



Storm Evacuation Forecast & Shelter-In-Place Scenarios Study

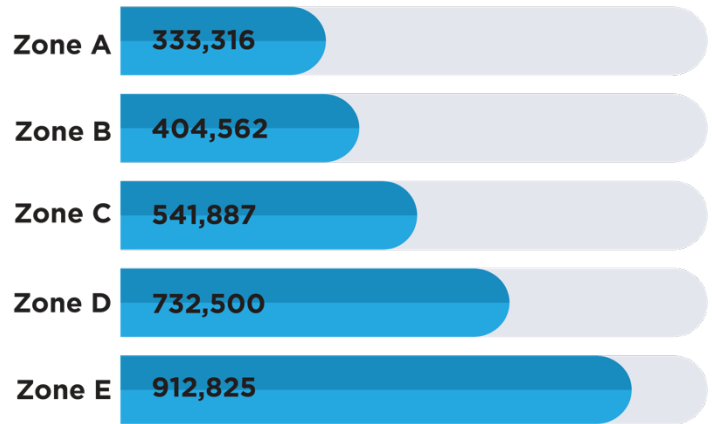


STUDY PURPOSE

Hurricane evacuation and sheltering is a matter of life safety, and transportation plays a crucial role. The Hillsborough Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) continually supports emergency management programs and proactively works toward improving evacuations as part of long-range planning and congestion management processes.

Residents and visitors have two choices when a hurricane approaches: to shelter in place or evacuate to a safer location. The Storm Evacuation Forecast & Shelter-in-Place Scenarios Study performs high-level analyses of strategies to enhance Hillsborough’s evacuation and sheltering practices and emphasizes options other than road widening to address evacuation needs and items the Hillsborough TPO could implement.

Total Population by Evacuation Zone



Hillsborough County 2021 population estimate is 1,512,070

BACKGROUND

Emergency managers order evacuations according to zones A-E that generally correspond to hurricane categories 1-5. A level C evacuation, for a Category 3 hurricane with winds speeds of 111 to 129 miles per hour, is projected to require 24 hours for Hillsborough residents to evacuate. Reducing that time, called clearance time, is important because hurricane warnings are declared 24 hours prior to tropical storm winds reaching land.

KEY TOPICS STUDIED

- traffic congestion during evacuations, including “hotspot” locations.
- transit and paratransit services, and
- trustworthy real-time communications.

The study uses the Florida Statewide Hurricane Evacuation Model (called TIME) to determine if three different strategies would reduce the projected amount of time to evacuate Hillsborough County. Only one reduced clearance times - shortening the time in which people respond to evacuation orders. If communications are clear and compelling, people may evacuate sooner.

How can I learn more about preparing for a storm and what I need to do to know about evacuating or sheltering-in-place?

Hillsborough County provides on line information at: <https://www.hillsboroughcounty.org/en/residents/stay-safe/storm>
The study website provides information and an interactive map to view evacuation related information. <https://tinyurl.com/HillsTPOEvacStudy>



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RECOMMENDATIONS

- Multiple strategies are needed to reduce or maintain clearance times, particularly as the population increases. Transportation strategies are:
 - o Improve travel flow such as with traffic signal coordination or addressing circuitous routes.
 - o Invest in permanent, dynamic message signs to assist with emergency notifications and operations.
 - o Address traffic congestion at evacuation hot spot locations.
 - o Review transit/paratransit operations including mobile home areas and community needs.
- Continue collaboration and coordination among emergency managers and transportation providers to leverage capabilities and resources, particularly regarding communications.

