

## NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Betty S. Carlin, Director of Communications  
(813) 872-2811  
[bcarlin@tampabay.org](mailto:bcarlin@tampabay.org)

### **TAMPA BAY PARTNERSHIP PRESENTS TBARTA WITH CHECK FOR \$50,000 TOWARD START UP FUNDING**

TAMPA BAY, FL (March 28, 2008) – The Tampa Bay Partnership presented a check for \$50,000 to the Tampa Bay Area Regional Transportation Authority (TBARTA) today at their monthly Board meeting. The contribution is part of a public-private matching funds effort to address start up expenses needed for legal counsel and operations support to get the Authority off the ground.

The Authority was established in 2007 to improve mobility and expand multimodal transportation options for passengers and freight within the seven-county Tampa Bay region. TBARTA, which comprises the counties of Citrus, Hernando, Hillsborough, Manatee, Pasco, Pinellas and Sarasota, has responsibility to plan, develop, finance, build and operate regional transportation facilities.

“Creation of a regional multimodal transportation system is crucial for the future economic well-being of our region. The presentation of this check represents a strong sign of support from the business community for the work TBARTA is doing,” said Roy J. McCraw, Jr., Regional Chairman of Wachovia and Chair of the Tampa Bay Partnership. “The public-private collaboration on this effort is an extraordinary demonstration of what we can achieve when we work together.”

Several months ago, the Tampa Bay Partnership challenged its public partners to find some basic resources that would be matched through private donations. A collaboration between the five Metropolitan Planning Organizations in the region took this challenge and raised a combined \$50,000 through local dollars.

“Our investors stepped up and matched the public dollars with \$50,000 in private contributions,” explained Stuart Rogel, President & CEO. “While this start up funding is a small first step, we are preparing to embark on the larger mission of building visibility and public support to raise awareness and understanding of the need for regional transportation solutions and the benefits of TBARTA.”

#### **About Tampa Bay Partnership:**

The Tampa Bay Partnership is the regional organization that brings the communities of Tampa Bay together to accelerate life's possibilities through advocacy, marketing, research and leadership. Founded in 1994, the Tampa Bay Partnership provides regional economic development for the metro areas of Tampa/St. Petersburg/Clearwater, Lakeland, and Sarasota/Bradenton/Venice and the counties of Hernando, Hillsborough, Manatee, Pasco, Pinellas, Polk, and Sarasota.

# # #

4300 W. Cypress St., Suite 250 Tampa Bay, Florida 33607  
phone: 813-878-2208 fax: 813-872-9356  
[www.TampaBay.org](http://www.TampaBay.org)