

Community Working Group South and East Hillsborough County and Polk County

December 6, 2017 Real Time Record







Community Working Group – South and East Hillsborough County and Polk County

December 6, 2017 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. The Regent, 6437 Watson Road, Riverview, Florida 33578

5:30 p.m. – 5:40 p.m.	Welcome / Objectives / Event Structure Rebecca Watson, Collaborative Labs	
5:40 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.	FDOT District Seven Presentation Amy Neidringhaus and Stephen Benson	
6:00 p.m. – 6:20 p.m.	Hillsborough County Metropolitan Planning Organization Presentation Beth Alden	
6:20 p.m. – 6:40 p.m.	Regional Transit Feasibility Plan Presentation Scott Pringle	
6:40 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.	Roundtable Discussions - Florida Department of Transportation/District Seven - Hillsborough County Metropolitan Planning Organization - Regional Transit Feasibility Plan - Hillsborough County	
7:30 p.m.	Closing	



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Welcome / Objectives / Event Structure

Rebecca Watson, Collaborative Labs

Welcome East and South Hillsborough County and Polk County Community Working Group December 5, 2017 Rebecca Watson Collaborative Labs St. Petersburg College



Rebecca Watson, Facilitator, Collaborative Labs, St. Petersburg College: Good evening everyone. My name is Rebecca Watson and I am your facilitator this evening for Tampa Bay Next, and I am from Collaborative Labs at St. Petersburg College. I want to welcome you and thank you so much for your participation. I want to share with you what tonight will look like and then dive into the agenda.

This meeting is also going on as a webinar. For those who are watching by webinar, you will be in "listen only" mode. There will be an opportunity to ask questions via a chat bar.

Welcome to those viewing by webinar

LISTENING OPTIONS

- Your listening options are provided in the "Audio" pane of your Control Panel.
- Telephone (Phone number, access code, and audio pin provided under "Audio")
- Computer or VoIP (Must have speakers)
- You will join the webinar in listen-only mode for the duration of the session





For those who are live in the room, we would ask that you keep all your cell phones on silent.

For those attending in-person Please be considerate of web-viewers by limiting outside conversations and shuffling paper during the webinar. Place cell phones in quiet mode and leave the room to take calls.



The agenda for this evening includes presentations about ongoing and upcoming activities from the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), Hillsborough County Transportation, the Hillsborough County Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and an update on the Regional Transit

Feasibility Plan. These presentations can be viewed online as well.

The second part of the evening will be breakout sessions with the local presenters. FDOT staff will be available for questions before and after the breakout sessions.





There is a lot of information so to ensure we get through all of the presentations, we ask that you hold your questions to ask the representative from the agency after the presentations.

Questions Will Be Addressed During and After Breakout Sessions

- We have a lot of information to share with you tonight. In order to get through all the presentations, we will address questions during the breakout sessions.
- FDOT leadership and staff will be available after the breakout sessions if you have additional questions or would like further discussion.



For the online participants, you will be able to ask your questions on the chat bar on the right side of your screen. They will not be answered online, but the answers will be provided on the website next week.

Webinar Questions

- For those viewing online, please utilize the chat bar on the right side of your screen to send questions to the Tampa Bay Next team.
- Online questions will be collected and addressed by topic experts.
- Responses will be posted on TampaBayNext.com next week.
- An email notification will be sent to those registered online and those in the TampaBayNext outreach list once questions and responses have been posted.





One thing that is unique to what Collaborative Labs does is we will capture the presentations this evening in a robust set of meeting notes called a Real Time Record. If you have a comment, please complete one of the available comment cards or comment online. All of the comments will become part of the Real-Time Record.



We will now proceed to the presentations. Are there any elected officials in attendance? *None*.



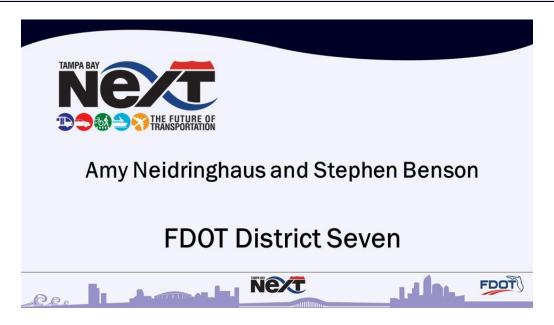
Your input matters. Your ideas help shape the Tampa Bay Next program.

