



Recommendations for Transportation Investment Plan September, 2009

The Tampa Bay Partnership believes infrastructure investments will provide a significant boost to our regional economic prosperity. In July, 2009, the Tampa Bay Partnership issued a position statement that demonstrated our support of the Tampa Bay Area Regional Transportation Authority's (TBARTA) Master Plan and community efforts to move towards implementation.

We congratulate the Hillsborough Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) as they have answered this call and will be taking the first bold steps to implement the TBARTA Master Plan as well as address their countywide transportation needs by developing a strategy to ask the voters of Hillsborough County to invest in their transportation infrastructure.

Our role, as we pledged, has been engaging regional stakeholders in considerable dialogue and research to assure the final proposal provides the right framework to allow voters to make an informed decision and to secure their support for this investment in our community.

The Tampa Bay Partnership recommends that the following components be addressed for the proposal under consideration:

- **Build confidence in the plan by clearly outlining a transparent process** – Given citizen concerns about government spending, and in particular efforts to increase taxes, the process to fund transportation improvements must be extremely transparent. **We recommend** that the plan includes;
 - A list of clearly identified projects and realistic timelines for project delivery.
 - A plan to utilize an independent nonpartisan oversight board to ensure revenue is used for its intended purpose and projects will be delivered on time and on budget.
 - A sunset provision to offer confidence and comfort to citizens that this fee will not be imposed permanently without opportunities for additional input.
- **Ensure the plan has something for everyone by developing a comprehensive transportation plan** – While a critical component, rail transit is only a part of an interconnected, multi-modal transportation system. The Hillsborough County Transportation Taskforce, an independent board of community representatives, has been working on developing a priority list of improvements to roads and bridges that will have an immediate impact on countywide transportation and impact the broadest constituency. Once completed, **we recommend** the Taskforce list be vetted countywide by stakeholders and included as part of the comprehensive transportation plan.
- **Confirm the collaboration of the County, HART and TBARTA to ensure regional connectivity** – **We recommend** the County, HART and TBARTA create a public agreement that provides the community with a framework for how all three parties will work collaboratively to not only address transportation needs in Hillsborough County but include plans on how transportation improvements will connect to a broader regional system.

Our region has worked hard to get to this point in addressing our transportation needs and now we are at a critical juncture to move these plans forward. The Tampa Bay Partnership will continue to serve as a regional facilitator and convener on these issues and will continue to work with stakeholders to ensure that efforts by Hillsborough County, and each community that seeks to implement the TBARTA Master Plan, are successful.