



Hillsborough TPO Transportation Planning Organization

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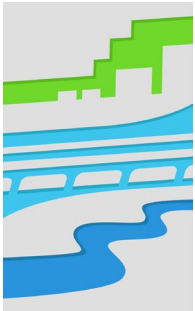
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Executive Director



Plan Hillsborough

planhillsborough.org
planner@plancom.org
813 - 272 - 5940
601 E Kennedy Blvd
18th Floor
Tampa, FL, 33602

Meeting of the Citizens Advisory Committee

Wednesday, September 6, 2023, at 6:00PM – please log on at 5:45p to test audio
County Center, 18th Floor – Plan Hillsborough Committee Room

Please RSVP [here](#) for this meeting.

Remote participation:

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87650460459?pwd=bGhtMXlrTHNnZjhNZIVGazMvcEJmUT09>

Meeting ID: 876 5046 0459 Passcode: 089272

You can dial in using your phone: 1-305-224-1968

Presentations, full agenda packet, and supplemental materials are [posted here](#).
Please phone us at 813-756-0371 for a printed copy.

- Please mute yourself after joining the conference to minimize background noise.
- Technical support during the meeting: Michael Rempfer 813-273-3774.

Rules of engagement:

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

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|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|
| I. Call to Order & Introductions | 6:00 |
| II. Roll Call and Declaration of Quorum (Gail Reese, TPO staff) | |
| III. Chairman's Request: <i>Per the TPO Bylaws, all speakers are asked to address only the presiding Chair for recognition; confine their remarks to the question under debate; and avoid personalities or indecorous language or behavior.</i> | |
| IV. Public Comment - 3 minutes per speaker, please | 6:10 |
| <i>Public comments are welcome and may be given at this meeting virtually by logging onto the website above and clicking the "raise hand" button. Staff will unmute you when the chair recognizes you.</i> | |
| V. Chair's Report | 6:15 |
| VI. Minutes | |
| A. Approval of Minutes (August 2, 2023) | 6:20 |
| VII. Action Items | |
| A. TIP Roll Forward and Water Works Park Sidewalk Gap Amendments (Roger Mathie, TPO Staff) | 6:25 |

- B. [2050 Plan Revenue Forecast](#) (Elizabeth Watkins, TPO Staff) 6:40
 - C. [2050 Plan Needs Assessment for Congestion Management and Crash Mitigation](#) (Vishaka Shiva Raman, TPO Staff) 6:55
 - D. [Hillsborough TPO Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Plan \(EVIP\)](#) (Connor Trejos-MacDonald, TPO Staff) 7:10
- VIII. Status Report**
- A. [Brainstorm Questions for Executive Director Finalists Meet & Greet](#) (Rick Fernandez, CAC Chair) 7:25
- IX. Unfinished Business & New Business**
- A. TPO Executive Director Meet & Greet September 12th.
 - B. Next CAC meeting October 4th
- X. Members' Interests & Future Topic Requests** 7:55
- XI. Adjournment** 8:00
- XII. Addendum**
- A. [TPO Summary and Committee Reports](#)
 - B. [Attendance Roster](#)
 - C. [FDOT Project Factsheet - SR 582 E. Fowler Ave. from West of Bruce B. Downs Blvd. to West of Riverhills Dr.](#)
 - D. [CCSHCAC Pedestrian Letter to FDOT](#)

The full agenda packet is available on the TPO's website, www.planhillsborough.org, or by calling (813) 272-5940.

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**HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY
TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION
CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
HYBRID MEETING OF AUGUST 2, 2023**

I. Call to Order

Chair Fernandez called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

II. Roll Call and Introductions (Gail Reese, TPO Staff)

Members Present In-Person: Rick Fernandez, Bill Roberts, James Davison, Hoyt Prindle, Joseph Citro, Steven Hollenkamp, Don Skelton, Ed Mierzejewski, Ilia Lachinov, Terrance Trott, Joshua Frank, Christina Bosworth, Sarah Thomas, Chris Gonzalez

Members Present Virtually: Carolyn Brown, Aiah Yassin, Dayna Lazarus, Artie Fryer

Members Excused or Absent: Sherri Southwell, Nicole Rice, William Hodges, Chris Vela

Others Present In-Person and Virtually: Gena Torres, Wade Reynolds, Michael Rempfer, Priya Nagaraj, Elizabeth Watkins, Lisa Silva, Gail Reese (TPO Staff); Chris Bame (Kittelson); Siao Si Fine (FDOT D7)

An in-person quorum was met. Jim Davison moved to allow remote participation; this was seconded by Terrance Trott. The voice vote passed unanimously.

III. Chairman's Request: Per the TPO Bylaws, all speakers are asked to address only the presiding Chair for recognition; confine their remarks to the question under debate and avoid personalities or indecorous language or behavior.

IV. Public Comment (*Timestamp 0:05:36*) – None

V. Chair's Report (Rick Fernandez, Chair CAC) (*Timestamp 0:05:55*)

- A.** July workshop was well attended and went well. The June meeting was to review and take action on the TIP. The CAC had made an amendment regarding the toll lanes between Westshore and Downtown. Asked that Johnny give a report regarding the line item in the TIP relating to section 5 was presented as being on Table 2 on the TIP; learned during the TPO Board meeting that the section had already been fully funded and should not have been considered. Would like to know how that happened.

VI. Approval of Minutes – June 7, 2023 and July 23, 2023 (*Timestamp 0:08:50*)

Steven Hollenkamp moved to approve the minutes for the June 7, 2023 and July 23, 2023 minutes; seconded by Bill Roberts. June 7, 2023 minutes as written were approved with a unanimous voice

vote. The July 23, 2023 minutes were approved with the correction of attendance adding Christina Bosworth and pending adjustment of the Code of Regulations language.

Discussion:

Christina Bosworth noted that her name was not noted in the attendance for the July 23, 2023 meeting. Her name was added to the July 23, 2023 minutes on August 4, 2023 by the recorder. Ed Mierzejewski asked that the minutes under Regional MPO issues. The statement was read about the Code of Regulations statement; he suggested striking it and writing out the code. The recorder suggested that this be resolved between Ed Mierzejewski and Johnny Wong with the resolution being reflected in the July 23, 2023 minutes. This will be resolved at the August meeting.

VII. Action Items

A. Draft CAC Resolution Regarding Partner Agency Participation in the Committee Process (Gena Torres, TPO Staff) (Timestamp 0:16:55)

- Went over history from the original proposal to the current document
- Five clauses in the original document – suggested going through the changes requested and the possible revisions
- Reviewed language changes to the clauses

Discussion:

It was asked if the in-person option was offered to the presenters from the agencies. There was discussion about presenters who sit through meetings and their items are deferred. It was asked if there is a way to not waste the presenter's time. This will be addressed with the pacing of the meeting and the number of topics on the agenda. Clarification was offered by Joshua Frank for the benefit of new committee members re. the history of why this resolution came about. It was offered in Clause 4 that the additional phrasing is unnecessary.

Bill Roberts moved to adopt the resolution in the final form; seconded by Jim Davison. The roll call vote for the motion as amended passed 17 – 0

Ed Mierzejewski offered an amendment to strike line 24 after “representative” to “the agency” on line 26; seconded by Joshua Frank. Ed Mierzejewski offered an update to the amendment to change the stricken language to read “to a meeting where action items are to be presented” as offered by Christina Bosworth; seconded by Joshua Frank. The roll call vote passes 17 – 0

VIII. Status Reports

A. Hillsborough TPO Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Plan (EVIP) (Chris Bame, Kittelson) (Timestamp 0:37:12)

- Went over plan context and overview
- Review of benefits and barriers to electric adoption
- Noted there were several use cases, focusing on light-duty vehicles
 - Looked at EV adoption for LV in Hillsborough County to the 2050 horizon
 - Went over LDV charging needs based on medium projected adoption rate – provided the number of chargers at the community level

- Went over the disadvantaged communities' considerations – which tend to have a slower adoption rate
- Looked at where it would be attractive to put charging stations in the county including land uses and funding programs available
- Went over the transportation network companies and gig driver use case
 - Recommend having more DC Fast Charging
- Review of different HART fleet buses and scenarios to transition the fleet to electric buses
 - Longer routes could drive up the cost
 - HART is doing their own planning process
- Commercial Delivery Vehicles
 - Already starting to convert based on market forces and regulations
 - Do not recommend installing charging stations for commercial vehicles but allow them to use the DC fast charging stations
- Policy Recommendation
 - 5 – 15% of parking spaces in new multi-family and commercial parking areas
- Accessibility design
 - Refer people to other charging stations that are not in accessible spaces
- Designing for Different Vehicles
 - eBikes and eScooters – retrofit tends to be expensive. Put in 120V charging at the beginning
- Keep balance in mind – watch for new technologies, new needs emerging, and the disparity between communities, considering hurricane evacuation
- Using the plan – inform the LRTP, pursue grants, share with municipalities, review development proposals

Presentation: [Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Plan Presentation](#)

Report: [Hillsborough EV Plan \(planhillsborough.org\)](http://planhillsborough.org)

Discussion:

It was asked if this was supposed to be an action item tonight. The plan was not attached to the agenda and did not want to ask the committee to vote on an item without reviewing it. It has also been pulled from the TPO Board in August. It was noted that owners of personal vehicles typically charge overnight. At destinations, such as County Center, rest areas, should have fast charging available. Travel and destination need to be considered. Rental buildings do not have the ability to charge vehicles. The City of Tampa has a code for EV readiness in new, multi-family dwellings and this should be adopted at the county level. It was noted that solar, portable charging was not mentioned. It was noted that it may be a safe assumption that as adoption increases, more people will purchase those. That was not focused on at this time as those are considered evolving technology. It is not at a place to predict out to 2050 but will be kept in sight for plan updates. It was brought up that part of this conversation should be treated as parking spaces are considered in general and leave a minimal footprint. It was if the EV estimate includes plug-in hybrids. Yes. It was asked why there are so many Level 2 chargers in public areas. Could be used in apartment complexes, shopping areas for a “top off”, etc. There was additional favor expressed for codes in the county with multi-family dwellings. It was asked how the turnover is monitored at the charging stations. There are several different policies being used including higher rates if there is

no electricity moving; towing is an option; it would be similar to other parking violations. The Level 2 chargers can have more installed for a similar cost to less fast chargers. Concern was expressed for basic minimums. People may not want electric charging stations over sidewalks and transit. It is a private investment being subsidized by the government. The 5 – 15% of parking spaces should be in place of existing spaces. Suggested marketing and public engagement be part of the plan from purchase to charging to traveling so the infrastructure is a worthwhile investment. There are some jurisdictions that have a parking maximum instead of minimum and they have said that EV spaces don't count towards that. That policy is national and not necessarily local. It was asked if the cost has been identified and possible revenue streams to pay for the chargers. Cost is not included in this report. Costs vary a lot. Revenue streams include federal subsidies to install and a private company running the charging. Other options could be parking fees and/or HOA fees to cover the cost. Due to current housing costs and a lack of housing, it was noted that requiring EV stations may increase the cost of multi-family rents/prices. This could dissuade the development of multi-family developments. Alternate modes of transportation need to be emphasized. It was noted that using existing parking spaces with charges may be preferable to building new spaces. The reason for having the required parking spaces on the front end is because retrofitting is more expensive. It was noted that people looking for a residence are looking for EV infrastructure in some literature. It was asked if there are partner agencies that the county can work with, such as TECO.

It was asked when this would come back before the committee for action. September or possibly October.

IX. Unfinished Business & New Business *(Timestamp 1:26:44)*

A. Hillsborough County Bicycle Evaluation Network Evaluation (Wade Reynolds, TPO Staff)

- Spoke to partners in Public Works who requested the study
- Met with committee members who had significant questions
- Went over methodology
 - Risk Score – crash history, speed limit, AADT, total lanes, presence of lighting – showed the scoring numbers
 - Exposure Score – activity generators, residential density, proximity to a bus stop, equity, and social justice (based on the Nondiscrimination Plan, factors included in the packet) – showed the scoring numbers
 - Network Score – existing bicycle facility, existing sidewalk, connectivity, context classification – showed the scoring numbers
 - These were combined into the prioritization score – noted that the county roads in the City of Tampa were studied and the scores were provided on those roads

Project Page: [Hillsborough County Bicycle Network Plan - Plan Hillsborough](#)

Presentation:

Discussion:

Clarification was asked about the metric on proximity to bus stops and if ridership of the routes was taken into consideration. It was asked if the streetcar and Amtrak were included. The streetcar was. The route ridership was not considered. The higher ridership routes may have

higher needs. It was asked if the condition of the sidewalk was considered. Conditions were not taken into consideration, but it is recognized that there are a wide range of conditions throughout the county. Clarification on speeds was requested. It was asked if there is consideration around updating existing facilities. Yes, part of the study looked at this and how improvements could be made without additional right-of-way. It was asked if Brightline was taken into consideration, but not at this time as there is no concrete plan. It could be included in the future. The disappointment was expressed in not including District 5 in this. It was noted that the scope of the study was for 4 and all county roads were considered in the study.

B. CAC Member Resignation (Gena Torres, TPO Staff) – Had a member resign. Shared their disappointment over the treatment of the speakers. There was a lack of productive suggestions versus poking holes in presentations. Chair Fernandez asked who the member was. This will be addressed when Johnny Wong gets back.

C. Next CAC Meeting: September 6, 2023

X. Member's Interests & Future Topic Requests (*Timestamp 1:44:29*)

- **Terrance Trott** – noted a need in the county for a calling campaign. This is an aggressive region on the roads. How do we go about getting something similar to the reminders used in Pinellas for people to relax, calm down, slow down, etc? Gena noted that CUTR is working with FDOT D7 on a study regarding messaging in geofenced areas re. their driving. Will see if that can be brought to the committee.
- **Terrance Trott** – asked whom to go to for plastic or rubber speed hump solutions in the neighborhoods. Gena responded that it would be Public Works.
- **Terrance Trott** – asked if there is a cutoff in size where drivers need additional training for trucks. Larger trucks seem to be being driven like smaller cars. These vehicles are being driven as fast or faster than much lighter vehicles and it is dangerous. Asked if there is something that can be done with messaging for large truck owners/drivers.
- **Joshua Frank** – would like an update on the transfer of county roads over to the city; those that are within the city limits. It came up in the CIT tax conversation.
- **Joseph Citro** – asked about the participation of this committee in the hiring of the new Executive Director of the TPO. In his opinion, the CAC should be advising on this topic and have an interview in front of the committee to provide a recommendation to the TPO Board. Would like to make sure that the CAC is able to ask questions of candidates and make sure the candidate is in agreement on topics concerning the committee.

Interviews were on Friday, 7/28/2023. At the Policy Committee meeting, there is the hope that the field will be narrowed to two candidates being recommended to the TPO Board.

Stephen Hollenkamp requested links to the candidate interviews.

Joseph Citro moved to request the Transportation Planning Commission of Hillsborough County include the Citizens Advisory Committee in the hiring/recruitment for the Executive Director Position of the TPO which is now held by Ms. Beth Alden. This should include the

meeting with the candidate in the CAC meetings but will not include the voting process.; seconded by Hoyt Prindle. The roll call vote passed the motion 15 – 1

Discussion:

It was noted that the Policy Committee will be narrowing it down to two candidates and the committee would not be able to talk to all four. It was asked if the final selection that the CAC could have a voice in the final vote. Gena Torres noted that she does not know if it is possible to change the voting process at this time. The TPO Policy meeting agenda went out and included the links to the interviews. It was brought up that there is nothing stopping the committee from voting and making a recommendation to the TPO Board.

- **Dayna Lazarus** – requested a status update on the I-275 construction, particularly the underpasses, bike/ped protection, on and off ramps, etc.
- **Jim Davison** – asked if legal could come in and address the MPO merger and how the Code of Regulations applies.
- **Jim Davison** – the transportation workshop for the county, almost \$2 billion dollars over 5 years. 2 years ago, that was 10 years. It was requested that someone from Hillsborough County and Tampa Mobility explain the new numbers and provide accurate information. If the 1 cent sales tax was passed, it would not cover the expense.

XI. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:06 PM

A recording of this meeting may be viewed at:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCsojHyZb_mkYIU3o32Tbg4w/videos

NOTE: the TPO Executive Director candidate interviews may be viewed at the YouTube link above.



Hillsborough TPO Transportation Planning Organization

Board & Committee Agenda Item

Agenda Item:

TIP Roll Forward and Water Works Park Sidewalk Gap Amendments

Presenter:

Roger Mathie, TPO Staff

Summary:

Every year in July, FDOT District 7 begins developing its Five-Year Work Program. Following an extensive review process, the Work Program is adopted in July of the following year and a summary “snapshot” of projects listed in the Work Program is provided to the TPO in April. This “snapshot” includes a list of funded projects which are required to appear in the TPO’s TIP.

When the new TIP and Work Program are adopted in June and July, respectively, there are often projects in the previous TIP which had funding programmed but the work was not completed due to delays or a host of other reasons. The programmed funds must then be “rolled forward” into the next TIP so that the work can be completed. The TIP must therefore be amended to include those delayed projects and so that the funding amounts match the Work Program.

This year’s Roll Forward Amendment will impact three approved projects, noted below:

- 436489-1, Resurfacing of Kennedy Blvd from S Woodlynne Ave to Brevard Ave
- 452381-1, I-4 Eastbound Weigh Station Truck Parking
- 452381-2, I-4 Westbound Weigh Station Truck Parking

A second TIP Amendment is also being requested to accelerate design of the following project, noted below:

- 452877-1 Water Works Park Sidewalk Gaps

The Water Works Park sidewalk gap project will enhance multimodal connectivity by eliminating key sidewalk gaps within the Tampa Heights district along I-275 near Water Works Park. This includes prioritizing a direct wide sidewalk connection from Tampa Street to Doyle Carlton Drive adjacent to the barrier-separated I-275 frontage road and potentially adding a sidewalk on the east side of Doyle Carlton from south of I-275 to the main entrance of the Water Works Park.

