



2023 Annual Report

P l a n H i l l s b o r o u g h

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Letter from the Executive Director

Melissa Zornitta, FAICP

Plan Hillsborough has faced a number of changes and challenges this year, which have proven to be opportunities for our team to showcase our adaptability and resilience. From continued staff changes to a high number of plan amendment applications, our team's dedication and innovative spirit have shown throughout.

We have had some significant changes in personnel with the retirement of long serving TPO Executive Director Beth Alden, AICP, departure of Assistant TPO Executive Director Allison Yeh, AICP, and several other staff leaving for various reasons. Their contributions over the years have been vast and have improved the quality of life in Hillsborough County. Losing institutional knowledge is a challenge, but it also brings opportunity to learn new approaches and have fresh perspectives. We are thrilled to welcome Dr. Johnny Wong as the new TPO Executive Director. His leadership is invigorating the team with renewed opportunities for collaboration within and external to the agency.

Amidst the uncertainty of

changes and sometimes daunting workload, the agency has stayed true to our values of adaptability and creativity, making a difference in the community, teamwork and stewardship, and trust and transparency. We have benefitted from great partnerships with both the City of Tampa and the County on updating their Comprehensive Plans with new approaches to growth, housing affordability, sustainability, and mobility. Studies were completed or are underway on electric vehicle infrastructure, a vision plan for the Fowler Avenue corridor, an update to the Plant City Northeast Master Plan, safety measures along Sligh and Waters avenues, and community plans in Valrico and Palm River-Progress Village. These are just a few examples of the many projects undertaken this year.

To get all this work done, we are pleased to continue to partner with allied agencies and organizations. We have seen great success in collaborating with the Environmental Protection Commission (EPC) on implementing the recently received air quality monitoring grant. Our partnership with



the University of South Florida's Masters in Urban and Regional Planning (MURP) program allowed us to expand our Fellowship program to a total of five fellows, allowing staff assistance with the workload and personnel changes with extra expertise.

I also want to recognize that our staff's resilience has been crucial to navigating the changes and challenges of 2023. By providing support, training, and flexible work arrangements, we empowered our employees to thrive in a dynamic environment. We have a strong team that I am very proud of. Together I know we can build on the momentum created this year to continue to innovate and provide excellent service to our community.



About Plan Hillsborough

Who we are

Our agency provides staff support to the Hillsborough County City-County Planning Commission, the Hillsborough Transportation Planning Organization, and the Hillsborough River Interlocal Planning Board. We serve over 1.5 million residents in Unincorporated Hillsborough County and the Cities of Tampa, Temple Terrace, and Plant City.

What we do

With a common goal of advancing the community's vision for the future, each of our partner jurisdictions is required to develop a long-range Comprehensive Plan to be adopted by local elected officials. Working in tandem with the Comprehensive Plans, the Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) directs federal and state dollars towards transportation investments we value in our community.

Together, the Comprehensive Plans and the LRTP guide our community's growth over the next 20 years. Our agency also oversees plan amendments and conducts specialized studies and consistency reviews for requested changes to the Comprehensive Plans to allow us to keep pace with emerging trends and innovative ideas. In anticipation of growing to two million residents by 2050, the plans we make today will shape how our community adapts to this rapid growth tomorrow.

Community planning touches nearly every facet of our lives — where we live and work, what transportation options we have, opportunities for recreation, how and where we will grow, and how to protect our community assets.



Hillsborough County City-County Planning Commission

Promotes, coordinates, collaborates with, and facilitates the involvement of all people in comprehensive planning and visioning to improve economic development opportunities and quality of life in our community.



Hillsborough Transportation Planning Organization

A long-range transportation policy-making board made up of local government and transportation agency representatives planning for more than \$1.5 billion in state and federally funded multimodal transportation investments in the first five years of each 20+ year plan.



Hillsborough River Interlocal Planning Board and Technical Advisory Council

Responsible for promoting collaborative planning, regulation, and development along the river corridor while ensuring the environmental health of the river running through Hillsborough County and the Cities of Tampa and Temple Terrace.

By the Numbers

2023

Community

Clients served (online and phone inquires)	1,978
Presentations to businesses, community, and stakeholder groups	90
Planning Commission, River Board, and TPO Board and committee meetings	125

Plan Amendments

Number of plan amendments to the Future Land Use Map or text of the Comprehensive Plan to change the density, intensity, or range of allowable uses for a property or land area.

Unincorporated Hillsborough County (UHC)	23
City of Tampa (COT)	26
Temple Terrace (TT)	1
Plant City (PC)	9

Other Land Use Planning

Percentage of permits issued within the Urban Service Area	87%
Consistency reviews of proposed rezonings, annexations, right-of-way vacations, and port permits to ensure consistency with the Comprehensive Plan	364
Local government agreement rate for rezonings *Staff in agreement with elected official decisions	86%
Local government agreement rate for plan amendments *Planning Commission in agreement with elected official decisions UHC - 60%; COT - 77%; TT - 100%; PC - 100%	71%
Maps created	1,940

Social

Website Page Visits	186,988
X (formerly Twitter) followers	12,941
Facebook followers	4,284
Instagram followers	141
Email subscribers	20,605



Be Involved

Public engagement is at the center of all we do. Our agency and partners take great pride in involving as many citizens of all races, ethnicities, and socio-economic levels in planning for our future. We invite and encourage public involvement at meetings, special forums, and events. You can even join one of several committees reporting directly to our boards. We are also available to speak to neighborhood and civic associations on a variety of topics.

Stay up-to-date on the latest news and events by subscribing to our monthly e-newsletter, *Connections to Tomorrow*.

planhillsborough.org/be-involved



Strategic Plan

In August 2018, our agency adopted the **2018–2023 Plan Hillsborough Strategic Plan** developed in collaboration with the agency's three boards and staff. Implementation is a priority for the Strategic Plan, and the agency works to ensure this plan evolves to produce successful outcomes for our agency and the community. The five-year plan outlines near-

term objectives across the agency and informs prioritization of resources and strategies to enhance the multidisciplinary work of the agency. In the coming pages, we'll highlight milestones and accomplishments related to these seven strategic priorities.





Citizen Engagement

Creating the new Valrico Community Plan

At the request of the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC), the Hillsborough County-City County Planning Commission and Hillsborough County staff have begun working with the community to create Valrico's first Community Plan. The Plan will be developed in a process that involves the community at each phase and discusses the special and unique characteristics of Valrico to create a communitywide vision, establish community goals, develop strategies to further those goals, and create a community concept map.

