

**HILLSBOROUGH TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION BOARD
HYBRID MEETING JANUARY 10, 2024
DRAFT MINUTES**

I. Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance *(Timestamp 0:05:17)*

Chair Myers called the meeting to order at 10:00 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 0:05:45)*

The following members were present: Commissioner Gwen Myers, Mayor Andrew Ross, Commissioner Michael Owen, Commissioner Joshua Wostal, Commissioner Harry Cohen, Commissioner Pat Kemp, Councilmember Lynn Hurtak, Councilmember Alan Clendenin, Councilmember Guido Maniscalco, School Board Member Jessica Vaughn, Charles Klug, Greg Slater, Justin Willits, Planning Commissioner Nigel Joseph

The following members were absent/excused: Mayor Nate Kilton, Joe Lopano

A quorum was met in person.

III. Approval of Minutes *(Timestamp 0:06:50)* – December 13, 2023

Chair Myers sought a vote to approve the December 13, 2023. Councilmember Maniscalco moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Commissioner Cohen. The voice vote passed unanimously.

IV. Public Comment On Agenda Items *(Timestamp 0:07:04)* (up to 3 minutes per speaker) Additional comments made via [Social Media](#) and [Email](#) may be requested.

Rick Fernandez: Representing the Tampa Heights Civic Association. Went over the history of the pollution/noise wall at Robles Park to be constructed between the park and the interstate. There have been different solutions presented but no resolution. He is bringing it to the TPO Board so it can be addressed.

Lena Young Green: Expressed concern for the quality of the air, water, and soil, the preferred barrier at the Robles Park area is living trees. There is the possibility of the creation of a heat island in this area. The neighborhood is asking that the TPO Board support the request and continue having the conversation.

Commissioner Myers requested this issue be put on the agenda for February for discussion.

V. Committee Reports and Advance Comments (Rick Fernandez, CAC Chair and Harmoni McGee, TPO Staff) *(Timestamp 0:14:08)*

- A. **CAC Meeting January 8, 2024** (Rick Fernandez, CAC Chair) – the written report is available upon request

- Had a robust conversation on the topic from public comment re: the installment of a living wall at Robles Park. The CAC supports the living wall request and suggested that grants may be available for the maintenance.
- Approved the following:
 - Review of officers selected for 2024
 - I-75 TIP Amendment from the Tampa Bypass Canal to Fowler Avenue, approved 14 – 0. There was interest in whether or not this would impact a future Bypass Canal trail.
 - 2050 Plan for Freight and Goods Movement and the Hillsborough County Truck Route Plan, approved 14 – 0
 - Review of the CAC Geographic and Demographic representation. Efforts have been made to more closely match the county population. Suggestions were made. The CAC voted unanimously to accept this report.
- The CAC requested presentations from FDOT, Tampa Heights, and the City of Tampa regarding the noise/ living wall in Tampa Heights.

B. Other Committees

- LRC – December 20, 2023
 - The LRC meeting heard status reports on:
 - Courtney Campbell Causeway Vulnerability Assessment and Resiliency Overview
 - Fowler Avenue Studies
 - Sunshine Line Update
- TDCB – December 16, 2023
 - Action Items
 - 2023 Meeting Calendar
 - FDOT Tentative Work Program and TPO Comments
 - i. The Board had no comments
 - Northside Behavioral Health Coordination Contract
 - MacDonald Training Center Coordination Contract
 - Metropolitan Ministries Coordination Contract
 - Status Reports
 - Health Buddies Program update
 - Decision-making Steps to Create a Regional MPO
- TAC – January 8, 2024
 - Approved Action Items
 - TIP Amendment from I-75 from the Tampa Bypass Canal to Fowler Avenue. Expressed concern for the Bypass Canal Trail impact.

Emails and Social Media: email, social media comments and letters are available upon request. These were provided to the TPO Board on January 9, 2024.