Public Engagement



Partner agencies and emergency management organizations



Online surveys, social media, and newsletters



Virtual open house with live polling



Videos on the study



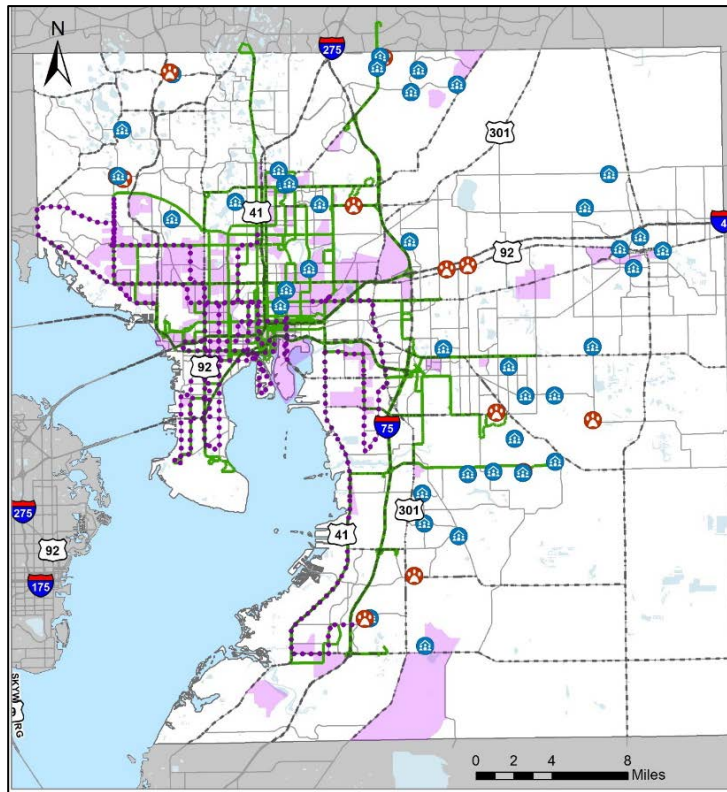
Uses results from statewide surveys



Created a video describing the study and requesting feedback



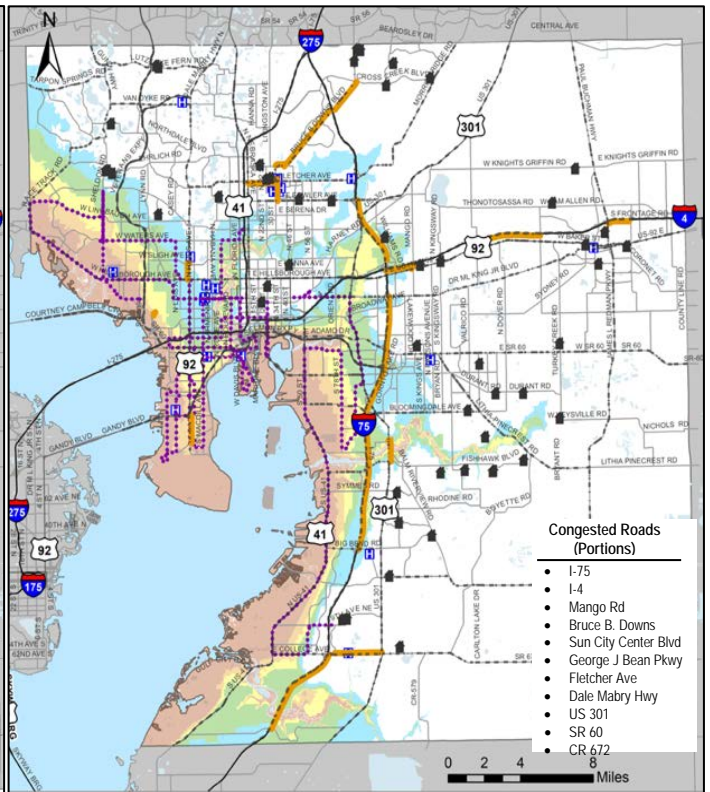
Community Meetings



Typical vs. Evacuation HART Transit Routes & EJ Communities

- General Public Shelter
- Pet Friendly Shelter
- Evacuation Routes
- Environmental Justice Communities
- Transportation Network
- Hillsborough County
- Outside Study Area
- Water Bodies
- HART Transit Evac. Routes

Hillsborough TPO
Transportation Planning Organization
For Planning Purposes Only



Hurricane Evacuation Hotspot Locations - Evacuation Zone Display

- Hotspot Locations
- Public Hurricane Shelters
- Evacuation Zone A
- HART Transit Evac. Routes
- Hospitals
- Evacuation Zone B
- Evacuation Routes
- Hillsborough County
- Evacuation Zone C
- Transportation Network
- Outside Study Area
- Evacuation Zone D
- Water Bodies
- Evacuation Zone E

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- Congested Roads (Portions)**
- I-75
 - I-4
 - Mango Rd
 - Bruce B. Downs
 - Sun City Center Blvd
 - George J. Bean Pkwy
 - Fletcher Ave
 - Dale Mabry Hwy
 - US 301
 - SR 60
 - CR 672

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