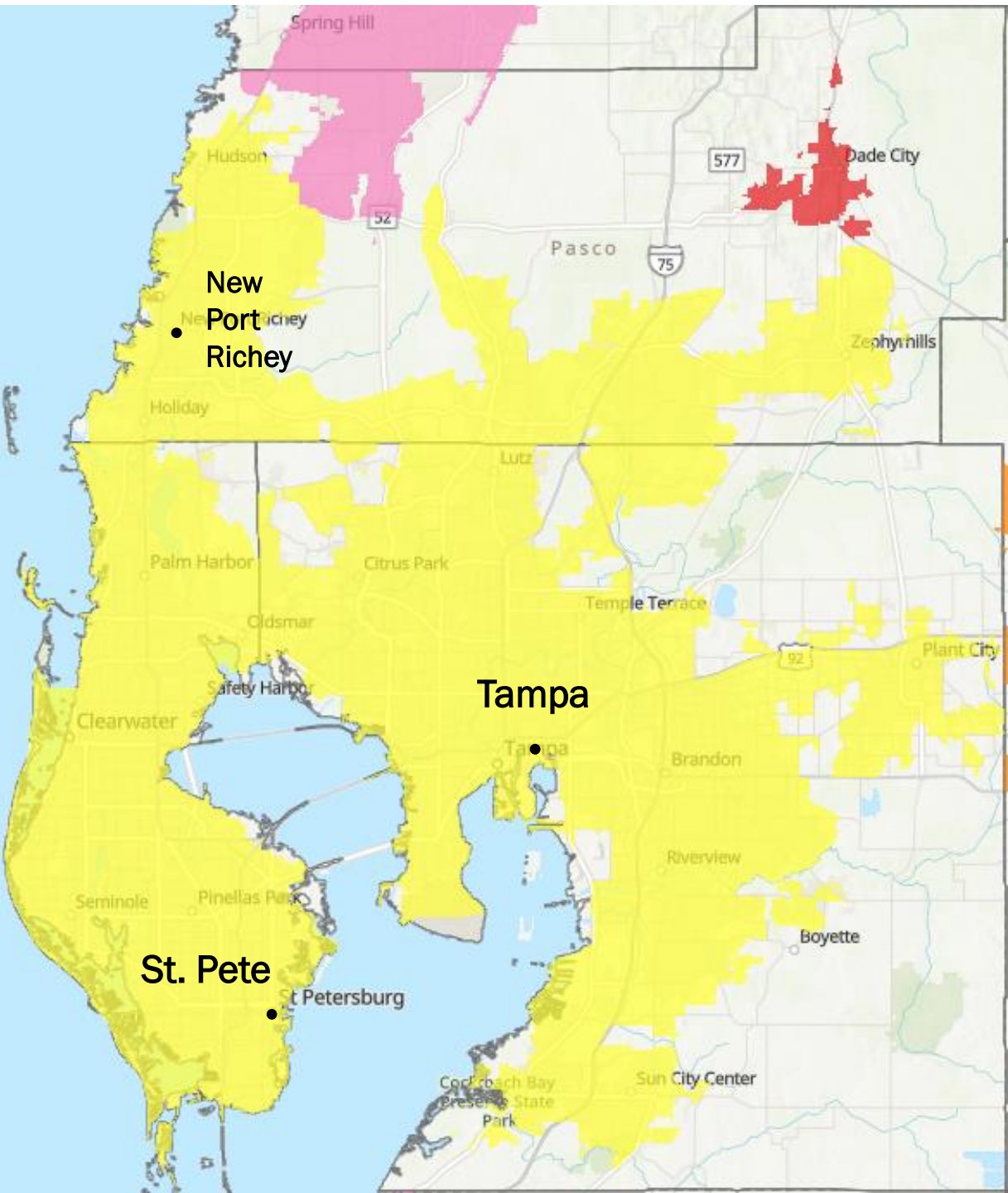




MOU on Creating a Tampa Bay MPO

May 2023 – TPO Board

Tampa-St. Petersburg, FL Transportation Management Area



Legislation

By December 31, 2023, the M.P.O.'s serving Hillsborough, Pasco, and Pinellas, must submit to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives a **feasibility report exploring the benefits, costs, and process of consolidation into a single M.P.O.** serving the contiguous urbanized area, the goal of which is to:

