



# Hillsborough TPO

## Transportation Planning Organization

Commissioner Harry Cohen  
Hillsborough County  
MPO Chair

Commissioner Pat Kemp  
Hillsborough County  
MPO Vice Chair

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City of Tampa

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Commissioner  
Kimberly Overman  
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Jessica Vaughn  
Hillsborough County  
School Board

Beth Alden, AICP  
Executive Director



Plan Hillsborough

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18<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Tampa, FL, 33602

## Meeting of the TPO Board

**Wednesday, October 12, 2022 @10:00am**

**Hillsborough County Center, 601 E. Kennedy Blvd., 26<sup>th</sup> Floor**

All voting members are asked to attend in person, in compliance with Florida's Government in the Sunshine Law. Please RSVP for this meeting. Presenters, audience, and members in exceptional circumstances may participate remotely.

This meeting may be viewed on Hillsborough Television (HTV) by visiting Spectrum: 637, Frontier: 22 or live stream from [Hillsborough County's Live YouTube Channel](#) or the County website's [Live Meetings](#) link, also found in the County [Newsroom](#). The agenda packet, presentations, and any supplemental materials are posted on the [TPO's online calendar](#).

### Public comment opportunities:

To speak during the meeting - No later than 30 minutes before the meeting, please sign up [here](#) or phone 813-756-0371 for assistance. Provide the phone number you will call in from, so that we can recognize your call in the queue. You will receive an auto-reply confirming we received your request, along with instructions.

Comments may also be given up to 5pm the day before the meeting:

- by leaving a voice message at (813) 756-0371
- by e-mail to [tpo@plancom.org](mailto:tpo@plancom.org)
- by visiting the event posted on the [Facebook page](#).

Advance comments will be provided in full to the board members and verbally summarized during the meeting by TPO staff.

Rules of engagement: Professional courtesy and respect for others at this meeting are expected, and failure may result in dismissal from the meeting. For more information on expectations for participation, please see the TPO's [Social Networking & Media Policy](#).

## Agenda

### I. Call to Order & [Pledge of Allegiance](#)

### II. Roll Call & Declaration of Quorum (Gail Reese, TPO Staff)

A. Vote of Consent for Remote Member Participation – *if applicable*

### III. [Approval of Minutes – September 14, 2022](#)

### IV. **Special Presentation:** Award from Florida Chapter, American Planning Association (Beth Alden, TPO Director)

- V. **Public Comment on Agenda Items** – *30 minutes total, with up to 3 minutes per speaker. Staff will unmute you when the chair recognizes you. As needed, the chair may allow for additional time later in the agenda.*
- VI. **Committee Reports and Advance Comments** (Bill Roberts, CAC Chair, Davida Franklin, TPO Staff and Beth Alden, TPO Director)
- VII. **Consent Agenda**
- A. [Committee Appointments](#)
  - B. [Plant City Canal Connector Trail Study](#)
  - C. [Letter of Support for Tampa's RCP Grant Application for Ashley Drive](#)
- VIII. **Action Items**
- A. [TIP Amendment: Walk/Bike Safety Outreach and HART New Passenger Ferry Grant](#) (Roger Mathie, TPO Staff)
  - B. [Health Impact Assessment of 2045 LRTP Complete Street Projects](#) (Joshua Barber, TPO Staff and Curtis Ostrodka, VHB, TPO Consultant)
- IX. **Status Reports**
- A. [Potential LRTP Amendment re: I-275 Additional Lanes, Hillsborough to Bearss](#) (Johnny Wong, TPO Staff)
- X. **Executive Director's Report**
- SunRunner BRT field trip: Tuesday, Nov. 15, 1:30pm
  - 2023 Board Officer Election to be held in December
- XI. **Old Business & New Business**
- XII. **Adjournment**
- XIII. **Addendum**
- A. Announcements
    - [Tampa Bypass Canal Trail PD&E open house Oct. 11, 5:30-7:30, Veterans Memorial Park, and online public engagement Oct. 11-24](#)
    - [Gulf Coast Safe Streets Summit, November 3, R.P. Funding Center, Lakeland](#)
    - Through Oct. 14: FDOT [community input survey](#) on Downtown Interchange aesthetic enhancements
  - B. Project Summaries, Fact Sheets & Other Status Reports
    - [The State of Transportation in Hillsborough](#)
    - Fact Sheet: I-4 at Branch Forbes Rd

- Fact Sheet: SR60 Repaving

#### C. Correspondence

- From FDOT regarding September TPO informational requests: SR56 extension; SUNTrail through Westshore Interchange area
- To FDOT re: SIS Cost Feasible Projects
- From FHWA re: Noise Walls
- From TMA Leadership Group to FDOT re: FDOT participation in state-supported Amtrak service

#### D. Articles Related to TPO Work

- [Stuck in neutral : Even as Hillsborough County's population booms, its transportation system remains underfunded. A surtax redux would fix that.](#) | Tampa Bay Business Journal | 09.16.22
- [Transportation chair: As complications arise, surtax campaign should focus on turnout](#) | Tampa Bay Business Journal | 09.16.22
- [One percent tax increase on the ballot for Hillsborough County this November](#) | WTSP10 Tampa Bay | 09.15.22
- [Hillsborough's Pine Key Island seeks to stay afloat in zoning dispute](#) | Tampa Bay Times | 09.15.22 - Planning Commission Public Hearing on this plan amendment on 10.13.22
- [Hillsborough transportation referendum campaign prepares for round two](#) | Florida Politics | 09.14.22
- [Campaign for the Hillsborough County transportation referendum begins](#) | Spectrum Bay News 9 | 09.13.22
- [More Protections for Tampa Cemeteries](#) | City of Tampa News | 09.13.22
- [Tampa puts in measures to protect city cemeteries](#) | Spectrum Bay News 9 | 09.13.22
- [The Hillsborough County transportation tax, explained](#) | Tampa Bay Times | 09.10.22
- [FDOT wants improvement ideas for Hillsborough County road that's seen serious crashes](#) | WFTS ABC Action News | 08.31.22
- [56th Street/50th Street Corridor Study To Be Topic Of Public Meetings](#) | Patch | 08.30.22
- [Hillsborough TPO Board to Consider Roll Forward Transportation Improvement Program \(TIP\) Amendment](#) | Tampa Bay Newswire | 08.29.22
- [Laying the Foundation for a Revitalized Wimauma](#) | Hillsborough County Newsroom | 08.26.22
- [Hillsborough transportation tax vote challenged in court](#) | Tampa Bay Times | 08.26.22
- [Once-sleepy office hub aims to capitalize on desirable location](#) | Business Observer Florida | 08.26.22
- [Hillsborough County sued by right wing group to stop vote on transportation tax](#) | Creative Loafing | 08.25.22
- [OPINION: Hillsborough County lets developers steamroll local guidelines](#) | USF Oracle | 08.25.22

- [Enterprising Latinas envisions Wimauma as food destination](#) | 83 Degrees Media | 08.23.22
- [Air Taxis In Tampa? Committee Says It Could Be Just 2 Years Away](#) | Patch | 08.23.22
- [Hillsborough bus stop accessibility remain work in progress, decades after the ADA](#) Tampa Bay Times | 08.23.22
- [Buccaneers, Lightning and Rays donate to Hillsborough's revived transportation referendum](#) | Tampa Bay Business Journal | 08.22.22
- [Three Florida county ballots include transportation tax questions](#) | Land Line Media | 08.22.22
- [Transportation authority CEOs retain their planning board voices](#) | Tampa Bay Business Journal | 08.17.22

The full agenda packet is available on the MPO's website, [www.planhillsborough.org](http://www.planhillsborough.org), or by calling (813) 272-5940.

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Se recomienda a las personas que necesiten servicios de interpretación o adaptaciones por una discapacidad para participar en esta reunión, o ayuda para leer o interpretar los temas de esta agenda, sin costo alguno, que se pongan en contacto con Joshua Barber, (813) 273-3774, ext. 313 o [barberj@plancom.org](mailto:barberj@plancom.org), tres días hábiles antes de la reunión. Si sólo habla español, por favor llame a la línea de ayuda en español al (813) 273-3774, ext. 211.

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**HILLSBOROUGH TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION BOARD  
HYBRID MEETING SEPTEMBER 14, 2022  
DRAFT MINUTES**

**I. CALL TO ORDER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE\_***(Timestamp 1:28:09)*

Commissioner Cohen, called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM and led the pledge of allegiance. The meeting was held in person and virtual via WebEx.

