

**PINELLAS PLANNING COUNCIL  
AGENDA MEMORANDUM**

**AGENDA ITEM:** IV A.

**MEETING DATE:** April 16, 2008

**SUBJECT:**

TBARTA – Update of Master Plan (2:00 P.M.)

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Council Receive and Discuss As Is Appropriate.  
(Information Only – No Action Required)

**I. BACKGROUND**

Council staff was contacted in February by Bob Clifford, Intermodal Systems Manager for the Florida State Department of Transportation District 7, requesting a time when he could come and speak to the Council on behalf of the Tampa Bay Area Regional Transportation Authority (TBARTA). They have scheduled presentations before city councils and county commissions throughout the seven-county region to explain the status of TBARTA's efforts and to begin their public outreach program and wanted to address the Council as well.

Mr. Clifford and Margie Martin, Public Relations Liaison for TBARTA, are scheduled to make a presentation to the Council at today's meeting at approximately 2:00 P.M. The presentation is anticipated to take about twenty minutes.

Attached for the Council's background is an informational piece on TBARTA and their charge.

**PINELLAS PLANNING COUNCIL ACTION:**

**COUNTYWIDE PLANNING AUTHORITY ACTION:**



# Collaboration, Vision & Action

August 2007

West Central Florida

Strategic Regional Transit Needs Assessment

## A New Regional Transportation Authority is Right on Track!

With the creation of the Tampa Bay Area Regional Transportation Authority (TBARTA) on July 1, 2007, we have an authority that will take action on regional transportation issues, from the conceptual stage through construction and operations. The Authority will be charged with many responsibilities, including creating a regional multimodal transportation master plan, by July 1, 2009. The master plan will identify and prioritize projects to improve multimodal mobility, traffic safety, freight mobility, and efficient emergency evacuation.

The steps beyond planning are imperative to advancing the transportation system in our region. TBARTA will have the authority to plan, finance, build, and operate multi-modal transportation projects such as bus routes, rail lines, and toll roads throughout our region. The existing metropolitan planning organizations and West Central Florida Chairs Coordinating Committee (CCC) have the ability to plan, but not the authority to secure funding or implement. TBARTA has the power to secure funding through bonds, grants, and donations; collect fares; purchase land; and construct new facilities.

To ensure everyone's voices are heard, the 16 members on the TBARTA Board and committees will include representatives from the region's business community, counties, major cities, transit agencies, CCC, and the Florida Department of Transportation. Polk County, although not represented on the TBARTA Board, will continue to be included in development of the regional master plan.

The inaugural Board meeting is scheduled for 9:00 AM, August 24, 2007 at Crowne Plaza, Sabal Park (10221 Princess Palm Avenue, Hillsborough County). At the first meeting, the board members will elect the Vice Chair and Secretary-Treasurer, establish duties and powers of officers, and establish rules of conduct and meeting procedures.



### Attend the first TBARTA meeting!

**Date**  
August 24, 2007

**Time**  
9:00 AM

**Location**  
Crowne Plaza  
Sabal Park  
10221 Princess Palm Ave  
Tampa, Florida



### TBARTA Board Members

#### Citrus County

*Commissioner John Thrumston*

#### Hernando County

*Commissioner Dave Russell*

#### Hillsborough County

*Commissioner Ken Hagan*

#### Manatee County

*Commissioner Amy Stein*

#### Pasco County

*Commissioner Ann Hildebrand*

#### Pinellas County

*Commissioner Ronnie Duncan*

#### Sarasota County

*Commissioner Nora Patterson*

#### HART Service Area (Largest Municipality)

*Mayor Pam Iorio (Tampa)*

#### Manatee / Sarasota County (Largest Municipality)

*Mayor Wayne Poston (Bradenton)*

#### PSTA Service Area (Largest Municipality)

*Mayor Rick Baker (St. Petersburg)*

#### West Central Florida Chairs Coordinating Committee

*Mayor Frank Hibbard*

#### Business Community (Governor Appointed)

*To Be Named*

*To Be Named*

*To Be Named*

*To Be Named*

#### Florida Department of Transportation (Non-voting)

*Secretary Donald Skelton, PE*

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# THE TBARTA/FDOT PARTNERSHIP