1. Coordinate transportation projects deemed to be regionally significant
2. Review the impact of regionally significant land use decisions on the region.
3. Review all proposed regionally significant transportation projects in the respective transportation improvement programs

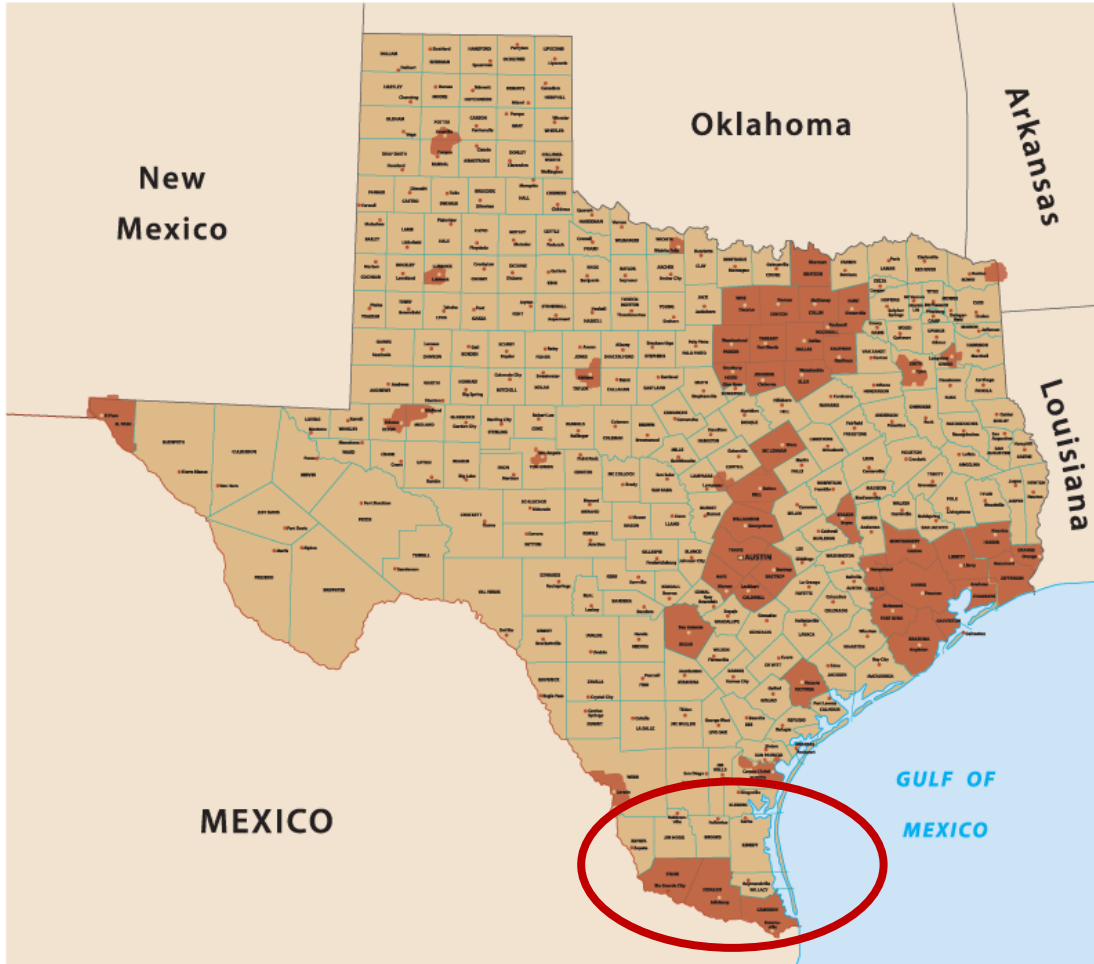
Pros

- Build trust and collaboration
- Define the transportation agenda
- Compete more effectively with other regions for funding
- Align regional transportation with regional economic development
- Largest MPO in Florida

Cons

- Risk of smaller communities and neighborhoods losing influence
- Doesn't guarantee any more funding or change the need for operating funds for transit
- Could shift emphasis to regional projects instead of community safety, access and mobility needs
- Potential to weaken coordination between land use and transportation