A draft of the plan's vision statement and goals will be brought back to the community for feedback in early 2024, with adoption scheduled later in the year.

Community Air Quality Monitoring Project progress

The Hillsborough TPO, USF, and Environmental Protection Commission embarked on a strategic, multi-year initiative to study and monitor air quality in underserved communities most burdened by traffic related air pollution using low-cost air quality monitors. The project findings will inform recommendations to mitigate air quality impacts and disparities in air pollution concentration levels. Building on the success of the Low-Cost Air Quality Monitoring Pilot Study, the TPO received funding of approximately \$500,000 from the US Environmental Protection Agency and Federal Highway Administration to develop a Community Air Monitoring Network along interstates. Data

from the air monitors are publicly available via interactive, real-time air quality maps. Community capacity building efforts raise awareness and engage the community in the conversation, process, and review of local air quality, marking a significant stride toward community-led environmental initiatives. This strategic endeavor not only monitors air quality but also empowers communities to help shape a cleaner, healthier future.



Palm River-Progress Village Community Plan gets an update

In September 2022, the BOCC requested Planning Commission and Hillsborough County staff to update the Greater Palm River Area Community Plan, originally adopted in 2008. Staff received helpful input from resident comments and SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats) activities during the hybrid community open houses held in November. An online survey was also made available for those who were unable to attend the meetings and wanted to weigh in on the update.

Following the community open houses, Planning Commission staff was available in the community for open office hours once per month. Staff welcomed members of the community to chat one-on-one and ask any questions they had about the update process or how to get involved. Feedback was also gathered through the Community Plan Advisory Committee (CPAC), the voluntary group comprised of residents, community leaders, and stakeholders. The update process will continue into 2024.



FLiP and FLiP Jr. encourage area youth to explore community planning

The Future Leaders in Planning (FLiP) summer student leadership development program introduced high school students to urban planning as a career option. The program, held from May 30 to June 2, provided students with exposure to planning from both public and private sector perspectives.

The program's success was made possible through partnerships with Hillsborough County Public Schools, ULI Tampa Bay, and the Sun Coast Section of APA Florida, along with many other contributors.

Additionally, a junior version of FLiP was conducted in partnership with the Tampa Heights Junior Civic Association, introducing even younger children to community planning and transportation safety concepts through interactive activities.



Connect with us on social media!



@HillsboroughMPO
@HillsCoPlanCom
@PlnHillsborough



@PlanHillsborough
@HillsboroughTPO



@PlanHillsborough



Planning Commission - Hillsborough County
Hillsborough TPO
Vision Zero Hillsborough



Plan Hillsborough
(Hillsborough County City-
County Planning Commission)

Hillsborough County Future Land Use Section update engages residents

The update to the Future Land Use Section of the Comprehensive Plan will serve as a guide for how and where Hillsborough County will grow over the next 20+ years.

Community input is essential to accurately reflect the desires of those who live in the County. To maximize citizen input and engagement with this update, staff utilized various methods, including a MetroQuest survey, a series of public engagement meetings, and a Project Advisory Team (PAT). The MetroQuest survey was available in English and Spanish and received over 1,800 responses. In addition, seven public meetings were offered from May through November, both virtually and in-person at various locations within the County. Five PAT meetings were offered in-person at the County Center, with recordings, presentations, and summaries provided online. The PAT was utilized to identify areas for change within the Section, and to help spread the word to other stakeholders and the public about the engagement opportunities.



A year to remember: 41st Annual Planning & Design Awards

This year's awards recognized inspirational people for plans, programs, projects, and developments with big impacts that uplifted the community. Some were dedicated to preserving our natural assets or rich history while others showcased transformative developments changing the Tampa skyline and elevating the entire region.

Award winners were selected by a panel of distinguished judges from outside of Hillsborough County. These judges awarded four Awards of Merit, five Awards of Excellence, and six Awards of Outstanding Contribution to the Community, including one Jan Abell Award.