Now on to our presentations



FDOT District Seven Presentation

Stephen Benson and Amy Neidringhaus



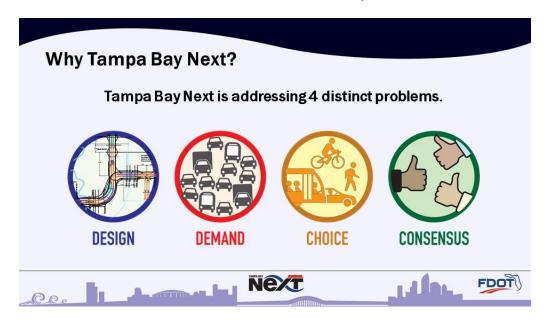


Stephen Benson, FDOT, District 7: We'll be giving you an update on the Tampa Bay Next program and process and my colleague, Amy, will be talking more specifically about projects in this area.





Why Tampa Bay Next? We are working with the community to build consensus on the projects we should be doing. The first area is design. The second is demand – the number of cars and people we have traveling in our region. The third is choice – providing more choices helps with the second area. The last is consensus. We have to find a way to build consensus.



Interstate Modernization We have studies and projects planned for Hillsborough and Pinellas Counties. All the way from St. Petersburg up into Pasco County. We have some projects in the Lakeland area, and almost the entire I-75 corridor area. We are looking for solutions to problems you may be encountering out there. The schedule is on the



right. The Gateway expressway is an elevated roadway construction that will provide a highway connection from US19 to the Bayside Bridge and to I-275. That project is moving along. Construction has started.

The Howard Frankland Bridge project – we just went to public hearing. The northbound span has reached the end of its useful life. We're replacing lanes, adding lanes and adding pedestrian and bike trails. That is scheduled for construction in 2019. The Westshore to Downtown corridor as well as the downtown interchange are under evaluation and awaiting public hearings.

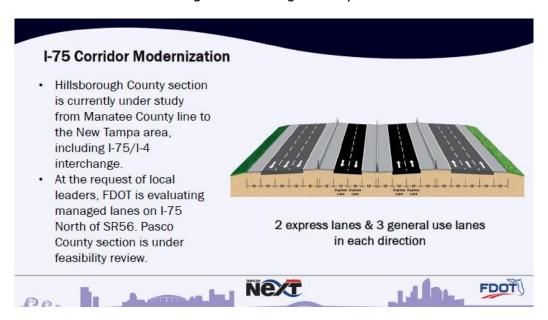


The I-4 and Connector had a public hearing in 2015 and the I-75 corridor is also an express lane project being evaluated and the public hearing is slated for the Spring of 2019.

Taking a step back, we look at the connections of the major employment centers, and we're looking at I-75 as the main regional connector. We're looking for your input on how far north these improvements should go, maybe all the way to SR 52. Those are some of the conversations we want to how over the next year or so.



I-75 Corridor Modernization: We're looking at managed lanes on I-75 north of SR56 From the southern portion of Pasco County up to SR56. We are looking at a total of ten lanes; now there are six. We're also looking at Hillsborough County.





FDOT Invests in Transit: This gives you an idea of some of the studies and planning activities happening. From ferries to get around all the way to express buses. Also, we're looking at what new technology can do for us – self-driving vehicles and automated vehicle technology. We have a self-driving shuttle moving around downtown Tampa with no driver – that's coming up as a pilot.



Community Outreach: The critical piece is that the projects are what you want and consistent with the improvements you want to see done. We've been going to different community events as well as planned meetings like this one. Your honest feedback is really important.





Leveraging Technology: We have set up a team that are experts looking at deploying technology to maximize our infrastructure and use our lanes more efficiently. How many of you have stopped at a light and no one is coming? We know that there is technology out there that can maximize that time. That's just one example. Technology is changing so rapidly that we should be able to use that rather than just adding more lanes.



Amy will now go over some of the East and South Hillsborough projects.

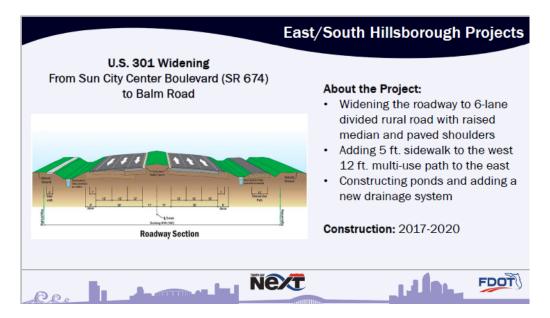






Amy Neidringhaus, FDOT District 7: I'd like to take you through projects that are in design or in construction currently for the major roadways in this area.

US 301 Widening: We are widening this roadway to a 6-lane rural road and it should be completed by 2020.

