



# Hillsborough TPO Transportation Planning Organization

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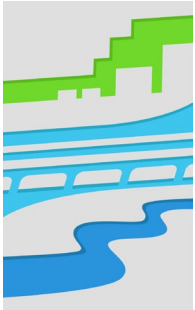
Hemant Saria  
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Greg Slater  
Expressway Authority

Commissioner  
Joshua Wostal  
Hillsborough County

Jessica Vaughn  
Hillsborough County  
School Board

Beth Alden, AICP  
Executive Director



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## Meeting of the Policy Committee

**Wednesday, April 12, 2023, 8:30 AM**

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 and unmute you when the chair calls on you. You will receive an auto-reply confirming we received your request, along with instructions.

Comments may also be given up to 3pm 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. 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, Welcome of Other TPO Board Members** (Gail Reese, TPO Staff)
  - A. Vote of Consent for Remote Member Participation – *if applicable*
- III. **[Approval of Minutes: March 8, 2023](#)**
- IV. **Public Comment** – *3 minutes per speaker, for a maximum of 30 minutes.*
- V. **Status Reports**

- A. Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Prioritization Requests: Workshop with Agencies (Johnny Wong, TPO Staff)
- B. From Priority List to Construction: Project Development Pipeline Examples (Justin Hall, FDOT)
- C. Role of the Policy Committee (Beth Alden, TPO Executive Director)

## **VI. Old & New Business**

## **VII. Adjournment**

*The full agenda packet is available on the TPO'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) 576-2313 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) 272-5940 o (813) 273-3774 ext. 1.*

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**HILLSBOROUGH TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION  
POLICY COMMITTEE  
MEETING, MARCH 8, 2023  
DRAFT MINUTES**

**I. Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance** *(Timestamp 0:00:20)*

Chair Ross called the meeting to order at 8:30 AM and led the pledge of allegiance. The regular monthly meeting was held in person and virtually via WebEx.

**II. Roll Call of Committee Members & Welcome to Other TPO Board Members** (Gail Reese, TPO Staff) *(Timestamp 0:00:44)*

The following members were present in person: Mayor Andrew Ross, Councilmember Joseph Citro, Commissioner Gwen Myers, Commissioner Michael Owen, Charles Klug, Commissioner Joshua Wostal

The following members were present virtually: None

The following members were Excused/Absent: None

Welcome to other TPO Board Members present: None

A quorum was met in person.

**III. Approval of Minutes** *(Timestamp 0:01:20)* – February 8, 2023

Chair Ross sought a motion to approve the meeting minutes from February 8, 2023. Commissioner Myers so moved, seconded by Commissioner Owen. Voice vote; motion passes unanimously.

**IV. Public Comment** *(Timestamp 0:01:45)* – 3 minutes per speaker, for a maximum of 30 minutes.

- None

**V. Action Item** *(Timestamp 0:02:02)*

**A. Executive Director Job Description and Recruitment Timeline** (Meghan Betourney, TPO Staff)

- Went over the timeline, recruitment, and interview process.
- Review of TPO Executive Director job description.
- Looked at placements for the TPO Executive Director opening for recruitment.

**Recommended Action: Make a recommendation to the Board regarding the proposed job description and timeline.**

**Discussion:**

A printed copy of the timeline was requested. It was suggested that the new Executive Director be able to work with Ms. Alden for a longer time than proposed and move the starting date to have that happen. It was requested that the advertisement be placed in the minority newspaper. It is noted that the overall TPO Board will need to decide who will make up the selection committee. Once that is selected, the interview dates will need to be determined right away. It was clarified that the panel will be an odd number. Melissa Zornita has requested to be part of the panel along with Mayor Ross. Commissioner Myers has also requested to be on the panel.

**Commissioner Owen moved for approval of the timeline, seconded by Commissioner Wostal. The voice vote passed unanimously.**

## **VI. Status Reports**

### **A. Gandy Boulevard Bridge PD&E (Craig Fox, FDOT) (Timestamp 0:15:27)**

- Review of the project area, the purpose, and the need for the project.
- Project is broken into three segments.
- Important east-west corridor in Pinellas and Hillsborough Counties.
- Went over typical existing lanes.
- Reviewed the preferred typical sections for each of the segments.
- Include elevated and at-grade roadways.
- Looked at access management, stormwater management, and floodplain compensation.
- The environmental effects are being looked at in four categories.
- The proposed plan is consistent with the long-range transportation plans of Forward Pinellas and Hillsborough County.
- Reviewed the timeline, schedule, costs and funding schedule.