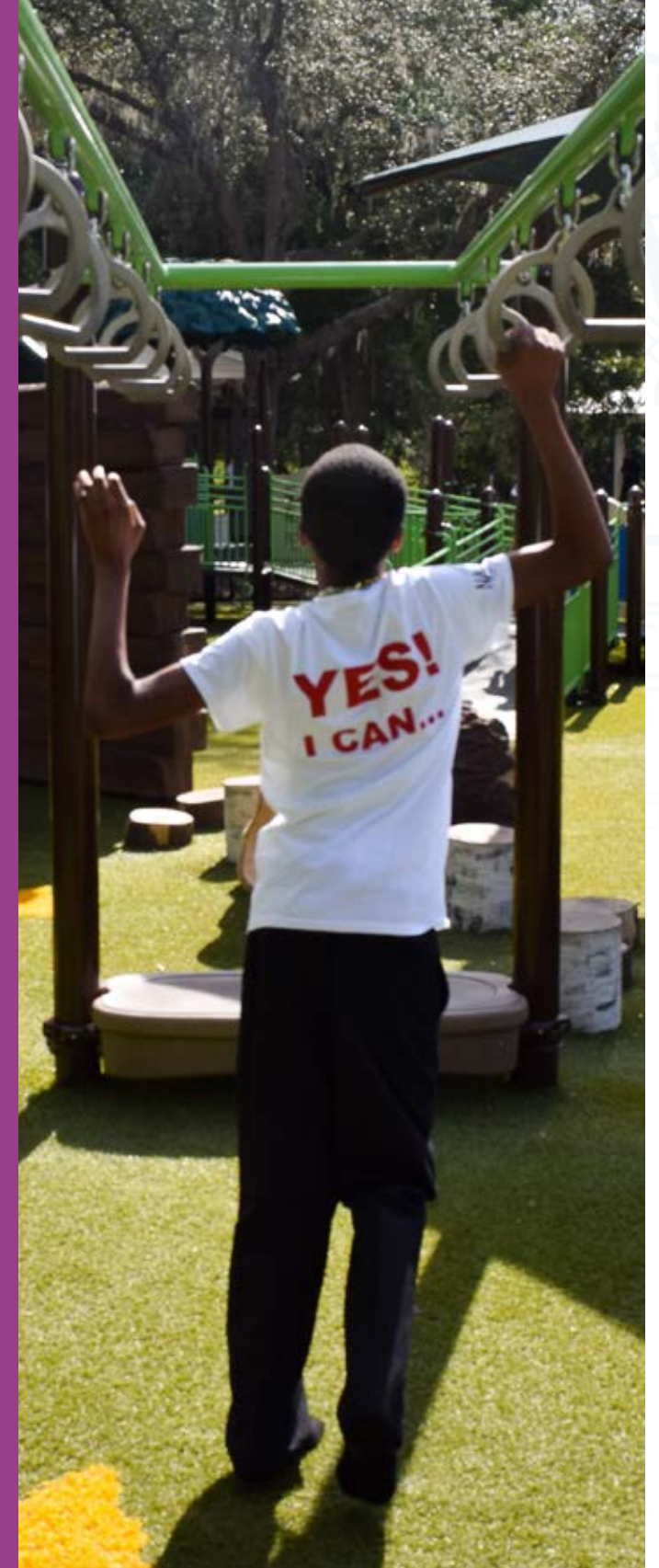
Citizen Advisory Committee expands

The project to expand the Hillsborough TPO's Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) is underway, with applications accepted on a rolling basis. The initiative aims to recruit volunteers from all across Hillsborough County to participate in transportation planning discussions and provide guidance to the TPO Board on critical policies affecting community travel. The CAC offers flexible virtual and in-person participation options, and emphasizes inclusivity by recruiting members based on geographic and demographic characteristics to participate.

Webinars, conferences, and speaking events

Throughout the year, staff was honored to be a part of various educational opportunities such as:

- 2023 APA Florida Planning Conference
- Florida Gulf Coast Trail Forum
- USF Introduction to Urban Planning Class
- JACDC Partners Coalition
- Tiger Bay Club
- Tampa Bay Climate Alliance & New Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church Ministry Fair – TPO Air Quality Monitoring outreach
- Port Tampa Bay & Keep Tampa Bay Beautiful - Great Port Clean Up
- Minority Enterprise Development Corporation of Tampa Bay, Inc.'s Transportation Industry Panel
- World Car Free Day
- CNU Tampa Bay's Fall Social – Urban Planning for Water Quality Dialogue Panel
- ACE Mentor Program of America
- Café con Tampa – City of Tampa Future Land Use Update
- Info Brown Bag Quarterly (BBQ) – Florida State University's North Star Legacy Communities Project
- Great American Teach In





Planning Partnerships

Bullard Parkway funding and pedestrian safety enhancements

In partnership with the City of Temple Terrace and the TPO, Hillsborough County began producing conceptual designs for the Bullard Parkway corridor to quickly implement some low-cost safety treatments.

In 2017, the three agencies worked together to produce a Complete Streets Study on Bullard Parkway from 56th Street N to Morris Bridge Road. The focus of this study was to reduce the speed appropriately, facilitate bicyclist and pedestrian travel across Woodard Bridge, and accommodate pedestrian crossings near the Temple Terrace Library and downtown area.

The Bullard Parkway project remains a top safety priority listed on the TPO's Transportation Improvement Program, and some of the recommendations will be implemented later in 2024.



Crosswalks to Classrooms at Potter Elementary: Implementation of the TPO School Areas Study recommendations

The TPO provided supplies for the Crosswalks to Classroom project at Potter Elementary School on May 13. The community came together with Vision Zero, Sidewalk Stompers, Walk Bike Tampa, Hillsborough County School District, and East Tampa Community Redevelopment Association to bring creativity and visibility to a popular crosswalk near the school. This project implemented recommendations from the School Transportation Safety Study the TPO prepared for the City of Tampa. Sidewalk Stompers also helped implement new yard signs that were in the TPO's study, which are now available from the TPO lending library at the Plan Hillsborough offices in County Center.



Changes to policies regarding accessory dwelling units

Staff initiated an amendment to the City of Tampa Comprehensive Plan that would properly define the term "accessory dwelling unit(s)" (ADU(s)) while also amending the policies that consistently use this term. The updated definition states: independent units contained within, attached to, or detached from a single-family dwelling on the same zoning lot. In addition to this definition update, the amendment created a new policy that clarified how ADUs would be regulated. Tampa City Council adopted this item in June.

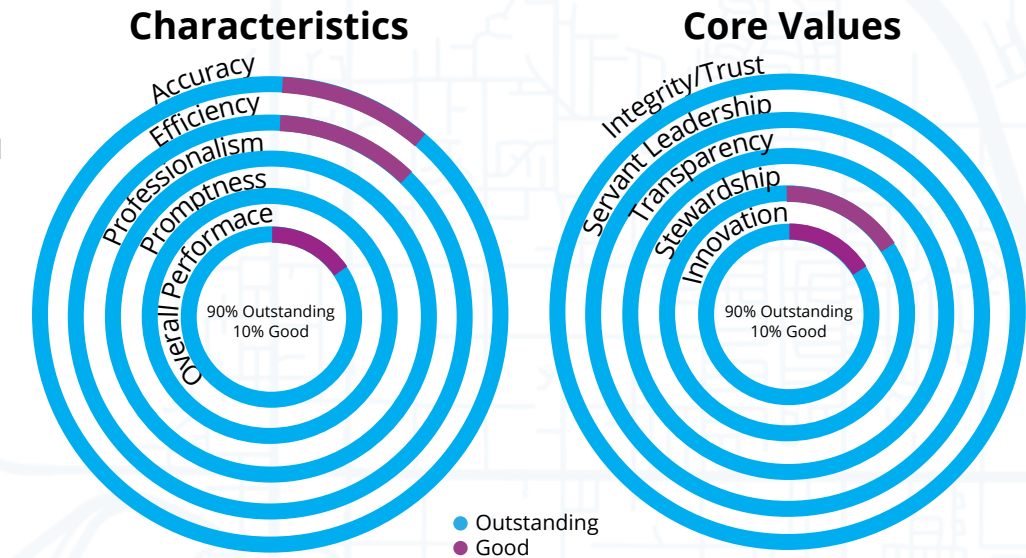
Updating the Hillsborough County Comprehensive Plan to minimize impacts from septic tanks

Planning Commission staff worked with EPC and Hillsborough County staff to update Rural Area utilities policies in the Hillsborough County Comprehensive Plan with the primary intent of addressing potential negative environmental impacts from septic tanks.