Recommended Action:

Approval the Roll Forward and Water Works Park Sidewalk Gaps Amendments to the Transportation Improvement Program for FY 2023/24 through FY 2027/28 and forward to the TPO Board for consideration.



Plan Hillsborough
planhillsborough.org
planner@plancom.org
813 - 272 - 5940
601 E Kennedy Blvd
18th floor
Tampa, FL, 33602

Prepared By:

Roger Mathie, TPO Staff

Attachments:

1. Comparative Reports
2. [Presentation Slides](#)
3. Water Works Park Sidewalk Gaps Project Factsheet

**FDOT
5 Year TIP
Hillsborough County, District 7**

HIGHWAYS

Status Amended	Amendment Date: 9/13/2023	Amendment Number: 2
Item Number: 436489 1	Description: USB41/SR685/SR60/W KENNEDY FR W OF S WOODLYNNE AVE TO E OF BREVARD AVE	L RTP: State of Good Repair and Resilience, p. 31
Related Project:	Extra Description: 4 LANES	
Project Length: 1.827		*NON-SIS*
Type of Work: RESURFACING		

	Fund	<2024	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	>2028	All Years
CONSTRUCTION - Managed by FDOT									
Added	ACNR	\$0	\$1,473,657	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,473,657
Added	ACPR	\$0	\$2,415,181	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,415,181
Added	ACSS	\$0	\$867,668	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$867,668
Added	DDR	\$0	\$2,851,440	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,851,440
Added	DIH	\$1,499	\$120,246	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$121,745
Added	DS	\$393	\$369,691	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$370,084
Added	LF	\$0	\$3,462	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$3,462
Added	TALT	\$0	\$611,376	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$611,376
	Totals:	\$1,892	\$8,712,721	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$8,714,613
ENVIRONMENTAL - Managed by FDOT									
Added	DS	\$45,067	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$45,067
	Totals:	\$45,067	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$45,067
PRELIMINARY ENGINEERING - Managed by FDOT									
Added	DDR	\$1,469,308	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,469,308
Added	DIH	\$72,037	\$250	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$72,287
Added	DS	\$721,190	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$721,190
	Totals:	\$2,262,535	\$250	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,262,785
RAILROAD & UTILITIES - Managed by FDOT									
Added	LF	\$0	\$126,941	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$126,941
	Totals:	\$0	\$126,941	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$126,941
	Item 436489 1 Totals:	\$2,309,494	\$8,839,912	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$11,149,406

ACNR: AC NAT HWY PERFORM RESURFACING
ACPR: AC - PROTECT GRANT PGM
ACSS: ADVANCE CONSTRUCTION (SS,HSP)
DDR: DISTRICT DEDICATED REVENUE
DIH: STATE IN-HOUSEPRODUCT SUPPORT
DS: STATE PRIMARY HIGHWAYS & PTO
LF: LOCAL FUNDS
TALT: TRANSPORTATION ALTS-ANY AREA



**FDOT
5 Year TIP
Hillsborough County, District 7**

HIGHWAYS

Status Amended **Amendment Date:** 9/13/2023 **Amendment Number:** 3

Item Number: 422381 1 **Description:** I-4 EASTBOUND WEIGH STATION SEFFNER/HILLSBOROUGH (70691) **LRTP:** Smart Cities, p. 39

Related Project: **Extra Description:** INCREASE TRUCK PARKING CAPACITY AND TPAS

Project Length: 0 ***SIS***

Type of Work: PARKING FACILITY

Fund	<2024	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	>2028	All Years
CONSTRUCTION - Managed by FDOT								
Added CARB	\$0	\$2,400,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,400,000
Added DIH	\$0	\$20,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$20,000
Totals:	\$0	\$2,420,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,420,000
PRELIMINARY ENGINEERING - Managed by FDOT								
Added CARB	\$82,426	\$37,574	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$120,000
Added DIH	\$0	\$1,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,000
Totals:	\$82,426	\$38,574	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$121,000
Item 422381 1 Totals:	\$82,426	\$2,458,574	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,541,000

CARB: CARBON REDUCTION GRANT PGM
 DIH: STATE IN-HOUSE PRODUCT SUPPORT



**FDOT
5 Year TIP
Hillsborough County, District 7**

HIGHWAYS

Status Amended	Amendment Date: 9/13/2023	Amendment Number: 4
Item Number: 422381 2	Description: I-4 WESTBOUND WEIGH STATION SEFFNER/HILLSBOROUGH	LRTP: Smart Cities, p. 39
Related Project:	(70691) Extra Description: INCREASE TRUCK PARKING CAPACITY AND TPAS	
Project Length: 0	*SIS*	
Type of Work: PARKING FACILITY		

Fund	<2024	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	>2028	All Years
CONSTRUCTION - Managed by FDOT								
Added	CARB	\$0	\$2,150,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,150,000
Added	DIH	\$0	\$20,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$20,000
Totals:		\$0	\$2,170,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,170,000
PRELIMINARY ENGINEERING - Managed by FDOT								
Added	CARB	\$0	\$120,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$120,000
Added	DIH	\$0	\$1,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,000
Totals:		\$0	\$121,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$121,000
Item 422381 2 Totals:		\$0	\$2,291,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,291,000

CARB: CARBON REDUCTION GRANT PGM
 DIH: STATE IN-HOUSE PRODUCT SUPPORT



**FDOT
5 Year TIP
Hillsborough County, District 7**

HIGHWAYS

Status Amended	Amendment Date: 9/13/2023	Amendment Number: 5
Item Number: 452877 1	Description: WATER WORKS PARK SIDEWALK GAP- VARIOUS LOCATIONS	LRTP: Vision Zero, p. 35
Related Project:	Extra Description:	
Project Length: 0.208		*SIS*
Type of Work: SIDEWALK		

Fund	<2024	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	>2028	All Years
PRELIMINARY ENGINEERING - Managed by FDOT								
Added CARB	\$0	\$304,469	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$304,469
Added DDR	\$0	\$329,896	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$329,896
Added DIH	\$3,001	\$2,999	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$6,000
Added DS	\$3,469	\$74,573	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$78,042
Totals:	\$6,470	\$711,937	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$718,407
Item 452877 1 Totals:	\$6,470	\$711,937	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$718,407

CARB: CARBON REDUCTION GRANT PGM
DDR: DISTRICT DEDICATED REVENUE
DIH: STATE IN-HOUSE PRODUCT SUPPORT
DS: STATE PRIMARY HIGHWAYS & PTO



Water Works Sidewalk Gap - Various Locations 452877-1

Project Details	
Work Type	Pedestrian Enhancements
Phase	Design
Limits	From East of Doyle Carlton Dr. to West of Tampa St.
Length	0.5 Mile
City	Tampa
County	Hillsborough
Road	I-275
Design Cost	\$1,067,840



About

The Water Works Sidewalk Gap project will enhance multi-modal connectivity by eliminating key sidewalk gaps within the Tampa Heights district along I-275 near Water Works Park.

This includes prioritizing a direct wide sidewalk connection from Tampa Street to Doyle Carlton Drive adjacent to the barrier-separated I-275 frontage road and potentially adding a sidewalk on the east side of Doyle Carlton from south of I-275 to the main entrance of the Water Works Park.

The construction is anticipated to begin in late 2024.

****Design Cost includes the total of both design and construction estimates for this project****

Contact Information	
Design Manager	David Guttenplan 813-975-6078 David.Guttenplan@dot.state.fl.us
Media Contact	Kris Carson 813-975-6060 Kristen.Carson@dot.state.fl.us



Hillsborough TPO Transportation Planning Organization

Board & Committee Agenda Item

Agenda Item:

2050 Plan Revenue Forecast

Presenter:

Elizabeth Watkins, AICP, TPO Staff

Summary:

In preparation for the 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP), a report on revenue projections has been generated. Federal regulations require that an LRTP contain a financial plan that estimates funds available to support implementation of the plan. The financial plan shall indicate resources from public and private sources that are reasonably expected to be made available to carry out the plan and recommends any additional financing strategies for needed projects and programs.

The technical memorandum outlines federal, state, and local sources of revenue for funding transportation improvements; describes the methodology and assumptions developed to forecast future revenues; and summarizes anticipated amounts from each revenue source. The purpose of this memorandum is to provide a forecast of reasonably available funding from traditional revenue sources to support transportation investments through 2050, as well as describe new, additional, and potential revenue sources from untapped local funding sources which could be invested in transportation.

Recommended Action:

Approve the 2050 Plan Revenue Forecast and forward to the TPO Board for consideration.

Prepared By:

Elizabeth Watkins, AICP, TPO Staff

Attachments:

1. [2050 Plan Revenue Forecast Technical Memo](#)



Plan Hillsborough
planhillsborough.org
planner@plancom.org
813 - 272 - 5940
601 E Kennedy Blvd
18th floor
Tampa, FL, 33602



Hillsborough TPO Transportation Planning Organization

Board & Committee Agenda Item

Agenda Item:

2050 Plan Needs Assessment for Congestion Management and Crash Mitigation

Presenter:

Vishaka Shiva Raman, TPO Staff

Summary:

Funding secured from the Federal Highway Administration's *Second Strategic Highway Research Program (SHRP2)* was used to develop a Project C11 tool to assist MPOs with transportation investment planning. The C11 is a post-processor sketch planning tool used to evaluate the economic, safety, and travel time reliability benefits of transportation improvement projects.

TPO staff and its consultant used the C11 tool to update the 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan Needs Assessment for Congestion Management and Crash Mitigation. Using 2050 forecasted population and vehicle volume data from the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Model, the C11 tool applied a series of algorithms to those model results and estimated future crashes, minutes of delay, and travel reliability for major roads across the county. This analysis yielded a list of corridors expected to perform poorly in each of those categories.

TPO staff then tested the impacts of applying safety and reliability treatments to each poorly performing corridor in order to determine which needs could be addressed given the amount of funding available.

Results from this needs assessment will be incorporated into the 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan and will inform both performance target-setting and Transportation Improvement Program project prioritization.

Recommended Action:

Approve the 2050 Plan Needs Assessment for Congestion Management and Crash Mitigation and forward to the TPO Board for consideration.

Prepared By:

Johnny Wong, PhD, TPO Staff

Attachment:

1. [Draft Report](#)
2. [Presentation slides](#)



Plan Hillsborough
planhillsborough.org
planner@plancom.org
813 - 272 - 5940
601 E Kennedy Blvd
18th floor
Tampa, FL, 33602



Hillsborough TPO Transportation Planning Organization

Board & Committee Agenda Item

Agenda Item:

Hillsborough TPO Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Plan (EVIP)

Presenter:

Connor Trejos-MacDonald, TPO Staff

Summary:

In August, the Citizens Advisory Committee received a status report on the TPO's Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Plan (EVIP) and were asked to review the draft document to be considered for approval in September.

At that meeting, recommendations of the EVIP were discussed by CAC members. Requests were made for additional consideration of parking requirements, accessibility, and charger installation in multifamily dwelling units.

TPO staff considered all of the committee's feedback and will now present its findings and updated recommendations to the CAC for approval.

Recommended Action:

Approve the Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Plan (EVIP) and forward to the TPO Board for consideration.

Prepared By:

Connor Trejos-MacDonald, TPO Staff

Attachments:

1. [Hillsborough TPO Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Plan – Final Report](#)
2. [Presentation slides](#)



Plan Hillsborough
planhillsborough.org
planner@plancom.org
813 - 272 - 5940
601 E Kennedy Blvd
18th floor
Tampa, FL, 33602



Hillsborough TPO Transportation Planning Organization

Board & Committee Agenda Item

Agenda Item:

Brainstorm Questions for Executive Director Finalists Meet & Greet

Presenter:

Rick Fernandez, CAC Chair

Summary:

Following a round of virtual interviews in July, the TPO Board on August 9th, selected three finalists for the TPO Executive Director position: Stephen Benson, Vinod Sandanasamy, and Johnny Wong. On September 13, 2023, the full Board will interview each finalist and make a determination.

During its August meeting, the Board also discussed a request from the Citizens Advisory Committee as to whether and how the CAC might be involved in the selection process. A link to a video of that discussion is attached below with the discussion beginning at 18:57. The Board ultimately decided to organize an informal meet & greet on September 12, 2023 from 5-7p in the County Center 1st floor multipurpose room.

At that meet & greet, the three finalists will be introduced, as will any Board and CAC members in attendance. Finalists and attendees will then be free to move around the room, chat, and enjoy refreshments.

Chair Fernandez requested that the CAC spend some time at its September 6th meeting to discuss the committee's approach to the social event.

Recommended Action:

Discuss CAC approach to Finalists Meet & Greet and solicit RSVPs so that members can be introduced by name.

Prepared By:

Johnny Wong, PhD, TPO Staff

Attachments

1. Semi-finalist interview sheet
2. Finalist resumes
3. Videos of virtual interviews: [Benson – Wong - Sandanasamy](#)
4. [TPO Board Discussion of CAC participation](#)



Plan Hillsborough
planhillsborough.org
planner@plancom.org
813 - 272 - 5940
601 E Kennedy Blvd
18th floor
Tampa, FL, 33602

Interviewer:

Candidate:

Date:

TPO EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SEARCH INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

Use the following scale to rate each question. Circle the rating that you feel best describes the candidate's ability to address the question. You may write any additional comments under each rating scale. Add each question score to get a total score for the candidate.

Rating	Rating standard
<p>1 Low</p>	<p><i>Candidate's response contained very few of the desired behaviors. Either the behaviors they discussed were not at, or even close to, the level indicated in desired behaviors, or the person did not give you enough information for you to have confidence that they have that competency at the level needed for success.</i></p>
<p>2 Low-Moderate</p>	
<p>3 Moderate</p>	<p><i>Candidate's response covered some of the desired behaviors, but not quite at the level that would be ideal for that competency. Still, the quality of the person's answers leads you to believe that they would be successful with some additional exposure and/or training.</i></p>
<p>4 High-Moderate</p>	
<p>5 High</p>	<p><i>Candidate's response contained many, if not all, of the desired behaviors. Their responses indicate well-developed skills and aptitude for that competency, which would most likely lead to job success. The person's responses are of superior quality for this job.</i></p>

Interviewer:

Candidate:

Date:

1. In your own words, please describe the various roles filled by the Hillsborough County TPO Executive Director and how your skills and experience match up with each role.

1	2	3	4	5
Low	Low-Moderate	Moderate	High-Moderate	High

2. How can the TPO be most effective in working with our Local, State, and Federal governments regarding the TPO Long Range Planning process and moving transportation projects forward for our area?

1	2	3	4	5
Low	Low-Moderate	Moderate	High-Moderate	High

3. How will you collaborate with other regional and local planning agencies on common missions like economic development and transportation?

1	2	3	4	5
Low	Low-Moderate	Moderate	High-Moderate	High

Interviewer:

Candidate:

Date:

4. Describe your approach to discussions about an impending MPO merger with Hillsborough, Pasco and Pinellas.

1	2	3	4	5
Low	Low-Moderate	Moderate	High-Moderate	High

5. Elaborate on the communications style and manner in which you work with your staff and at what levels you directly communicate.

1	2	3	4	5
Low	Low-Moderate	Moderate	High-Moderate	High

6. Hillsborough County consists of both “urbanized” and “rural” areas and there are citizens in each that are interested in preserving their existing lifestyles. What experience do you have in planning for both urban and rural areas?

1	2	3	4	5
Low	Low-Moderate	Moderate	High-Moderate	High

Interviewer:

Candidate:

Date:

7. Considering the rapid growth and congestion in parts of our county, how do you see the balance between roadway capacity improvements and public transportation options?

1	2	3	4	5
Low	Low-Moderate	Moderate	High-Moderate	High

8. Please elaborate on how you have engaged the citizens in the planning process, e.g., community plans, land use studies, transportation studies, etc. Use the example that best represents the most successful approach you used.

1	2	3	4	5
Low	Low-Moderate	Moderate	High-Moderate	High

9. Describe your experience working in an organization that was led or guided by a board of individuals (directors, citizens, elected or appointed officials). What was your approach to topics that were controversial among the board/committee members?

1	2	3	4	5
Low	Low-Moderate	Moderate	High-Moderate	High

Interviewer:

Candidate:

Date:

10. Six months from now, how will we know that having you as the TPO Executive Director was the right decision?

1	2	3	4	5
Low	Low-Moderate	Moderate	High-Moderate	High

Total: _____

May 12, 2023

Stephen L. Benson
1212 E. Whiting Street
Tampa, FL 333602
sleebenson@gmail.com

The Honorable Gwen Myers, Chair
Hillsborough Transportation Planning Organization
601 E. Kennedy Boulevard, 18th Floor
Tampa, FL 333602
planner@plancom.org

RE: Hillsborough TPO Executive Director

Chair Myers and TPO Board Members,

I'm honored to submit my application for the role of Executive Director. I exceed the preferred qualifications for the position, and I am well versed in the job duties based upon my extensive experience as a transportation planning leader in Hillsborough County and the Tampa Bay region. Specifically, I offer the following unique combination of skills and experiences that would provide for an exceptional Executive Director.

- I am an experienced transportation and land use planner and have spent my career applying innovative best practices, improving planning processes and successfully implementing plans.
- I am extremely passionate about safety on our streets. I authored the nationally-recognized Hillsborough Countywide Bicycle Safety Action Plan (2012) for this TPO and I played a significant role in rethinking state roadway standards and funding processes to deliver safer mobility outcomes for communities (FDOT Complete Streets Initiative).
- I have held technical and leadership roles in the metropolitan planning process, including as oversight administrator and implementing agency project manager. From each position, I've built strong working relationships with agency staff, elected officials and members of the community. I was awarded local Planner of the Year in 2013 by the American Planning Association and Innovator of the Year by FDOT in 2017.
- I'm intimately familiar with the relationship between federal, state and local transportation planning processes. I certified the planning consistency of all major capacity projects in the District and led the joint certification of the TPO for three years. I also managed this process for other MPOs in the region and can offer lessons learned from my familiarity with other peer agencies.
- I've managed competitive and formula transportation funding programs, including the primary funding streams used to design and build TPO priority projects as well as the grant agreements used to support TPO agency operations. I also coordinated the review of congressional and legislative appropriations in the FDOT work program.
- I am a home-grown third-generation native of Tampa. My grandmother's family home was relocated by FDOT to accommodate the creation of I-4. I understand the complex responsibility this TPO has to identify and advance projects that support a growing region while respecting the needs and interests of neighborhoods that stand to be impacted.

