bay Next?

Tampa Bay Next is a program to modernize Tampa Bay's transportation infrastructure and prepare for the future.

## The Program Includes:

- Interstate Modernization
- Transit
- Bike/Pedestrian Facilities
- Complete Streets
- Transportation Innovation
- Freight Mobility

## Tampa Bay Next Priorities:

- Move people and goods safely and efficiently
- Build a comprehensive regional transportation system
- Create meaningful opportunities for public input
- Balance regional needs with community concerns
- Commit to sustainable infrastructure decisions

## Citizens Transportation Academy



Interested in learning more about how transportation is planned, developed, funded, and implemented? Join the Florida Department of Transportation's *Citizens Transportation Academy!* You talk. We listen. This webinar series is a direct response to the questions and comments we heard at our Community Working Groups and public outreach events.

### WEBINAR COURSES

*Note: There will be no session on Sept. 29 due to the TMA Leadership Meeting*

<b>October 6</b>	Metropolitan Planning Process
<b>October 13</b>	Introduction to Transportation Project Development
<b>October 20</b>	Introduction to Transit: Transit Modes and How They Work
<b>October 27</b>	How Transportation Projects are Funded
<b>November 2</b>	Congestion Management Strategies

The online series is free and open to the public. For more information on how to participate, please visit: [TampaBayNext.com/CitizensTransportationAcademy](http://TampaBayNext.com/CitizensTransportationAcademy). If you do not have computer access or prefer to participate in person, please join us at FDOT District Seven Headquarters, 11201 N McKinley Dr., Tampa, FL 33612.

Questions? Contact [TampaBayNext@dot.state.fl.us](mailto:TampaBayNext@dot.state.fl.us) or call (813) 975-NEXT (6398)

## Community Working Groups: Top Focus Areas



**Downtown:** Prioritizing transportation solutions like rail, bus, biking, and walking to align with the many values of the community.

**Westshore:** Use data/impact driven decision making, cost/benefit analysis vs. "whoever screams the loudest."

**Pinellas:** Account for new technologies, including automated vehicles, mass transit, maximize access to airports, and multimodal centers.

**North and West Hillsborough:** Connecting transportation hubs of Tampa Bay with affordable, flexible transit options.

**Pasco/Hernando:** Adding light rail to the transportation system, possibly in the Hwy 301/SR 56, for travel to the airport and other activity hubs, and more bus service focused on long distance and high traffic areas with Wi-Fi.

**East and South Hillsborough County/Polk County** Create a master plan for regional hubs and in/out movements. Include in the conversation the Regional Transit Feasibility Study

The next round of meetings will start in September. For more information, please visit: [TampaBayNext.com/get-involved/community-working-groups](http://TampaBayNext.com/get-involved/community-working-groups). We hope you will get involved!

FDOT will host local and regional opportunities to participate in developing meaningful transportation solutions.

**For more project specific information and to get involved:**

[TampaBayNext.com](http://TampaBayNext.com) | [TampaBayNext@dot.state.fl.us](mailto:TampaBayNext@dot.state.fl.us) | (813) 975-NEXT | [f TampaBayNext](https://www.facebook.com/TampaBayNext) | [@TampaBayNext](https://twitter.com/TampaBayNext)



## Upcoming Events

### Thursday, September 7:

Historic Resources Information Meeting, 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.  
**Centro Asturiano, Ballroom**, 1913 N. Nebraska Avenue,  
Tampa, FL 33602

### Every Friday, September 15 to October 20:

Citizens Transportation Academy webinar series,  
12:00-1:00 p.m., **Webinar online:**  
**TampaBayNext.com/CitizensTransportationAcademy**  
or Florida Dept. of Transportation, 11201 N. McKinley Dr.,  
Tampa, FL 33612

Please visit the website for up to date event information: **TampaBayNext.com/get-involved/**.

***Would you like The Florida Department of Transportation to present information at your community or neighborhood event? Please call email us at TampaBayNext@dot.state.fl.us.***

### Tuesday, September 19:

Community Working Group for Westshore/West Tampa/South Tampa,  
5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m., **Centre Club at the Urban Center**,  
123 S. Westshore Boulevard (8th Floor), Tampa, FL 33609

### Monday, September 25:

Community Working Group for Downtown Tampa,  
6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m., **The Barrymore Hotel**, 111 Fortune Street,  
Tampa, FL 33602

## Back to School Traffic Safety Tips

August is back to school month! School buses have returned to their rounds, hurried parents are dropping off their kids, and some children are navigating their route to school by bicycle or foot. As we continue adjusting to the new normal of school traffic, please consider these safety tips:



**Give yourself time.** Plan for a few extra minutes in your commute.

You don't want your kids to be late to school and you don't want to be late to work. Give yourself the time to not feel rushed.

**Avoid school zones, if possible.** There is a higher volume of young pedestrians in these zones. Avoid adding to the traffic in that area by going around it altogether if you can find a good, alternative route.

**Eliminate driving distractions.** Research shows that taking your eyes off the road for just two seconds doubles your chances of crashing. Children can be quick, darting into the street unexpectedly or emerging from an area of parked cars. In neighborhoods and near schools especially, consider pausing your conversations, putting your phone down, and turning your radio down in volume.

**Be careful to watch for students** who walk and bike to school. Children on bikes are often inexperienced and unpredictable. Slow down and allow for at least three feet between your vehicle and a bicyclist. Do not startle pedestrians or cyclists by honking even if you think you have the right of way.

**Be cautious around bus stops.** Slow down when approaching school bus stops with students present. Never pass a bus from behind, or from either direction if you are on an undivided road, if it is stopped to load or unload children.

**Respect the school zones.** Decrease your speed at the Begin School Zone sign and maintain reduced speed until the End School Zone sign. Anticipate that children will be riding bicycles and walking in these areas.

By planning a little better and exercising caution, we can all have a safe and punctual school year.

Public participation is solicited without regard to race, color, national origin, age, sex, religion, disability or family status. Persons who require special accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act or persons who require translation services (free of charge) should contact Christopher Speese, by phone at 813-975-6405, or via email at Christopher.Speese@dot.state.fl.us at least seven (7) days prior to the meeting. If you are hearing or speech impaired, please contact us by using the Florida Relay Service, 1-800-955-8771 (TDD) or 1-800-955-8770 (Voice).

The environmental review, consultation, and other actions required by applicable federal environmental laws for this project are being, or have been, carried out by the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) pursuant to 23 U.S.C. §327 and a Memorandum of Understanding dated December 14, 2016 and executed by the Federal Highway Administration and FDOT.

Comuníquese Con Nosotros

Nos importa mucho la royeet del público sobre el royeecto. Si usted tiene preguntas o comentarios, o si simplemente desea más información, por favor comuníquese con nuestra representante, Lilliam Escalera, 813-975-6403, Departamento de Transportación de Florida, 11201 N. McKinley Dr., Tampa, FL 33612, lilliam.escalera@dot.state.fl.us