**Project Website:** [439549-1-52-01 US 92 \(Gandy Bridge\) over Old Tampa Bay \(fdottampabay.com\)](https://www.fdot.com/projects/439549-1-52-01-US-92-Gandy-Bridge-over-Old-Tampa-Bay)

### **Discussion:**

It was noted that the TPO Staff has reviewed this information and does not recommend making any comment at this time. It was brought up that the Gandy Extension has been a great benefit and this project is likely to do the same. There was a question about the old section of the bridge and whether or not it could be used for a bike/pedestrian bridge for a while. This section is going to be taken down to avoid the county having to incur maintenance and demolition expenses at a later time as it degrades further. This happened with the Friendship Trail Bridge. It was noted that the Port of Tampa Bay could use some of the concrete rubble when it comes down.

### **B. Planning Commission Annual Update and Plan Hillsborough Strategic Plan (Melissa Zornitta, Planning Commission Executive Director) (Timestamp 0:35:45)**

- The Planning Commission, TPO, and River Board have a joint strategic plan with a five-year horizon.
- Reviewed the seven focus areas and provided highlights.
- This year is the end of the strategic plan and has set a retreat for June to engage for the update.

Plan Hillsborough Annual Report: [Plan Hillsborough Annual Report 2022](#)

Presentation: [Plan Hillsborough Strategic Plan Implementation Annual Report](#)

**B. FDOT Rail System Plan and MPOAC Freight/Rail Committee Updates** (Elizabeth Watkins and Wade Reynolds, TPO Staff) (*Timestamp 0:43:00*)

- Went over what the Rail System Plan is and its role in the state.
  - Looked at strategies for passenger and freight.
  - Reviewed funding options available.
  - Went over the needs assessments for passenger and freight.
  - Looked at Freight and Passenger Rail Investments – short-term through 2026 and long-term from 2027 – 2042.
  - The next steps – the full plan is on the FDOT website.
- Explained what the MPOAC is – provides a local voice to FDOT. Freight and Rail is a subcommittee established in 2013 and expanded in 2021.
  - Freight Priorities Program came in in 2018.
  - Passenger Rail Priorities Program developed in 2023 in response to new funding sources.
  - Program impacts – MPOs can communicate freight priorities and coordinate them.
- 2023 priorities are being put together now.

Presentation: [Florida's Rail System Plan 2022](#)

Website: [FDOT Rail System Plan](#)

MPOAC: [MPOAC Freight & Rail Committee 2022 Project Priority List](#)

**Discussion:**

It was noted that there is an intention to fill out applications for projects already on the TPOs adopted priority program. It was brought up that for every ~110 rail cars, it takes ~1000 trucks off the road. Moving freight on rail is very important. There is a monopoly with CSX and they can be difficult to deal with, particularly when it comes to passenger rail. Any assistance with grant funding is appreciated. Funding awarded in 2020 still has not been received by Port Tampa Bay. The longer projects are delayed, the more the price will go up. The grade separation on US 41 is going to be very important to keep traffic moving. About 90% of any rail ticket is subsidized by the taxpayer in the United States; it was asked whether that is going to be considered by FDOT when promoting passenger rail. Yes, FDOT is doing a lot of cost analysis. It was noted that the chlorine plant is going out of Rattlesnake Point which will eliminate that freight need. Brightline is terminating in Ybor City and there will not be enough transportation for users to maneuver the city. Utilizing the southbound track would be ideal for commuter rail. A multimodal hub is going to be needed.

**VII. OLD & NEW BUSINESS** (*Timestamp 1:03:02*)

- Commissioner Wostal brought up that the presentations for the Policy meeting were not different from the presentations made at the regular meeting. Perhaps it could be considered to combine the meetings unless there is a topic that needs to be brought up separately. Chair Ross noted that this committee exists at the will of the TPO Board. It makes sense for things

where a deeper dive needs to be done. It is up to the TPO Board to see the value of the committee. It is up to the committee to decide what types of things they wish to hear about in this committee meeting. Ms. Alden noted that the TPO Board did not want to spend more than two hours at a meeting. The Policy Committee has been utilized to screen less controversial items. This may be a topic that the TPO Board may wish to revisit. Commissioner Owen noted that the redundancy of government resources may be a waste, and the political makeup of the committee and the Board may be different. Perhaps it could be discussed whether or not the Policy Committee could meet at the request of the TPO Board pending specific topics. Commissioner Myers noted that the status reports brought up today was good information but not necessarily policy related. Ms. Alden brought up that having the Policy committee participate in the statewide program of identifying projects is important and that having the information brought before members in a public forum is a policy direction. Do not wish to waste anyone's time. Commissioner Wostal questioned what part of today's meeting is separate from what the Board would be hearing. Chair Ross asked that the committee give him one month to come up with a plan for the Policy Committee based on what other MPO/TPOs do around the state and bring some suggestions to the committee and then make recommendations to the Board.