Stephen L. Benson, CNU-A, AICP

1212 E. Whiting St.
Tampa, Florida 33602
sleebenson@gmail.com
(813) 843-8359

QUALIFICATIONS AND SKILLS:

Experienced leader in areas of transportation/urban planning, project development, capital programs, grants administration, public policy and metropolitan planning. Skilled in team building, process improvement, organizational development, communications and strategy.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

City of Tampa City Planning Director

Tampa, Florida
November 2021-Present

I oversee the development of planning processes that address the current and future needs of the City. I lead a team of multi-disciplinary staff in the areas of natural resources, land use, master planning, urban design, mobility, and comprehensive plan implementation. I advise the City administration and members of the City Council on matters related to long-term planning.

- Fully implemented launch of new City Department.
- Led implementation of Transit Oriented Development planning program for Streetcar/ Rapid Bus corridor and other strategic policy initiatives for housing and transportation.
- Restructured internal standard operating procedures for amendments to Code of Ordinances to increase transparency, accountability and reduce delay in review and adoption of policy reforms by 50-75%. Led amendment to Code of Ordinances to address Vision Zero safety considerations during site development.
- Oversaw agency review of land use entitlements for over 2,000 additional residential units within city limits in less than two years.

Transportation Planning Coordinator

July 2019-November 2021

Authored citywide strategic vision on behalf of Transportation Advisory Committee and developed capital improvement plan for transportation surtax revenues.

- Managed planning/design studies. Developed and progressed strategic initiatives: Vision Zero, Complete Streets, and Mobility Master Plan.
- Led intergovernmental coordination with transportation agency staff.
- Successfully coordinated grants pursuit strategy for West Riverwalk (\$25M USDOT), Tampa Streetcar Extension (FDOT match), and I-275 Ashley Drive (\$5M FDOT/\$5M USDOT).

Florida Department of Transportation - District 7 Metropolitan Planning Administrator

Tampa, Florida
April 2016-July 2019

I was responsible for FDOT's role in the metropolitan planning program in partnership with the four Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO) within the Tampa Bay geographic District of FDOT. I served as primary point of contact with MPO/TPO Executive Directors and advised District Secretary and Central Office on matters related to local metropolitan planning.

- Monitored the management and operations of TPO/MPOs and tracked agency compliance with applicable federal and state laws. Responsible for compliance reviews of core MPO planning products (LRTP, TIP, UPWP and PPP).
- Responsible for National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) planning consistency certifications for all major capacity projects.
- Identified and proposed transportation projects that align with TPO priorities and available funding programs to proceed into engineering or construction.
- Participated in federal certification of metropolitan planning organization agency operations and coordinated development of annual Joint Certification Statements.
- Administered Federal Metropolitan Planning (PL), Surface Transportation Block Grant (SU) and Section 5305 Contracts, on behalf of Federal Highway Administration/FTA, between FDOT and Hillsborough, Pinellas, Pasco and Hernando-Citrus MPOs.
- Administered federal formula allocations for the Tampa Bay Transportation Management Area (TMA), including Surface Transportation Block Grant program (SU) and Transportation Alternatives (TA) funds. Ensured compliance with state and federal programming requirements and guidelines.
- Directed annual programming of MPO/TPO Priority Projects into FDOT Work Program and State TIP, in consultation with Executive Directors and elected officials.

Managed annual public hearing process for development of FDOT Five Year Work Program, including presentations to MPO Boards and TMA Leadership Group.

Managed discretionary funding program to supplement resurfacing projects with strategic safety enhancements.

Bicycle & Pedestrian Safety Program Manager

May 2013-April 2016

Served as principal expert at District for bicycle and pedestrian safety matters.

- Produced engineering studies and benefit-cost analyses for new and upgraded traffic signals, pedestrian crossings and other safety improvements on the state highway system.
- Managed education outreach program and research studies related to traffic safety.
- Managed Safe Routes to Schools capital grants program to construct sidewalks and crosswalks at schools with safety problems. Restructured application program and prioritization criteria and significantly increased local government participation.
- Served on statewide policy committees for Complete Streets Program, Safety in Resurfacing Program, and Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety.

- Contributed to rewrites of statewide design and engineering standards to promote broader application of safety treatments.
- Championed award-winning engagement and place-making activity in region (Cyclovia or “open streets”) and launched regional safety coalition.
- Sponsored research in pedestrian safety and experimental traffic engineering concepts with public universities in Florida.
- Lectured and trained area industry professionals in best practices in safety countermeasures and transportation planning.

Tindale Oliver (now Benesch)
Urban Planner

Tampa, FL
 January 2010-March 2013

Planning consultant for land developers, state and local governments, and MPOs throughout Florida. Prepared Geographic Information Systems (GIS) maps and authored MPO planning products.

EDUCATION & TRAINING:

Mission-Oriented Bootcamp, University College London (2021)

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion in the Workplace Certificate, University of South Florida (2021)

The Walkable City Certificate Program with Jeff Speck, Harvard University Graduate School of Design (2018)

Leadership Academy Graduate, National Transportation Leadership Institute (2016)

Master of Urban & Regional Planning - University of South Florida (2012)

Bachelor of Arts, Geography - University of South Florida (2010)

CERTIFICATIONS:

Florida Certified Contract Manager (2017-2019)

American Institute of Certified Planners (2013-present)

Congress for New Urbanism Accredited (2011-present)

VOLUNTEER & APPOINTED SERVICE:

Chair, University of South Florida Master of Urban & Regional Planning Program Advisory Committee (present)

Sun Coast Section Chair, American Planning Association, Florida Chapter (2015-2017)

Board Member, Hillsborough County City-County Planning Commission (2013-2016)

Stephen Benson
Statements of Leadership and Professional Character

From: Beth Alden [<mailto:aldenb@plancom.org>]
Sent: Friday, May 24, 2019 5:42 PM
To: McKinney, Edward <Edward.McKinney@dot.state.fl.us>
Cc: Roscoe, Roger <Roger.Roscoe@dot.state.fl.us>
Subject: RE: Award for Stephen Benson

EXTERNAL SENDER: Use caution with links and attachments.

Dear Ed,

Stephen is an outstanding ambassador for FDOT, calmly conveying the Department's positions and essential interests while being flexible and open to new ideas. His honesty and responsiveness have built credibility and good faith with local governments and members of the public.

One example is the Heights Mobility Study, a project Stephen has quietly championed and led. This study is a thoughtful, collaborative, and thorough response to the concerns raised by urban-core neighborhoods about multimodal mobility and safety, focusing on FDOT arterials. Having won broad-based support from the community and local elected officials, the recommendations of the study are now integrated into the MPO's priority list.

In fact, I think it is largely due to Stephen's leadership that so many projects of mutual interest to FDOT, the MPO, and local governments now appear in the MPO's priority list and the FDOT Work Program. Projects like state highway intersections with county or city roads, or FDOT-owned frontage roads that connect to neighborhood streets, or pedestrian crosswalks on high-ridership transit routes, have been the subject of extensive coordination. It has been really impressive that Stephen and his team take the time to work with local government and MPO staff to come up with buildable solutions and pragmatic, often collaborative funding strategies, resulting in funded projects of joint interest.

As agency staff, we all come to the table wearing different hats. Stephen makes it easy to have confidence that we really are working together. The city, region and the state are the better for it.

I wholeheartedly support Stephen's award nomination.
Sincerely,
Beth

Beth Alden, AICP • MPO Executive Director

813-273-3774 x318 • 813-748-5081 cell

PlanHillsborough.org

All incoming and outgoing messages are subject to public records inspection.

From: Blanton, Whit <wblanton@co.pinellas.fl.us>
Sent: Thursday, May 23, 2019 4:55 PM
To: McKinney, Edward <Edward.McKinney@dot.state.fl.us>
Cc: Bredahl, Sandi <Sandi.Bredahl@dot.state.fl.us>; Lehman, Hilary <hlehman@co.pinellas.fl.us>; Hackett, Jensen <Jensen.Hackett@dot.state.fl.us>
Subject: RE: Award for Stephen Benson

EXTERNAL SENDER: Use caution with links and attachments.

Ed –

Here are some thoughts for Stephen's award. Please use as you see fit. If you need us to put this on letterhead and make it more formal, we can do so. Thanks for the opportunity to contribute.

=====

To whom it may concern –

I want to take this opportunity to offer praise for Stephen Benson's transportation leadership in Tampa Bay. Since taking on his responsibilities as Metropolitan Planning Administrator, Stephen has brought a fresh, collaborative approach to his work that has added great value to the working relationship between FDOT District 7 and its partners in Pinellas County, particularly with us at Forward Pinellas. He has consistently demonstrated the ability to listen effectively and work hard to accommodate our requests and needs for transportation improvements and planning activities throughout our county and across the region. He has helped us by being clear and direct with the options and limitations, so that we are all on the same page and have a good understanding of how we can make decisions to achieve the best outcomes possible. Whether it is about retrofits for safety and accessibility on the US 19 frontage roads, improving conditions on Gulf Boulevard, or addressing mobility and community livability issues in downtown St. Petersburg, Stephen has proven to be a willing and effective partner. He is able to bring the right people together to discuss transportation issues and impacts in a productive manner that has led to positive win-win outcomes. This occurs because he is an honest broker who seeks to understand what people are trying to accomplish while clearly conveying important considerations that will influence decisions made by others.

In his interactions with our board, he presents information and perspectives in a manner that helps keep people calm and avoid being defensive. He never overpromises, but is willing to see what can be done about an issue and always gets back to us within a reasonable time frame with useful information that advances the dialogue rather than entrenching people in their positions. His attitude, tone and responsiveness is a major factor in our strong partnership with the Department, and plays an important role in building the trust that is necessary for healthy working relationships between agencies and individuals. I commend the FDOT District 7 senior management for recognizing those skills in Stephen and giving him the authority and support to be effective in his role.

I strongly support Stephen's recognition as a leader within FDOT and District 7. Thank you for your consideration.

Whit

Whit Blanton, FAICP
Executive Director
Direct: 727-464-8712
Main: 727-464-8250
Mobile: 407-620-5984
forwardpinellas.org

Forward Pinellas serves as the planning council and metropolitan planning organization for Pinellas County.

All government correspondence is subject to the public records law.

From: Mark Sharpe [<mailto:mark@tampainnovation.com>]
Sent: Thursday, May 02, 2019 10:00 AM
To: Roscoe, Roger <Roger.Roscoe@dot.state.fl.us>
Subject: Re: Award for Stephen Benson

EXTERNAL SENDER: Use caution with links and attachments.

Stephen Benson is the future of the Florida Department of Transportation.

FDOT's Mission is to "provide a safe transportation system that ensures the mobility of people and goods, enhances economic prosperity, and preserves the quality of our environment and communities" - and they have achieved this mission in the 3rd fastest growing state in America.

Stephen Benson has lead the charge in transforming the concept of mobility from just private autos traveling along 8 & 10 lane roads to multi use purposes which include bicycles, walkers, scooters, rideshare & beyond.

Stephen has created a valuable bridge between the public and FDOT at a time when people are beginning to engage the department of transportation in a more collaborative manner. He has helped to humanize the process, enabling citizen activists - who are passionate about transportation but lack expertise, to constructively work with the department to achieve a new vision for mobility.

Stephen embodies a new vision for mobility at a time when transportation is undergoing radical transformation. His passion is to make our streets safer, attractive and supportive of a growing job base using the most innovative concepts at our disposal.

Mark Sharpe
Chief Potential Officer



!p POTENTIAL UNLEASHED
PO Box 82497 | Tampa, FL 33682
O: [813.279.5231](tel:813.279.5231) M: [813.293.7064](tel:813.293.7064)

tampainnovation.com

From: Steven Diez [<mailto:StevenD@hernandocounty.us>]
Sent: Thursday, May 02, 2019 11:16 AM
To: Roscoe, Roger <Roger.Roscoe@dot.state.fl.us>; Carlene Riecse <CRiecse@co.hernando.fl.us>
Subject: RE: Award for Stephen Benson

EXTERNAL SENDER: Use caution with links and attachments.

Roger,

Here is my nickels worth for Mr. Benson:

Stephen Benson has been a valuable asset to both the FDOT and the MPO for his guidance and reasoned responses to often difficult situations. While none of the issues have been insurmountable, it always helps to have someone to help navigate through rough waters. Stephen has been that person. He has helped the MPO in pursuing innovative ways to respond to every day challenges, as well as the unforeseen circumstances that invariably occur. Always professional, always courteous, and always sharply dressed.

Steve Diez
Executive Director
Hernando/Citrus MPO
1661 Blaise Dr.
Brooksville, FL 34601
Phone: 352-754-4082
E-mail: stevend@hernandocounty.us

From: Calo, Renee
Sent: Tuesday, May 14, 2019 8:09 AM
To: McKinney, Edward <Edward.McKinney@dot.state.fl.us>
Cc: Bradley, Kelli <Kelli.Bradley@dot.state.fl.us>
Subject: My Two Cents: Award for Stephen Benson

Stephen's energy and sincere love for transportation planning shows in everything he touches. He's a "Why" guy. He wants to know how things work so he can make it better. He passionately strives to make a difference and isn't happy with the "it's just the way it's always been done" mentality. I love his fresh

thinking. I remember when he was in Traffic Ops and I saw him spray painting arrows on the sidewalk at the corner of Fowler and McKinley. I'm like "What is this guy up to?" He wanted to make it clear to pedestrians which way they needed to walk to be safe! He also knows how to speak "MPO". He has mended relationships between FDOT and local agencies that were headed in the wrong direction just 2 years ago! We actually got a sincere Thank You letter from Beth Alden with no objections or requests for further consideration! The title "Liaison" is truly what he is. His relationship with local agencies and the various departments within D7 and CO is a top-notch example of how we are One DOT and working with our partners to move transportation forward.

Thank You,

Renee Calo, CPM
Work Program Coordinator; District Seven Florida Department of Transportation
(813) 975-4836 Office
(813) 975-6724 Fax
renee.calo@dot.state.fl.us

My regular work hours are Monday - Friday from 7:30AM to 4:00PM

"Drive as if Your LIFE Depends On It!"

How am I doing? Please contact my supervisor, Karen Corman, at karen.corman@dot.state.fl.us with any feedback.

From: Bradley, Kelli <Kelli.Bradley@dot.state.fl.us>
Sent: Monday, May 6, 2019 10:40 AM
To: McKinney, Edward <Edward.McKinney@dot.state.fl.us>
Cc: Bredahl, Sandi <Sandi.Bredahl@dot.state.fl.us>
Subject: Stephen Award

Ed...here's what I came up with. Thanks for the opportunity to join in. If I can help out in any other way, let me know. Stephen TOTALLY deserves something BIG!! (this got a little long, if you need me to shorten it let me know).

Stephen Benson leads by example. He is a forward-thinking, outside-the-box thinking, not-afraid-to-ask-if-we-can-try-something-new thinking leader. If there is a new initiative going on in the district, chances are good that Stephen has a big role in it. His background in Traffic Operations and now on the planning side of business means that Stephen sees the entire picture and is always looking to push the envelope. Because of Stephen, District 7 is the lead district in Complete

Streets and is pushing the district to do more with less simply by looking for new ways to implement improvements and most importantly by coordinating with others. He has a very calm and clear way of communicating not only with fellow District 7 employees, but also with our community partners. He is a prominent face of District 7 at MPO meetings and because of his excellent communication skills has helped to create very open relationships with the locals. Stephen has learned how to put the pieces of the puzzle together to maximize funding opportunities for projects. This effort is greatly improving transportation across the entire Tampa Bay area. He is fun to work with on issues and challenges here in the district as he always brings ideas for solutions and seems to thoroughly enjoy working through the ideas to come up with the best option. And again, because of his foresight, District 7 has implemented Complete Streets improvements on several roadways with many more to come. Stephen has a very successful group of employees working for him and much of that success is due to his leadership and by him leading by example. I highly recommend Stephen for this award.

Kelli Bradley, PE
Program Management Administrator
FDOT District 7
(813) 975-6095



CITY OF TAMPA

Jane Castor, Mayor

TRANSPORTATION AND STORMWATER
SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Jean W. Duncan, P.E., Director

June 25, 2019

District 7 Awards Committee
FDOT District 7
11201 McKinley Drive
Tampa, FL 33612

Dear Awards Committee Members,

It is my pleasure to write this letter in support of Stephen Benson's nomination for the FDOT District 7 Leadership Award. As the City of Tampa Chief Transportation Engineer, I have had the benefit of working with Stephen for the past six years. Stephen is a great representative of the Department, serving as a supportive partner for local agencies and a leader in transportation throughout the Tampa Bay region. Stephen's skills and leadership qualities are so deserving of recognition.

Stephen has been a tireless advocate for implementation of effective context sensitive transportation solutions that improve the experience of pedestrians and bicyclists. He facilitated the City's ability to receive green pavement markings materials from FDOT to enhance our Cass Street Cycle Track project. Stephen also spearheaded the Jackson Street Cycle Track project and worked to build political and community consensus on a challenging project. These projects paved the way for expansion of separated cycle tracks and green pavement markings and further implementation of groundbreaking and innovative design and safety measures that benefit all City residents and visitors.

