

DATES TO REMEMBER

2008 TBAG Schedule

February 21, 2008

May 29, 2008

August 21, 2008

October 23, 2008

“FROM THE CHAIR”

By: Michael Dorweiler, AICP

2008 Chairman for the Tampa Bay Applications Group

The first Tampa Bay Applications Group (TBAG) meeting is scheduled for February 21, 2008. Our topic is **Regional Connectivity** and Bob Clifford, FDOT, District 7 will be addressing the following topics:

- ✓ An update on major regional roadway linkages for the Tampa Bay Area
- ✓ The progress of the Tampa Bay Area Regional Transportation Authority
- ✓ Current transportation funding for the FDOT.

All are welcome to this meeting.

We have our TBAG meetings scheduled for the year: February 21, May 29, August 21 and October 23, 2008. The Banquet date will be announced when scheduled. Meeting topics will be publicized as they are scheduled. Please mark your calendars with these dates.

As many of you are aware, the American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP) recently adopted a requirement for Certification Maintenance (CM). An AICP member must acquire 32 CM credits every two years to keep an AICP certification current.

Several TBAG participants hold AICP certification, and the TBAG Board is in the process of registering TBAG as a provider of professional development for CM activities.

Individual meetings will be submitted for review by the AICP Committee as soon as the meetings are held. CM credits are measured in contact hours, so that one hour of instructional time equals one hour of CM credit. TBAG meetings will be submitted for consideration of two CM credits. An AICP member must stay the full two hours to be eligible for CM credits.



Certification Maintenance

The AICP Committee will review the content of each meeting and let the TBAG Board know if CM credits can be applied. It is not a guarantee that each meeting will be approved. It will be the responsibility of AICP members to sign in at each TBAG meeting and keep track of the meetings they attend. More information will be available as the registration process is completed.

Hope to see you on February 21, 2008.

In This Issue:

- TBARTA - Regional Transportation Challenges Page 2
- Addressing Regional Connectivity - Meeting Topics. Page 5
- TBARTA - Meet Your Representatives Page 6

TBARTA Brings Courage and Collaboration to Regional Transportation Challenges

By: Diane Jones, APR – DJ Public Relations and Beth Alden, AICP – Jacobs Carter Burgess

The challenges facing commuters in this area today are daunting, but they are minor compared to what future generations of commuters will encounter.

According to Florida Department of Transportation forecasts, a 45-minute commute today will become a 2-hour commute for the next generation of drivers as a result of increased traffic congestion. That's a lot of time out of every day that could otherwise be spent with families or businesses, leisure pursuits or volunteerism.

Here is another staggering fact for travelers in this region. In 2006, Tampa Bay's working families spent as much as a *third* of their income on transportation, an average of \$10,600 annually per household. With few alternatives to driving, families must own enough cars to get themselves to all the places they need to go – which today in Tampa Bay often means multiple car payments, multiple insurance policies and multiple repair bills. Aggravated by rising gas prices, the addiction to cars makes the Tampa Bay region one of the most expensive areas in the nation to live and get around.

A FRESH PERSPECTIVE

Transportation is complicated and dynamic. Fortunately, a new entity has been established to create solutions for the region's transportation needs. The Tampa Bay Area Regional Transportation Authority (TBARTA) was conceived with one important goal in mind – to implement transportation solutions for the region as a whole, looking at the best in modern technology and setting the stage for continued economic prosperity.

Created by the state legislature in 2007, TBARTA serves seven counties: Citrus, Hernando, Hillsborough, Pasco, Pinellas, Manatee and Sarasota. This new authority can plan, design, finance, construct, operate, maintain, and manage

the public transportation and roadway systems it develops. It can issue bonds against future fares and tolls to get projects moving today. It can work in partnership with private business enterprises when that is the most efficient way to get things done.

Perhaps most importantly, TBARTA's members come from across the region, including elected leaders from every county. This means its problem-solving ability doesn't stop at county lines. The Authority will work hand-in-hand with cities, counties, and the state's Department of Transportation to create seamless connections to help anyone get where they need and want to go.