- Commissioner Owen asked Ms. Zornita about the target objectives for the TPO when it comes to grant funding, priorities, and the correspondence that was submitted. There is a copy of that letter in the TPO Board meeting agenda for today.
- It was announced that Cameron Clark has received a promotion to Division Chief; will continue serving the TPO Board.

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT** – The meeting adjourned at 9:49 AM

The recording of this meeting can be viewed at:

<https://www.youtube.com/@HillsboroughCountyMeetings/playlists>



# Hillsborough MPO Metropolitan Planning for Transportation

## Board & Committee Agenda Item

### Agenda Item

Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Prioritization Requests: Workshop with Agencies

### Presenters

Johnny Wong, TPO Staff and Agency Representatives from HART, Hillsborough County and the Cities of Tampa, Plant City, and Temple Terrace

### Summary

Staff will provide a brief presentation explaining the process and timeline for developing the annual update to the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The forthcoming TIP will include a list of funded projects for the period from FY 2024-2028 and a list of priorities for future funding.

The TIP is a performance-based planning document that identifies & ranks priority projects within the TPO's planning area. The TIP also highlights regionally significant projects; priority projects that have been funded for construction; documents projects listed as funded in Hillsborough County in the FDOT District 7 Work Program; and, significant projects in each jurisdiction's Capital Improvements Program.

Representatives from HART, Hillsborough County, and the cities of Tampa, Plant City and Temple Terrace have been invited to discuss and answer questions about projects they have submitted for consideration on the priority list.

### Recommended Action

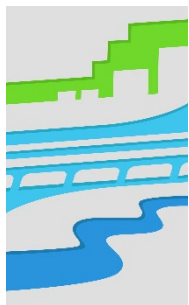
None. For information and discussion.

### Prepared By

Johnny Wong, PhD, TPO Staff

### Attachments

1. [Presentation slides](#)
2. 2023 letters of request from local governments and agencies, for prioritization of candidate projects in the TIP
3. [Interactive map of funded projects in the current TIP:](#)
4. List of priorities for future funding, adopted June 2022, begins on page17: [FY23-27 Transportation Improvement Program](#)





# Hillsborough MPO Metropolitan Planning for Transportation

## Board & Committee Agenda Item

### Agenda Item

From Priority List to Construction: Project Development Pipeline Examples

### Presenters

Justin Hall, FDOT

### Summary

It can take 5-10 years; several funded phases from PD&E through design and segmented construction; and potentially several sources of funding from various agency sponsors/partners; to move a project from an idea on a priority list to a reality on the ground.

To provide context for this year's update of the TIP priority list, FDOT District 7 staff will present some recent examples of how the project development pipeline delivers improvements over time and in collaboration.

### Recommended Action

None. For information and discussion.

### Prepared By

Beth Alden, TPO Director

### Attachments

- [Presentation slides](#)







# Hillsborough MPO Metropolitan Planning for Transportation

## Board & Committee Agenda Item

### Agenda Item

Role of the Policy Committee

### Presenters

Beth Alden, TPO Director

### Summary

*According to the TPO Bylaws, the TPO Policy Committee shall be responsible for the review and in-depth discussion of items and issues proposed to come before the TPO and for development of recommendations to the TPO, as appropriate, regarding such items and issues in order to facilitate the accomplishment of the TPO's responsibilities to manage a continuing, cooperative and comprehensive transportation planning process and the development of transportation plans and programs.*

Since this statement of purpose is broad, with this year's change in membership and leadership on the TPO Board it is appropriate to revisit what topics will be examined by the Policy Committee and what will be discussed at a meeting of the full Board.

This agenda item will be first discussed by the Policy Committee and then by the full Board, to seek consensus.

### Recommended Action

None. For information and discussion.