To ensure the newly formed TBARTA gets off to a great start, the FDOT has pledged technical assistance to the Authority Board. The Department's ambitious First 100 Days plan will drive towards a single, unified decision-making process for regional transportation - and begin the development of the TBARTA Regional Transportation Master Plan. An agreement between the TBARTA and FDOT will outline the TBARTA's request for staff assistance and define each agency's role and responsibilities.

## MASTER PLAN ELEMENTS

The next step in the project development process will be to further analyze key regional connections and fine tune them into defined corridors and alignments - then get them into the ground. To accomplish that, the Regional Transportation Master Plan process will determine how the proposed connections will work together as a cohesive system. This will include the exploration of mode options, service frequencies, station locations, and necessary enhancements to the existing local transit service to better serve the key connections. Local planning agencies, transit service providers, the business community, and citizens will be asked for their participation to further advance and define corridors and make decisions about alignments, technologies, station locations, and funding.

### FDOT VISION

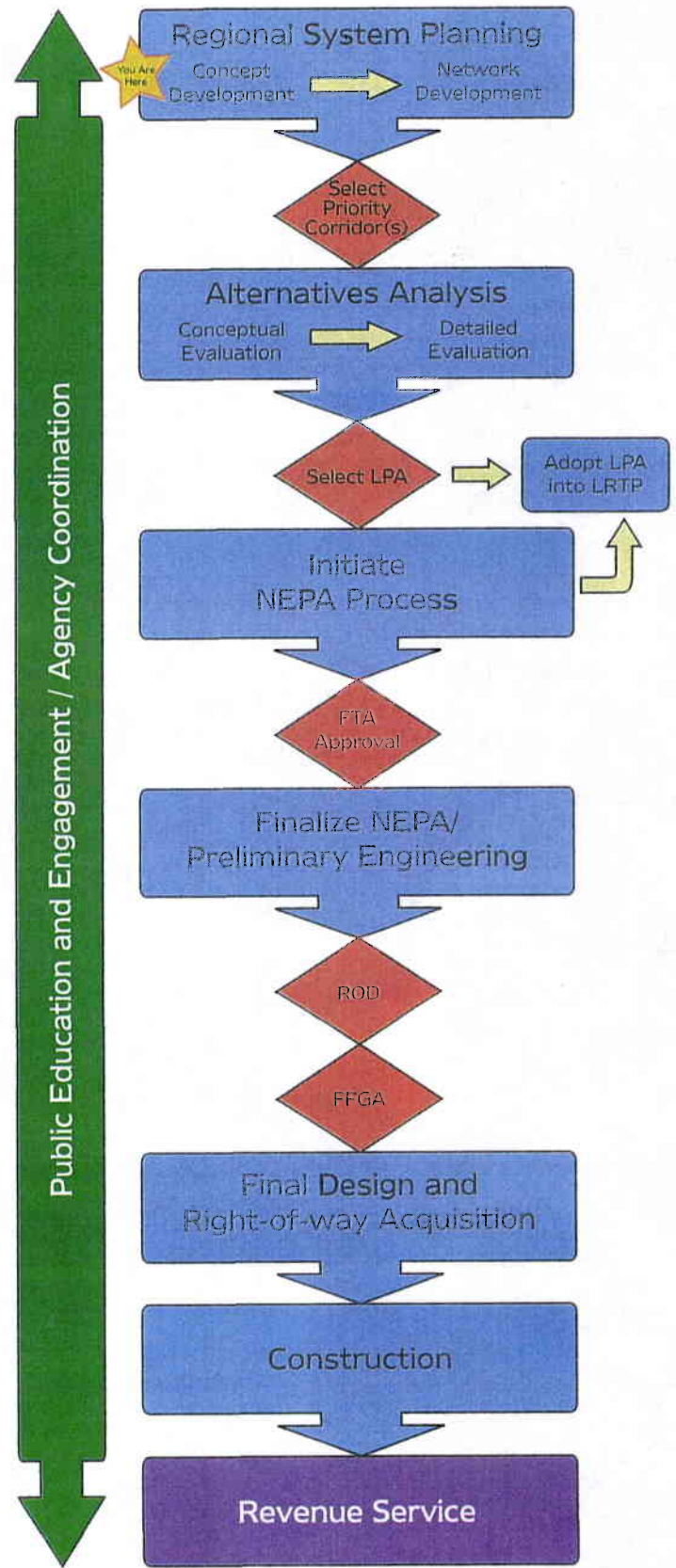
*Ensure that more people can get to where they need to go quickly, safely, and affordably.*