Proposed changes include new policies to allow Rural Area utility extension for documented environmental issues caused by septic or private/franchise infrastructure and/or to prevent the clustering of new septic tanks and private wells. Staff also proposed updates to reduce the number of potential new septic tanks and private wells. Additionally, the amendment adds a new policy to outline the process for enabling Rural Area utility extensions serving unique circumstances when there is an overriding public interest, as determined by the BOCC.

Client government survey results

The agency provides annual performance surveys to each of our four local governments to evaluate the services we provide. The agency is evaluated on specific characteristics and on how well it is meeting its core values. Each survey rates the agency on a five-point scale: outstanding, good, average, fair, or poor.



Homegrown Hillsborough interactive food assessment map helps shape priorities

The Hillsborough County Extension Service's Homegrown Hillsborough initiative educates residents about their local food system, covering production, distribution, marketing, access, and consumption. Partnering with the UF/IFAS Hillsborough County Extension Office and USF MURP program, Plan Hillsborough is creating an interactive food assessment map. This map will identify areas for improvement, helping enhance access to fresh, nutritious, economical, and sustainable food. It will also help shape Homegrown Hillsborough's priorities and will be accessible online for the public to explore food-related resources in their area.





Linking Land Use & Transportation

Centers and Connections in the Unincorporated Hillsborough County Comprehensive Plan

Centers and Connections (C&C) is a policy approach to incentivize redevelopment and infill in the Future Land Use Section of the Hillsborough County Comprehensive Plan. The intent of the policy language and map is to streamline the Comprehensive Plan amendment process by allowing density and intensity bonuses within certain areas, called Centers and Connections. This will direct growth to areas where it is desired and maintainable. The bonuses are tied to specific design provisions and require improvements as a part of development, giving additional public benefit if someone were to choose to utilize the bonus. There were many different factors considered when developing the C&C map, including places that support walkability, centers that are already designated for growth, and major intersections and activity centers.

This policy approach will be considered for adoption by the Hillsborough BOCC in early 2024.

Fowler Avenue gets a new future vision

Fowler Avenue runs through both Hillsborough County and the City of Tampa, each subject to their respective regulations, and presents a persistent planning challenge for developers, businesses, and community members alike. Plan Hillsborough's Fowler Avenue Vision Plan studied land uses, transportation, and community characteristics to create a cohesive vision for redevelopment and future development along the corridor.

Community feedback was an important aspect of the creation of this plan. Staff conducted two open houses throughout the project, joined by partners from Hillsborough County, City of Tampa, FDOT District 7, HART, and community leaders from the University area. The study also hosted walking audit tours of the area, focus groups of local businesses and organizations, surveys, and virtual information meetings. This feedback was vital to the creation of the Vision Plan's Character Districts, which highlight specific portions of the study area and the future planning outcomes that may be accomplished with policy.



In addition to the Vision Plan, the study is continuing to look holistically at the corridor and identify implementation strategies with our partners to ensure the vision is achievable. Going into 2024, the project will provide policy changes in both the City of Tampa and Hillsborough County Comprehensive Plans.

Tampa Comprehensive Plan FLU Assessment gives key target area recommendations

Planning Commission staff, with support from City of Tampa staff, worked with a consultant to prepare two rounds of recommendations for updates to the Future Land Use Section (FLU) of the Tampa Comprehensive Plan. The recommendations target key areas of update for the Section, such as bonus structure incentives, city form, and opportunities for additional single family attached housing. The proposed changes respond to housing affordability, limited land availability, community and neighborhood compatibility, and the need for flexibility and predictability within the development review process.

Building upon a detailed analysis and an initial listening session process, the project team held a number of meetings with community and stakeholder groups, reaching hundreds of residents. Recommendations were then shared with Tampa City Council and the Planning Commission in Fall 2023. Plan amendments will be prepared in early 2024.

High number of Comprehensive Plan amendments

During the May cycle for the City of Tampa, staff processed a total of 12 amendments, with two publicly initiated updates to the Comprehensive Plan for the Environmental and Mobility Sections. This is an unusually high amount of privately initiated amendments, as staff typically receive four to six per cycle. Staff have processed a total of 26 amendments for the City of Tampa, with 22 privately initiated and four publicly initiated.

For the fiscal year, Hillsborough County had 23 plan amendments, while Plant City had nine and Temple Terrace had one.



Tampa Comprehensive Plan updates Mobility & Environmental sections

As a part of the multi-phased update of the City of Tampa Comprehensive Plan, staff initiated two significant portions of the plan in May – the Mobility Section and Environmental and Sustainability Section. These updates implement the Comprehensive Plan Update Vision, developed by hundreds of Tampa residents in the summer of 2022. Both Sections were adopted by City of Tampa City Council.

The Mobility Section updates and modernizes mobility-related language and maps in the Comprehensive Plan. The Section has five main goals: multimodal options; economic vitality; sustainability, resilience and health; equity; and safety. It also provides an overarching framework for mobility-related City initiatives and aims to improve citizens' ability to get to the places they need to go in an equitable and safe way, regardless of mode choice.

The Environmental and Sustainability Section provides a framework for the conservation, use, and protection of natural resources, wetlands, lakes, soil,

the Hillsborough River, and the conservation and use of alternative energy. Existing resource maps within the Comprehensive Plan are also being updated.

Exploring options for strategic expansion in the Urban Service Area

Strategic expansion of the Urban Service Area (USA) is a proactive approach to growth within the Future Land Use Section of the Hillsborough County Comprehensive Plan. The USA pinpoints where current growth is focused and helps to create compatible development patterns that efficiently utilize land and county services. Up until now, expansion of the USA has only been through applicant-driven request. Plan Hillsborough understands the need for a proactive strategy for expansion that is publicly initiated. This policy language provides criteria to consider in future identification of areas when determining when, how, and what we should look for in strategic expansion. This policy approach will be considered for adoption by the BOCC in early 2024.

Plant City Northeast Master Plan update on the way

As part of an ongoing effort to address growth and development in Plant City, Plan Hillsborough staff is working jointly with City staff to update the Northeast Plant City Master Plan's Preferred Land Use Scenario Map. This map is intended to provide strategic guidance in planning decisions for lands in the northeast quadrant of Plant City. The update is intended to revisit the accuracy of the land uses and refresh the map based on current economic and environmental considerations and context. Currently, alternative land use scenarios are being developed to address fiscal and market demands in the Master Plan area. Strategic land use changes may also be considered to reconcile existing and desired future land use scenarios envisioned by the Master Plan and reflect evolving community priorities. The outcome of the land use scenarios is anticipated to be presented to the Plant City City Commission for consideration for adoption in 2024.