VI. Consent Agenda *(Timestamp 0:00:00)*

A. Committee Appointments

- TDCB – Abbie Walters, by the Florida Department of Elder Affairs
- ITS – Samantha Flores, as an alternate by City of Plant City

B. City of Tampa Traffic Counts Interlocal Agreement

- C. CAC Demographic and Geographic Representation Review** – Planning Commissioner Joseph requested that an addendum be added to the document, specifically the methodologies for calculating the representations. **Planning Commissioner Joseph moved to add an addendum directing staff to look at more granular methods going forward for doing this analysis, seconded by Councilmember Maniscalco. The voice vote passed unanimously.**

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

VII. Action Items

- A. TIP Amendment: I-75 from Tampa Bypass Canal to Fowler Avenue** (Elizabeth Watkins, TPO Staff) *(Timestamp 0:23:23)*
- Went over project overview
 - Looked at the summary of changes – construction acceleration the addition of funds
 - Review of the project timeline
 - Went over outreach for amendment; noted positive new story supporting this amendment

Recommended Action: Approve the I-75 from Tampa Bypass Canal and Fowler Amendment to the FY23/24-27/28 TIP.

Discussion:

It was noted that the CAC passed this item unanimously.

Councilmember Maniscalco moved to approve the TIP Amendment, seconded by Commissioner Cohen. The roll call vote passed 14 – 0.

- B. 2024 Gulf Coast Safe Streets Summit Interlocal Funding Agreement** (Lisa Silva, TPO Staff) *(Timestamp 0:28:48)*
- Went over the origins of the funds to be transferred
 - Indicated that Hillsborough County stepped up to host this year due to the turnover of staff in this year in Pasco County.
 - Will be held in conjunction with Florida Bicycle Pedestrian Safety Coalition Summit, October 8 – 9, 2024; location will be at Port Tampa Bay

Recommended Action: Approve the Interlocal Funding Agreement in support of the 2024 Gulf Coast Safe Streets Summit and allow the TPO to receive the funds transfer from Polk TPO.

Councilmember Maniscalco moved to approve the Interlocal Funding Agreement in support of the 2024 Gulf Coast Safe Streets Summit and allow the TPO to receive the funds transfer from Polk TPO, seconded by Commissioner Kemp. The voice vote passed unanimously.

VIII. Status Reports

- A. FDOT Freight Analysis** (Brian Hunter, FDOT) *(Timestamp: 0:33:12)*

- Went over the approach for the analysis; provided what type of vehicle is considered a truck, anything over 2 axles
- Four major freight generators: Port Tampa Bay, Tampa International Airport, Sabal Park region (US 301 and I-4), Plant City
- Looked at the distribution footprint and routes chosen
- Noted that the major road links are in the agenda pack and highlighted the ones that go through the Urban Core
- Went over recommendations
 - Truck drivers need to get around in the most efficient way possible
 - Look at I-75, I-4, US 92, US 301, SR 39
 - FDOT is looking at operations improvements to assist in guiding trucks to desired routes

Discussion:

It was noted that the port is going to be dramatically increasing their intake; it is going to be extremely important to move the freight effectively and efficiently. Port Tampa Bay discussed the operation increase all along the port. Many roads are being maintained by the port. There is also freight coming into the cruise terminals in addition to additional cruise ships. It was noted that January is Human Trafficking Awareness Month; the port promotes awareness to the truck drivers. There was discussion about getting an expansion of I-275 N back on the TIP and getting it prioritized in addition to looking further at improvements to I-75. It was noted that the PD&E for I-275 has been done. Clarification was asked if truckers are diverting off the highway when there are challenges. They are not getting off as they want to be on the highways. It was brought up that the expansion of rail; the focus of I-275 should be on moving workers. It was asked if it was possible to have a mobility freight study that could be done and to refresh a study on increased rail movement. There are rail points along the port. The challenge is working with CSX; they prefer to do longer hauls. The capability exists, CSX has to agree to take it. It was **noted** that the future of moving freight is not moving it in the Urban Core but moving it around; there is going to have to be east/west movement.

Councilmember Maniscalco moved to receive the report, seconded by Commissioner Kemp. The voice vote passed unanimously.