## FIRST 100 DAYS

The FDOT has selected their consultant for the second phase of the Interstate of Transit! Carter & Burgess, with PB Americas, will lead a team of nationally recognized transit and public outreach professionals, including Maria Garcia Berry, CRL Associates, who led Denver's FasTracks Initiative. The Carter & Burgess team will kick-start the Regional Transit Master Plan effort with a plan for TBARTA's First 100 Days. The plan will include collaborative engagement of the region's communities, transportation organizations, city and county municipalities, as well as, public and private organizations with the goals of reinforcing regional partnerships and achieving a common regional vision.

## How do we get from here to there?

FTA Project Planning and Development Process



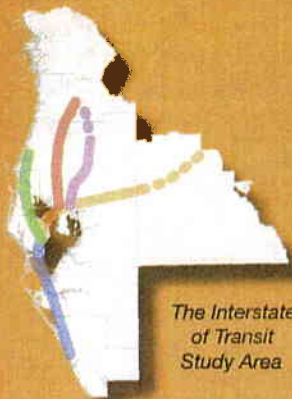
AA - Alternatives Analysis  
FFGA - Full Funding Grant Agreement  
FTA - Federal Transit Administration  
LPA - Locally Preferred Alternative

L RTP - Long Range Transportation Plan  
NEPA - National Environmental Policy Act  
ROD - Record of Decision

## GETTING THE WORD OUT

The FDOT has been determined to get the word out about the Interstate of Transit Initiative. Presentations have been made throughout the West Central Florida region to discuss the project. At each presentation, questions and comments are encouraged. The following presentations have been given, or are scheduled for the next few weeks:

- » Citrus County BOCC
- » Hernando County MPO (Board (includes BOCC), CAC, TAC)
- » HART Board
- » Hillsborough County BOCC
- » Hillsborough County MPO (Board, BPAC, CAC, Liveable Roadways Committee, TAC)
- » Manatee County BOCC
- » Pasco County BOCC
- » Pasco County MPO (Board, CAC, TAC)
- » Pinellas County BOCC
- » Pinellas County MPO (BAC, Board, CAC, PTAC, TCC)
- » Polk County TPO (Board, CAC, TAC)
- » Polk County RTO Board
- » PSTA Board
- » Sarasota County BOCC
- » Sarasota/Manatee MPO (Board, CAC, TAC)
- » Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council
- » Tampa Downtown Partnership
- » West Central Florida Chairs Coordinating Committee (and Joint CAC)