2050 LRTP reviews Revenues, State of Good Repair and Resilience, and Goods Movement needs assessments

The TPO is dedicated to ensuring efficient and sustainable transportation in the region. As part of the 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) update, staff is conducting a comprehensive State of Good Repair and Resilience analysis. This analysis delves into the current and future needs related to pavement, bridges, and transit assets, taking into account their resilience against potential challenges, such as natural disasters. Simultaneously, the TPO is launching two crucial projects under the LRTP focusing on optimizing truck routes and evaluating freight movement. These initiatives will emphasize community input and strive to balance economic benefits with environmental well-being. Through these efforts, the TPO aims to provide valuable recommendations that will guide future investments and maintenance efforts, fortifying the region's transportation infrastructure.

Updates to transit-oriented development policy language

Transit-oriented development (TOD) policies are included in both the City of Tampa and Hillsborough County Comprehensive Plans. Due to both jurisdictions' Future Land Use Sections being in the process of an update, the TOD language has been streamlined for clarity. Planning Commission staff have worked closely with the Hillsborough Area Regional Transit Authority (HART) and TPO staff to ensure the language is coordinated with ongoing studies and discussions related to TOD. This includes the HART TOD Pilot project, the HART Arterial Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project, and the City of Tampa's Streetcar Extension project.





Regionalism

TPO Merger Survey and Memorandum of Understanding considered

The Tampa Bay region is considering merging Hillsborough, Pasco, and Pinellas counties' Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) into a unified Tampa Bay MPO, emphasizing funding for major roads, public transit, greenway trails, and other network enhancements. A survey of the three counties was undertaken, and responses identified the following key transportation related priorities: building new rapid transit systems, widening or extending major roads, and improving bus/other transit services. Community goals, including connecting to jobs, making data-driven decisions, and supporting multi-modal options, were also emphasized in the survey results.

The three MPOs collaboratively produced a legislatively-required feasibility report outlining the potential benefits and costs of a merger. The report includes a Memorandum of Understanding which outlines the merger's framework and identifies essential provisions to guide the exploration in future years.



Jurisdiction populations expected to increase by 2050

Every five years staff conducts an exercise to update the planning population and employment projections. Land use planners from all partner jurisdictions are invited to participate. This year, staff collectively reviewed historical data and discussed current trends. The new planning projections cover the period of 2030-2050.

Unincorporated Hillsborough County

- 538,535 new residents
- 432,914 new jobs

City of Tampa

- 100,283 new residents
- 194,000 new jobs

City of Plant City

- 76,677 new residents
- 69,565 new jobs

City of Temple Terrace

- 35,000 new residents
- 12,000 new jobs

Participation at regional meetings

The agency continues to participate in and attend a number of forums, committees, and groups that focus on the larger Tampa Bay region. In 2023, the agency participated in over 56 regional meetings in the following committees and groups:

- Florida Metropolitan Planning Organization Advisory Council (MPOAC) - Noteworthy Practices Working Group and Freight & Rail Committee
- Sun Coast Transportation Planning Alliance (SCTPA) and Staff Directors Meeting
- Tampa Bay TMA Leadership Group
- Regional Multi-Use Trail Committee
- Courtney Cambell Causeway Scenic Corridor Committee
- Local Mitigation Strategy Working Group
- Agency on Bay Management (ABM) - Natural Resources and Environmental Review Committee
- Tampa Bay Regional Resiliency Coalition, with representation on the Management Planning Committee

A new committee role for SPEAR Division Director Shawn College

At the June 8 meeting of the ABM, Shawn College, AICP, Division Director for the Strategic Planning, Environmental, and Research (SPEAR) division and Executive Director for the Hillsborough River Board, was appointed Chair of the Natural Resources/Environmental Impact Review Committee. ABM plays a crucial role in addressing issues related to Tampa Bay, serving as a platform for discussions and advocacy for its protection, restoration, and sustainable use.

SCTPA transportation performance targets set

On June 23, the SCTPA set regional performance objectives covering safety, pavement and bridge conditions, system performance, and transit asset conditions. While not obligatory, this action aligns the region's goals with those of the six MPOs/TPOs that make up the Alliance. If these targets are met, the region could achieve a reduction of over 10% in fatal and serious injuries and a notable enhancement in pavement conditions for National Highway System (NHS) arterials, bringing them in line with the already satisfactory condition of NHS interstates. Additionally, it would result in more than 90% of NHS miles offering dependable travel times, with a particularly significant 14% improvement on interstates in Hillsborough County.

World Day of Remembrance emphasizes road safety

On November 17, the TPO organized an event at the Emanuel P. Johnson Recreation Center to commemorate the World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims. The solemn gathering served as a reminder of the devastating impact of road accidents on families and communities. It was also a call to action, urging decision-makers to confront the pressing issues contributing to the on-going road safety crisis. Organized under the Vision Zero initiative, the event emphasized proven safety solutions such as redesigning hazardous roads and prioritizing safety over speed.





Enabling Transportation Options

Vision Zero Streets study and survey conducted

Working with the City of Tampa and FDOT, the Hillsborough TPO conducted a study to improve safety and enhance vibrancy on Waters and Sligh avenues, which are identified as high-injury roads in the TPO's Vision Zero Action Plan. The study aimed to identify crash patterns, improve placemaking, and reduce risks using best practices. As part of this effort, a 10-minute survey was launched in both English and Spanish, gathering crucial community input on road changes and preservation. This survey, along with an Existing Conditions report, significantly informed the final recommendations.

In line with Vision Zero principles, solutions prioritized safety, especially for fatal and serious injury crashes and vulnerable road users like pedestrians and cyclists. Two public meetings were held: one in September for community ideas and one in October for feedback on proposed fixes. Approval of the study is scheduled for early 2024.

Florida Bike Month brings another opportunity to ride with Mayor Ross

In celebration of Florida Bike Month, residents of Temple Terrace were invited to ride with Mayor Andy Ross, elected officials, City staff, and agency partners. Prior to embarking on the ride, the crowd heard inspiring remarks from officials of FDOT, USF, and Mayor Ross who acknowledged Plan Hillsborough staff in attendance for contributions to planning in Temple Terrace. Those contributions include coordinating with County and Temple Terrace staff on funding safety projects on Bullard Parkway and supporting FDOT's work to transform 56th Street from a high-injury roadway to a place safe for all road users with consistent speeds, safety protections for cyclists, and crossing opportunities.