Stephen has led many important projects including the Heights Mobility Study. He has been an effective liaison to the City, providing guidance and support through work program coordination on multiple complete streets and safety projects including our East-West Green Spine, Green ARtery, Hyde Park Ave/Plant Ave Safety Improvements, Himes Avenue Safety Improvements, RRFB installations and other impactful quick fix solutions. Stephen takes a collaborative approach to achieve favorable outcomes. He has reached out to other District Seven offices such as Maintenance, Traffic Operations, Procurement, Government Liaison, Access Management, to assist the City on a variety of projects and initiatives through-out the years. His advocacy for our community's vulnerable roadway users and safer conditions for everyone makes him a true Vision Zero Hero.

Stephen has my highest recommendation for the FDOT District 7 Leadership Award. I am personally excited to see the directions in which the Tampa Bay region will grow because of Stephen's leadership, passion, and dedication. Please feel free to contact me for any further information.

Sincerely,

Milton Martinez, P.E.
Chief Transportation Engineer
813-274-8998

Filename: RECOMMENDATION LETTER S.BENSON 2019-06-28

306 East Jackson Street, 6N • Tampa, Florida 33602 • (813) 274-3101 • FAX: (813) 274-8901



District 7 Awards Committee
FDOT District 7
11201 McKinley Drive
Tampa, FL 33612

Dear Awards Committee Members,

Thank you for this opportunity to support Stephen Benson's nomination for the District 7 Leadership Award. Stephen is one of FDOT's rising stars. In my position as State Bicycle Pedestrian Coordinator and later as State Complete Streets Program Manager, I've watched Stephen help lead District 7 and the rest of us into a new era for sustainable, human-oriented transportation. His intelligence and insight are matched by his personable demeanor and solid work ethic. It's an unstoppable combination.

I've watched and admired for many years Stephen's ability to solve problems by forming relationships. He is the kind of team-builder and a consensus-seeker that FDOT needs right now. My observation has been that while other districts and central office may be scratching their heads about how to deal with a problem "on our own", Stephen has often worked with a team to solve that problem in District 7. Examples include the process D7 uses for including safety improvements in RRR projects, incorporating transit and pedestrian needs into resurfacing work, and the efforts to create safer operating speeds on existing roadways. Each of these efforts is the result of many hands working together – Stephen has talent for getting the right hands to help out at the right time to accomplish the mission. That's called leadership.

I encourage you to take this opportunity to recognize and appreciate Stephen for the great talent he brings to FDOT.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'DeWayne Carver', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

DeWayne Carver, AICP
State Complete Streets Program Manager
FDOT Roadway Design Office
dewayne.carver@dot.state.fl.us
(850) 414 4322

- I've demonstrated my passion for improving the future of my community through hundreds of hours of service to elected, appointed and volunteer positions with the Hillsborough County City-County Planning Commission, American Planning Association and University of South Florida urban planning advisory committee.
- I am best positioned to help you fund more of the TPO's priorities by applying my skills and expertise and working collaboratively with neighborhoods, the business community, local government staff, HART, FDOT and our partner MPOs that comprise the Tampa Bay Transportation Management Area.

My pragmatic and honest approach to listening, building consensus and working collaboratively would serve the community well at a time when organizational excellence and steady progress is critical. We are at a pivotal time when Hillsborough County, Temple Terrace, Plant City and Tampa need continuity and trusted leadership to demonstrate that we can move meaningful projects forward that everyone supports.

I appreciate the opportunity to be considered, and I look forward to getting to work as we safely move more people and goods throughout Hillsborough County and the Tampa Bay region.

Respectfully,



Stephen L. Benson

Professional References

Chloe Coney, Founder, Corporation to Develop Communities of Tampa
(813) 610-0706

Ray Chiaramonte, FAICP, Ret. Executive Director, Hillsborough Metropolitan Planning
Organization and Hillsborough County City-County Planning Commission
(813) 695-3154

Ed McKinney, Ret. Planning & Environmental Management Administrator, FDOT District 7
(813) 404-4060

Evangeline Linkous, PhD, AICP, Director, University of South Florida School of Public Affairs
(813) 503-2797

Danni Jorgenson, P.E., Division Manager, City of Tampa Mobility Department
(813) 857-6550

Jean Duncan, P.E., Administrator for Infrastructure & Mobility, City of Tampa
(813) 274-8045

Karen Kress, AICP, Director of Transportation and Planning, Tampa Downtown Partnership
(813) 758-5901

Cassandra Borchers, AICP, former Chief Development Officer, Pinellas Suncoast Transit
Authority
(813) 784-1474

5 May 2023

Attn: Meghan Betourney
Hillsborough County City-County Planning Commission
601 E Kennedy Blvd, 18th Fl
Tampa, FL 33602

Re: Hillsborough TPO Executive Director Recruitment

Dear TPO Board members and Ms. Zornitta,

Please accept this cover letter and resume packet as my application to be considered for the next Executive Director of the Hillsborough Transportation Planning Organization.

As an internal applicant for this position, the selection panel has already had many opportunities to review my work and become familiar with my communication style. Behind the curtain, however, what some members of the selection panel may not know is that I was raised in the Tampa Bay area, went to school here, and have dedicated many years to advancing the planning profession across the region. In the seven years I have spent with the Hillsborough MPO/TPO, I have been fortunate to lead or participate in at least one update of every required TPO product, from LRTP to TIP and everything in between. In that time, I have pursued every opportunity to improve the status quo and guide the agency in new directions, like using content analysis software to code public comments; executing a partnership agreement with the Waze mobile navigation app; and delivering a data & analytics platform to transportation planners in Hillsborough County, the cities of Tampa, Plant City and Temple Terrace, as well as HART, THEA and FDOT.

My team members and colleagues will attest that my professional philosophy is to be ambitious, innovative, and seek continuous improvement, especially as it pertains to the sophistication of our planning work and quality of our relationships. This philosophy has been operationalized and expressed in a number of ways, including our recently overhauled Transportation Improvement Program, which has served as a mechanism to justify programming more than \$2B in federal and state funds over a five year period. The same tenets have led me to develop and maintain great relationships with major stakeholders like elected officials, business interests, agency leads, planning staff support, and the public. My standing in the community and the quality of relationships allows me to both remain authentic and accountable to the public, while also effectively representing the TPO and its interests.

While serving in a staff capacity, I have demonstrated my commitment to this TPO by administering and managing nearly all of its required programs and projects. If given the opportunity to serve as Executive Director, I will ensure continuity of operations, representation of the TPO and its interests in interactions with all stakeholders, and demonstrate sound judgement in directing, planning, coordinating, and evaluating all aspects of the organization. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Johnny King Alaziz Wong, PhD
Hillsborough Transportation Planning Organization
Executive Planner, Performance-Based Planning & Programming

Johnny KA Wong, PhD

Tampa, FL 33602 • (305) 744-2226 • wongj@plancom.org • [LinkedIn](#)

Executive Planner, Hillsborough Transportation Planning Organization (TPO)

Motivational Leader, adding value to the community by programming funds to projects that align with the TPO's strategic priorities. Excels at driving large-scale transportation planning projects by cultivating staff capacity and performance in a competitive, supportive, and results-focused team environment.

Drives Continuous Improvement, constantly showcasing the value of the TPO. Executes measurable process improvements through comprehensive, outcome-driven analysis and aligns actions to the needs of the community while simultaneously serving as a trusted SME to local governing bodies.

Enterprise-Level Impact, optimizing the metropolitan planning process and transportation outcomes to align with the financial boundaries. Highly skilled at engaging with diverse community groups and building relationships with stakeholders to create coalitions and consensus behind transportation initiatives.

EXECUTIVE COMPETENCIES

Board & Stakeholder Relations
Federal & State Regulatory Compliance
Multimodal Transportation Planning
Strategic Prioritization & Execution
Land Use & Transportation Expertise
Community Engagement & Outreach

Transportation & Urban Planning
Staff Development & Productivity
Major Project Management
Goal Visioning & Realization
Departmental & Special Project Leadership
Fiscal/Grant Management & Budgeting

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

HILLSBOROUGH TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION (TPO)

Hillsborough County, FL

EXECUTIVE PLANNER	2021 – Present
PRINCIPAL PLANNER	2019 – 2021
SENIOR PLANNER	2017 – 2019
COMMUNITY PLANNER II	2016 – 2017

Achieved a series of performance-based promotions, ultimately serving as the Executive Planner for the Hillsborough TPO. Leads a team of three planners to accomplish the strategic priorities of the metropolitan planning area and its leadership, with a primary focus on Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), performance assessments, data analysis, and travel demand modeling.

SELECT CONTRIBUTIONS:

- Delivered on all annual and special projects, including the 2021/22/23 TIP updates, Annual TPO Certifications, State of the System report, and 2045/50 Long Range Transportation Plans.
- Coach, develop, and mentor the planning staff, driving individual and group performance with many team members by being awarded national recognitions.
- Defined and instituted industry best practices, including the introduction of a Transportation Performance Methodology that was designated as a noteworthy practice by the Federal Highway Administration in 2018.
- Engage in extensive public outreach, information gathering, and community engagement – manage a public outreach phase as part of the 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan that received more than 11,000 responses from the public.
- Delivered a regional online digital analytics platform to share with 8 counties and negotiated with FDOT to assume all delivery costs.
- Key member on the Leadership Board of the Tampa Bay Smart Cities Alliance. Initiatives launched include the Mobility as a Service app, Moovit, and the regional data and analytics platform, Suncoast Mobility Hub.
- Served as liaison to the Tampa Bay Smart Cities Alliance, Technical Review Team, Citizens Advisory Committee, Intelligent Transportation Systems Committee, and County Charter Surtax Independent Oversight Committee.
- Utilize analytical tools with defined methodologies to inform and quantify transportation planning initiatives in order to ensure the public transportation needs are met or exceeded.

ADJUNCT INSTRUCTOR	2012 – Present
RESEARCHER I	2009 – 2015
GRADUATE INSTRUCTOR	2009 – 2012

Conducted and managed an IRB research program to analyze negotiation strategies pertaining to the Tri-State Water Wars in Florida, Georgia, and Alabama.

SELECT CONTRIBUTIONS:

- Research program yielded a Ph.D. dissertation, one peer-reviewed publication, one peer-reviewed publication pending minor revision, and three invited presentations.
- Taught more than 30 courses as a primary instructor at USF Tampa & St Pete campuses and USF Honors College, including Environmental Economics, Urban Geography, and Political Geography.
- Designed, developed, implemented, and actively monitored all learning modules and managed all aspects of course delivery, including syllabus creation, testing, assessments, and exams.

EARLY CAREER HISTORY

RESEARCH ASSISTANT | **Eppley Institute for Parks & Public Lands** | Bloomington, IN | 2007 – 2009

ASSESSMENT & COMMUNICATIONS ANALYST | **US Environmental Protection Agency** | Washington, DC | 2006 – 2007

LEGISLATIVE AIDE | **Florida State House of Representatives** | Tallahassee, FL | 2006 – 2007

AWARDS

Mentor a Planning Student (MAPS) Dedicated Service Award (2022)

Florida State Professional Planner of the Year Finalist (2021)

PRESENTATIONS (PREVIOUS 12 MONTHS)

- **Public Transportation Agency Safety Performance Targets**
- **Smart Cities Master Plan**
- **FY21/22 & FY23/24 Transportation Improvement Program**
- **Connected Vehicle Data for Planning Purposes**
- **2022/23 Transportation Regional Incentive Program Assessment**
- **2045 LRTP: I-275 (Hillsborough Ave to Bearss Ave)**
- **TPO/FDOT Joint Certification Statement**
- **Safety Performance Targets Annual Update**
- **Review of State of Good Repair, Transit Asset Management and Level of Travel Time Reliability Targets**
- **CAC Organizational Restructuring**
- **Overview of ClearGuide Data & Analytics Platform**

EDUCATION

Ph.D., Geography, Environmental Science & Policy, and Urban & Regional Planning

University of South Florida, Tampa, FL, April 2014

Thesis: *Troubled Waters: Georgia, Florida, and Alabama's Conflict Over the Waters of the ACF Basin*

M.P.A., Environmental Policy and Natural Resource Management

Indiana University, Bloomington, IN, June 2009

Thesis: *Projecting Electricity Demand and Sustainable Alternatives, 2009-2059*

B.Sc., Environmental Science and Policy

University of South Florida, Tampa, FL, August 2007

RECOMMENDATION LETTERS

Beth Alden

Executive Director
Hillsborough TPO

Vik Bhide

Director
City of Tampa Mobility Department

Troy Tinch

Utilities Director
City of Temple Terrace

Gena Torres

Assistant Executive Director
Hillsborough TPO

Rich Clarendon

Ret. Assistant Executive Director
Hillsborough MPO/TPO

Connor MacDonald

Community Planner II
Hillsborough TPO

OTHER PROFESSIONAL REFERENCES

Justin Hall

Director of Transportation Development
FDOT District 7
Justin.hall@dot.state.fl.us

Nigel Joseph

Chair
HCCC Planning Commission
josephn@plancom.org

Michael Maurino

Executive Director
Westshore Alliance
maurino@westshorealliance.org

Stephen Benson

Director of City Planning
City of Tampa
stephen.benson@tampagov.net

Bill Roberts

Broker-Owner
CognoTerra, LLC
billrobertscommercial@gmail.com

Beth Alden, AICP
109 W. Minnehaha St
Tampa, FL 33604

May 8, 2023

Meghan Betourney
Plan Hillsborough
P.O. Box 1110
Tampa, FL 33601

RE: TPO Executive Director candidate Dr. Johnny K.A. Wong

Dear Ms. Betourney,

I'm pleased to provide a letter of reference for Dr. Johnny Wong, whose performance has been remarkable since we hired him seven years ago. Over and over, he has stepped up for challenging assignments, and led them to successful completion. He has also demonstrated evenhandedness, generosity, forbearance, and other characteristics that will make him a great leader wherever he goes. Here are just a few examples.

- His first big project was something almost entirely new at our agency, establishing and institutionalizing a performance-based planning and programming process. Johnny rose to the challenge and showed he could digest federal regulations, translate them into plain English, and over time, reorganize the TPO's core planning products to make those federally-required metrics essential and meaningful.
- He took on the TPO's program of compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act at a time when it was a particularly hot topic, with many citizen concerns about disproportionate impacts of the interstate highways through Tampa. He has continued to take extra steps to use Title VI as one of the lenses through which the TPO evaluates its work products.
- He demonstrated savvy by negotiating with our peer MPOs – who have smaller budgets than we do – an agreement to equally share the costs of building a joint data analytics platform.

- He has led the TPO's annual certification reviews the last few years, taking the time to understand how to meet and exceed the requirements of federal law.
- He asked for the opportunity to be the primary staff support person for the controversial Independent Oversight Committee for the sales tax that was approved by voters in 2018, and continually demonstrated his excellent communication skills and good judgment in anticipating and responding to many different points of view in a high-profile setting.
- He is frequently first in line to help others and contribute to charities. When a coworker's bicycle was stolen from outside County Center, he raised money to buy a replacement and brought the surprise bicycle to the office.
- He publicly took ownership of a mistake during a meeting of the Policy Committee, rather than allowing me to absorb responsibility for it.

Johnny is capable, visionary, and has a great heart. I am so pleased he has decided to apply for this position. He will not disappoint you.

As always, I am available if you have questions.

Sincerely,



Beth Alden



City of Tampa

Jane Castor, Mayor

Mobility Department

Vik Bhide, Director

107 North Franklin Street
Tampa, Florida 33602

Office (813) 274-3101

Fax: (813) 274-8901

April 28, 2023

Transportation Planning Organization (TPO)
601 East Kennedy Boulevard, 18th Floor
Tampa, Florida 33602

Dear TPO Board:

I'm writing in support of Dr. Johnny Wong, whom I believe would make an excellent Executive Director for the Hillsborough TPO. I've known and worked with Dr. Wong for seven (7) years across many functions and projects including the Transportation Improvement Program, regional studies, USDOT grant applications and ITS Master Plan. His dedication, expertise, and ability to build strong relationships stood out from my early interactions with him on the TPO's ITS Committee.

Being a direct report to the current Executive Director, Dr. Wong is very familiar with the daily duties, regional needs, and occasionally functions in that capacity when needed. This has led to Dr. Wong establishing strong relationships within the transportation community including government, business, and the community. He is well poised to leverage these relationships to address one of the most pressing needs impacting our region's performance and quality of life.... safe, affordable access to jobs and places.

Dr. Wong has a comprehensive understanding of the region's need to have reliable transportation funding. He led the coordination of the Independent Oversight Committee formed as part of the 2018 All for Transportation Surtax charter amendment.

Johnny provides a consistent and positive presence in every venture he undertakes. I've watched him work alongside the Executive Director and TPO Board towards developing and coordinating many regional planning efforts. His strong interpersonal skills and empathy help make Johnny an effective leader and consensus-builder. It's my pleasure to recommend Dr. Johnny Wong for the position of Executive Director.

Transportation Planning Organization

April 28, 2023

Page 2

Please call me at 813-274-8066 or email me at vik.bhide@tampagov.net to learn more about his qualifications. I'll be happy to speak directly with the selection committee or board about his abilities.

Best Regards, •

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Vik Bhide', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Vik Bhide, Director

City of Tampa Mobility Department

VB/bmm

cc: file (7576-23-VB.LET)

Letter of Recommendation

May 4, 2023

To Whom it May Concern,

This is a letter of recommendation for Johnny KA Wong, PhD, regarding his application for the Executive Director of the Hillsborough County Transportation Planning Organization (TPO). As a Director for the City of Temple Terrace, I routinely work with Johnny on numerous transportation related projects. These interactions include in-depth discussions regarding multimodal transportation projects within the City. Additionally, Johnny worked with staff on developing alternative approaches and brought attention to projects, which aided us in gaining support from the TPO.

Johnny is very knowledgeable about all facets of transportation and related fields. As for his ability to communicate, Johnny demonstrates strong written and oral communication skills. This was evidenced in numerous technical reports and memorandums as well as presentations to advisory and legislative groups including several Hillsborough County Technical Advisory Committees, the Transportation Surtax Independent Oversight Committee, the City of Temple Terrace City Council, and the Board of County Commissioners. When conducting these efforts, Johnny displayed his command of communication when articulating technical information in a format to reach a wide range of audiences.