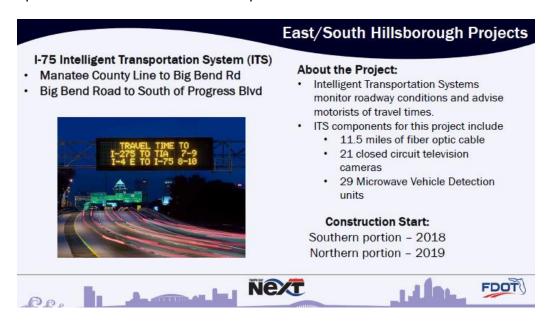


Additional US 301 Improvements: At SR 43, we are reconstructing the signal and including some ADA improvements. At SR 41, we are resurfacing and replacing signage and pavement markings.





I-75 Intelligent Transportation System: We are adding ITS to these roads to monitor the roadway conditions and advise motorists of travel times. It includes fiber optic cable, closed circuit cameras, and microwave vehicle detection units. Construction will start in 2018 for the southern portion and 2019 for the northern portion.



SR 674 At Balm Wilmauma Road: We are doing some intersection modifications to expand the eastbound left turn lane from SR 674 onto Balm Wilmauma Road.





SR 674 Roadway Projects: We have some various projects along SR 674 including repaving US 41 in Ruskin, adding landscaping, and repaving Commercial Center Drive to US 301 in Sun City.



SR 60 Roadway Improvements: We are widening SR 60 in Brandon to a 6-lane divided road with medians and resurfacing SR 60 from Falkenburg Road to Lake Kathy Drive. We are making other improvements for sidewalks, bike lanes, and changing median openings to improve safety.





Moving forward together: We are working together with our partners at the MPOs, TBARTA, and Forward Pinellas. If you have questions, please let us know. Thank you for your time.



Amy: Mr. Mike Williams from Hillsborough County is up next.

Hillsborough County Transportation

Mike Williams







Mike Williams, Hillsborough County: Good evening everyone. Hillsborough County has been looking for funding for various transportation projects for about four years.



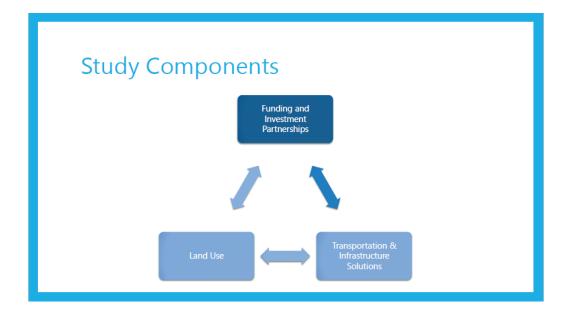
Investment Outcomes: One of the things we have been trying to do, particularly with major investment projects, is to look at the land use.





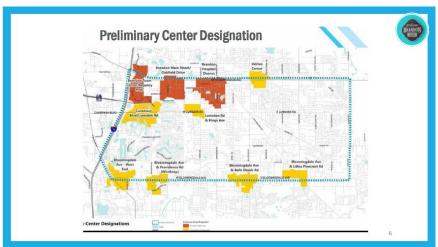
Specifically, we are looking at these three areas.







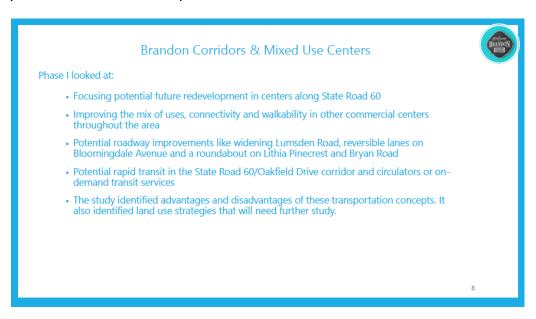








Brandon Corridors & Mixed Use Centers: We started talking about this study a year ago. There were some things that people liked and some things they didn't like so we accounted for that in the study. We want to look at our policies in the rural areas.



What I really want to talk about this evening are some the projects. In part of the east and southern part of the county, we are doing a number of projects from resurfacing, improving intersections, school safety, sidewalks, and improving congestion.

I'll start with the big projects first and we can talk about specifics in our Q&A after the presentations. We are looking at the corridor at 19th Avenue near Sun City Center all the way from US 41 to US 301. We're also looking at the Apollo Beach extension.

We are looking at Big Bend Road. It is a big growth area and it was not built for the traffic it sees today so we are widening it to six lanes. We also have a couple of projects to modify the interchange.

We also have a project for Lithia Pinecrest Road. There has been some controversy so we will have to do some public engagements to get recommendations. We have not started this project yet.

Those are some of our local projects. I would be happy to answer specific questions after the presentations.