Electric Vehicle Study aims to expand charging station numbers

The demand for Electric Vehicles (EVs) and the need for more charging stations is surging. The TPO's Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Plan (EVIP) aims to guide electric vehicle and charger growth through policy recommendations.

Hillsborough currently has around 500 EV chargers spread throughout the county, with downtown Tampa and the University area having the highest concentrations. Despite the number of EVs in the County nearly doubling from 2018 to 2021, the EVIP predicts up to 69% of Hillsborough's vehicle fleet will be electric by 2050.

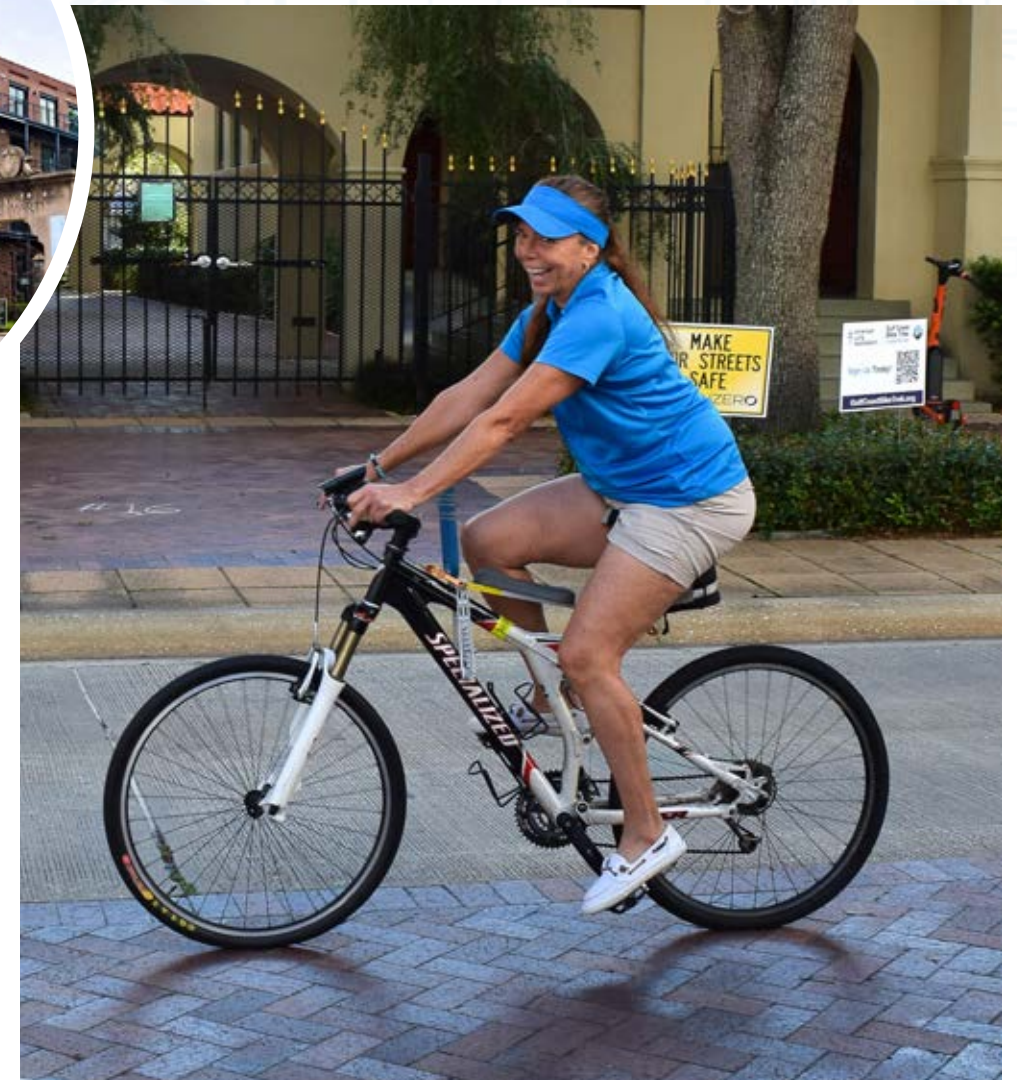
To handle this electrifying demand, the Plan suggests an additional 4,000 to 16,000 chargers be installed by 2050. One-quarter to one-half of onsite parking spaces for new multi-family and commercial developments should be EV capable or ready and 5 - 15% should have chargers installed, making EVs convenient for everyone. The EVIP also recommends ADA-accessible features for physical access and communication devices, ensuring that EV charging is inclusive while planning for secure payments and cybersecurity.

World Car Free Day celebrates alternative transportation options

The first annual World Car Free Day on September 23 was a vibrant celebration in three different locations around the City of Tampa; Midtown Commons, Ybor City, and Marion Street. Plan Hillsborough was a proud sponsor of this event, embracing healthier transportation, encouraging alternative options, and building a stronger community.

2050 LRTP Congestion Management and Crash Mitigation Needs Assessment studied

As a part of the 2050 LRTP, the Hillsborough TPO prepared a Needs Assessment for Congestion Management and Crash Mitigation. The overarching goal is to increase the efficiency and safety of transportation on local roadways. This Needs Assessment focuses on the most congested roads. Solutions include ramp metering on highways and real-time traffic signal control for other roadways. Additionally, the crash mitigation improvement recommendations include adding bike lanes, street lighting, and pedestrian crosswalks and signals, as well as reducing driveway density. Depending on the budget scenario, these treatments could result in a 70% delay reduction on congested roads and a 71% reduction in bike and pedestrian crashes on over 1,060 miles of roadway.



Passenger Rail Priorities Program submitted

In January, the Florida MPOAC's Freight & Rail Committee adopted the framework to establish a program with the goal of identifying metropolitan/MPO priorities for intercity passenger rail in Florida. Submitting priorities to the Passenger Rail Priorities Program (PRPP) organizes MPO-led planning efforts and serves as a unified pipeline of potential priority projects for FDOT to consider when advancing passenger rail systems in Florida. Like the MPOAC's successful Freight Priorities Program, the PRPP follows an annual cycle that calls for projects, verifies eligibility, and promotes MPO priorities for FDOT consideration as part of an annual list of projects.