**II. ROLL CALL\_** (Gail Reese, TPO Staff) *(Timestamp 1:28:45)*

The following members were present in person: Commissioner Harry Cohen, Commissioner Pat Kemp, Commissioner Gwen Myers, Councilmember Joseph Citro, Councilmember Lynn Hurtak, Mayor Andrew Ross, Mayor Nate Kilton, Joe Lopano, Gina Evans, Adalee Le Grand, Greg Slater, Charles Klug, Planning Commissioner Cody Powell, Board Member Jessica Vaughn

The following members were present virtually: Commissioner Kimberly Overman, Commissioner Mariella Smith

The following members were absent/excused: Councilmember Guido Maniscalco

A quorum was met in person.

**A. Vote of Consent for Remote Member Participation.**

**Voice vote, motion passes unanimously.**

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES\_** *(Timestamp 1:29:59)* – August 10, 2022

**Chair Cohen sought a motion to approve the August 10, 2022 minutes. Commissioner Myers so moved, seconded by Joe Lopano. Voice vote: motion carries unanimously.**

**IV. PUBLIC COMMENT** *(Timestamp 1:30:21)* (30 minutes total, with up to 3 minutes per speaker)  
Additional comments made via [Social Media](#) and [Email](#) can be found at the end of these minutes.

- **Rick Fernandez** – Vice Chair of the TPO CAC and commenting as an individual. Incorporates by reference comments submitted in writing on September 13, 2022. Noted that the Planning Commission seat on the CAC has been vacant since August 2022. The CAC has been told that appointments are to be “slow walked” as the CAC undergoes a review by TPO Staff and that Ms. Alden asked the TPO Board to hold off on appointments due to this review. The ability of the CAC to do its work is by members showing up and being actively engaged. As of September 7, the CAC has 23 seats on the committee; four are vacant and three, excluding the Planning Commission, have been vacant for months. At least six of the members have been absent three or more times this year with one having not been present since March 2022. It was noted that the voices of Councilmember Hurtak and Maniscalco along with Commissioner Overman and the City of Temple Terrace are not being presented on the CAC. It is Mr. Fernandez’s feeling that the CAC does not

need to be revamped, a better job needs to be done with the rules and procedures in place. It was asked that appointments be made and current appointments are verified or replaced.

- **Sharon Calvert** – The agenda item “Status of board request for evaluating I-275, Bearss-Hillsborough” misrepresents the action the board requested at the June 2022 meeting. The request was to remove FDOT’s planned additional two lanes of I-275 North from the TPO’s LRTP. It was noted that the language was used so that future TPOs “don’t get stuck with this.” Such action and use of nomenclature is appalling to the hundreds of thousands of residents and visitors who use I-275 in the Tampa Bay area. Many of these people are going to Moffit, Busch Gardens, USF Hospital, etc. Rail projects have been in the LRTP for decades and have never been removed. The voters overwhelmingly voted down a rail tax in 2010. FDOT is planning to add capacity to I-275 with taxes already being paid instead of the rail projects that would require at least \$23 billion. This agenda item misleads the public and requests that future agenda topics are not put in to mislead the public.

**V. COMMITTEE REPORTS & ADVANCE COMMENTS** (Bill Roberts, CAC Chair; Davida Franklin, TPO Staff; Beth Alden, TPO Director) (*Timestamp 1:37:25*)

**A. CAC – September 7, 2022** (Bill Roberts, CAC Chair)

- Approved
  - TIP Roll Forward Amendment 2022 – requested the committee be provided a rationale for the delay of affected projects in the future.
  - FDOT SIS Cost Feasible Plan Letter of Comment – with additional comment.
  - CAC Organizational Structure – 6P meeting start time, hybrid format, hosting optional meetings off-site, and in-person quorum of seven. Requested staff to return with proposals to address term limits, seats reserved for underrepresented demographic groups, and seats reserved for geographic areas. Noted that all elected officials serving on the TPO Board retain the ability to appoint members to the committee.
- Old/New Business
  - Moved to support the 2022 Transportation Surtax Referendum
  - Asked for a statement be prepared to identify a goal of reducing trips on the system

**B. TAC – September 12, 2022** (Davida Franklin, TPO Staff)

- Approved
  - TIP Roll Forward Amendments
  - FDOT SIS Cost Feasible Plan Letter with comment
- Status Reports
  - Tampa International Airport Master Plan Process
  - Tampa Vision Zero Implementation through Maintenance

**C. LRC – August 24, 2022** (Davida Franklin, TPO Staff)

- Approved
  - Comments on ETDM Project #14494 – Van Dyke Rd from Gunn Hwy to Whirley Rd
- Status Reports
  - 56<sup>th</sup>/50<sup>th</sup> Street Corridor Project
  - Plant City Canal Connector Study
  - Hillsborough County Bicycle Network Evaluation

- Health Impacts of Complete Streets
- D. BPAC – August 24, 2022** (Davida Franklin, TPO Staff)
  - No in-person quorum – unable to take action on the approval of new members
  - Status Reports
    - 56<sup>th</sup>/50<sup>th</sup> Street Corridor Project
    - Plant City Canal Connector Study
    - Hillsborough County Bicycle Network Evaluation
- E. TDCB – August 26, 2022**
  - Approved
    - Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan Amendment.
  - Status Reports
    - Sunshine Line Update
    - HART FY2023 Budget
    - Transportation Disadvantaged Return on Investment Study
    - Health Impacts of Complete Streets LRTP
- F. ITS – July 14, 2022**
  - Status Reports
    - Freight Supply Chain Resilience Study, FDOT District 7 Smart Corridors Plan, One.Network Traffic Management Platform, I-4 Florida’s Regional Advance Mobility Elements (FRME) Project and FDOT Connected and Automated Vehicles (CAV) Program.
- G. TPO Policy – September 14, 2022** (Beth Alden)
  - Discussion on the FDOT EV charging opportunities plan. Actively looking to partner with local governments. TPO getting ready to kick off a study for EV opportunity in Hillsborough County.
- H. Public Comments Received Through Email & Social Media** (Davida Franklin, TPO Staff).  
 Detailed [Email](#) and [Social Media](#) are located at the end of the minutes.

**VI. CONSENT AGENDA** (*Timestamp 1:46:43*)

- A. Committee Appointments**
  - CAC – Drew Newman (Planning Commission)
- B. Bylaws amendment for Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board**– return the quorum to a simple majority of the seated members
- C. USF-TPO Air Quality Monitoring Fellowship MOU**

**Motion to approve the consent agenda from Commissioner Kemp, seconded by Commissioner Myers. Voice vote, the motion passes unanimously.**

**VII. ACTION ITEMS:**

- A. TIP Roll Forward Amendment 2022** (Connor MacDonald, TPO Staff) (*Timestamp 1:47:05*)
  - Review of TIP and Work Program timeline – funds must be spent prior to the end of the FY and cannot be banked.
  - Review of Roll Forward Amendment.



- One amendment requested by FDOT to roll forward three projects to FY23
  - Westshore Interchange Major Reconstruction
  - City of Tampa’s Floribaska Complete Streets project
  - HART’s new maintenance facility
- Went over public outreach
- Comment from CAC

**Recommended Action:** Approve the “Roll Forward” amendment (consisting of 3 projects) to the FY 22/23 TIP and recommend approval to the TPO Board.

**Presentation:** [TIP Roll Forward Amendments 2022](#)

**Report:** [Comparative Report](#)

**Commissioner Kemp moved to approve the TIP Roll Forward Amendment; seconded by Mayor Ross.**

**Roll call vote, the motion unanimously 15 – 0.**

- B. **FDOT SIS Cost Feasible Plan – Letter of Comment** (Johnny Wong, TPO Staff) *(Timestamp 1:53:50)*
- Review of the Strategic Intermodal System (SIS) and the SIS Cost Feasible Plan and how they are developed.
  - Went over the 2050 SIS CFP –
    - Projects deferred during the previous Work Program Development Cycles
    - Projects remaining from the SIS 2045 CFP
    - Projects advanced from the SIS 2045 Multi-Modal Unfunded Needs Plan
    - New projects identified as priorities
  - Review of eligibility guidelines, the funding window, funding bands and costs
  - Showed timeline and where we are in the process and where we are going
  - Went over samples of Long-Range SIS Projects (FY2033 – 2050):
  - Review of stakeholder input and updates to the letter.
  - Draft letter to FDOT for approval

**Presentation:** [Presentation Slides and a draft letter are included in September 2022 Agenda Packet](#)

**Recommended Action: Approve the SIS Cost Feasible Plan Letter of Comment and any additional comments and/or feedback.**

**Discussion:**

It was asked if the area of the letter regarding the managed lanes language could be stronger and similar to what has been put in previous letters. Support lane management strategies other than toll lanes. The TPO requests to be notified before projects go into the design and engineering phases. It was noted that the TPO Board passed a motion that any project that planned to use tolls as lane management, would have to come before the Board. It needs to be made clear in the SIS approval that prior to considering any toll rates it is required to have it come before the TPO



Board. It was noted that TPO Staff will have to monitor this during project phases. It was asked if today's vote would authorize tolled lanes. No, with the additional language of the motion, it will require notification to the TPO Board. It was also noted that the TPO Board has voted in the past to prohibit any toll lanes north of the Downtown Interchange to Bears Avenue. That is something that is in this letter and would like to include the prohibition in the letter or outside of it. FDOT is proposing two additional general-purpose lanes; they are in the LRTP and will be brought to the Board in October.