<u>Hillsborough County Metropolitan Planning Organization Presentation – 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan</u>

Rich Clarendon



Rich Clarendon, Hillsborough Metropolitan Planning Organization: We work closely with FDOT and I'm going to talk about our efforts to extend our long term plan to 2045. As you know, it takes a long time to organize the projects and get funding.



Here are some of the projects in our long range plan today. This plan shows the people in Tallahassee and DC how we are looking to spend our dollars from federal and state funding.

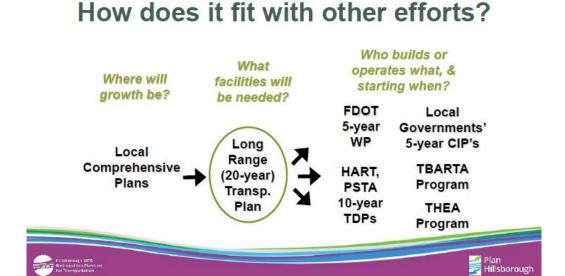
Why does the Long Range Plan Matter?

- Identifies priority projects now being funded, for example:
 - Howard Frankland Bridge
 - ➤ I-275/SR 60 Interchange
 - Replacement Buses
 - Advanced Traffic Management Systems
 - South Coast Greenway & other trails
- Conveys our priorities for federal & state funding to Washington, DC & Tallahassee

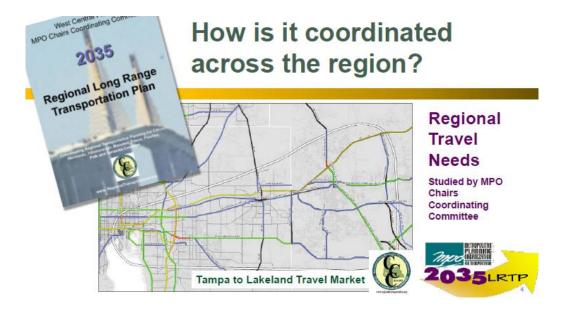




Stephen talked about the projects we are studying or rolling out. A long range plan talks about what facilities we will need in about twenty years. We need to set up our infrastructure to support these plans. FDOT has a 5-year plan and HART and PSTA have 10-year plans and the other programs.



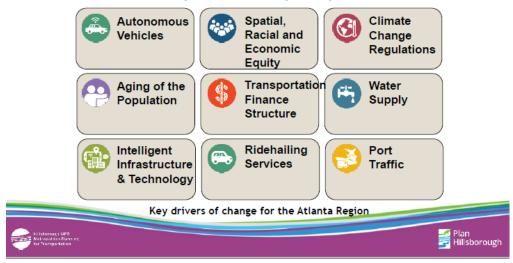
We looked back about ten years to determine our regional travel needs working in conjunction with the MPO. We will be updating this to 2045.





These are some of the key drivers of change looking into the future. These drivers are for the Atlanta region but will be similar for us.



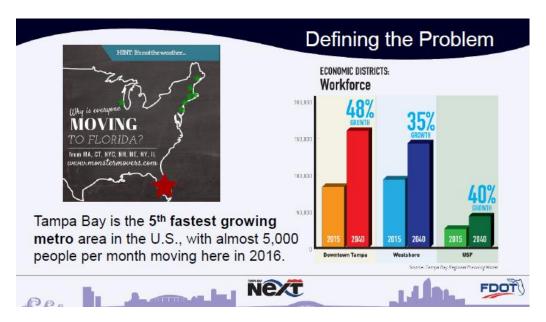


We are working as a region to come up with an action plan for transportation.

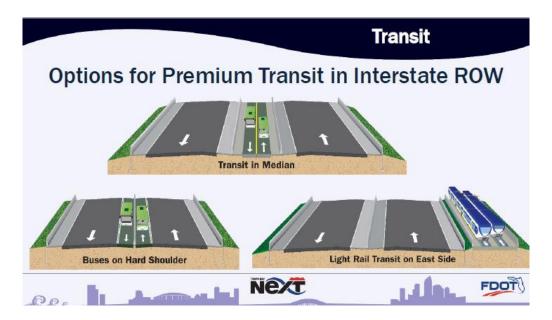




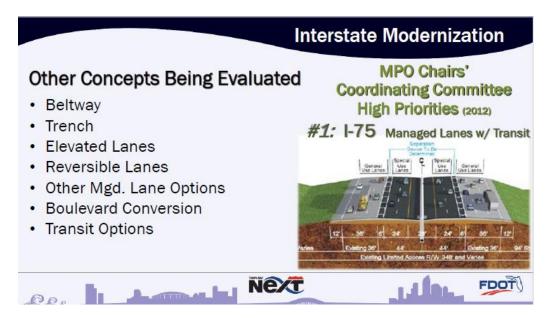
As you all know, we are a fast-growing community. This all adds up to more transportation needs.