Technology & Innovation

New demographics dashboards well received

Staff relaunched the Demographic and Economic Data project page on PlanHillsborough.org this year. This page organizes a variety of demographic and economic information through comprehensive and public-friendly dashboards available for a variety of geographies (e.g., jurisdictions, ZIP codes, planning areas, and utility service areas). For each area, the dashboard presents the user with tables and charts for dozens of demographic and economic variables, such as building permits, population, employment, and household income. In addition to the updated project page, staff has published several articles on economic and demographic issues to bring useful information in an accessible format to policymakers and the public.

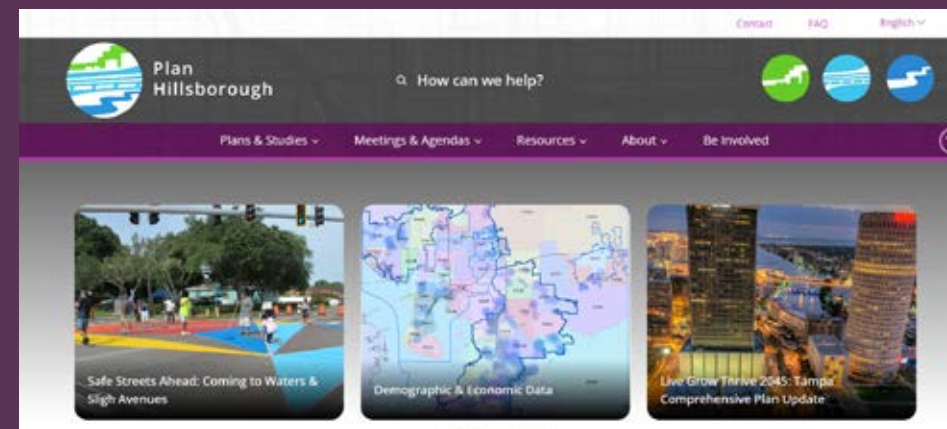
2050 LRTP and the Needs Assessment for Equity narrows down areas of focus

The 2050 LRTP is taking a fresh approach with its latest addition – a Needs Assessment for Equity that evaluates infrastructure quality and quantity in historically underserved areas. Combining data and input, the TPO identified 13 transportation focus areas, each carefully defined through collaboration with local governments, environmental justice areas, and the Nondiscrimination & Equity Plan. Staff is drilling into the details with performance measures. Initial findings highlight the most pressing historical underinvestments.

This is the first time the TPO has undertaken this equity assessment, allowing the team to approach planning for these initiatives in a more innovative light.

New website launch gives fresh look

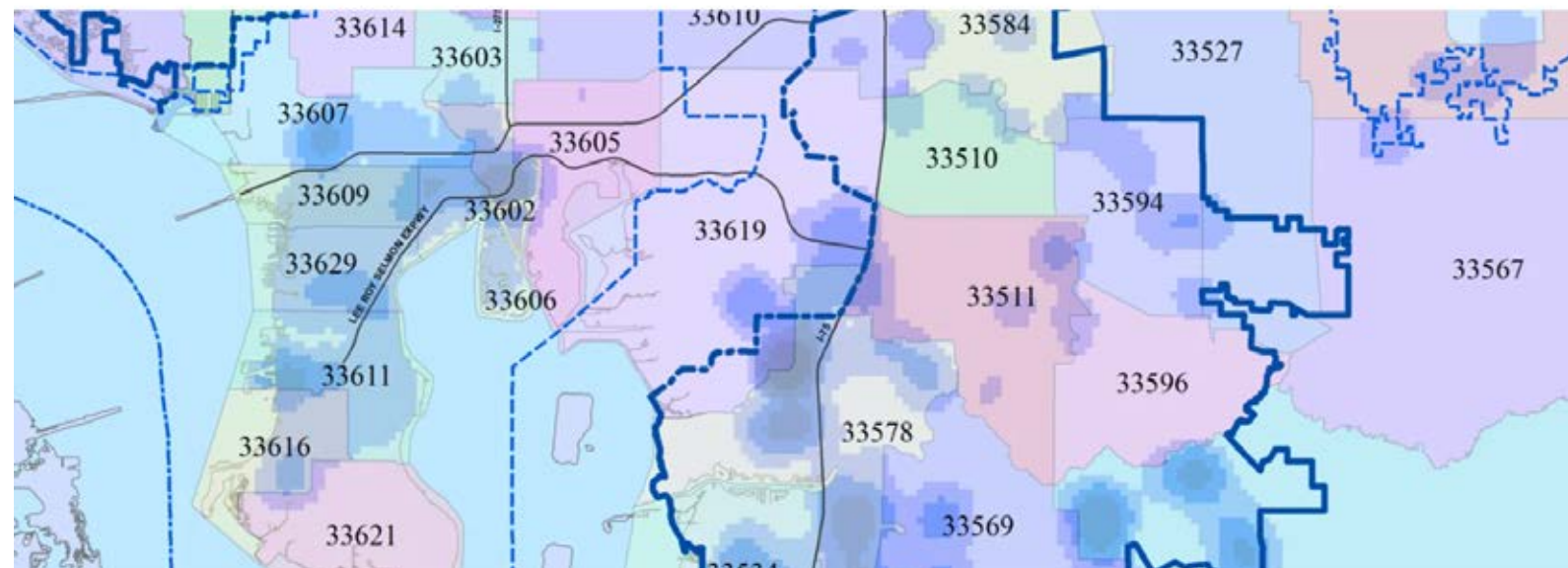
In May, Plan Hillsborough launched its new website featuring the same content and helpful information with a new look and feel. The new design focuses on accessibility and aims to simplify access to core documents, news, and ongoing projects. Completed projects, plans, and studies are now housed in the Planning Commission's digital collection courtesy of the Hillsborough County Public Library Cooperative.



Vision Framework Mapping Tool updated

To assist with the Hillsborough County Future Land Use Section update, staff created and updated the Vision Framework Mapping Tool. This is an interactive mapping tool that allows users to look at multiple layers of information throughout the County, including proposed Centers & Connections, existing transit routes, the Coastal High Hazard Area, developable and redevelopable land, and Future Land Use categories. This tool is also accessible to the public.

Demographic & Economic Data



Server operating system and network infrastructure upgrades

Planning Support Services staff upgraded the server operating system with advanced technology for security and troubleshooting. These upgrades allow for quicker and increased communications, faster and stronger Wi-Fi connections, and improved security.



