The first summit of the Hillsborough/Polk Freight Logistics Zone (FLZ) Strategic Plan development was held on February 19, 2016. The purpose of the summit was to review the FLZ background, including the permitting State legislation and the purpose of designating a FLZ(s) in the two-county region and to hold an open forum for stakeholders to discuss the data and candidate areas for FLZ designation. A summary of relevant data and efforts at the local and state level was presented, including FDOT D1 and D7 freight planning efforts, FDOT Central Office efforts, economic development incentives, and local training capabilities for freight related employment. A map of preliminary FLZ areas of interest, based on the collected data, was presented to the group and participants were asked to provide comments and insight regarding several key questions, as described below:

* + Comments on preliminary FLZ areas of interest
  + What are we missing (data)?
  + What distinguishes our 2-county area from the rest of the state?
  + What are our area’s challenges relative to the rest of the state?

Comments that were received in the open discussion, as well as those submitted on a comment form are summarized below.

Considerations for Areas of Interest

* Saddle Creek in Polk Co./warehouse on north side of Old Dixie
* Future industrial land uses in FLUP
* Freight rail destinations
* Distribution center at Memorial and Wabash in Polk County
* "Smooth" areas to encompass larger clusters of industrial development
* Industrial land uses on west side of County Line Rd south of US 92
* Winter Haven Municipal Airport
* Lake Wales Municipal Airport
* Mosaic fertilizer plant
* Add Stokes PUD to ILC FAC
* Amazon distribution center in Hillsborough Co. – NOPC to add 1.2m sqft of industrial development, I-75/SR 674 ramp improvements are a high priority for the County
* Packing houses in US 27 corridor (Hunt Brothers Citrus, FL Natural Growers, Haines City Citrus
* Industrial land use at I-4 and N Wheeler St
* Industrial uses in Davenport along US 92 (Greenbay)
* Plant City Industrial/I-4
* Consider that the majority of rail spurs are inactive

Considerations for FLZ Strategic Plan

* Display available truck and rail volume in bandwidth
* Proximity of workforce
* Impact of industry
* Differentiate existing and future/emerging FACs
* Growth potential around corridors impacting transportation
* Freight/land use compatibility should inform plan
* Phase 2 of Bartow Northern Connector US 17 to SR 60 is #1 priority for Polk County
* Analysis of homesteaded lots, age of housing stock, employees w/in 1 mile of freight clusters, household income, age, at block, block group, or TAZ level
* Important to properly document activities around ILC (trips, employment, etc.) since ILC serves as the focal point of a FLZ
* Include State Economic Enhancement and Development Trust Fund (288.1201(1)(a) FS Part 1) and Export Finance Corp (288.773 FS Part 5) in state funding and incentive programs

Area Distinguishers

* Winter Haven Intermodal Logistics Center
* Extractive industries
* Regional synergy between Polk and Hillsborough counties
* Emerging area poised for big-time growth

Area Challenges

* Infrastructure/access management
* Project priorities and competition with other areas for funding

Considerations for FLZ Strategic Plan Process

* Adopt by resolution, state in resolution that the plan will be updated biennially