**Commissioner Smith moved that the language regarding lane management strategies, that language be added to the letter that the TPO Board supports lane management strategies that incentivize high occupancy vehicles, alternative fuels, and transit, and that facilitate emergency response, evacuations, and safer movement of freight. The TPO has concerns about adding new toll lanes and new tolls to an interstate highway corridor that has been supported with public dollars. We would like the opportunity to be closely involved when the Department begins drafting its lane management approach and the TPO requests to be notified of the lane management approach before the design phase of preliminary engineering is proposed to be funded. Seconded by Commissioner Kemp.**

**Discussion:**

There was concern expressed that certain tools are taken out of the toolbox before analysis. The language from the April 2022 letter was read. The language proposed in the motion was very similar. There was also concern that the language of the letter is bringing up a debate about the benefits and drawbacks of tolls. It was asked that specific language be brought back to the TPO Board in October. It was noted that the comment period closes on September 16. It was brought up that the proposed language is showing concerns about tolls and that the Board requests to be consulted before final decisions are made. The letter, as written, says the TPO will be consulted with toll rates. It was expressed that the motion language does not take anything off the table for solutions. It was suggested that a generic statement be made. It was noted that, historically, the default has been to tolls; the TPO Board has asked that this not be the default and that other management strategies be used. If tolls are the best option after analysis, it needs to be brought back to the Board for justification and approval.

**Roll call vote, the motion passed 10 – 5.**

**Discussion:**

SR 60 widening has a significant impact on east county particularly Plant City. Plant City has added millions of square feet of industrial space recently and millions on the Polk County side of the road. The projections for millions more square footage in the near future is not insignificant. FDOT is constructing a truck-only rest area at County Line and Frontage Road. This is an important piece of SIS.

**Mayor Ross moved to approve the letter, seconded by Board Member Vaughn with the amended language. Roll call vote passes 11 – 4.**

## STATUS REPORTS

### A. **Tampa International Airport Master Plan Process** (Joe Lopano, Hillsborough County Aviation Authority.) (*Timestamp 2:41:44*)

- Required by the FAA every 10 years for the next 30 years
- Review of the current state of the airport including access, economic activity, largest carriers, operating revenue sources, heading to a record year in 2023, exceeding the national recovery rates in resiliency
- Looked at expansion for service and airlines
- Went over Master Plan from 2012 and what has been completed, what is underway, and what is next; Airside D is the major project serving both domestic and international
- Review of Airside D budget and where the money is coming from, has been approved by the Hillsborough County Aviation Authority Board
- Have been doing a lot of community outreach both at the airport and at other public meetings
- Review of the overall master plan and where the airport is going with innovative and emerging technologies, forecasted passenger growth, express curbsides, new parking structure and online booking system, new office building with rental space, mobile ordering, biometric screening (exit and entry), and the flamingo art piece popularity
- Proud of accolades achieved and employee engagement

**Website:** [Tampa International Airport Master Plan](#)

#### **Discussion:**

- Commended the improvements at the airport and in obtaining the grants. It was asked if there is an opportunity to connect to the rail line north of the airport and if it would be possible to utilize it at some point. A better corridor would be to connect to the City of Tampa at the rental car facility. There is right-of-way available and the airport is ready to accept rail, rubber or steel wheel. A southern alignment is preferred by the airport.

## VIII. **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT** (*Timestamp 2:57:39*)

- ### A. Status of board request for evaluating I-275, Bearss – Hillsborough
- Possible amendment to LRTP, will be bringing it back in October for discussion
  - Looking at many different impacts to traffic situations, coordination of transit projects in the corridor, and impacts on the surrounding this area.
  - If the board would like to proceed further with public engagement and notice of a public hearing, that would be the time for that guidance.
- ### B. Sunrunner BRT field trip – PSTA has offered a bus and tour guide, Tuesday, November 15<sup>th</sup> in the afternoon. Will be round trip of 1 to 1 ½ hour. This will be in place of the November meeting.
- ### C. EPC Review of I-275 Construction Air Quality Concerns
- Scheduled for presentation at the EPC meeting and will be coming back to this Board in October for an update.
- ### D. Quarterly regional meeting for the Tampa Bay TMA Leadership Group on September 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- ### E. Regional Gulf Coast Safe Streets Summit will be on November 3<sup>rd</sup> in Lakeland and hosted by Polk County.

**IX. OLD & NEW BUSINESS** (Timestamp 3:02:50)

- A. Commissioner Smith pointed out that in the addendum, section B, there is a fact sheet about SR 56 extension. The County Commission became concerned and sent a letter to FDOT expressing vehement opposition to any corridors that would be coming into Hillsborough County through the nature preserve areas. It seems this project is still a possibility; it looks about the same but with some area added. Requested FDOT come back and give a report on where this project is.
- B. Next meeting is on October 12, 2022.

**X. ADJOURNMENT** – The meeting adjourned at 11:39 PM

The recording of this meeting may be viewed on YouTube: [Meeting Recording](#)

**Social Media**

None

[\(Return to Minutes\)](#)

**Email**

***Board Folder was emailed to the TPO Board on 9/13/2022***

Mitch Perry, Bay News 9 – Asked if the County has any future plans for diesel powered multi-unit trains

Mauricio Rosas – Gave suggestions for changing bad driving behavior

Eng Gin Moe – Thanks Assistant Executive Director Allison Yeh for presenting to the U.S. Singapore Third County Training Program

Neil Consentino – Advocated for repurposing the soon-to-be demolished northbound span of the Howard Frankland Bridge

Rick Fernandez – Asked for data on high-speed crashes and injuries at the Downtown Interchange

Sharon Calvert – Made a public records request for a copy of the status of the Board's request for evaluating I-275 between Bearss and Hillsborough Avenues

Tammany McDaniel, Health Choice Network - Requested a Letter of Support for an upcoming USDA grant application

Olivia George, Tampa Bay Times – Asked for an estimate of the amount of transportation surtax collections that would be paid by non-resident commuters and tourists

Don Balaban – Requested letter of comment on Florida Department of Transportation's study of US 301



# Hillsborough TPO

## Transportation Planning Organization

### Committee Reports

#### **Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) Meeting of October 5**

The CAC received presentations on the following action items:

- Attendance Review and Declaration of Vacant Seats
  - Noting that some members have missed a majority of meetings in 2022, the committee took action to vacate the seat appointed by Tampa City Councilman Maniscalco and the seat reserved for those younger than 30yrs old. With those seats vacated, one replacement will need to be appointed by the Representative of Tampa City Council District 6 and by a citizen younger than 30yrs old.
- TIP Amendment: Walk/Bike Safety Outreach and HART New Passenger Ferry Grant
  - The committee approved the TIP Amendment and noted the importance of collecting counts for cyclists and pedestrians. One member remarked that they support the amendment but is slightly concerned about transmitting messages and notifications to people who are traveling.
- Health Impact Assessment of 2045 LRTP Complete Street Projects
  - The Health Impact Assessment technical memoranda were approved by the committee. Some members requested that TPO staff return with a briefing to explain how health data are collected and extrapolated by the Center for Disease Control.
- Plant City Canal Connector Trail Study
  - The committee approved the results of the study and noted they are pleased that the trail alignment will serve transportation needs, as well as recreation.
- CAC Organizational Structure
  - The committee did not approve the TPO staff recommendations for committee reorganization. TPO staff were directed to host a follow-up workshop to consider restructuring options and to return with two new proposals that reflect the committee's motions and feedback, to more fully explore a third option that was presented by a committee member and which is included in the agenda addendum, and to consider an Option that omits any changes.

#### **Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Meeting of October 10**

A verbal report will be provided at the meeting.

#### **Livable Roadways Committee and Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee**

These meetings were cancelled due to Hurricane Ian.



# Hillsborough TPO Transportation Planning Organization

## Board & Committee Agenda Item

### Agenda Item

Committee Appointments

### Presenter

None – Consent Agenda

### Summary

The *Livable Roadways Committee (LRC)* shall be composed of representatives of local government departments, transportation agencies and other organizations. They may be elected officials, appointed officials, organization members, designated representatives or staff, but may not be staff or consultants to the TPO.