Internal Agency Enhancements

Change has come to the TPO

This year marks a significant year for the TPO as a changing of the guard takes place. Executive Director Beth Alden, AICP, retired with a total of 22 years of service at Plan Hillsborough. When asked what some of her proudest accomplishments were, she mentioned major projects such as creating the Florida MPOAC's Passenger Rail Priorities, championing the Vision Zero movement, and collaborating with the school district on transportation safety and on-street quick-fixes. Beth expressed her gratitude for her time spent with the agency, stating, "I have felt incredibly, outrageously lucky to get to spend my time with a lot of people who dream of making our community a better place and are willing to work hard to make a difference!" Her post-retirement plans include pursuing her passion for writing and playing music.

The TPO selected Dr. Johnny Wong as the next Executive Director. Prior to his new appointment, Johnny served as the Executive Planner with a total of seven years working at the TPO. His career achievements include spearheading the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and setting an agency stakeholder response record for the LRTP. Johnny's appointment as Executive Director marks a new chapter in the organization's commitment to enhancing transportation planning and infrastructure for the benefit of the community.



User Fee Study for Tampa, Temple Terrace, and Plant City completed

Plan Hillsborough teamed up with MGT Consulting Group to study the fees associated with the services the Planning Commission provides to customers within the three cities. The study aimed to estimate the total cost of providing certain user services, identify the cost of each service, and provide recommendations for appropriate cost recovery. Key findings from MGT showed the current prices do not cover the full cost of providing services.

Overall, the study highlighted the need to adjust fees for plan amendment and rezoning reviews, as well as other services, and provided options for the agency to consider regarding fee structures and increases.

Updates to Dovico improve staff time tracking

Both the TPO and Planning Commission have undergone revisions to their time tracking system, called Dovico, for the 2024 fiscal year. The primary goal of these revisions is to simplify how time is tracked, making it easier for staff to allocate their time effectively.

Professional Development

Staff participated in insightful share sessions such as:

- Knowledge sharing session with retiring staff
- Share sessions related to conferences such as APA National, CNU, ESRI, FRPA, and HRFL

Valuable training sessions included:

- Two-part Emotional Intelligence Supervisor Training
- Culture and Identity workshop hosted by the National Association of Asian American Professionals
- Tips to prevent burnout and destigmatizing fatigue

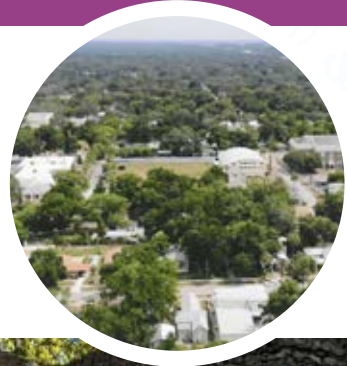
Social Committee events for this year included:

- Social hour at Sparkman Wharf in February
- Coffee social hour at Blind Tiger in May
- Crafting with co-workers session in July
- Guess the ghoul and Halloween bingo in October
- Holiday decorating in November
- Holiday potluck luncheon and Holiday cookie exchange in December



Recognition

In May, Plan Hillsborough was honored to receive a Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council Future of the Region Award in the Community Service category for our FLiP Jr. program with our community partner, the Tampa Heights Junior Civic Association. We are very proud of this program and the positive impact it continues to have empowering underserved youth in our community!



Receipts & Disbursements

	Receipts	Disbursements
Personnel		
Salaries	\$4,010,874	\$2,710,380
Benefits	\$1,954,768	\$3,118,780
Personnel Total	\$5,965,642	\$5,829,160
Capital Equipment		
Data Processing Equipment	\$12,000	\$0
Capital Equipment Total	\$12,000	\$0
Operating		
Legal Services	\$70,000	\$24,707
Data Processing Supplies / Services / Small Equipment	\$93,500	\$120,715
Consultant / Contractual Services	\$118,000	\$94,195
Training / Parking / Travel / County Vehicle Expense	\$71,422	\$83,596
Telecommunications / Internet Expense	\$15,000	\$7,027
Postage / Freight Services	\$10,000	\$20,327
Building / Equipment Maintenance / Other Rentals and Leases	\$2,200	\$2,637
Commercial / Liability Insurance Premiums	\$84,696	\$105,114
Printing / Office Supplies	\$61,500	\$35,590
Legal Advertising / Public Awareness Expense	\$37,000	\$58,045
Misc. Employee Related Expenses	\$19,250	\$28,044
Operating Total	\$582,568	\$579,996
Grand Total	\$6,560,210	\$6,409,156

Board Members

Hillsborough County City-County Planning Commissioners

Nigel M. Joseph, Chair
Matthew Buzza, Vice Chair**
Jess Louk, Vice Chair**
Karen Kress, AICP, Member-at-Large
Steven Bernstein*
Bryce Bowden
Giovanny Cardenas

Steve Cona*
Steven Fernandez
Vivienne Handy*
Hemant Saria
Alissa Sieban*
Tony Rodriguez, AICP (Ex-Officio)
Michelle Orton (Ex-Officio)

Hillsborough Transportation Planning Organization Board

County Commissioner Gwen Myers, Chair
City of Temple Terrace Mayor Andrew Ross, Vice Chair
County Commissioner Harry Cohen
County Commissioner Pat Kemp
County Commissioner Michael Owen
County Commissioner Joshua Wostal
Tampa City Councilmember Joseph Citro*
Tampa City Councilmember Alan Clendenin*
Tampa City Councilmember Lynn Hurtak
Tampa City Councilmember Guido Maniscalco

City of Plant City Mayor Nate Kilton
Commissioner Nigel M. Joseph, Planning Commission*
Commissioner Hemant Saria, Planning Commission*
Jessica Vaughn, Hillsborough County School Board
Paul Anderson, CEO, Port Tampa Bay
Scott Drainville, CEO, HART*
Adelee LeGrand, CEO, HART*
Joe Lopano, CEO, Tampa Aviation Authority
Greg Slater, CEO, Hillsborough Expressway Authority

Hillsborough River Interlocal Planning Board

County Commissioner Michael Owen, Chair
Temple Terrace City Councilmember Alison Fernandez*,
Vice Chair

Temple Terrace City Councilmember Meredith Abel*
Tampa Councilmember Joeseeph Citro*
Tampa Councilmember Lynn Hurtak*

**Served as member for partial year*

***Served as officer for partial year*