How do we address this issue? We have options such as using the median or the shoulders for transit.

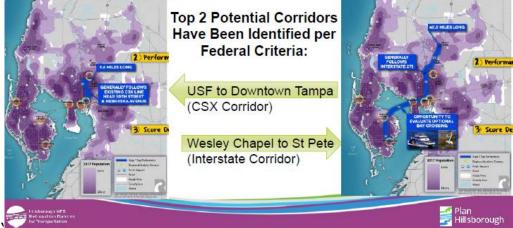


Interstate Modernization: Here are some of the concepts being evaluated.

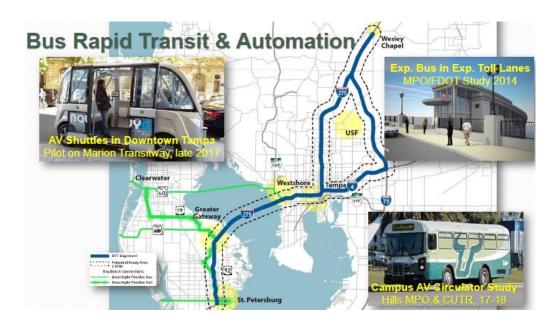


Scott Pringle will be talking about the Regional Transit Feasibility Plan. There are two potential corridors that have been identified per Federal criteria.

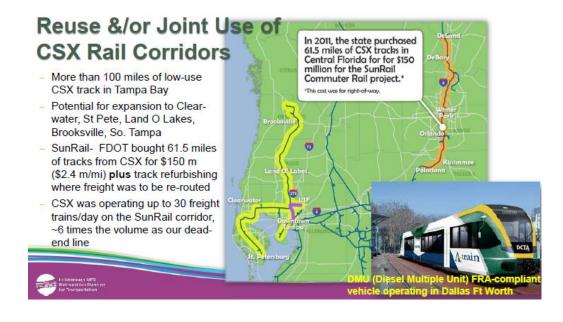
Regional Transit Feasibility Plan



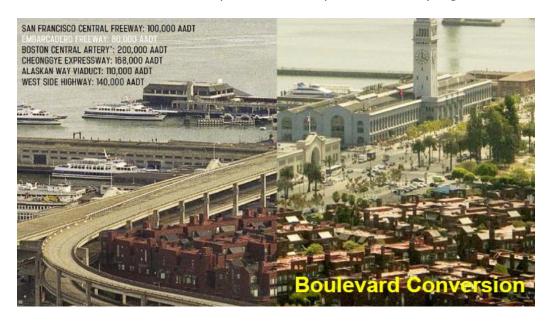
Bus Rapid Transit & Automation: We are looking at other options like automated vehicle shuttles. We have pilot projects and we are doing a study with USF.



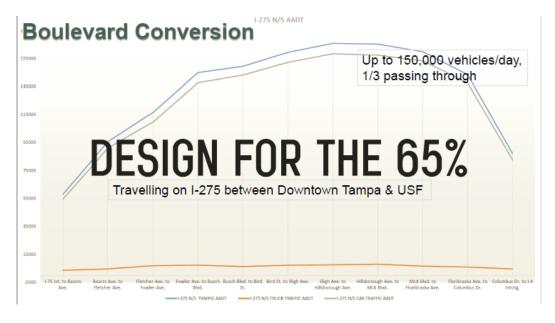
Reuse &/or Joint Use of CSX Rail Corridors: We have a 100 miles of low-use track we could use as an option. There are conditions though about running transit in an active corridor.



Boulevard Conversion: This has come up in the last couple of months by a graduate student.



We are looking at a boulevard conversion as one of our options during this process.



We are looking to put together scenarios for 2045. In Hillsborough, we have three possible scenarios – one we call the Suburban Dream, another is the Bustling Metro, and the last one we call the New Corporate Centers.



Tampa Bay TMA Role: We are going to do this same type of exercise on a large scale and build scenarios. We want to get your input. We will also develop funding and cost strategies.