The Interstate of Transit Study Area

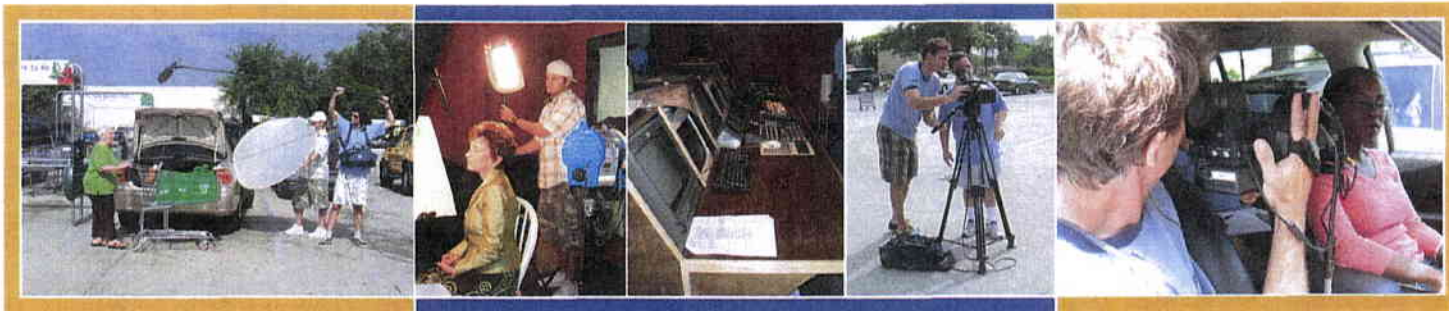
If you would like to request a presentation for your agency or organization, please visit the website at <http://fdot-srtna.c-b.com> and select "Request a Presentation" on the homepage.

**Are you passionate about transit?**  
**If so, become a speaker and help us get the word out about what's happening with the Interstate of Transit!**  
**Visit the project website and select "Volunteer to be a Speaker"**

**Key:**

BAC – Bicycle Advisory Committee  
 BOCC – Board of County Commissioners  
 BPAC – Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee  
 CAC – Citizen's Advisory Committee  
 MPO – Metropolitan Planning Organization

PTAC – Pedestrian Transportation Advisory Committee  
 RTO – Regional Transportation Organization  
 TAC – Technical Advisory Committee  
 TCC – Technical Coordinating Committee  
 TPO – Transportation Planning Organization



## COMING SOON—THE INTERSTATE OF TRANSIT VIDEO

Traffic congestion costs residents and businesses time and money and affects our quality of life. To spread the word about the Strategic Regional Transit Needs Assessment (SRTNA), the FDOT has created the Interstate of Transit video.

The video illustrates the views of different types of people and their need for mobility options. Elected officials, local business leaders, and the FDOT Management discuss the benefits of transportation improvements and how the SRTNA begins to address community goals, objectives, and desires. The video emphasizes the importance of a strong, multimodal transportation system and its effects on the economic vitality of the Tampa Bay region.

The video will premiere at the Regional Transportation Forum, on August 21, 2007. Developed as an outreach tool, the video used at speaking presentations, workshops, and meetings. It will also be available to view on the project website <http://fdot-srtna.c-b.com>. We encourage you to request a copy of the video to show to your business, neighborhood, or civic association.

# REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION FORUM

The Tampa Bay Partnership, in cooperation with the FDOT and Bay Area Legislation Delegation (BALD), will hold the Second Annual Regional Transportation Forum this month. It is an exciting event that will bring together people interested in developing a better transportation system across the Tampa Bay region. The event will celebrate the creation of TBARTA, and outline where we, as a region, go from here to make our vision a reality.

## 2nd Annual Regional Transportation Forum

### Date

August 21, 2007

### Time

9:00 AM to 11:00 AM

### Location

Crowne Plaza

Sabal Park

10221 Princess Palm Avenue

Tampa, Florida

Please RSVP to Katie Nohe

813-872-2814

knohe@tampabay.org

## GETTING INVOLVED

We invite you to visit our website to learn more about the study. The website includes project information such as the study summary, study reports, and frequently asked questions. While visiting the website we encourage you to send us your comments and suggestions about the project.

Visit the SRTNA Website  
<http://fdot-srtna.c-b.com>

If you would like a presentation given to your group about the project, request one through the website or by contacting the project team.



Florida Department of Transportation District Seven  
11201 N. McKinley Drive, MS 7-500  
Tampa, Florida 33612

To get more information, ask questions, or make comments about the project, please contact:  
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