The following have been nominated to serve on the LRC:

- Brynna Dauphinais, as an alternate member, by the Planning Commission

The *Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)* shall be responsible for considering safe access to schools in the review of transportation project priorities, long-range transportation plans and transportation improvement programs and shall advise the MPO on such matters. In addition, the TAC shall be responsible for assisting in the development of transportation planning work programs; coordinating transportation planning and programming; review of all transportation studies, reports, plans and/or programs, and making recommendations to the MPO that are pertinent to the subject documents based upon the technical sufficiency, accuracy, and completeness of and the needs as determined by the studies, plans and/or programs.

The following have been nominated to serve on the TAC:

- Lara Bouck, by the City of Tampa and Danni Jorgensen, as alternate

The *Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC)* shall be responsible for making recommendations to the MPO, Hillsborough County, City of Tampa, City of Plant City, City of Temple Terrace, the Hillsborough County Environmental Protection Commission, the Florida Department of Transportation, the Southwest Florida Water Management District, and others, on matters concerning the planning, implementation and maintenance of a comprehensive bikeway and pedestrian system. In addition, the BPAC shall be responsible for studying and making recommendations concerning the safety, security, and regulations pertaining to bicyclists and pedestrians.

The following have been nominated to serve on the BPAC:

- Chedline Apollon, by the Department of Health and Nicole Sutton, as alternate



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**Recommended Action**

That the TPO confirm the above nomination

**Prepared By**

Cheryl Wilkening

**Attachments**

None



# Hillsborough TPO Transportation Planning Organization

## Board & Committee Agenda Item

### **Agenda Item:**

Plant City Canal Connector Trail Study

### **Presenter:**

Wade Reynolds, TPO Staff

### **Summary:**

The Canal Connector Trail was identified as one of three catalyst projects in the Plant City Walk-Bike Plan prepared for Plant City by the Hillsborough TPO in 2018. Introducing an iconic trail has been known to activate community space and place, provide connectivity for residents to community-based programs, and support the use of alternative transportation modes for exercise, shopping and commuting to work. The planned Canal Connector Trail will extend the on-street system and connect residential communities, commercial areas, and other points of interest for pedestrians and cyclists. This trail is proposed to extend from south of Downtown Plant City northward to McIntosh Preserve, north of Interstate 4.

### **Recommended Action:**

Support approval of the Alternatives Assessment Report by the TPO Board

### **Prepared By:**

Wade Reynolds, TPO Staff

### **Attachments:**

[Project Web Page](#)



**Plan Hillsborough**  
[planhillsborough.org](http://planhillsborough.org)  
[planner@plancom.org](mailto:planner@plancom.org)  
813 - 272 - 5940  
601 E Kennedy Blvd  
18<sup>th</sup> floor  
Tampa, FL, 33602





# Hillsborough TPO Transportation Planning Organization

## Board & Committee Agenda Item

### **Agenda Item:**

Letter of support for Tampa RCP Grant Application for Ashley Drive

### **Presenter:**

None; consent agenda item

### **Summary:**

The City of Tampa has requested a letter of support for their application for the FHWA Reconnecting Communities Pilot (RCP) grant program for a capital project. If accepted, the city will remove the elevated portion of Ashley Drive and reconnect it to the local streets in the North Downtown grid. These improvements include enhancing intersection safety, repurposing travel lanes, and reconnecting areas of Downtown Tampa to Tampa Heights that were split during the completion of Interstate 275. These improvements will restore community connectivity, and increase access to jobs, healthcare, grocery stores, schools, affordable housing, recreation, and park space. The City's proposed project received input from the TPO's Technical Advisory Committee and Livable Roadways Committee. Upgrading our older urban thoroughfares with modern safety features is consistent with the TPO's 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP), but this project is not specifically listed in the LRTP or the TIP.

### **Recommended Action:**

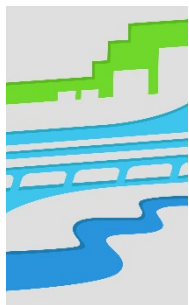
Approve sending a letter of support for Tampa's grant application for the Ashley Drive viaduct removal project

### **Prepared By:**

Amber Simmons, TPO Staff

### **Attachments:**

- Letter of Support (Draft)
- [Presentation slides from City of Tampa about Ashley Drive Redesign](#)



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# Hillsborough TPO

## Transportation Planning Organization

Commissioner Harry Cohen  
Hillsborough County  
MPO Chair

Commissioner Pat Kemp  
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HART

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Commissioner  
Kimberly Overman  
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Cody Powell  
Planning Commission

Mayor Andrew Ross  
City of Temple Terrace

Greg Slater  
Expressway Authority

Commissioner  
Mariella Smith  
Hillsborough County

Jessica Vaughn  
Hillsborough County  
School Board

Beth Alden, AICP  
Executive Director



October 12, 2022

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE  
Washington D.C. 20590

RE: Funding Opportunity DOT-RCP-FY22-01 - Reconnecting Communities Pilot  
Discretionary Grant Program

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

On behalf of Hillsborough TPO, I am pleased to support the City of Tampa's application for the FHWA Reconnecting Communities Pilot (RCP) Discretionary Grant Program.

The City of Tampa is finding ways to reimagine streets and transportation facilities, to increase access to mobility options, and to knit communities together in meaningful ways. With the Reconnecting Communities Pilot grant, the city intends to remove the viaduct elevating an extended highway exit ramp, and reconnect the North Downtown street grid with a new at-grade Ashley Drive. These improvements include enhancing intersection safety, repurposing travel lanes, and reconnecting areas of Downtown Tampa to Tampa Heights that were split during the completion of Interstate 275. These improvements will restore community connectivity, and increase access to jobs, healthcare, grocery stores, schools, affordable housing, recreation, and park space.

Upgrading our older urban thoroughfares with modern safety features is a top priority in the TPO's 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). Further, the TPO's Nondiscrimination and Equity Plan identified the area of this proposed project as a community that experienced racially discriminatory planning in the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. In fact, the City of Tampa's 1945 comprehensive plan, which laid the groundwork for the location of the I-275 corridor, called for "shift[ing] the residents to the west and areas occupied by people of color eliminated and transferred to other areas." This project intends to restore connections between North Downtown and the Riverfront, and will create opportunities for future community connections and additional green infrastructure.

I respectfully request your favorable consideration of this very worthy application.

Sincerely,

Beth Alden  
Executive Director

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# Hillsborough TPO Transportation Planning Organization

## Board & Committee Agenda Item

### Agenda Item:

TIP Amendment: Walk/Bike Safety Outreach and HART New Passenger Ferry Grant

### Presenter:

Roger Mathie, TPO Staff

### Summary:

This TIP amendment will impact two projects, noted below:

- 444199-1 Walk/Bike Safety Outreach
- 451342-1 HART New Passenger Ferry Grant

The amendment will add funds to the FY23 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for Walk/Bike Safety Outreach led by FDOT. This project will use geofencing to reach a target audience of road users on the High Injury Network and communicate safety messages about the dangers of speeding.

The amendment will also reflect capital funds added from the HART New Passenger Ferry Grant. HART was recently awarded a USDOT grant and is expected to use the funds to purchase a new ferry, which will serve the route from Tampa to St. Petersburg.

### Recommended Action:

Approve the amendment to the FY2022/23 – 2026/27 TIP and add funds to Project Number 444199-1 Walk/Bike Safety Outreach and 451342-1 HART Passenger Ferry Grant.

### Prepared By:

Roger Mathie, TPO Staff

### Attachments:

[Comparative Report](#)  
[Presentation](#)



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# Hillsborough TPO Transportation Planning Organization

## Board & Committee Agenda Item

### Agenda Item:

Health Impact Assessment of 2045 LRTP Complete Street Projects

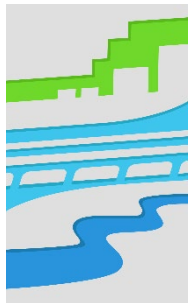
### Presenters:

Joshua Barber, TPO Staff and Curtis Ostrodka, VHB, TPO Consultant

### Summary:

Building upon several major health planning initiatives, including the Health in All Policies Resolution and Hillsborough County Health Atlas, the TPO in early 2022 commissioned a health impact assessment of the complete streets projects in the 2045 Long-Range Transportation Plan. The project goal is to explore and evaluate how implementation of Complete Street treatments would impact public health conditions, potentially reduce risk levels, and provide recommendations for implementation. The impact assessment is composed of five parts:

- Collect data, and using VHB's Healthy Mobility Model establish a baseline health risk map for Hillsborough County.
- Evaluate the relationship between mobility variables and health outcomes
- Choose sample roadways based on context classification and identify a set of "typical" treatments for each
- Apply "typical" treatments to the top 350 miles of high-crash roadways and evaluate the impacts to health.