Beyond his technical aptitude, Johnny possesses a positive attitude and engaging personality. Furthermore, Johnny's understanding of policies and procedures aids him in the ability to appropriately work through the system to get things done. His professionalism and experience make him an excellent candidate for this position.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with requests for any additional information.

Sincerely,

Troy Tinch
Utilities Director

April 25, 2023

Hillsborough Transportation Planning Organization
Board Members, and
Melissa Zornitta, Planning Commission Executive Director

Dear Selection Panel,

Approximately six years ago, I was tasked with the recruitment of a planner to fill a much-needed role on the Transportation Planning Organization team. There were several qualified applicants, but Johnny Wong stood out among the candidates. He was eager, poised, and confident. In just a short period of time, it was obvious that Johnny not only understood the often-complex processes and procedures but was offering creative suggestions on improving them.

Since joining the TPO, Johnny has had responsibilities of managing many of the core products that guide transportation decision making in our county and region. From tracking performance and producing the State of the System report; enhancing our effectiveness in gathering community input by updating the Public Participation Plan; assisting partners with the completion of a Data Business Plan to create a data-sharing platform; acting as a liaison for the Intelligent Transportation Systems and the Citizens Advisory Committees, and working closely with local partners to not only develop the Transportation Improvement Program, but to streamline it into a document that is understandable to the Board, committees, and the public.

Aside from his extensive knowledge of the federal, state, and local transportation requirements, Johnny has a gift of being personable, patient, responsive, and honest. He leads his team of professional staff in a respectful way, offering sound guidance that results in high-quality products. Johnny has also built productive working relationships with FDOT and local and regional agency staff, leading to collaboration and consensus building.

It has been exciting to observe Johnny Wong's growth in the organization. I am proud to have been given the opportunity to hire him, have him on my team, and now at the prospect of working for him. He is a leader that I will gladly assist in his role as our Executive Director.

Sincerely,



Gena Torres
Transportation Planning Organization
Assistant Director
External Relations & Active Transportation

Richard P. Clarendon

Tel: 813.651.9436

Email: clarendonr@gmail.com

3056 Wister Circle
Valrico, FL 33596

April 21, 2023

Hillsborough Transportation Planning Organization
601 East Kennedy Boulevard, 18th Floor
Tampa, Florida 33601

Re: Letter of Recommendation for Johnny K. A. Wong, PhD

Dear Selection Committee Members:

I am pleased to recommend Dr. Wong for the position of Executive Director of the Hillsborough Transportation Planning Organization. As the TPO's former Assistant Executive Director and Dr. Wong's supervisor for more than seven years, I was increasingly impressed with his analytical skills, initiative, innovation and willingness to take on new challenges. Furthermore, he exhibited great interpersonal and communication skills, combined with a rare maturity and composure in dealing with subordinates and colleagues. He also had an outstanding ability to forge good relationships, build trust and earn the respect of staff and outside organizations, not to mention appointed and elected officials. Last but certainly not least, Dr. Wong showed great composure in presenting complex subjects, thinking on his feet, and getting his points across to diverse audiences, whether citizen or technical committees, elected boards, or the public at large.

In the time that we worked together, Dr. Wong took on a number of increasingly complex projects and assignments:

Public engagement

- He analyzed the TPO's public engagement *Measures of Effectiveness* and subsequently updated the *Public Participation Plan* to make TPO's decision-making more transparent and understandable, as well as enabling the public to get more involved.
- Tasked with managing the region-wide public outreach and needs assessment for the *2045 Long Range Transportation Plan*, Dr. Wong worked with a consultant to develop and promote an online survey that gathered a record-setting number of respondents, including under-represented populations.

Committee Staff

- Dr. Wong staffed the TPO's Intelligent Transportation Committee and later served as staff liaison to the Citizens Advisory Committee, during which he dealt with the thorny issues of equitable demographic and geographic representation.
- Largely due to his presentation skills and relationships he cultivated with other agencies, he was assigned as staff to the Independent Oversight Committee. He was responsible for vetting candidate projects submitted by local jurisdictions and agencies for funding under the Charter County Surtax ordinance. He also drafted the required annual report for the Committee's approval prior to publication.

Data Analysis

- Dr. Wong was responsible for the TPO's performance measurement and target-setting process, which is a relatively new federal requirement to monitor and annually report on the status of the transportation system. This included analyzing performance trends and setting targets for improvement, a process that called for deep knowledge and excellent communication skills in responding to questions. As part of this, Dr. Wong proposed and implemented new "big data" sources that allowed the TPO to monitor congestion and reliability on a real-time basis. He also created the TPO's first *State of the System Report*, analyzing numerous indicators for safety, asset condition, congestion and reliability and presenting them in a comprehensive and readable manner. He subsequently delegated this task and coached junior staff on his team to produce later editions of the report.
- He completely revamped the TPO's *Transportation Improvement Program*, overhauling the process by which candidate projects are prioritized for funding, coming up with evaluation criteria more closely aligned with the goals of the TPO's long range plan, as well as re-organizing the TIP document to better communicate the TPO's project priorities for the next five years. He involved his whole team, mentoring them in learning a new and complex process.

Compliance with State and Federal Requirements

- Early in his tenure with the TPO, Dr. Wong was designated the TPO's civil rights officer, reporting directly to the Executive Director. In this role, he was responsible for addressing complaints, and he updated the TPO's *Nondiscrimination Plan* to ensure compliance with Title VI of the federal Civil Rights Act of 1964.
- He also led the TPO's state and federal certification process. This entailed documenting compliance with a plethora of grant requirements each year to ensure that Hillsborough County remains eligible for state and federal transportation funding. He had to respond to pages of questions and, every fifth year, coordinate day-long site visits from the Federal Highway Administration, Federal Transit Administration, and the Florida Department of Transportation. He also had to organize public meetings as part of the federal certification process. The end result was that the TPO has always been re-certified, frequently commended for noteworthy practices, and never had to deal with corrective actions.

In summary, over the years we worked together, I've observed Dr. Wong meet every challenge and grow tremendously as a transportation professional. In my opinion he has the right skills, experience, demeanor and adaptability to lead the Hillsborough TPO. I would be happy to expand on my comments and answer any questions.

Sincerely,



Richard P. Clarendon, AICP

April 10, 2023

Meghan Betourney and Hillsborough Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) Board
Plan Hillsborough
601 E Kennedy Blvd, 18th Floor
Tampa, FL 33602

Recommendation for Johnny Wong, PhD

Dear Mrs. Betourney, TPO Board, and Executive Director Search Committee,

I am writing to support Johnny Wong for the Hillsborough TPO Executive Director position. Johnny is a compassionate leader, possesses the perfect self-presentation needed for this position, and is exceptionally competent in local transportation planning processes.

First and foremost, Johnny is an excellent leader. Being hired by Johnny, I know from experience that he seeks the best results in his employees while balancing an understanding and friendly but professional relationship. When the task at hand takes more skills that I am comfortable with, Johnny has worked with me one-on-one to ensure I use the task as an opportunity to learn and grow myself. Ultimately, Johnny is an excellent leader because he values the success of his employees in addition to the success of the work products. Johnny knows that investing in his team's achievements will allow it to grow towards its goals while outputting outstanding plans, reports, and products. Johnny goes the extra mile to see each team member striving toward professional development.

In addition to leadership skills, Johnny also possesses the professional presentation needed of the Executive Director. As the TPO's Citizens Advisory Committee liaison, I have seen Johnny balance the committee's needs and wants. Never reacting to controversial topics that may skew a member's opinion, Johnny always provides advice to the committee that is apt, quick, and ready. This skill is necessary for any Executive Director, as shown by the current Director, and one that Johnny holds immensely well.

Beyond soft skills, Johnny also contains the competencies in local government and transportation planning that MPO Executive Directors should hold, especially in the Tampa Bay area. Johnny is highly familiar with the history and political opinions on transportation policies in the area. In my role through the Transportation Improvement Program, its amendments, and other plans and documents in my work, Johnny has been able to give me background on how these projects arose and have changed over time. This background knowledge is one that very few people possess, and Johnny, being an executive in the TPO, is of those few. This quality alone would make Johnny stand out from many other candidates.

Ultimately, a TPO with staff under the lead of Johnny Wong will be immensely successful. From personal experience on his team, I know there will be no regrets if chosen to fill this position.

I volunteered to write this recommendation for Johnny because I am grateful for the opportunity and skills Johnny's leadership has afforded me. I am very confident he has the skills to be an effective, compassionate, and strong Hillsborough TPO Executive Director.

Sincerely,



Connor MacDonald
Planner, Hillsborough TPO

9292 Pineville Dr.,
Lake Worth, FL 33467
April 8, 2023

Megan Betourney, Human Resource Manager
Hillsborough Planning Commission

Dear HR Manager:

I am applying for the **Executive Director** position at Hillsborough TPO. The position fits well with my education, experience, and career goals. I am confident that I have the required knowledge, experience and skillsets that would make me a good fit for this job.

The mobility challenges for Hillsborough County are plentiful, one of which is an over reliance on cars whilst other modes of transportation are still not widely available to the public. The fact is with all the major changes happening in the mobility world with the abundant infusion of technology, even today we can always find funds for roadway improvements, but the reality is we cannot pave our ways out of congestion. So, the challenge is to aggressively pursue funds to build infrastructure for other modes like transit, bikeways, sidewalks, electric vehicle charging stations, air mobility and micro-mobility. I have lived and worked in Florida for more than 20 years, so I think I have the understanding and passion to make this place more mobile with the availability of multiple transportation options. I have a proven track record of spotting ideal location-based mobility solutions, currently I am spearheading a project called as 'Multi-modal Mobility Fee' which would generate funds from new developments to fund infrastructure for non-vehicular modes. I have long years of experience in managing major projects, developing short- & long-range transportation plans, and coordination with local, state and federal officials. I have made extensive presentations on various sensitive topics and authored many studies and reports. Currently I am managing a team of four transportation professionals. I have a strong belief in team synergy, in accomplishing major solutions by bringing out the best potential from my team members. I have also served on several boards and committees throughout my career. These experiences have given me the opportunity to develop strong leadership skills. I have masters' degrees both in engineering and planning and have AICP, PTP and EIT professional certifications. I would appreciate the opportunity to meet with you to discuss my qualifications in greater detail. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Vinod L. Sandanasamy

Vinod L. Sandanasamy

9292 Pineville Drive
Lake Worth, Florida 33467
Email: madrasvinod@gmail.com
Mobile: 5618769383

- Professional Profile** A professional planner/engineer with extensive experience in urban planning, transportation planning, and project management filled with passion to create livable smart communities.
- Professional Affiliations** **American Institute of Certified Planners** (# 020229)
Professional Transportation Planner (# 429)
Engineer Intern (FL) (#1100018084)
American Society of Civil Engineers (#9950133)
- Employment** **Miami-Dade County RER Department**, Section Supervisor - Transportation (11/16 – Present)
- Managing the Transportation Planning Section of Miami-Dade County, leading a team of six professionals engaged in creating robust policies to develop efficient multi-modal systems.
 - Lead transportation professional responsible for reviewing project traffic studies, identifying impacts and recommending mitigations for Traffic Concurrency, Comprehensive Development Master Plan (CDMP) Amendments, Site Plans and PD&E studies.
 - Served as an Expert Transportation Witness for Miami-Dade County in the Kendall Parkway/SR-836 Extension Challenge Case.
 - Project Advisory Committee member for the 'MDT10Ahead' Transit Development Plan.
 - Project manager responsible for managing, organizing and coordinating, 'Mobility Fee Study' which would replace the current road impact fee with a more broad-based Multi-modal fee.
 - Managed and coordinated traffic review of major projects like 'American Dream Miami' - a 10 million sq. ft. Entertainment/Retail mall, 'Kendall Parkway' - a 13-mile new expressway project, and 'Smart Plan Corridors' - six rapid transit corridors across Miami-Dade County.
 - Committee member on the TPO's Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Development Committee and Long-Range Transportation Plan Steering Committee.
 - Analyzed and provided comments/suggestions for various PD&E studies pertaining to New Roadways, Interchanges, Transit, Vision Zero, Complete Streets, First & Last Mile links.
 - Articulated and defended staff position on various projects during public hearings of Community Councils, Planning & Zoning Board and Board of County Commissioners.
- Broward County Planning Department**, Senior Transportation Planner (08/16 – 11/16)
- Lead transportation planner for reviewing land use/zoning amendments, PD&E projects, etc.
 - Managed the Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC), duties include developing bike/ped. projects, allocating funds, conducting committee meetings, and public hearings.
 - Managed Complete Streets Working Committee (CSWC), duties include short listing projects, project implementation, organizing and conducting committee meetings.
- City of Boca Raton Traffic Division, FL**, Transportation Planning Engineer (12/14 – 07/16)
- Reviewed site plans for traffic circulation, driveway design, sidewalks, bike lanes, drive through, TDM, etc. and checked for consistency with the City's zoning code provisions.
 - Managed Boca Raton Shuttle Services, connecting Tri-Rail and Palm Tran stations to major employment, shopping, and residential locations. Developed operational plans, analyzed performance data, developed analytical reports, and addressed public complaints.

- Reviewed and provided technical recommendations for Site Plans, Land Use/ Planned Mobility/ Zoning Amendments, DRIs, Parking Accumulation Studies, Shared Parking Analysis, Planned Mobility Analysis, and Parking Garage Functional Analysis.
- Managed multiple ongoing programs for the City, such as Traffic Calming, Traffic Count Collection, Accident Analysis, Bus Shelter Maintenance, and Maintenance of Traffic.

Palm Beach MPO, FL, Senior Transportation Planner (04/07 – 11/14)

- Project Manager responsible for the development of Palm Beach County's 2035 and 2040 LRTPs. Provided support on needs analysis, travel demand modeling, project cost estimates, public outreach, steering committee meeting coordination and technical documentation.
- Member of the Modeling Committee responsible for the development of FSUTMS Travel Demand Model aka SERPM. Coordinated data collection, model calibration and validation for SERPM6 & SERPM6.5 both 4-Step models and SERPM7 an Activity Based Model.
- Managed FTA New Starts & Small Starts projects using STOPS software for ridership projections and documentation of results in coordination with PalmTran and FDOT.
- Project Manager responsible for coordination of all PD&E projects identified in the TIP and LRTP. Reviewed and provided comments for both highway and transit PD&E studies.
- Conducted analysis using SERPM for Comp. Plan amendments, DRIs, & Corridor Studies.
- Managed and prepared the Congestion Management Report annually which identifies the most congested corridors, then prioritizes and ranks the projects based on strategies under different categories. Evaluated and prioritized the projects to be included in the next TIP.
- Updated residential (Census, ACS, BEBR), employment (InfoUSA, LEHD, QCEW), school, traffic counts, traffic flows (CTPP, NHTS, INRIX, Mobile Devices), signals, roadway network and other special generator data for the SERPM model.
- Managed & Administered contracts including writing scopes, requirements in RFPs, consultant selection, supervised consultants and project implementation.

Palm Beach County Planning, FL, Senior Planner (12/04 – 04/07); Planner II (03/03 – 11/04)

- Served as the project manager for numerous transportation amendments, made presentations to public officials, non-governmental organizations, and professionals.
- Reviewed Traffic Impact Studies for land use amendments and DRIs.
- Prepared 'Transportation Concurrency Exception Area' report for the 'Urban Redevelopment Areas' in Palm Beach, the project was recognized by the County with a Golden Palm award.
- Lead transportation planner responsible for researching and processing of land use plan amendments, land development code, DRIs, variances, and rezoning.

Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission, VA, Regional Planner (01/03 – 03/03)

- Performed Bicycle suitability analysis for Roanoke County using BCI methodology.
- Conducted travel time surveys for specific congested corridors within Roanoke County.
- Evaluated highway conditions for the entire Roanoke area using HCM 2000.

Education Master of Regional & Community Planning (**MRCP**); **Kansas State University**, Manhattan, KS
 Master of Civil Engineering (**ME**) from **Anna University**, Chennai, India
 Bachelors in Civil Engineering from **Institution of Engineers**, Kolkatta, India

Computing Knowledgeable in FSUTMS/Cube Voyager, HCS, SYNCHRO, STOPS, MOVES, TRANPLAN, ArcGIS, Word, Excel, PowerPoint, and Art Plan.

References

1. Patrick Rutter

Assistant County Administrator,
Palm Beach County BOCC
Phone: 5613552034

2. Rasem Awwad

Manager – Traffic Signals,
Palm Beach County BOCC
Phone: 7707151776

3. Raquel Guim

Concurrency Administrator,
Miami-Dade County BOCC
Phone: 7864982248

**HILLSBOROUGH TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION BOARD
HYBRID MEETING AUGUST 9, 2023
DRAFT MINUTES**

I. Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance *(Timestamp 0:04:51)*

Chair Myers called the meeting to order at 00:00 AM and led the pledge of allegiance. The meeting was held in person and virtually via WebEx.

II. Roll Call *(Gail Reese, TPO Staff) (Timestamp 0:05:47)*

The following members were present in person: Commissioner Gwen Myers, Mayor Andrew Ross, Commissioner Joshua Wostal, Commissioner Henry Cohen, Commissioner Pat Kemp, Councilmember Alan Clendenin, Councilmember Lynn Hurtak, Councilmember Guido Maniscalco, Mayor Nate Kilton, Board Member Jessica Vaughn, Gina Dew, Greg Slater, Scott Drainville, Planning Commissioner Hemant Saria

The following members were present virtually: Charles Klug

The following members were absent/excused: Commissioner Michael Owen

A quorum was met in person.

A. Vote of Consent for Remote Member Participation *(Timestamp 0:47:42)*

Commissioner Wostal moved to allow remote participation, seconded by Commissioner Cohen; the voice vote passed with one Nay vote from Mayor Ross.

Clarification of remote participation was asked about and explained by Cameron Clark.