### Prepared By

Beth Alden, TPO Director

### Attachments

1. Summary of Peer MPOs' Policy Committees
2. Upcoming topics at the TPO Board & Policy Committee



# Summary of Peer MPOs' Policy Committees

## Forward Pinellas Legislative Committee ([website](#))

- Monthly meetings
- Purpose - Prepares legislative priority positions, monitors active legislation, and discusses a range of potential concerns and issues related to state and federal legislative affairs.
- Recent Agenda Items:
  - Reviewed transportation, housing, and other bills of interest in the Florida Legislative session
  - Follow-up to Florida Politics Essay on Pedestrian Underpasses
  - Draft Bill Language for Virtual Meeting Participation
  - Reviewed State Legislative Committee Members

## Broward MPO Executive Committee ([website](#))

- Monthly meetings
- Purpose - Review the agendas and discuss current and future projects and initiatives. The results of these discussions are greater understanding and closer coordination between the leadership of the MPO Board and the Executive Director.
- Recent Agenda Items:
  - Authorize execution of an Expenditure Piggy Backing on an Existing State of Florida Contract for Temporary Staffing Services of a Finance/HR/Administrative Position
  - Local funding contributions for MPO activities
  - Review MPO agenda items and future agendas
  - MPOAC Weekend Institute; and
  - Legislative Update.

## Palm Beach TPA Executive Committee ([website](#))

- Meets as needed (met 8 times in 2022)
- Purpose –
  - Review and recommend updates to the TPA's Strategic Plan for consideration by the Governing Board;
  - Review and recommend content related to other TPA initiatives, policies, and procedures,
  - Participate in TPA procurement selection committees as requested by the Executive Director;
  - Review the TPA Executive Director's performance or as necessary to facilitate the process of hiring a new Executive Director, and
  - Undertake other tasks as may be assigned by the Governing Board.
- Recent Agenda Items:
  - Amendments to operating and personnel procedures
  - Palm Beach County School District Membership on TPA Governing Board
  - Approval of TPA Governing Board and Advisory Committee meeting dates

## Upcoming topics at the TPO Board & Policy Committee

### April

Policy Committee: Workshop on TIP Priority List

Overview of how projects are developed and delivered by Justin Hall, FDOT

Overview of current prioritization method by Johnny Wong, TPO

Brief presentation by local governments and HART about this year's project requests

Discussion of the role of the Policy Committee

Board

Action: TIP Amendments for traffic signals on Boy Scout Blvd and on US 301

Action: Review performance targets for pavement & bridge condition and travel time reliability

Status: Long Range Plan Initial Steps – growth forecasts and revenue forecasts

Status: TD program annual check-in with the board

If time: THEA's Strategic Blueprint and CV Pilot Project Results

### May

Policy Committee – No meeting

Board – Longer meeting, 9am-noon

Action: Annual certification of Metropolitan Transportation Planning Process

Action: Annual update of Unified Planning Work Program & Budget, with EPA grant contracts

Action: Approval of contracts with General Planning Consultants (nine consultants, two years)

Action: Approval of MOU with Forward Pinellas and Pasco MPO to investigate a regional merger

Status: FDOT PD&E study of US 41 (50<sup>th</sup> St) overpass at CSX rail crossing near Causeway Blvd

If time: New Plan Hillsborough website

### June

Policy Committee – No meeting

Board – Annual 6pm public hearing on the TIP

Action: Approve shortlist of Executive Director semifinalists for panel to interview

Open public hearing and hear comments

Action: Approve 5-year TIP including newly funded projects and updated priority list

Plan Hillsborough Strategic Plan joint board workshop on June 16

Sun Coast Transportation Planning Alliance and TMA Leadership Group on June 23

## **July**

Board: summer recess

Policy Committee: Executive Director interview panel to interview semifinalists virtually (no action)

## **August**

Policy Committee

Action: Discuss and select 2 or 3 E.D. candidates to recommend the Board interview in person

Board

Action: Accept Policy Committee recommendation of E.D candidates to interview

Action: Accept report on 2050 Plan Revenue Forecast

Action: Accept report on 2050 Plan Needs Assessment for Congestion Mgt. & Crash Mitigation

Action: Approve Hillsborough Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Plan

Action: Approve Hillsborough County Bicycle Network Evaluation

## **September**

Policy Committee – No meeting

Board – Longer meeting, 9am-noon

Action: Approve TIP Amendments to roll-forward unspent funds to new fiscal year

Action: Accept report on 2050 Plan Needs Assessment for Goods Movement & Truck Route Plan

Action: Interview Executive Director finalists and rank them

Other items may be scheduled

## October

### Policy Committee

Workshop on financial scenarios for 2050 Plan, i.e. scenarios to consider gathering public feedback about during 2024

### Board

Action: Approve TIP Amendments (probable)

Action: Accept report on 2050 Plan Needs Assessment for Good Repair & Resilience

Action: Accept report on 2050 Plan Needs Assessment for Real Choices