The technical reports include the baseline health risk map for Hillsborough County; the statistical analysis of mobility variables and health outcomes; "typical" treatments based on roadway context; as well as recommendations for prioritization and treatment principles. The quantitative estimate of health benefits of implementing the proposed Complete Street treatments on the top 350 miles of high-crash roadways is pending but will not impact the study recommendations.

### Recommended Action:

Approve the technical reports, including recommendations for Complete Street treatments and priorities to achieve public health benefits

### Prepared By:

Joshua Barber, AICP, TPO Staff

### Attachments:

[Presentation slides](#)

DRAFT [Health Risk Assessment Technical Memorandum](#)

DRAFT [Statistical Analysis and Scenario Planning Technical Memorandum](#)

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# Hillsborough TPO Transportation Planning Organization

## Board & Committee Agenda Item

### **Agenda Item:**

Potential Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) Amendment: I-275 Additional Lanes, from Hillsborough Ave to Bearss Ave

### **Presenter:**

Johnny Wong, TPO Staff

### **Summary:**

At the June 2022 Public Hearing for the Transportation Improvement Program, there was a motion by the TPO Board to begin a process for removing a project from the 2045 LRTP, specifically the addition of two general purpose lanes on I-275 between Hillsborough Ave and Bearss Ave. The Board advised staff to analyze the impacts for removing the additional lanes from the long range plan and to schedule a discussion at an upcoming meeting.

Staff reviewed the environmental impacts documented in the FDOT PD&E study for this project, and coordinated with FDOT to analyze traffic impacts using the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Model. The findings are summarized in the attached slides.

If the board would like to move forward with considering an LRTP amendment, the process as defined in the Public Participation Plan is to schedule a public hearing, with public notice in the newspaper and a public review period of at least 15 days, and presentations at the public meetings of the TPO advisory committees and the Board. The PPP also identifies strategies for supplemental outreach, including contacting affected communities, targeted social media, roadside signs, and more.

### **Recommended Action:**

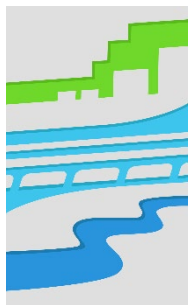
Discuss and provide guidance to staff

### **Prepared By:**

Johnny Wong, TPO Staff

### **Attachments:**

[Presentation slides](#)



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# Tampa Bypass Canal Trail PD&E Study

From N. 34th Street to Bruce B. Downs Boulevard (County Road 581)

Financial Project ID: 439482-1-28-01  
CIP# 69660000, BOCC# 20-1290

Hillsborough County



Hillsborough County, in coordination with the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), District 7, invites you to a public meeting for the Tampa Bypass Canal Trail Project Development and Environment (PD&E) Study from N. 34th Street to Bruce B. Downs Boulevard (County Road 581). There will be an in-person open-house on October 11, 2022, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., and a virtual engagement platform available from October 11, 2022, to October 24, 2022.

The purpose of this PD&E study is to evaluate and document potential engineering and environmental effects of any proposed improvements. The project goal is to provide recreational and social opportunities for residents and visitors, connecting the communities of New Tampa, Temple Terrace, East Lake/Orient Park and Palm River along the trail to each other as well as to the resources in North Tampa, South Tampa, and Hillsborough County. This facility is intended to serve as part of the State's SUN Trail system as a planned regional multi-use trail connection between Zephyrhills and Tampa. This trail and future trail network will serve all residents and visitors to Tampa, New Tampa, and surrounding communities looking for safe, natural areas to bicycle, walk and hike.

## Upcoming Meeting

Hillsborough County offers two ways to view project information and submit comments: in-person or by viewing meeting materials on the project website. The same material will be displayed at both the in-person meeting and online. While comments about the project are accepted at any time, please note that comments must be received or postmarked by October 24, 2022, to be included in the formal public meeting record.

**IN-PERSON OPTION:** On October 11, 2022, the in-person open house will be held at the Veterans Memorial Park, 3602 US-301, Tampa FL 33619, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Attendees who are not feeling well should not attend the in-person meeting.

**ONLINE OPTION:** All meeting materials, including the presentation, will be available online at on October 11, 2022. The community will be able to view study information, provide feedback, and ask the study team questions on the proposed trail by visiting the County's Engagement and Education Hub at [HCFLGov.net/HCEngage](https://www.hcfl.gov/hcengage).

## For more information, contact:

Hillsborough County Project Manager | Manny Santos, E.I. | (813) 307-1921 | [SantosM@HillsboroughCounty.org](mailto:SantosM@HillsboroughCounty.org)

Public participation is solicited without regard to race, color, national origin, age, sex, religion, disability, or family status. People who have question or concerns about these items, require special accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act, or who require translation services (free of charge) should contact Albert Coleman, Equal Opportunity Coordinator, at (813) 272-6554, or email at [colemanA@HCFLGov.net](mailto:colemanA@HCFLGov.net) at least seven days prior to the public meeting.

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 May 26, 2022, and executed by the Federal Highway Administration and FDOT.



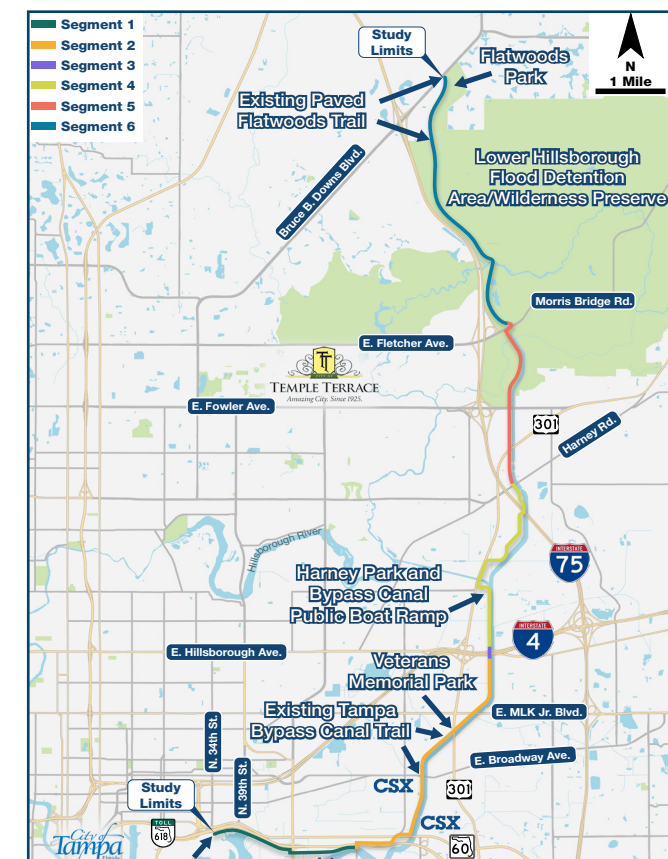
# Sendero de Tampa Bypass Canal Estudio de PD&E

Desde N. 34th Street hasta Bruce B. Downs Boulevard (County Road 581)

Número de Proyecto Financiero: 439482-1-28-01

CIP# 69660000, BOCC# 20-1290

Condado de Hillsborough



El condado de Hillsborough, en coordinación con el Departamento de Transportación de Florida (FDOT), Distrito 7, le invita a una reunión pública para el Estudio de Proyecto de Desarrollo y Medio Ambiente (PD&E) del proyecto Sendero de Tampa Bypass Canal desde N. 34th Street hasta Bruce B. Downs Boulevard (County Road 581). Habrá una apertura (en inglés "Open House") en persona el 11 de octubre de 2022 desde las 5 :30 p.m. hasta las 7:30 p.m., y una plataforma de participación virtual disponible desde el 11 de octubre de 2022 hasta el 24 de octubre de 2022.

El propósito de este estudio es evaluar y documentar los posibles efectos de ingeniería y ambientales de cualquier mejora propuesta. Los objetivos del proyecto son proporcionar oportunidades recreativas y sociales para los residentes y visitantes, conectando las comunidades de New Tampa, Temple Terrace, East Lake/Orient Park y Palm River a lo largo del sendero entre sí, así como con los recursos en el Norte de Tampa, el Sur de Tampa, y el condado de Hillsborough. Esta instalación está destinada a servir como parte del sistema SUN Trail del estado como una conexión regional planificada de senderos de usos múltiples entre Zephyrhills y Tampa. Este sendero y la futura red de senderos servirá a todos los residentes y visitantes de Tampa, New Tampa, y las comunidades alrededor que buscan áreas seguras y naturales para andar en bicicleta y caminar.