Case Study: Rio Grande Valley, TX Re-Designation (2019)



- Merged 3 MPOs into the Rio Grande Valley MPO
- Goal: strengthen advocacy for State funding
- MOU signed by 2 Counties, 6 Cities, TX Governor
- Details voting membership; initial bylaws; intent to leave federal grant funds sub-allocated to each indiv. area

Case Study: ARC Livable Communities

POSTED IN:

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

TRANSPORTATION & MOBILITY



Creating Vibrant, Walkable Communities

Created as a way to reduce vehicle miles traveled and improve air quality, the ARC's **Livable Centers Initiative (LCI)** is a grant program that incentivizes local jurisdictions to re-envision their communities as vibrant, walkable places that offer increased mobility options, encourage healthy lifestyles and provide improved access to jobs and services.

[View Past Projects](#)

NOTICE: The deadline for the 2023 LCI Call for Ideas has been **EXTENDED**. Applications are now due **March 7, 2023**.

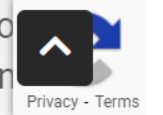
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Questions about LCI?
[Contact Us](#)

Lauren Blaszyk
lblaszyk@atlantaregional.org
**Community Development
Assistance Program**

The Community Development Assistance Program (CDAP) provides planning assistance to local governments, CIDs, & nonprofits across the metro Atlanta region to undertake local



MOU Summary



Apportionment

Proportional representation based on population

Governance Structure

Voting membership for elected officials and potentially transportation operators

Balancing Local & Regional Needs

Maintain County level planning for sub-regional topics

Funding

Long term local government funding commitment to float grants and replace federal funds

Start up costs

**Regional
MPO By
July 1, 2027**

MOU Summary

Outreach

Coordination with all local jurisdictions

Federally Required Plans & Programs

Development of Regional Plans & Programs

Agreements

Consider agreements to staff Regional MPO

Consider agreements with current host agencies

Existing Staff

Offer positions within Regional MPO or current Planning Agencies



MOU Modification

Recommend striking whereas clause for accuracy.

The Florida MPO Advisory Council in consultation with FDOT negotiates the Planning Funds (PL) distribution formula statewide after each decennial Census.

Whereas, the Florida Department of Transportation has committed through its approved Planning Funds (PL) distribution formula in 2014 that any MPOs in Florida that merge will continue to receive the base amount of PL due to each MPO prior to the merger.

Proposed Timeline


2023	2024	2025	2026
<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Apportionment Plan✓ Business Model & Budget✓ Outreach to Local Governments & Public	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Bylaws & Structure✓ Operating Procedures & Financial Controls✓ HR Procedures & Organizational Chart✓ Coordination with FHWA/FTA to maintain TMA certification	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Interlocal agreement for MPO creation✓ Office Space & Equipment✓ Negotiate Staff Services Agreement✓ Develop UPWP, PPP, TIP, and LRTP	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Governor Approvals✓ Finalize Financial Accounts & Agreements✓ Adopt UPWP, PPP, TIP and LRTP

Regional MPO Apportionment Plan


- Consult and seek approval from local governments
- Create governing board scenarios including voting members and nonvoting advisors

NOTE: Concurrently updating Hillsborough TPO's Apportionment Plan to retain designation from 2023-2027 to the Board

Business Model

- Typical cash-flow and floating of expenditures for grant reimbursement
 - Dues structures for bare-bones fiscal sustainability and for state/national leadership
 - Seek approval from local governments
- 

Outreach

- Consultation with Local Governments
 - MetroQuest Survey for the general public to weigh in on merger
 - TPO Advisory Committees
- 

Next Steps

Summer

Outreach to Agencies, TPO
Committees & Public

Draft Apportionment Plan &
Business Model

Early Fall

MPOs consider signing MOU

December 1st

TMA Leadership Group
meeting to approve
feasibility plan

June 23rd

TMA Leadership Group
meeting to review initial
local government and public
feedback

September 22nd

TMA Leadership Group
meeting to review
apportionment plan and
business model

Recommendations:

- Support the working draft MOU for circulation for comment from local governments and the public.
 - Strike Whereas clause about Planning Funds (PL) distribution
- 