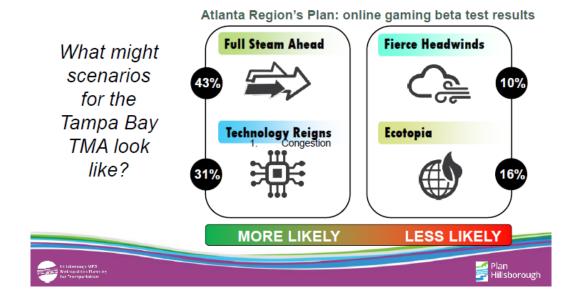
Tampa Bay TMA Role



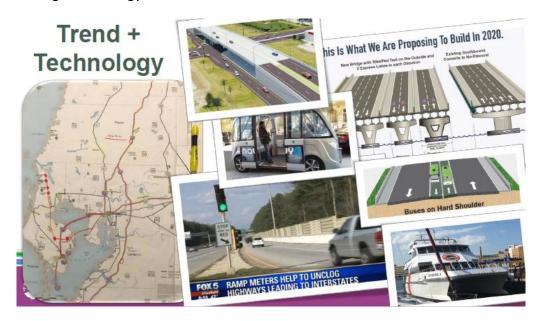




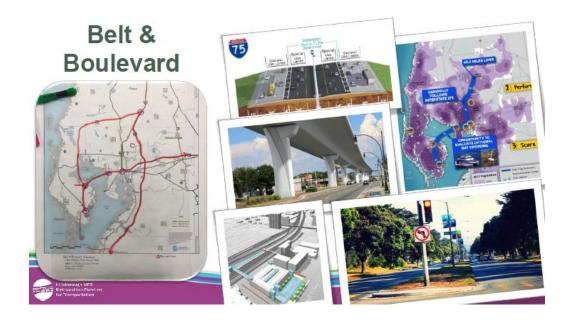
In the Tampa Bay area, what would scenarios look like? Again we looked at the Atlanta Region's Plan.



Trend + Technology: We are looking at trends today in terms of growth and development. We want to leverage technology as best we can.



Belt & Boulevard: We are looking at the I-275 segment from USF to downtown and having a beltway that extends around.





Transit Oriented Development: We are looking at bus and CSX.



Polling Questions: We want to get your input. We have three questions we want to ask you, but we are going to do it the old school way. We would like you to answer the questions using the comment cards.

Give us your thoughts by text!





Question 1: Please take a comment card and select your top three drivers of change.

Question 1: What "big ideas" or **drivers of change** could most affect how & where we grow? (Select 3)

- Vacant land availability
- Declining gas tax, more reliance on tolls & fees
- 3. Dramatic traffic growth
- 4. Deferred maintenance
- 5. Investing in fixed transit
- Automated vehicles

- 7. Shared mobility services
- 8. Aging population
- 9. Income stagnation
- Access to job centers
- 11. Tourism industry strength
- Freight/logistics industry strength
- 13. Climate change





Question 2: What are the best strategies to accommodate population growth? (Select 2)

- Redevelop cities & older suburbs at higher densities
- Redevelop older commercial strip corridors as townhomes & apts.
- Re/develop around new fixed-guideway transit stations
- Develop agricultural land as needed
- Develop new towns in outlying areas
- Develop along interstate hwy & expressway corridors
- 7. Don't accommodate it
- Other







Question 3: Please select three that we should we focus transportation resources.

Question 3: For our future populations' needs, how should we focus transportation resources? (Select 3)

- 1. Add lanes to interstate hwys
- 2. Build more elevated hwys
- Widen 4-6 lane rds to 6-8 lanes 9. First commuter/light rail line
- Innovative intersections & interchanges
- Advanced traffic management systems & AV/CV readiness
- Maintain pavement & bridges

- 7. Better bus service in counties
- Transit connecting counties
- Walk & bike facilities
- Step up safety improvements & traffic calming
- 12. Better freight rail & truck routes
- 13. Other



Please also provide your home zip code and add any comments if there is anything else we should consider. I will be here after the presentations if you have any questions.

Closing Questions

What is your home zip code?

https://www.polleverywhere.com/free_text_polls/Ps32w047uVWO68w

Are there any additional things we should consider?

https://www.polleverywhere.com/free_text_polls/7kgAvB2LfzXUD7e

When you're done: text the word leave

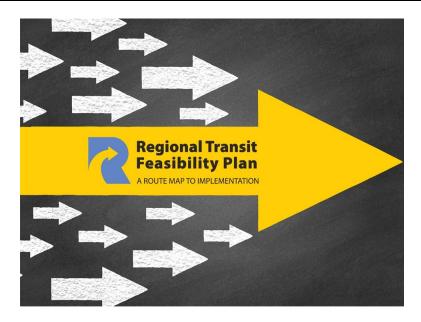






Regional Transit Feasibility Plan Presentation

Scott Pringle



Scott Pringle, Regional Transit Feasibility Study: Good evening everyone. I am the Project Manager for Regional Transit Feasibility Plan. I have been tasked with identifying transit for the Tampa Bay region. We are not talking just about bus stops. We are talking about transit that can carry people long distances in an efficient manner.