## Próxima Reunión

El condado de Hillsborough ofrece dos alternativas para ver la información del proyecto y enviar comentarios acerca del mismo: en persona o viendo los materiales de la reunión en el sitio web del proyecto. El mismo material se mostrará a través de la reunión en persona como en línea. Aunque

los comentarios sobre el proyecto se aceptaran en cualquier momento, favor tenga en cuenta que los comentarios deben ser recibidos en línea o enviados a través del correo postal antes del 24 de octubre de 2022, para ser incluidos en el registro formal de la reunión pública.

**OPCIÓN EN PERSONA:** El 11 de octubre de 2022, la apertura en persona se llevará a cabo en el Veterans Memorial Park, 3602 US-301, Tampa FL 33619, desde las 5:30 p.m. hasta las 7:30 p.m. Los asistentes que no se sientan bien de salud no deben asistir a la reunión en persona.

**OPCIÓN EN LÍNEA:** Todos los materiales de la reunión, incluida la presentación, estarán disponibles en línea el 11 de octubre de 2022. La comunidad podrá ver la información del estudio, proporcionar comentarios y hacer preguntas al equipo del estudio sobre el sendero propuesto a través del sitio web de Participación y Educación del Condado en [HCFLGov.net/HCEngage](https://www.hcfl.gov/net/HCEngage).

## Para más información, contacte:

Gerente de Proyecto | Manny Santos, E.I. | (813) 307-1921 | [SantosM@HillsboroughCounty.org](mailto:SantosM@HillsboroughCounty.org)

La participación pública es solicitada sin distinción a raza, color, origen nacional, edad, sexo, religión, discapacidad o estado familiar. Las personas que deseen expresar sus preocupaciones relacionado al cumplimiento del condado de Hillsborough del Título VI pueden hacerlo poniéndose en contacto con Albert Coleman, Coordinador de Igualdad de Oportunidades, (813) 272-6554 o por correo electrónico a [ColemanA@HCFLGov.net](mailto:ColemanA@HCFLGov.net)

La revisión ambiental, la consulta y otras acciones requeridas por las leyes ambientales federales aplicables para este proyecto están siendo, o han sido, llevadas a cabo por el Departamento de Transportación de Florida (FDOT) en conformidad con el artículo 23 U.S.C. § 327 y Memorando de Entendimiento de fecha 26 de mayo de 2022, y ejecutado por FHWA y FDOT.





REGISTER  
**TODAY**



**GULF COAST**  
Safe Streets Summit

MOVING  
**SAFETY**  
FORWARD



**Nov. 3, 2022**

R.P. Funding Center  
Lakeland, Florida

The Central Florida region is consistently listed as one of the **most dangerous places to drive, walk and ride.**

**Be a part of the solution.**

After two years as a virtual event, we are excited to come back together as a community to make our roads and cities a safer place to live, work and play. The 2022 Safe Streets Summit is a regional conference celebrating five years of providing top speakers, the latest in safety information and invaluable networking opportunities.

## CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

**9:30 to 1 p.m.** - Fair Activities and Lunch

Experience more than 14 immersive activities including an **ADA Awareness Trail, motorcycle riding simulators, seatbelt convincer, truck blind spot experience and car crash demonstrations.** Interactive mobile tours will be available on a limited basis. Requires RSVP.

**1 to 5 p.m.** - Afternoon Session

Hear speakers cover a wide range of safety-related topics. Speakers include Keynote **Melissa Wandell, President of the National Coalition of Safer Roads** and **Polk County Sheriff Grady Judd.** An awards ceremony recognizing leaders in transportation safety will also be held.

Visit [GulfCoastSafeStreetsSummit.org](http://GulfCoastSafeStreetsSummit.org) for more information.

[GulfCoastSafeStreetsSummit.org](http://GulfCoastSafeStreetsSummit.org)  
(863) 534-6486



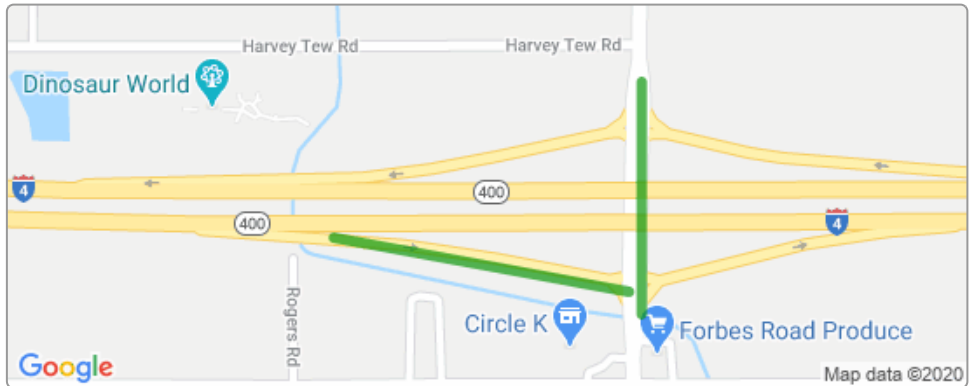
**SCTPA**  
Sun Coast Transportation Planning Alliance



Polk Transportation  
Planning Organization

I-4 Interchange Improvement at Branch Forbes Rd (Exit 17) 443318-1-52-01

Project Details	
<b>Work Type</b>	Interchange Improvement
<b>Phase</b>	Design
<b>Limits</b>	at Branch Forbes Road (Exit 17)
<b>Length</b>	.432 miles
<b>City</b>	Dover Plant City
<b>County</b>	Hillsborough
<b>Road</b>	I-4
<b>Design Cost</b>	\$651,509



**About**

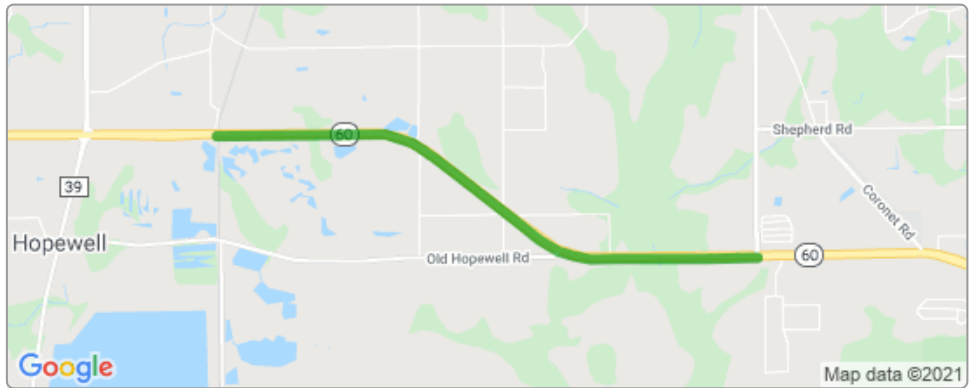
This project will extend the northbound and southbound left turn lanes on Branch Forbes approaching the interstate. New traffic signals will also be added on Branch Forbes at the base of both the eastbound and westbound off ramps. A right turn lane will be added to the eastbound off ramp from I-4.

The project is currently in the design phase. Construction is anticipated to begin in 2024.

Contact Information	
<b>Design Manager</b>	Manny Flores 813-975-4248 Manuel.flores@dot.state.fl.us
<b>Media Contact</b>	Kris Carson 813-975-6060 Kristen.Carson@dot.state.fl.us

SR 60 Repaving from Clarence Gordon Rd to Polk County line 441661-1-52-01

Project Details	
<b>Work Type</b>	Repaving
<b>Phase</b>	Design
<b>Limits</b>	from east of Clarence Gordon Rd to the Polk County line
<b>Length</b>	3.4 miles
<b>City</b>	Hopewell Plant City
<b>County</b>	Hillsborough
<b>Road</b>	SR 60
<b>Design Cost</b>	\$1.5 million



**About**

This project will repave SR 60 between Clarence Gordon Rd and the Polk County line. In addition to repaving the road, sidewalks will be added.

Design activities are currently underway. Construction is anticipated to begin in 2023.

Contact Information	
<b>Design Manager</b>	Charlie Xie 813-975-6287 charlie.xie@dot.state.fl.us
<b>Media Contact</b>	Kris Carson 813-975-6060 Kristen.carson@dot.state.fl.us

## Beth Alden

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**Subject:** September TPO Informational Requests

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**From:** Monk, Suzanne <Suzanne.Monk@dot.state.fl.us>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 4, 2022 12:52 PM  
**To:** Beth Alden <aldenb@plancom.org>  
**Subject:** RE: Requests from Board/Policy

Good afternoon, Beth. The Department is currently finalizing the written response on the SUN Trail system's Gulf Coast Corridor remaining gaps after the completion of the Westshore Interchange reconstruction. We should have the response to you later this afternoon or first thing in the morning. In regard to the written response on the status of the SR 56 extension project, the Department will need another month to coordinate with Pasco County and the City of Zephyrhills.