B. Plan Hillsborough 2024 – 2029 Strategic Plan (Melissa Dickens, Planning Commission Staff)
(Timestamp 0:57:27)

- Went over the background of the plan
- Looked at the project timeline and the timeline
- Reviewed the highlights from the All Staff Survey and the Board Retreat
- Looked at the overview of the draft and the four pillars and goals – the numbering does not indicate priority: Integrated and Connected Communities, Partnerships and Community Engagement, Resilient Natural and Built Environment, Technology and Operational Enhancements
 - Highlighted how the TPO fits into each of the pillars
 - Received comments from the Planning Commission to refine the Integrated and Connected Communities goal

- Went over the next steps and presentation schedule

Councilmember Maniscalco moved to receive the report, seconded by Councilmember Clendenin. The voice vote passed unanimously.

C. 2050 Plan Outreach Survey Objectives (Harmoni McGee, TPO Staff) *(Timestamp 1:06:00)*

- Went over the name of the campaign and how it fits with the community; Access 2050
- Going to be meeting people where they are – several different ways to complete the survey
 - Looked at a high level of the survey
- Using Metroquest system – went over some of the analysis abilities that can be used real-time to make sure a good cross section is obtained
- Went over the timeline of the survey
- Noted the incentives being offered for those who take the survey
- Requested the TPO Board provide goals and objectives as to what a successful outreach campaign would look like
- Looked at how assistance can be offered

Discussion:

It was asked how the prizes would be balanced in fairness. Anyone who takes the survey can win along with people who don't complete the survey, they can contact staff to be entered to win. It was pointed out that with online engagement, large numbers can be deceiving. It was asked if any identifiers would be collected. Yes, demographic information will be requested: zip, age, and race.

Commissioner Owen moved to receive the report, seconded by Planning Commissioner Joseph. The voice vote passed unanimously.

IX. Executive Director's Report *(Timestamp 1:13:06)*

A. Special TPO Board Meeting February 6, 2024, at 10 AM.

- Went over proposed topics for this meeting
- Information will be provided in advance

B. Filled two TPO staff vacancies; both will be starting in January 2024

C. Reviewed legislative bills being considered and the potential impacts: SB 1032, SB 1678, SB 28

X. Old Business & New Business *(Timestamp 1:17:00)*

A. Next TPO Board meeting is February 14, 2024

B. Councilmember Hurtak directed the TPO Staff to add a freight rail study to the FDOT UPWP and scope what that study would include.

Discussion:

It was asked what type of actionable items would be produced from this. Several studies are done but don't go anywhere. Funding a study would come down to the TPO Board approving the UPWP later in the year. If staff begins exploring study possibilities now, actionable items could come out of the discussions before making recommendations. Clarification was asked if this study would be limited to freight only. Yes, that is the request. The study would be to start planning for now and

the conversation for the future. The long-term sustainability of trucking with employees, efficiency, etc. may be in question. Looking at alternative ways to move freight is important. This type of study would show where the benefit would impact freight on roads. It was also expressed that CSX be invited to a future meeting to be part of this discussion.

- C. It was asked if the living wall at Robles Park is something that can be discussed. Secretary Gwynn provided background information on this topic. FDOT found a way to put a wall in. Different options were presented before finding funding from the federal government including a living wall, trellis wall, etc. FDOT canvassed the area and asked what type of wall residents would like to use. If a concrete wall is not put in, this is the only part of the stretch that would not be a wall. FDOT would put landscaping in front of the wall.

XI. ADJOURNMENT – The meeting adjourned at 11:26 AM

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



Hillsborough TPO
Transportation
Planning Organization

Committee Reports

Livable Roadways Committee Meeting on December 20

The LRC heard status reports on:

- Courtney Campbell Causeway Vulnerability Assessment and Resiliency Overview
- 2050 Plan Needs Assessment for Good Repair and Resilience

Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board Meeting on December 16

The TDCB took action to approve:

- 2023 Meeting Calendar
- FDOT Tentative Work Program and TPO Comments
 - The Board had no comments.
- Northside Behavioral Health Coordination Contract
- MacDonal Training Center Coordination Contract
- Metropolitan Ministries Coordination Contact
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The TDCB heard status reports on:

- Health Buddies Program Update
- Fowler Avenue Studies
- Sunshine Line Update
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A verbal summary will be given for the following:

Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) Meeting on January 4
Intelligent Transportation Systems Committee Meeting on January 5
Technical Advisory Committee Meeting on January 9