III. Chair Myers read a memorandum from Commissioner Michael Owen regarding his absence. *(Timestamp 0:06:36)*

Dated August 8, 2023 – Dear Chair, Gwen Myers: I will be unable to attend the TPO Board Meeting tomorrow, August 9, 2023, due to sickness. Please read the reason for my absence into the record.

IV. Approval of Minutes *(Timestamp 0:06:59) – June 14, 2023.*

Chair Myers sought a motion to approve the June 14, 2023 minutes. Councilmember Maniscalco so moved, seconded by Commissioner Cohen; the voice vote passed unanimously.

V. Public Comment On Agenda Items *(Timestamp 0:07:13)* (up to 3 minutes per speaker) Additional comments made via [Social Media](#) and [Email](#) can be found at the end of these minutes.
None at this time

VI. Committee Reports & Advance Comments (Rick Fernandez, CAC Chair and Gena Torres, TPO Staff) *(Timestamp 0:07:27)*

A. CAC

Workshop – July 12, 2023 (Rick Fernandez, CAC Chair)

- 2050 LRTP Revenue Forecasting
 - A presentation was made explaining the Revenue Forecast; how it fits into the LRTP; available funding for surface transportation; the series of Needs Assessments under development: good repair, stormwater, transit, Vision Zero, safety, and trails. Also discussed were local match needs, the limit on operations grants and that new legislation would be needed to increase currently levied tax. Potential Funding Sources were also discussed.
 - Members had questions on funding for maintenance, about potential funding sources like a sales tax, VMT models, CIT funds, ad valorem, vehicle weight tax, exploring public-private partnerships, TIF, and possibly mobility fees. There was an additional conversation about why transit did not have more of a share as well as safety, considering our challenge as one of the most dangerous places in the country. It was asked what happens to assets when they fail. Other discussions included urban expansion, a cushion for natural disasters, and how the Comprehensive Plan will impact the LRTP funding.
- Memorandum of Understanding on Creating a Tampa Bay MPO
 - The presentation reviewed the recent legislation to submit a feasibility report on the consolidation into a single MPO. Pros and Cons of a merger were discussed, and the MOU was summarized – apportionment, governance structure, balancing local and regional needs, funding, outreach, federally required plans and programs, agreements, and existing staff. The proposed timeline was reviewed, and CAC members were encouraged to complete the public survey and share it with others.
 - CAC members had a lively discussion on the business model, and suggestions on different scenarios such as maintaining the MPO and regional staff bring topics to the individual counties, but also that the SCTPA and TMA already serve the function of a regional collaboration body. Clarification was asked about receiving less funding if the merger happens; if non-elected officials would be removed from a regional MPO; if the MOU commits to a merger; the powers the organizations would have; if a merger would dilute the ability to advocate for the needs of Hillsborough County. It was requested that focus groups or some sort of feedback be obtained from the current staff of the existing MPOs.

Meeting – August 2, 2023 (Rick Fernandez, CAC Chair)

- Action Items
 - The Committee unanimously approved a Resolution (18 – 0) Regarding Partner Agency Participation in the CAC process. You may recall previous discussions related to this issue. A version of the Resolution was first discussed several months ago at Committee and reported to this Board. The Resolution is intended to encourage agencies to send well-informed representatives to CAC meetings to present and support requested committee action. A final version of the resolution is being prepared for the Chair’s signature and will be forwarded to the TPO Board and affected agencies in short order.
- Status Report
 - **Hillsborough TPO Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Plan (EVIP).**
An interesting and thorough presentation on the EVIP was received, reviewing the benefits and barriers to electric vehicle deployment in Hillsborough County. Committee

members shared keen interest in the equitable placement of charging stations and suggested retrofitting existing parking spaces or applying them toward the number of required parking spaces in new developments. Any changes to the EVIP based on the CAC's excellent feedback will be shown when the EVIP returns to the CAC for action

- Under New Business we considered and passed a Motion, this time with one dissenting vote, requesting CAC advisory participation in the selection of our new TPO Executive Director:
 - We would like the opportunity to meet with and interview the finalists in a CAC meeting setting. This would allow us the information needed to carry out our role as an advisory committee in support of this critical hiring decision. Given the current timeline, it is suggested that finalists be invited to meet with the CAC during our September 2023 regular meeting.
- Under Old/Unfinished Business staff provided us with a deeper review of the Hillsborough County Bicycle Network Evaluation methodology.
 - This was intended to supplement an action item presentation offered by staff in June 2023. The CAC did not approve this item for recommendation to the Board when it was before us in June. We did not take supplemental action last week. The item is before you for action this morning (VIII.B.).

Other Committee Reports

B. Livable Roadways Committee (LRC) Meeting on June 21

- Status Reports
 - FDOT Kennedy Blvd Projects Update
 - US 301 (Fowler Avenue to SR 56) PD&E Study
 - Parking Policy Ideas from “Shoupista” perspective
 - Vision Zero Streets Study (Hillsborough County Roads in the City of Tampa)

C. Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) Meeting June 28 and Workshop July 26

- Status Reports – June 28th
 - US 301 (Fowler Avenue to SR 56) PD&E.
 - Members commented on the geographic boundaries of the facilities considered in the plan and suggested integrating this evaluation of County-owned facilities within unincorporated Hillsborough and a forthcoming evaluation of County-owned facilities within city limits.
 - Lithia Pinecrest Road PD&E Study Public Comment Period
 - One member noted that this roadway is used by all users and that it crosses a creek, bringing potential environmental impacts.
 - Another stated that this roadway is always congested and in need of improvements.
- Workshop – July 26th on the “Top Ten” Project Finalization
 - Members discussed 26 submissions for the Top Ten Dangerous Locations list.
 - Submissions were widely distributed across the county.
 - Recommendations centered crosswalks, better street lighting, and PHB installation.
 - Members rated the importance of each location on a 1 to 5 scale.
 - Due to time constraints, the last six locations will be discussed in August
 - Staff and the Chair will coordinate to down the list, using the rankings as a guide

D. Intelligent Transportation Systems Committee Meeting (ITS) on July 6

- Approved Action Items

- Hillsborough Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Plan (EVIP)
 - The presentation focused on the existing condition analysis, public outreach findings and the EV needs projection for the future.
 - There were comments on some of the challenges including the replacement cost for charging units and equipment, software and technology upgrades, and consideration for adequate charging spaces.
 - The EVIP was approved and recommended to the TPO Board for approval.
- Memorandum of Understanding on Creating a Tampa Bay MPO
 - This presentation gave a summary of the guidance for an MOU, the principles, voting structure, requirements, and timeline for where we are and where we are going.
 - There were some concerns raised regarding the representation from small cities, balancing the local and regional interests and needs, and potential committee meeting format. Another member raised concern about the proportionate share of funds received for the regional MPO if it were merged. The Committee unanimously approved the MOU summary and supported cohesiveness from an ITS point of view, especially regarding data governance and data sharing.
- Election of Officers
 - The committee elected Bryan Zayas from Hillsborough County was elected as the vice chair.

The ITS Committee heard a status report on the Hillsborough County Transportation Design Manual Update.

E. Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Meeting on August 7

- Action Items
 - Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Plan (EVIP). Members appreciated the product but had questions on the policy implications of some recommendations and asked that the project be brought back at their September meeting for approval
- Status Reports
 - The Hillsborough County Transportation Design Manual Update – Members appreciated the changes and offered comments
 - 2050 Needs Assessment for State of Good Repair and Resilience
 - 2050 Plan Needs Assessment for Major Projects – The major projects included already were described and agency representatives were requested to provide and additional projects for evaluation by September.
 - Tampa Bay MPO Survey – The committee was asked to take and share the survey with their networks

Please note: Attachments referenced are included in the email Cheryl Wilkening sent to board members on the evening of August 8.

VII. Executive Director Recruitment (Timestamp 0:16:53)

- A. Member request to discuss Executive Director Recruitment Process (Commissioner Wostal)
 - Declined further comment at this time as the appropriate timing has passed
- B. Executive Director Interview Panel Recommendation (Mayor Ross)
 - Stated the interview panel members

- Four candidates were interviewed and three are being recommended to move forward: Wong, Sandanasamy, and Benson. Need the TPO Board to decide whom to interview
- Noted the CAC request to be a part of the process going forward. That was not included in the original scope of the process. Deferred approval to the TPO Board.
- Discussion of candidates:
 - There was a brief discussion regarding the CAC involvement in the selection process. It was noted that moving candidates forward and the CAC involvement are two separate issues.

Councilmember Maniscalco moved to move the three recommendations forward, seconded by Commissioner Cohen. The roll call vote passed 14 – 0

Councilmember Maniscalco moved that the three individuals the TPO Board selected for the next round meet with the CAC, seconded by Board Member Vaughn.

Discussion:

It was noted that out-of-town candidates be interviewed on the same trip as they interview with the TPO Board. It was asked how the CAC will report back to the TPO Board regarding what the Board wants them to do. Meghan Betourney noted the timeline and that we need to be mindful of the candidate's time. Clarification was asked if the TPO Board is going to vote on the candidate at the September 13th meeting. Yes. It was asked if the CAC could meet with the candidates via their online meeting. It was also noted that the CAC could watch the initial interviews. It was brought up that the Interview Panel has already made recommendations. It was noted that adding the CAC to the process may be late in timing and that the panel asked comprehensive questions. The CAC could watch the interviews, discuss, and provide their thoughts after doing so. There have been questions about the transparency of this process, it is important the citizens be involved in this process. Allowing the CAC to participate allows for more transparency and citizen participation. The CAC may have additional questions that the panel did not ask, and it could be done virtually. It was noted that the questions should not be changed with the CAC. The Board members have appointees to the CAC, and they can reach out to them for their opinions. Having the candidates meet with the CAC would be excessive. It was brought up that a big part of the job is public communication. After the discussion during the panel meeting, that is a topic of interest. It was stated that the recordings are not enough and the CAC represents the community.

Commissioner Cohen moved that the Board ask the CAC to conduct Zoom interviews, limited to 30 minutes, at the candidates' option, and provide feedback on their choice prior to the TPO Board's consideration of the three finalists at least 48 hours prior to the September 13th; seconded by Councilmember Hurtak. Councilmember Maniscalco accepted this motion as an amendment to the original motion. The roll call vote did not pass 9 – 7

Discussion:

It was brought up that the term "interview" holds concern, recommend changing it to a meet-and-greet. Whoever is selected, the TPO Board wants the person to succeed. If there is a conflict between the CAC Committee and the TPO Board, this could cause challenges. It was brought up that communication ability is a concern. Having candidates answer more formal questions on the

record will demonstrate some of the communication qualities the Board is looking for. The opportunity for the candidates to talk to as many people as possible is not disrespectful, it is very respectful to provide more platforms to get their message out. The CAC represents the public. Concern was expressed over potential questions being asked and the possible legality of the questions. The candidates were asked specific scripted questions. It was noted that there are a lot of committees in the TPO; not sure that the CAC should have special status over the other committees. Would rather see the TPO Board host a meet and greet for all members of the public to come and dialogue with the candidates. It was suggested that an informal meeting be held on the evening before the September 13th decision and invite the CAC members. It was noted that an open meeting may challenge the legality of questions being asked of the candidates. The legal representative could be there to make sure this does not happen. The CAC are representatives of the TPO Board; the TPO Board members could ask their representatives to provide feedback. It was noted that hearing the opinion of other CAC appointees should be heard by the TPO Board. Board Member Vaughn noted that the School Board does not have representation on all of the TPO Committees. She would like to hear what the other Board member's appointees have to say. There was discussion on the timing of the CAC becoming involved this late in the process. It was asked how many of the CC members were online during the interviews. There is no way of knowing who has viewed the interviews online.

Councilmember Clendenin offered a friendly amendment to Commissioner Cohen's motion . Cameron Clark noted that this motion is part of the motion made by Commissioner Cohen.

Councilmember Hurtak moved to have a public meet and greet on the evening of September 12, 2023, open to the public, in a space provided by the County Commission; seconded by Mayor Ross. The roll call vote passed 14 – 0

VIII. Consent Agenda (Timestamp 0:53:46)

A. Committee Appointments

- LRC – Frank Coughenour, for the City of Plant City and Samantha Flores as alternate; Justin Willits as alternate for HART; Michelle Orton as an alternate for Hillsborough County Schools
- BPAC – Samantha Flores for the City of Plant City and Frank Coughenour as alternate; Corporal Julian Anderson for Hillsborough County Sheriff
- CAC – Matt Sink Green by Councilman Clendenin

B. UPWP Amendment – State Transportation Innovation Council (STIC) Grant for Community Air Quality Monitoring

Motion to approve the Consent Agenda made by Commissioner Cohen, seconded by Councilmember Maniscalco; the voice vote passed unanimously.

IX. Action Items

- ##### **A. Fowler Avenue Studies and TPO Letter of Comment (Craig Fox, FDOT; Jay Collins, Planning Commission; Elizabeth Watkins, TPO Staff) (Timestamp 0:54:06)**
- Introduction of the Fowler Avenue PD&E Study area

- Related studies
- Redevelopment projects
- PD&E Study purpose and improvements being evaluated
 - Went over the existing typical sections
 - Review of the crash history
 - Showed three alternatives resulting from the study: BAT Lanes, Frontage Lanes, Median Guideway
 - Looked at intersection improvements
 - Went over safety strategies being proposed
 - Reviewed the evaluation matrix and estimated project cost
 - Went over the public engagement approach – there will be a public hearing in Spring 2024 if necessary
 - This project is identified in the Hillsborough County TPO Cost Feasible Non-Strategic Intermodal System (SIS) State Roadway Projects for 2020 – 2045
 - Reviewed the funding and schedule – right-of-way is not funded
- HART Next Steps
 - PD&E (August 2023); FDOT Design (September 2023); Vision Plan Open House #2 (September 2023); HART continues Lane Repurposing process
- Fowler Avenue Vision Study – Engagement and policy update
 - Went over the background and purpose of the study
 - Review of the overall schedule and public engagement timeline
 - Looked at the insights gained from the engagements: Community, Development, Infrastructure, safety, Walking/Biking Conditions, Transit, Buildings/Connectivity/Aesthetics
 - Went over the constraints and opportunities
 - Showed the overall corridor vision and redevelopment vision objectives
 - Reviewed the policy recommendations
- Went over the TPO Letter of Comment on this project

Recommended Action: Approve the transmittal of the attached letter of comment.

Presentation: [Fowler Avenue Presentation](#)

FDOT Fowler PD&E: [Fowler Ave \(State Road 582\) PD&E Study](#)

HART's Tampa Arterial BRT: [HART BRT Arterial Study \(gohart.org\)](http://gohart.org)

Plan Hillsborough Fowler Avenue Vision Study: [Fowler Avenue Vision Study - Plan Hillsborough](#)

Discussion:

It was noted that the people of Temple Terrace were asked if they wanted to participate when this study first started. That has since changed. It was noted that the flavor of the road does not change from 52nd to 56th. It was asked that FDOT consider, if feasible, they continue the treatments to 56th. FDOT will doublecheck. It was noted that the technical advisory does include the Temple Terrace planning and engineering; the recommendations will be provided to them. If they would like to implement the recommendations, that can be looked at. Clarification was asked about the term “wide walk” while not hearing anything about bike lanes. Yes, that is combining sidewalks and bike lanes. It was noted that the Tampa City Council is approving a lot of density

adjacent to this corridor and noted that the planning needs to encompass those areas because they are coming.

It was noted that a visitor to the area said that Fowler looks the same as it did 30 years ago. The road needs to be updated to reflect the changing corridor. Clarification was asked which transit lane alternative is the preferred alternative. The letter discourages the choice of the frontage road but does not promote a BAT or Fixed Guide Lane. It was asked if FDOT will announce the preferred alternative in September 2023. Yes. It was noted that there has not been good information at the TPO and with HART about the impacts of the alternatives and ridership. It was noted that if the alternative selected does not include a dedicated bus lane is not much of a vision for the future. Justin Willits from HART noted that their PD&E study only contemplated a BAT lane and a Median Lane Guideway, there was no frontage road concept. HART will be delivering a letter very soon to consider an interim solution in the BAT lane while looking at the frontage and Median Lane Guideway. The cost of a frontage lane is not a good option for HART or FDOT to consider. Will be working with FDOT for the optimal solution and then work on the funding. It was noted that these three alternatives were presented at a Policy Committee Workshop. One of the barriers is funding. There is a good interim strategy and a good long-term vision for change. It was brought up that as this corridor is being reinvented, it needs to be done right the first time to avoid a missed opportunity. If an interim solution is used, the best alternative may go by the wayside.

Mayor Ross moved to approve the transmittal of the TPO Letter of Comment to FDOT; seconded by Councilmember Clendenin. The motion passes unanimously by voice vote.

- B. **Hillsborough County Bicycle Network Evaluation** (Wade Reynolds, TPO Staff) *(Timestamp 1:37:14)*
- Overview of the plan – collaboration between TPO and County
 - Review of Goal
 - Phase 1 – Data Analysis and Prioritization Methodology – Risk Factors, Exposure Factors, Network Factors; used a rating scale of 1 – 5; Scoring and Prioritization
 - Phase 2 – Prioritization and Corridor Selection – very high and high were selected
 - Looked for geographic diversity
 - Selected: Waters Avenue, Causeway Boulevard/W Lumsden Rd; Shell Point Road; Balm Riverview Road
 - Phase 3 – Concept Development: went over the tiers of improvements from the county
 - Review of the corridors selected in their current state
 - Looked at the proposed concepts
 - Next Steps – engineering and design, develop cost estimates, public engagement, identify funding sources
 - Noted the committee approvals and the follow-up with the CAC.

Recommended Action: Approval of the Hillsborough County Bicycle Network Plan and forward it to the TPO Board.

Project Website: [Hillsborough County Bicycle Network Plan](#)

Discussion:

It was asked what the concerns were from the CAC. There were several issues including cost (which can be incremental with implementation), the methodology including equity factors in the process (equity is a factor), and whether or not areas that are rapidly developing were being taken into consideration (yes).

Mayor Ross moved to approve the Hillsborough County Bicycle Network Plan; Commissioner Wostal seconded. The voice vote passed unanimously.

X. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT (*Timestamp 1:48:02*)

- A. Shout out to Hillsborough County for going over the Bicycle Routes
- B. September 13, 2023 Policy Committee meeting canceled; convene Board at 9 am
- C. Tampa Bay TMA Leadership Group meeting follow-up and [Survey on Creating a Tampa Bay MPO](#)
The issues are starting to be fleshed out and looking for feedback. Sharing the choices with all the members of the TPOs/MPOs. Please take that survey. There is a public survey that is live through the 20th of August.
- D. Plan Hillsborough Strategic Plan Joint Board workshop follow-up. Thanked members who participated. Highlight, continuing need to coordinate transportation and housing as well as collaboration across the jurisdictions. The Policy Committee is an opportunity to talk about joint projects. Possibly change those meetings to a conference room and make it more interactive while maintaining public access.
- E. Safe Streets for All grant application – federal grant in the UPWP. This year, partnering with UCF to do data analysis focusing on the speed management action plan using low-cost strategies. That action plan was acknowledged by the Federal Highway as a best practice.
- F. Several TPO studies are being presented at the APA conference in the fall.

XI. OLD & NEW BUSINESS (*Timestamp 0:00:00*)

- A. The next meeting is September 13, 2023, at 10 AM on the 26th Floor of County Center.
- B. Commissioner Wostal – It was noted that there is an addendum that is missing from the agenda. One is Fact Sheet 301. Feels it is strange that it was not presented with the Fowler Avenue study. A couple of months ago, the BOCC approved a \$55 million CDD on the very end of 301 before you go into Pasco County. It was asked what needs to be done to hear from FDOT about the outcome of the public hearing for the North 301 to Pascoe County project. The US 301 PD&E study was presented to the Board in 2022. The Board sent a letter of comment noting safety concerns, many were added to the TIP and those have now been funded. It is on the list of topics to bring back to the TPO Board. It will be added to a future agenda. Mayor Ross – noted that the discussion at the workshop would be the place for this type of topic to have discussions around.
- C. Councilmember Hurtak – the City of Tampa has been coordinating with HART to begin a premium bus service circular. It mirrors the current Streetcar Extension providing a connection from the terminus of the streetcar at Whiting Street up the Tampa Street Corridor to the Armature Works area, and potentially beyond. This would be an interim step to HART's plan of a BRT from Downtown to USF. The City of Tampa has committed \$400,000 per year for two years to fund the new service. Both are working with FDOT to secure an additional \$400,000 match. In order for the project to be added to the current funding schedule, it must be added to the TPO priority list.

Councilmember Hurtak moved for TPO Staff to bring forward a TIP Amendment for Board consideration to add the Florida Avenue/ Tampa Street Circular Project to the TPO list of priority projects, Table 2 of the TIP based on the adopted prioritization criteria for Real Choices When Not Driving, seconded by Commissioner Kemp.

Discussion:

Ms. Alden stated that staff can do whatever is the Board's pleasure. However, the TPO's list of prioritization was due to FDOT at the beginning of August. The department is in an accelerated work program cycle this year. If it could be added at this point, it is unlikely; this question was asked of FDOT Staff. This topic was surfaced with the HART and Tampa staff earlier. In order to add a project to the project list, this Board would hold a public hearing with advanced notice of 30 days. The soonest a hearing could be held would be mid-September, which is well into the FDOT work program cycle. Even if it were able to be added, there is probably not the funding this year to be able to add dollars to it right now. But, if it is added during the next regular update in the spring, it can be incorporated in the next cycle and you can request funding for any dollars in any earlier years; you don't have to wait until the end of the five years to get the funding, Will continue to work on this. It is coming up now because it is budget season now. There is another option; if the streetcar extension PD&E preferred alternative was changed to a rubber tire solution for the interim, then it would already be on the priority list. Mayor Ross requested that more information be brought to the TPO Board on this topic. It was noted that this was not done earlier because there was no continuity with HART. For clarification, this cannot be done by a TIP amendment. A change to the priority list has a different standard for public engagement. There was a suggestion for the City of Tampa to reserve budget money. Councilmember Hurtak withdrew the motion and requested a future presentation.

XII. ADJOURNMENT – The meeting adjourned at 12:02 PM

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



Committee Reports

Livable Roadways Committee (LRC) Meeting on June 21

The LRC heard status reports on:

- FDOT Kennedy Blvd Projects Update
- US 301 (Fowler Avenue to SR 56) PD&E Study
- Parking Policy Ideas from “Shoupista” perspective
- Vision Zero Streets Study (Hillsborough County Roads in the City of Tampa)

Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) Meeting June 28 and Workshop July 26

The June 28th BPAC meeting heard status reports on:

- US 301 (Fowler Avenue to SR 56) PD&E Study
- Vision Zero Streets Study (Hillsborough County Roads in the City of Tampa)New PlanHillsborough.org Website
- Lithia Pinecrest Road PD&E Study Public Comment Period
 - One member noted that this roadway is used by all users and that it crosses a creek, bringing potential environmental impacts.
 - Another stated that this roadway is always congested and in need of improvements.

The July 26th BPAC workshop was on “Top Ten” Project Finalization

- Members discussed 26 submissions for the Top Ten Dangerous Locations list.
- Submissions were widely distributed across the county.
- Recommendations centered crosswalks, better street lighting, and PHB installation.
- Members rated the importance of each location on a 1 to 5 scale.
- Due to time constraints, the last six locations will be discussed in August
- Staff and the Chair will coordinate to down the list, using the rankings as a guide.

Intelligent Transportation Systems Committee Meeting (ITS) on July 6

The ITS approved action items:

- ✓ Hillsborough Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Plan (EVIP)

- The presentation focused on the existing condition analysis, public outreach findings and the EV needs projection for the future.
- There were comments on some of the challenges including the replacement cost for charging units and equipment, software and technology upgrade and consideration for adequate charging spaces.
- The EVIP was approved and recommended to the TPO Board for approval.
- ✓ Memorandum of Understanding on Creating a Tampa Bay MPO
 - This presentation gave a summary on the guidance for an MOU, the principles, voting structure, requirements and timeline for where we are and where we are going.
 - There were some concerns raised regarding the representation from small cities, balancing the local and regional interest and needs and potential committee meeting format. Another member raised concern for the proportionate share of funds received for the regional MPO if it were merged. The Committee unanimously approved the MOU summary and supported cohesiveness from an ITS point of view especially regarding data governance and data sharing.
- ✓ Election of Officers
 - The committee elected Bryan Zayas from Hillsborough County was elected as the vice-chair.

The ITS Committee heard a status report on the Hillsborough County Transportation Design Manual Update.

Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) Workshop of July 12

The July 12th CAC Workshop focused on two items:

- 2050 LRTP Revenue Forecasting

A presentation was made explaining the Revenue Forecast; how it fits into the LRTP; available funding for surface transportation; the series of Needs Assessments under development: good repair, stormwater, transit, Vision Zero, safety, and trails. Also discussed were local match needs, the limit on operations grants and that new legislation would be needed to increase currently levied tax. Potential Funding Sources were also discussed.

Members had questions on funding for maintenance, about potential funding sources like a sales tax, VMT models, CIT funds, ad valorem, vehicle weight tax, exploring public-private partnerships, TIF, and possibly mobility fees. There was additional conversation about why transit did not have more of a share as well as safety, considering our challenge as one of the most dangerous places in the country. It was asked what happens to assets when they fail. Other discussions included urban expansion, a cushion for natural disasters, and how the Comprehensive Plan will impact the LRTP funding.

- Memorandum of Understanding on Creating a Tampa Bay MPO

The presentation reviewed the recent legislation to submit a feasibility report on the consolidation into a single MPO. Pros and Cons of a merger were discussed, and the MOU was summarized – apportionment, governance structure, balancing local and regional needs, funding, outreach, federally required plans and programs, agreements, and existing staff. The proposed timeline was reviewed, and CAC members were encouraged to complete the public survey and to share with others.

CAC members had a lively discussion on the business model, suggestions on different scenarios such as maintaining the MPO and regional staff bring topics to the individual counties, but also that the SCTPA and TMA already serves the function of a regional collaboration body. Clarification was asked about receiving less funding if the merger happens; if non-elected officials would be removed from a regional MPO; if the MOU commits to a merger; the powers the organizations would have; if a merger would dilute the ability to advocate for the needs of Hillsborough County. It was requested that focus groups or some sort of feedback be obtained from the current staff of the existing MPOs.

Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting of August 2

During the Chair's Report, a request was made to have staff clarify at an upcoming CAC meeting why it was learned at the TIP Hearing in June that the Westshore Interchange project was noted as being fully funded and removed from Table 2.

The CAC approved the following action item:

✓ **CAC Resolution Regarding Partner Agency Participation in the Committee Process.**

Members reviewed suggested language changes and unanimously approved the resolution which aims to ensure that agencies seeking TPO committee and Board support attend committee meetings when action is being taken. A clean version of the resolution will be prepared, signed by the CAC Chair and forwarded to the TPO Board.

The CAC heard status reports on:

- **Hillsborough TPO Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Plan (EVIP).**

An interesting and thorough presentation on the EVIP was received, reviewing the benefits and barriers to electric vehicle deployment in Hillsborough County. Committee members shared keen interest in the equitable placement of charging stations and suggested retrofitting existing parking spaces or applying them toward the number of required parking spaces in new developments. Any changes to the EVIP based on the CAC's excellent feedback will be shown when the EVIP returns to the CAC for action.

During Unfinished Business, staff provided a deeper review of the **Hillsborough County Bicycle Network Evaluation methodology**. Suggestions for future evaluations include giving more weight to proximity to higher-ridership bus routes, clarifying the role of travel speeds and how improvements can be made without additional, expensive, right of way.

During Members Interest, there were discussions on aggressive driving, traffic calming, the contribution that the size of vehicles play in crash severity, and interest in an update on the transfer of county roads to the city.

Another member's interest item that generated discussion and action, was in allowing the CAC to play a greater role in the hiring of the new TPO Executive Director. Understanding the CAC would not be able to directly vote for a candidate, they would like the opportunity to offer advice to the TPO Board, the following action passed unanimously: **the Transportation Planning Organization of Hillsborough County include the Citizens Advisory Committee in the hiring/recruitment for the Executive Director Position of the TPO which is now held by Ms. Beth Alden. This should include the meeting with the candidate in the CAC meetings but will not include the voting process**

Technical Advisory Committee Meeting of August 7

The TAC had one action item, the Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Plan (EVIP). Members appreciated the product but had questions on the policy implications of some recommendations and asked that the project be brought back at their September meeting for approval.

The committee heard status reports on:

- The Hillsborough County Transportation Design Manual Update – Members appreciated the changes and offered comments.
- 2050 Needs Assessment for State of Good Repair and Resilience
- 2050 Plan Needs Assessment for Major Projects – The major projects included already were described and agency representatives were requested to provide and additional projects for evaluation by September.
- Tampa Bay MPO Survey – The committee was asked to take and share the survey with their networks.

**HILLSBOROUGH MPO
CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

2022 ATTENDANCE REPORT

CAC Member	Representing	Geographic District	Appointed By	Appointed	Term Expires	Term										Optional			
						1/4/23	2/1/23	3/1/23	4/5/23	5/3/23	6/7/23	7/12/2023	8/2/23	9/6/23	10/4/23	11/1/23	12/6/23		
Trott, Terrance	Member-at-Large (African-America)	32	Member-at-Large	3/3/2020	3/8/2025	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes					
Roberts, Bill	Aviation Authority	26	HCAA Board	6/30/2020	3/8/2025	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes					
VACANT	Member-at-Large	9	Member-at-Large	4/14/2021	3/8/2025	No	Yes	No	No	No	VAC	VAC							
Hollenkamp, Steven	City of Plant City	2	City Commission	4/12/2023	4/12/2029	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes					
Dayna Lazarus	City of Tampa	21	Councilwoman Hurtak	6/14/2023	6/14/2029	VAC	VAC	VAC	VAC	VAC	VAC	VAC	Yes	Yes					
VACANT	City of Tampa	30	Councilman Maniscalco	VAC	VAC	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	VAC					
VACANT	City of Tampa		Councilman Clendenin	VAC	VAC	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	VAC	VAC	VAC	VAC	VAC					
Aiah Yassin	City of Temple Terrace	18	City Council	5/12/2021	3/8/2029	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes					
Ed Mierzejewski	Expressway Authority	17	Greg Slater	2/12/2022	3/8/2025	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes					
VACANT	HART		HART Chair	VAC	VAC	No	No	VAC	VAC	VAC	VAC	VAC	VAC	VAC					
Prindle, Hoyt	Hillsborough County	21	Commissioner Kemp	10/1/2019	3/8/2029	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes						
Jim Davison	Hillsborough County	4	Commissioner Wostal	2/8/2023	3/8/2029	VAC	VAC	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes						
Sherri Southwell	Hillsborough County	8	Commissioner Owen	2/8/2023	3/8/2029	VAC	VAC	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No					
Brown, Carolyn	Hillsborough County	32	Commissioner Myers	2/8/2023	3/8/2029	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes						
Joseph Citro	Hillsborough County	20	Commissioner Cohen	6/14/2023	6/14/2029	No	No	VAC	VAC	VAC	VAC	No	Yes						
Fernandez, Ricardo	Member-at-Large (Hispanic)	30	Member-at-Large	4/14/2021	3/8/2025	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes					
VACANT	Member-at-Large		Member-at-Large	VAC	VAC	VAC	VAC	VAC	VAC	VAC	VAC	VAC	VAC	VAC					
VACANT	Member-at-Large		Member-at-Large	VAC	VAC	VAC	VAC	VAC	VAC	VAC	VAC	VAC	VAC	VAC					
Skelton Jr., Don	Port Tampa Bay	14	Port Authority CEO	1/11/2023	3/8/2025	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes					
Fryer, Artie	Transp. Disadvantaged	24	TDCB Chair	4/2/2019	3/8/2025	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	Yes						
VACANT	Member-at-Large		Member-at-Large	VAC	VAC	VAC	VAC	VAC	VAC	VAC	VAC	VAC	VAC	VAC					
William Hodges	Planning Commission	21	Planning Commission	6/14/2023	6/14/2029	No	No	VAC	VAC	VAC	VAC	Yes	No						
Frank, Josh	School Board	29	Jessica Vaughn	8/11/2021	3/8/2029	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes						
Christina Bosworth	Member-at-Large	11	Member-at-Large	4/12/2023	4/12/2025	VAC	VAC	VAC	VAC	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes					
Sarah Thomas	Member-at-Large	7	Member-at-Large	4/12/2023	4/12/2025	VAC	VAC	VAC	VAC	Yes	Yes	No	Yes						
VACANT	Member-at-Large	10	Member-at-Large	4/12/2023	4/12/2025	VAC	VAC	VAC	VAC	Yes	Yes	VAC	VAC						
Chris Vela	Member-at-Large (Native America)	21	Member-at-Large	4/12/2023	4/12/2025	VAC	VAC	VAC	VAC	Yes	Yes	Yes	No						
Chris Gonzalez	Member-at-Large (Hispanic)	1	Member-at-Large	4/12/2023	4/12/2025	VAC	VAC	VAC	VAC	No	Yes	Yes	Yes						
Ilia Lachinov	Member-at-Large (Under 30)	20	Member-at-Large	6/14/2023	6/14/2025	VAC	VAC	VAC	VAC	VAC	VAC	Yes	Yes						

Members Present	12	13	13	11	12	16	13	17	0	0	0	0
CAC Membership Less Declared Vacancies	20	20	21	21	21	22	23	22	22	22	22	22
Needed for Quorum	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7
Quorum Achieved	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO

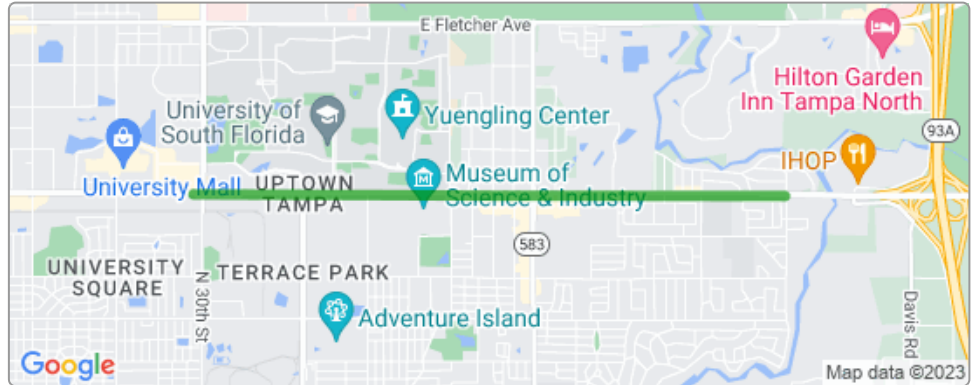
Legend:	
YES = Attended	
NO = Did Not Attend	
VAC = Vacant	
DVAC = Seat Declared Vacant	
NO = Three (3) or More Consecutive Absences	
Attended Virtually	
= Term Expired; Member may continue until reappointed or replaced.	

The MPO may review & consider rescinding the appointment of any member who fails to attend three (3) consecutive meetings.

SR 582/E. Fowler Ave. from West of Bruce B. Downs Blvd. to West of Riverhills Dr.

446270-1-52-01

Project Details	
Work Type	Resurfacing, Traffic Signals, Signing & Pavement Markings, and Lighting. Also included are associated drainage, ADA, and safety improvements.
Phase	Design
Limits	From West of Bruce B. Downs Blvd. to West of Riverhills Dr.
Length	3.524 Miles
City	Tampa Temple Terrace
County	Hillsborough
Road	Fowler Ave
Design Cost	\$1.964M



About

The purpose of this project is to preserve and extend the life of the existing pavement through milling and resurfacing. The work also includes minor drainage improvements, new signal at N 52nd Street, lighting retrofit, bringing ADA features into conformance with current standards, and perform general safety modification work.