Thanks,

*Suzanne Monk, FCCM*

Government Liaison  
Florida Department of Transportation, District 7  
11201 N. McKinley Drive, Tampa, Florida 33612  
813-975-6721



---

**From:** Beth Alden <aldenb@plancom.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 14, 2022 2:29 PM  
**To:** Monk, Suzanne <Suzanne.Monk@dot.state.fl.us>  
**Subject:** Requests from Board/Policy

Hi Suzanne,

We had two requests for FDOT at this morning's meetings. I'd prefer a written response, if possible, due to limited time on upcoming agendas. Our next mail-out to the Board is scheduled for October 5. Could you provide a response by then?

The topics are:

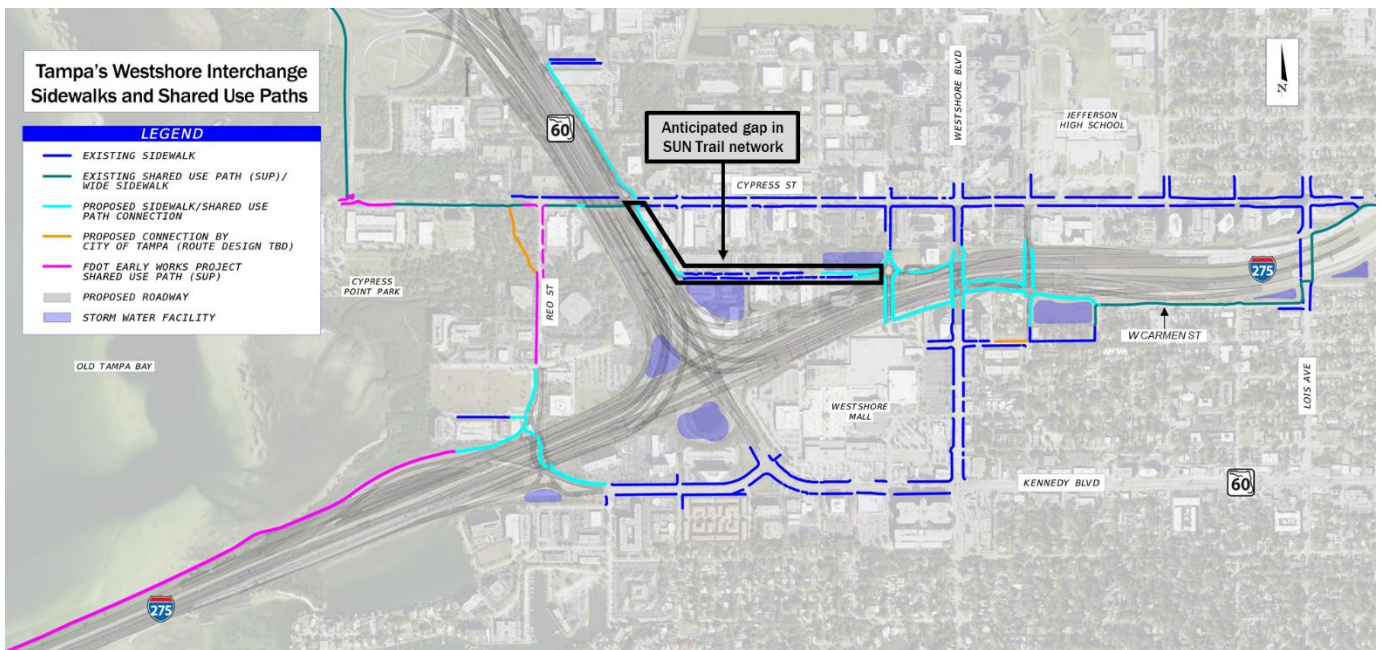
- After the construction of the Westshore Interchange. what are the remaining gaps in the SUNTrail system's Gulf Coast Corridor, going east from Cypress Point Park and passing through the Westshore Interchange project area?
- Could you provide an update on the status of the SR 56 extension project and whether it still affects environmentally sensitive lands?

Thanks,  
Beth

## SUNTrail Gulf Coast Corridor: Gaps Through Westshore Interchange Project Area

FDOT defines a multi-use trail as a paved, shared-use path, which is typically 12 feet wide, but may vary from 10 feet to 14 feet wide, but could vary depending upon physical or environmental constraints, or usage. In general, SUN Trail funded projects are 12-foot wide, asphalt, multi-use trails.

Tampa's Westshore Interchange (TWI) reconstruction project is proposing a 6-foot sidewalk on the east side of E. Frontage Road from Lemon Street to Cypress Street. This sidewalk is limited to 6-feet due to right of way constraints. There will still be a gap in the SUN Trail's Gulf Coast Corridor. Additionally, Lemon Street is a City of Tampa roadway. Currently, and in the future, bicyclists can utilize Lemon Street and the E. Frontage Road via sharrows. Wider sidewalks are proposed at intersection of Lemon Street and Occident Street and will continue south along Occident Street and along the south side of I-275 along the local roadway network. Improvements will then tie into the existing SUN Trail's Gulf Coast Corridor at W Carmen Street.







# Hillsborough TPO

## Transportation Planning Organization

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Hillsborough County  
TPO Chair

Commissioner Pat Kemp  
Hillsborough County  
TPO Vice Chair

Paul Anderson  
Port Tampa Bay

Councilman Joseph Citro  
City of Tampa

Councilmember Lynn Hurtak  
City of Tampa

Commissioner Nate Kilton  
City of Plant City

Adelee Marie Le Grand  
HART

Joe Lopano  
Hillsborough County  
Aviation Authority

Councilman Guido Maniscalco  
City of Tampa

Commissioner Gwen Myers  
Hillsborough County

Commissioner  
Kimberly Overman  
Hillsborough County

Cody Powell  
Planning Commission

Mayor Andrew Ross  
City of Temple Terrace

Greg Slater  
Expressway Authority

Commissioner  
Mariella Smith  
Hillsborough County

Jessica Vaughn  
Hillsborough County  
School Board

Beth Alden  
Executive Director



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September 16, 2022

Mr. David Gwynn  
District Seven Secretary  
Florida Department of Transportation  
11201 N. McKinley Drive  
Tampa, FL 33612-6403

RE: Comments on Strategic Intermodal System Cost Feasible Projects, 2035-2050

Dear Secretary Gwynn,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the Strategic Intermodal System (SIS) Cost Feasible Plan. The Hillsborough Transportation Planning Organization appreciates the Department's continued partnership supporting the goals of safety, reliability and mobility across the greater Tampa Bay region. During the previous three years, the TPO and FDOT District 7 have worked together to secure funding for some of the top priorities of both the county and region, namely the Downtown Interchange, Westshore Interchange, and Howard Frankland Bridge replacement.

The Hillsborough TPO offers the following observations, comments, and suggestions to the draft SIS Cost Feasible Plan priority list:

- **I-275 from N of Lois Ave to N of Howard Ave and from N of Howard Ave to N of Hillsborough River (#3695, 3715):** The two projects are supported in the TIP and are currently ranked #69 out of 95 on the List of Priority Projects. The additional travel lanes will provide an important connection to the major job clusters of Westshore and Downtown Tampa. The TPO has concerns about adding new tolls on an interstate highway corridor supported with public dollars;

- **I-4 (EB) from E of Orient Rd to W of I-75 (#1497):** This project will improve access to I-75 and eastern Hillsborough County. This project should be coordinated with Hillsborough County's road widening project on Orient Rd from Sligh Ave to Columbus Dr;

- **US-41 from S of Pendola Point/Madison Ave to S of Causeway Blvd (#1728):** This project will support goods movements and provide connections to a minor job cluster. The project appears in the TIP, is currently ranked #86 on the List of Priority Projects, and is consistent with the Hillsborough & Polk County Freight Logistics Strategies Plan;

- **SR60 from Dover Rd to SR39 and from SR39 to Polk County Line (#3289, 3290):** These projects are not included in the 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan, and there are priorities of higher concern. We request that the Department provide the rationale for widening this segment in rural eastern Hillsborough County which lies

outside of the urban services boundary. Alternatively, there is an urgent need for safety treatments on SR60, as it is the highest injury roadway in all of Hillsborough County;

- **I-275 Interchange Modifications at Bearss Ave, Busch Blvd, Fowler Ave, and Fletcher Ave (#3270, 3267, 3268, 3269):** Improvements at these interchanges are critically needed. Crash analyses show that there have been nearly 2,000 crashes near these interchanges in just the last five years – some of which have resulted in fatalities and serious injuries, while others have resulted in congestion and contributed to unreliable travel times. Special attention should be paid to the design of treatments located at the on and off ramps and crash reduction should be paramount. High visibility crosswalks, lighting, and speed management strategies should be considered at the off-ramps;
- **I-4 Interchange Modifications EB from E of Orient Rd to W of I-75 and at Polk County Line, McIntosh Rd, and Branch Forbes Rd (#1497, 3795, 3662, 3663):** Diverging Diamond Interchanges should be considered at these locations consistent with FDOT Design Criteria;
- **I-275 from N of Hillsborough Ave to S of Bearss Ave (#3507):** This highway widening project is currently included in the 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan but is being considered for removal or modification by the TPO Board. At this time, it is not clear whether this project is supported; and,
- **Various Managed Lane Projects on Interstate Facilities:** The TPO supports lane management strategies that incentivize high occupancy vehicles, alternative fuels, transit usage, emergency response, evacuations, and safe and reliable goods movement. As previously mentioned, the TPO has concerns about adding new tolls on an interstate highway corridor supported with public dollars. We appreciate the opportunity to be closely consulted when the Department begins designing its lane management approach prior to the Design phase of Preliminary Engineering.