When we look at transit, we have to answer these three questions. My job is to first identify the project and the cost of that project.







Traveling to Our Regional Centers in 2040: Rich mentioned this earlier. Tampa Bay is growing. When we look at the year 2040, we think about our trip from home to work and how we can move in the most efficient way. Transit can be one of our solutions.



50+...: There have been a lot of efforts to look at transit in our community. We've done 55 studies over the past 30 years. We've tried to identify projects that have the best shot of moving forward. The reality is that we haven't done a good job of tapping into the federal funding. We've only had one project go into the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) capital projects. That's the express buses.



Regional Transit
Residuity Flam

FEDERAL AND STATE GRANT PROCESS

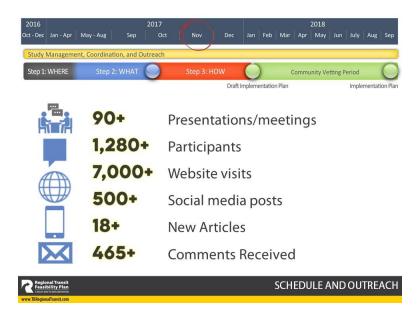
Purpose of the plan: There are three main things – projects that have the greatest potential of being funded. These are competitive programs. Not just popular, but those that score and



perform well. They technically make sense. We are looking at projects that are forward thinking. We will also look at technology – what is today and what will it be tomorrow. We want to be considerate of what best serves our region today and in the future.



90+...: Our schedule for the plan is pretty straightforward. For the first year, we will regionally focus on what is the draft concept that we can take out the public next year. From January of next month to the summer of 2018, we will take the draft plan of Transit Feasibility Study to the public. There will be plenty of opportunity to hear recommendations across the region.



What we've heard: When we talked to people the first year, we have heard a lot of conversations about whether transit makes sense. We've heard some frustration. Please stop



talking, start building. Where are the solutions? A lot of interest in technologies, rubber wheel and steel wheel solutions get a lot of interest.

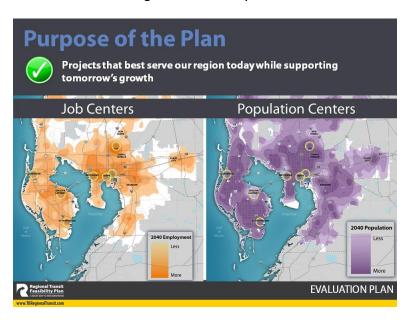


There are three main steps: First, look where are the top connections. What are the travel patterns? Where are people moving? We looked at the major travel patterns and the key connections. In Step 2, we match together the modes. Where does light rail make sense? Bus rapid transit, repurpose freight rail lines. We look at projects that pair connections with the modes. In Step 3, we look at where it makes the most sense to start.

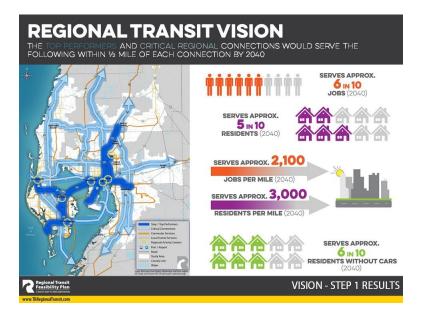




Job Centers: We started focusing on the *Where* during the Spring of this year. When we have key activity centers like Westshore, downtown Tampa and Brandon, it was pretty straightforward and we started focusing on that concept.



Regional Transit Vision. The light blue lines are the key critical connections across our region and the dark blue lines are the top performing corridors that we've looked at. We are looking at connecting the communities to those job centers.





Choosing Modes: The next step is the *What*. We kept everything on the table. We're trying to be forward thinking. We have ferry and aerial, steel wheel or rail and rubber tire transit.



Emerging Autonomous Solutions: Over the past couple of years, there has been a significant development in technology in the transit industry. We are seeing an enormous emergence of autonomous or driverless vehicles. Stephen mentioned an autonomous vehicle in Tampa. We're one of the first in the country. We'll see how it works in mixed traffic and people. We're looking at how that will fit into the regional transit projects.





Step 2: We're trying to score well in the Federal Transit Administration's process. What is our Return on Investment? We've been scoring throughout our analysis based on the FTA criteria. That means looking closely at ROI, the returns and investments as well as public opinion.