Construction is anticipated to begin Fall 2024.

Contact Information	
Design Manager	Eyra Cash, P.E. (813) 975-6164 Eyra.Cash@dot.state.fl.us
Media Contact	Kris Carson (813) 975-6060 Kristen.Carson@dot.state.fl.us



Courtney Campbell Scenic Highway Corridor Advisory Committee

August 14, 2023

Roger Roscoe
Scenic Highway Coordinator
Florida Department of Transportation, District 7
11201 McKinley Drive
Tampa, FL 33612

RE: Courtney Campbell Scenic Highway – Northeast Trail & Service Area

Dear Roger,

We are reaching out regarding the area that runs along the north side of the Courtney Campbell Scenic Highway from the Courtney Campbell boat ramp east to Rocky Point Island. The area is maintained by FDOT. Although from the public's perspective it is part of the Courtney Campbell Trail, it falls outside of the official park areas designated and maintained under MOAs with the Cities of Tampa and Clearwater.

Currently, two sets of gates and barriers to mangrove habitat have been removed or destroyed by the public. A separate set of bollards is also regularly removed and destroyed. When functioning properly, these gates, bollards, and other barriers are used to restrict motorized vehicles from entering the area after sunset, entering the bicycle-/pedestrian-use only section, and entering environmentally sensitive areas. Barriers are routinely compromised, signage is routinely ignored, and enforcement agencies are strapped for resources. Without proper access management, the area is a wellspring of conflicting uses and unlawful activities.

In light of the number and severity of issues raised at the CSHCAC meetings regarding public safety and environmental concerns in this area, this letter serves as a formal request for FDOT's assistance in making relatively inexpensive but critical changes to the access points, extending the pedestrian-/bicycle-only portion of the trail another 1.25 miles and effectively mirroring the southwest section of the Courtney Campbell Trail in Pinellas County. In comparison, the section in Pinellas County offers a safer experience for the public, draws a higher number of trail users, and is subjected to less vandalism of area infrastructure and fewer environmental incursions. The physical characteristics of the land are similar, but the current allowable uses and infrastructure at key access points are drastically different.

Details regarding the area and associated recommendations are provided on the following pages along with supporting photographs. We are available for further comment or to help answer questions.

In addition to the request made on behalf of the CSHCAC, it is important to relay that we met with department representatives for City of Tampa Parks and Recreation (P&R) on March 16 and April 13, 2023. They agree that limiting vehicular access to the Northeast Trail & Service Area will increase safety, improve the trail experience, protect environmental resources, and reduce erosion and other damage. They also recommend limiting access on



the south side of the highway to mirror any limitations on the north, thereby reducing the likelihood that restrictions on the north side of the highway increase unauthorized use in other locations on the south side of the highway.

Since the time of the original drafting of this letter, two people have been shot on the south side of the highway, resulting in injury to a grandfather and the death of his 7-year-old grandson. If FDOT's budget allows, P&R recommends limiting vehicular access throughout the corridor to mitigate the relocation and concentration of unauthorized vehicular access. For additional details related to the south side of the trail or to coordinate proposed improvements, please contact Tony Monk, City of Tampa Parks and Recreation Landscape Architect III, at tony.monk@tampagov.net or 813-416-8788.

Thank you again for your support of the Courtney Campbell Scenic Highway, including your time and consideration of this request.

Sincere regards,

Bill Jonson
Chair, CCSHCAC

Allison Roberts
Vice Chair, CCSHCAC

Attachment: Tampa Audubon Letter of Support [2 pages]

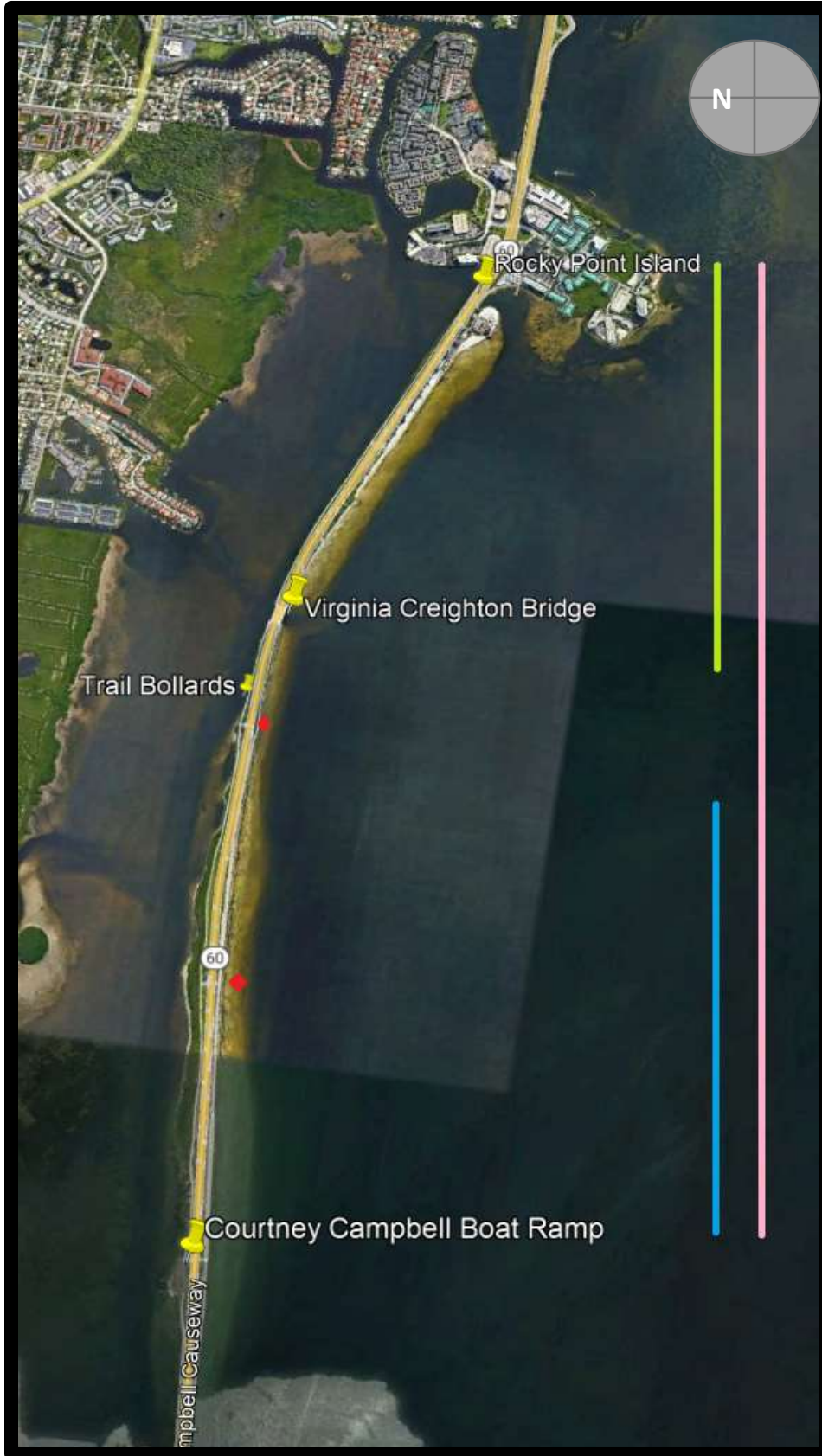
Cc: Fed Revolte, City of Tampa Mobility Department, Parking Division
Ted Fowler, City of Tampa Parks and Recreation
Tony Mulkey, City of Tampa Parks and Recreation
Tony Monk, City of Tampa Parks and Recreation
Amelia Missavage, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
Wade Reynolds, Plan Hillsborough, Transportation Planning Organization
Ann Paul, Tampa Audubon
Sean Sullivan, Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council
Maria Robles, Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council
Captain David Fernandez, Tampa Police Department
Chief Bercaw, Tampa Police Department
Major Ruth Cate, Tampa Police Department



Fig. 1, Subject Area (above). North of the Scenic Hwy in Tampa (east of boat ramp & west of Rocky Point Island)
Fig. 2, Model Area (below). South of the Scenic Hwy in Pinellas County (west of the County line delineator)



Fig 3, General Description



The Subject Area is located within Hillsborough County along the northeast corridor of the Courtney Campbell Scenic Highway and has a 2.5-mile paved path designated as Campbell Causeway Access Rd N (**length of pink segment**).

Access points from the highway are gated to restrict nighttime access (**red points**). Posted signage indicates the area is closed from sunset to sunrise (Fig. 4).

An est. 1.25 linear miles are currently designated for pedestrian/bicycle use only (**lime green segment**). The trail continues another mile east of Rocky Point Island and over a newly added trail connection (FDOT #443577-1-52-01) to the Skyway Connector Trail, which is also dedicated solely to pedestrian/bicycle use and connects the Courtney Campbell Trail to two public parks -- Skyway Sports Complex to the north and Cypress Point Beach to the south.

West of the lime green segment and trail bollards, the remaining 1.25 miles to the boat ramp are marked "full lane" bicycle use and one-way vehicle use.

Out of this 1.25 mile section allowing vehicle use, an est. .95 linear miles is designated as a Conservation Easement (**blue segment**). Posted signage prohibits entry into the easement throughout this entire shoreline. The area also serves as a Protected Bird Nesting Area, which further prohibits entry January - August. Signage also suggests that the Florida Birding Trail runs through this area. (Fig. 5)

Figure 4, Posted Signage Indicating Nighttime Closure



Figure 5, Environmental & Habitat Protections (Along Blue Segment in Figure 3)



During the week and in the AM on weekends, the trail is almost exclusively used by pedestrians and bicyclists. Teams of joggers commonly train along this 2.5-mile stretch (Pink segment in Figure 3), and Rocky Point hotels appear to be working with bike share vendors to promote trail use. However, as shown by the burnout marks, other incompatible uses are also underway (Fig 6).

Figure 6, Public Safety & Environmental Concerns – Roadway Safety



During weekend afternoons (Saturday and Sunday) and holidays, individuals entering this area by vehicle predominantly engage in one of two activities: fishing on the Virginia Creighton bridge, which is prohibited, (Figs. 7, 8, and 9) or tailgating in the conservation easement, which is also prohibited (Figs. 5, 10, and 11).

Figure 7, Public Safety & Environmental Concerns – Fishing from Virginia Creighton Bridge (North Side)

Although it is difficult to make out the parties on the far side of the bridge, the picture below shows 5 people fishing (3 different sets of fishermen). One person was crawling up and down the steep sides of the bridge to fish. The signage shown in this picture is posted at both ends of the bridge.



As shown below, bollards intended to stop vehicular traffic from traveling into the pedestrian-/bicycle-use-only area regularly require repair/replacement. They were again recently repaired. When compromised, individuals drive up the trail and park at the west end of the Virginia Creighton bridge to fish – sometimes almost fully blocking the trail (Fig. 8).

Figure 8, Public Safety & Environmental Concerns – Direct Access to the Virginia Creighton Bridge



Only five (5) designated parking spots exist within the entire Subject Area (Fig. 9). They have a gravel surface, are located immediately west of the bollards, and are almost exclusively used by fishermen who fish from the Virginia Creighton bridge or the pedestrian/bicycle trail, which is an incompatible use due to flying tackle during casting and reeling.

Figure 9, Public Safety & Environmental Concerns – Parking for Fishing at the Virginia Creighton Bridge & Along the Trail



Groups routinely access the restricted conservation areas where they party, park their vehicles, pull up boats / jet skis, grill, play amplified music, litter, etc. These activities are incompatible with environmentally sensitive areas (Fig. 10). Over the past year, the size of the groups has increased significantly, often with +50 people per group.

Figure 10, Public Safety & Environmental Concerns – Weekend Tailgating in Conservation Easement



Figure 11, Public Safety & Environmental Concerns – Holiday Fireworks Directly Over the Protected Bird Nesting Area

The area over the protected bird nesting area has become a hot spot for holiday celebrations and includes significant firework activity on multiple holidays between January and August. This is just one small area showing spent fireworks after the most recent Fourth of July. The picture was not staged and is indicative of much of this area.





FDOT is responsible for maintaining bollards (midpoint along this trail section), two sets of access gates that exist along this path and open to the Courtney Campbell Scenic Highway, and barriers to the Conservation Easement Area. In addition, FDOT maintains gates between the highway and the boat ramp and to the west end of the boat ramp.

The gates restricting nighttime access from the highway (along with the Tampa Police Department's (TPD's) support in opening and closing them each day) have significantly curbed illegal and dangerous activities in this area, which had routinely involved several hundred vehicles and thousands of participants and spectators three or four nights a week street racing, performing car stunts, and engaging in other large-scale nighttime congregations. (Additional photos and videos can be made available upon request.)

The gates and TPD's assistance are vital to reducing public safety issues in this area but challenged due to (a) a significant influx of vehicles and people on the weekends shortly before the gates close and (b) routine destruction of the gates (Fig. 12). FDOT has replaced the gates multiple times at considerable expense and, again, both sets of gates used to access this area from the causeway are currently missing or inoperable. A more fortified solution is required.

Figure 12, Remainder of a Gate Used to Restrict Nighttime Access to the Trail



**** To address the public safety and environmental issues that have been discussed by the committee along with the recurring destruction of gates, bollards, and other barriers, we ask that FDOT consider using a combination of guardrail and heavy-duty removable safety bollards at the two access points along the causeway and the entrance at the boat ramp, securing the area for pedestrian-/bicycle-use only. ****

In consideration of access requirements for emergency and maintenance vehicles, we reached out to FDOT to understand how these needs are addressed on the southwest section of the Courtney Campbell Trail in Pinellas (referenced earlier as a standard we envision mirroring this section after). Bollards exist near the beginning of the trail in Pinellas (at Dr. Kiran C. Patel Blvd) from the beach parking lot and again in 1.75 miles providing direct access from the highway (Fig. 13). FDOT conducted a field review and found that the white bollard in the center of the set shown below is removable. The yellow bollards are cemented in place.

Based on the historical level of vandalism and persistence along the Subject Area, an embassy-class approach may be appropriate – using guardrail to narrow the easternmost highway entrance to a chokepoint where a single fortified bollard and video monitoring could be installed. If modelled after Pinellas, it may be appropriate to fully close off the second highway access point using guardrail. Access would also need to be restricted from the boat ramp parking lot, where either method could be used. Once access is restricted, bollards that currently exist between the Virginia Creighton Bridge and the easternmost causeway entranceway could be removed.

Figure 13, Bollards Providing Vehicles Trail Access from the Hwy. in Pinellas



****As indicated previously, the area currently contains five (5) designated parking spaces. Ben T. Davis Beach exists across the highway from the Subject Area and, with more than 300 metered parking spaces, this public park routinely has available parking. FDOT may also want to work with the City of Tampa Parks and Recreation team to help educate the public about Cypress Point Park, another nearby alternative that offers free parking and access.****

Cypress Point Park is a large public park located 3 miles away from the Subject Area. It offers a beach, trail, sand volleyball court, modern playground, restrooms, disc golf course, paddle board rentals, and shelters equipped with picnic tables and grills. Apart from the trail, none of these amenities are available within the Subject Area. Cypress Point Park also contains a large parking lot (roughly 100 spaces) with ample availability and free access (Figs. 14 – 16).

Figure 14, Cypress Point Park – Picnic Shelters



Figure 15, Cypress Point Park – Playground



Figure 16, Cypress Point Park – Beach





****Were FDOT to fortify the area for pedestrian-/bicycle-use only and be open to such, we would like to use our committee to help engage partners willing to adopt the area in order to enhance its environmental value and increase safe, proper trail usage.****

Based on informal committee member discussions, we believe the area offers great opportunity for public education, increased pedestrian/bicycle use, and environmental improvements.



P.O. Box 320025, Tampa, Florida 33679-2025

May 1, 2023

Roger Roscoe
Scenic Highway Coordinator
Florida Department of Transportation, District 7
11202 McKinley Drive
Tampa, FL 33612

RE: Courtney Campbell Scenic Highway's Northwest Trail & Service Area
usage/access

Hello Roger,

I am writing concerning the paved area and adjacent land areas and mangrove shorelines on the north side of the Courtney Campbell Scenic Highway and the east end, from Ricky Point to the boat ramp, the "Northeast Trail & Service Area". My understanding is that this region is managed by FDOT as it is not part of the park areas included in MOAs with the City of Tampa and the City of Clearwater.

This letter expresses support of the proposal by the Courtney Campbell Scenic Highway Corridor Advisory Committee to restrict vehicle access and allow safer and increased use by bicyclers and pedestrians. The Committee's proposal offers carefully considered recommendations for implementation.

We support the proposal for these reasons:

- Members of the public and nature enthusiasts including bird watchers will be able to safely access this long causeway as it extends halfway across Old Tampa Bay.

- This change will increase the length of the pathway available to the public recreationists, creating a loop to the south side using the underside of the bridge, significantly adding to the exercise and travel experience of bikers and walkers.
- The mangrove shorelines will be protected from physical vehicle damage and improved buffering of oil, gasoline, and other automotive pollutants.
- Old Tampa Bay is an under-performing portion of Tampa Bay itself, with periodic brown tide blooms and declining seagrass coverage. Protection of the causeway area by restricting close approach by vehicles will possibly reduce future deterioration of Old Tampa Bay.
- Using educational signage will enhance the visitor experience and possibly create a sense of community appreciation and support for the environment, Old Tampa Bay, and the more park-like areas of the Courtney Campbell Causeway Scenic Highway.

Please let me know if you have any questions about the support of the Tampa Audubon Society for this reworking of the access road on the Courtney Campbell Causeway Scenic Highway to increase use by bicyclers and pedestrians while improving protection of the natural resources of Old Tampa Bay.

Thank you,

Ann Paul

President

813/624-3149

CC: Allison Roberts, CCSHCAC

Maria Robles, Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council

Sean Sullivan, Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council

Bill Jonson, CCSHCAC

Karla Price, Tony Monk, and Ted Fowler, City of Tampa Parks and Recreation