The recently updated SIS Policy Plan identifies new types of projects as eligible expenditures within the SIS program, including safety, resilience, advanced traffic management systems, and capacity of parallel relieving facilities. Please find below a list of proposed projects to include in the forthcoming CFP and the justification for inclusion.

- **Four SIS facilities and parallel corridors are listed among the worst performing segments for fatal and serious injury crashes.** Chief among these is SR60 (Brandon Blvd) from Falkenburg Rd to Dover Rd, which averages approximately 25 crashes per mile, giving it the dishonor of having the highest number of severe crashes per mile countywide. Segments of I-275 and I-4 also rank among the worst, with approximately 16 crashes per mile on I-4 from I-275 to 22<sup>nd</sup> St and 15 crashes per mile on I-275 from Howard Frankland Bridge to Busch Blvd. Big Bend Rd serves as a connection to both US41 and I-75. The segment between these two SIS facilities averages approximately 17 severe crashes per mile. A number of safety improvements are already programmed along the I-275 corridor, but the TPO welcomes continued collaboration with FDOT to make progress toward Vision Zero;
- **There are a number of segments and ramps on the SIS which rank among the least reliable for travel time consistency.** The TPO has identified unreliable segments as



candidates for treatments ranging from access management to transit service, demand management, and TSM&O. Please consider the following segments for inclusion among the list of District Priority Projects:

- I-75 from Manatee County Line to Gibsonton Dr
  - SR60 (Brandon Blvd) from I-75 Ramp to Grand Regency Blvd
  - US92 from Mango Rd to I-4 is a corridor parallel to a SIS facility and is both a key economic space in Hillsborough County and Freight Logistics Zone; and,
- **Vulnerability to sea-level rise, storm surge, and inland flooding is a critical issue for the Tampa Bay region and resilience adaptations are necessary to avoid major disruptions to life and economic growth. Please find below a list and attached a map showing moderate to highly vulnerable and critical transportation facilities in need of resilience enhancements, such as pavement hardening, stormwater enhancements, and wave attenuation. Please consider adding these segments among the list of District Priority Projects:**
    - Causeway Blvd from US41 to 78<sup>th</sup> St
    - I-275 from 4<sup>th</sup> St N to SR60
    - S 20<sup>th</sup> St from Durham St to Maritime Blvd
    - 22<sup>nd</sup> St from Maritime Blvd to US41
    - Courtney Campbell Causeway from Bayview Ave to SR589

Thank you for the opportunity to comment and to propose projects for inclusion in the SIS Cost Feasible Plan. If you have any questions, please contact Beth Alden for further discussion or clarification.

Sincerely,



Commissioner Harry Cohen  
TPO Chair

Cc: TPO Board Members  
Justin Hall, FDOT District 7 PLEMO Administrator  
Brian Hunter, FDOT District 7 Liaison Administrator



U.S. Department  
of Transportation  
**Federal Highway  
Administration**

**Florida Division**

September 12, 2022

3500 Financial Plaza, Suite 400  
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Phone: (850) 553-2201  
Fax: (850) 942-9691 / 942-8308  
[www.fhwa.dot.gov/fldiv](http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/fldiv)

In Reply Refer To:  
HDA-FL

Commissioner Harry Cohen  
Chair, Hillsborough TPO  
601 E. Kennedy Blvd.  
18th, Floor  
Tampa, FL 33602

Dear Commissioner Cohen:

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) has received your letter dated, March 9, 2022, regarding a “Retrofit” Noise Wall Program to help mitigate a history of disproportionate impacts in Tampa, FL. First, let me offer my sincere apologies for the delayed response. We appreciate you reaching out to us regarding noise walls in the Federal-Aid Highway Program (FAHP). As you may know, the FAHP is a federally-assisted, state-administered, and locally-driven program. This unique aspect of the FAHP provides for the state, in this case, the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), in coordination with local governments through the Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) such as yours, to develop the vision for their communities, and to build, maintain, and operate the highway network, while FHWA provides the stewardship and oversight of the FAHP.

Under the current regulations, 23 CFR 772 – Procedures for Abatement of Highway Traffic Noise and Construction Noise, FDOT is required to develop a noise policy for projects that require FHWA approval regardless of funding sources used on those projects. This regulation also provides FDOT the authority to decide if a Type II Program will be developed and implemented as part of the Noise Policy. As you indicated in your letter, FDOT has decided that Type II projects are not an action they want to pursue. If FDOT chooses to participate in a Type II program, they still would need to develop a priority system, based on a variety of factors, to rank the projects in the program. This priority system also needs to be approved by FHWA before FDOT is allowed to use Federal-aid funds for a project in the program. There are also some additional limitations on Federal participation for Type II projects, as stated on 23 CFR 772.15(b), that would be used as part of the eligibility process.

While there is not much flexibility in the current noise policy regulations, the recent passage of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) may provide some additional opportunities to address your community concerns. We are still learning about the many programs that are soon to be available.

We understand that you are interested in having a discussion regarding your options in this matter with FDOT and would like for us to coordinate and participate in these exchanges. We would gladly coordinate a meeting with FDOT’s Office of Environmental Management and their BIL Strike Team to discuss this topic and provide any needed technical assistance. Until we can meet, I direct you to FHWA’s BIL website for additional information:  
<https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/bipartisan-infrastructure-law/>.

If you have any questions, need additional information, or would like us to begin aligning calendars, please contact Luis D. López-Rivera, FHWA Senior Environmental Specialist, by phone at (407) 867-6420 or by email at [luis.d.lopez@dot.gov](mailto:luis.d.lopez@dot.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Karen M. Brunelle".

FOR: Jamie Christian, P.E.  
Division Administrator

Cc: Beth Alden, Hillsborough TPO  
Jennifer Marshall, FDOT  
Alison Stettner, FDOT  
Karen Brunelle, FHWA  
Luis López-Rivera, FHWA  
Cathy Kendall, FHWA  
Jean Parlow, FHWA

Assistant Secretary Brad Thoburn  
FDOT Strategic Development Office  
605 Suwannee St Tallahassee, FL 32399

RE: FDOT Participation in State Supported Amtrak Service

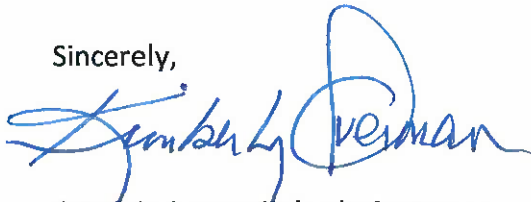
Dear Assistant Secretary Thoburn,

On behalf of the Sun Coast Transportation Planning Alliance (SCTPA), the Transportation Management Area Leadership Group formally invites FDOT to engage with Amtrak to help identify and support to improve passenger rail service in West Central Florida. Specifically, we request FDOT undertake a formal assessment of state financial participation in State Supported Amtrak Service under [29 U.S.C. 24712](#). This action is consistent with SCTPA's regional transit vision of providing transportation alternatives to congested highways.

FDOT's participation in State Supported Amtrak Service would improve existing passenger rail service and serve as a catalyst for future expansion of the passenger rail network. Currently, there are 17 state departments of transportation that financially support passenger rail service across 28 routes nationwide. As the third largest State in the Nation, the investment in passenger rail is critical for mitigating congestion and providing transportation options. Additionally, FDOT's participation in State Supported Amtrak Service broadens eligibility to apply for federal grants.

Thank you for your attention to this request. We look forward to assisting FDOT in assessing the State of Florida's participation in State Supported Amtrak Service.

Sincerely,



Commissioner Kimberly Overman  
TMA Leadership Group Chair

Cc: MPO Staff Directors  
Alison Stettner, FDOT Office of Policy Planning  
Kenyatta Lee, FDOT Modal Development