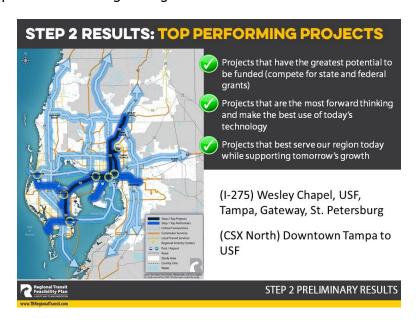
Preliminary ranking: We're really looking at two main regional connections. The I-275 corridor all the way from Wesley Chapel, USF, Tampa and Gateway to downtown St. Petersburg. That's a strong connection. Rubber tire or steel wheel types of solutions. We're looking at both.

The other corridor is downtown Tampa to USF. CSX freight rail has some potential. That also rose to the top. We are crunching the data and looking at how these different alternatives score and would be most competitive in the federal process.

Rank	Connection	Mode
1	(I-275) Wesley Chapel, USF, Tampa, Gateway, St. Petersburg	Light Rail
2	(I-275) Wesley Chapel, USF, Tampa, Gateway, St. Petersburg	Rubber Tire in Exclusive Lane
3	(CSX North) Downtown Tampa to USF	Light Rail
4	(CSX North) Downtown Tampa to USF	Rubber Tire in Exclusive Lane
5	(I-275) Wesley Chapel, USF, Tampa, Gateway, St. Petersburg	Commuter Rail
5	(CSX North) Downtown Tampa to USF	Commuter Rail
7	Westshore to Brandon	Rubber Tire in Exclusive Lane
7	Westshore to Brandon	Light Rail
9	(I-275) Wesley Chapel, USF, Tampa, Gateway, St. Petersburg	Rubber Tire in Toll Lane
9	(CSX South) South Tampa to Downtown Tampa	Light Rail
11	Clearwater, Gateway, St. Petersburg	Light Rail
12	Clearwater, Gateway, St. Petersburg	Rubber Tire in Exclusive Lane
13	Westshore to Brandon	Commuter Rail
13	(CSX South) South Tampa to Downtown Tampa	Rubber Tire in Exclusive Lane
13	(CSX South) South Tampa to Downtown Tampa	Elevated Rail

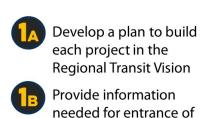


Top Performing Projects: This is exactly where we are today. Step 2 concludes at the end of January. We are looking at the division as whole and the decisions we need to make for the projects in the region. The darker lines are some of those corridors where we will start with the newer technology. All the projects on this map are critical to Tampa Bay. The next project will be connecting the greater Brandon area to downtown Tampa. We need to know where to start and then where to go after that. We'll be going out to the public to get input on that draft implementation plan to ask if we got it right.



Draft Plan: We will develop a plan for what it will take to move forward and then do the subsequent projects. In January, we will come out with a draft implementation plan, and it will have information about all of those projects.

NEXT STEPS: DRAFT PLAN







I'll be here for the rest of the evening and welcome your questions.



Roundtable Discussions

- Florida Department of Transportation/District Seven
- Hillsborough County Metropolitan Planning Organization
- Regional Transit Feasibility Plan
- Hillsborough County

Rebecca: We have reached the end of our presentations. Thank you so much to all of the presenters and to you, the participants, for sharing your feedback. Also, for those of you online, thank you so much for joining us.



We are at the roundtable discussion portion of the evening. Now, we can have more intimate discussions and you may ask any questions that may have come up during the presentations and the information that was shared. As the wheels were turning, you have an opportunity to engage with the presenters and the FDOT staff.

I want to orient you visually with where to go. We have four tables, and the presenters will be at each of these tables. It is very informal, so please feel free to move around.

For those of you online, if you have questions, you can enter your comments and we will be collecting those and answering them following this evening.



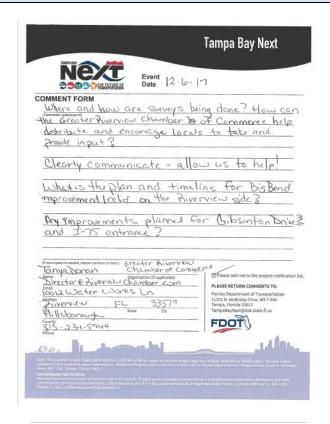








Comment Cards



Comment Sheet #1 – Tanya Doran

Where and how are surveys being done? How can the Greater Riverview Chamber of Commerce help distribute and encourage locals to take and provide input?

Clearly communicate – allow us to help!

What is the plan and timeline for Big Bend improvement/relief on the Riverview side?

Any improvements planned for Gibsonton Drive and I-75 entrance?



Comment Sheet #2 – Tanya Doran

Please update signage @ I75 and Apollo Beach exit to be RIVERVIEW/Apollo Beach Exit