FIRST STEPS

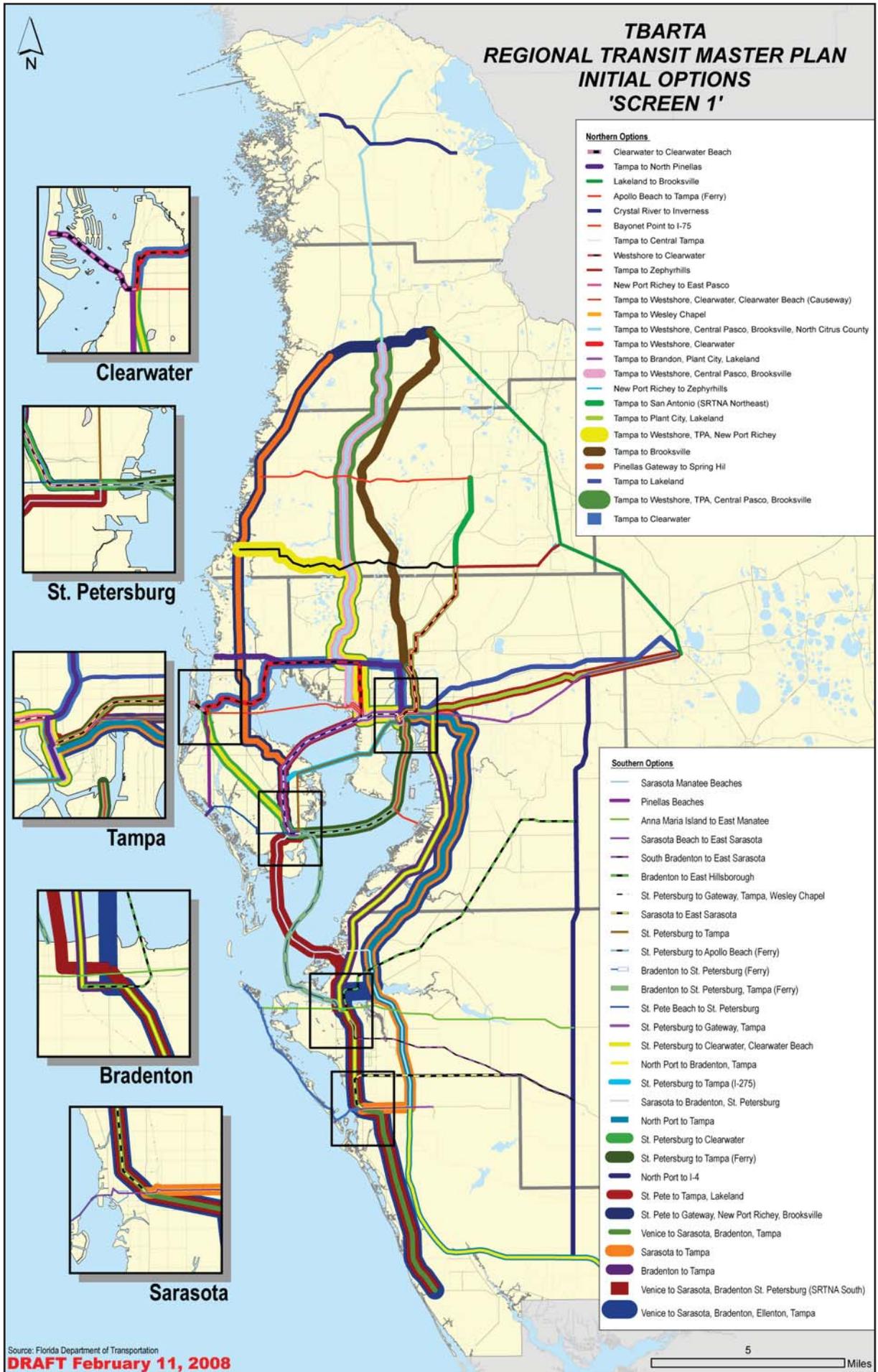
TBARTA must create a regional transportation "master plan" by July 2009. The master plan will not only identify projects to meet the region's growing needs, but will lay out the timing and funding to get the projects accomplished. A key focus of the master plan will be public transit projects that connect our communities together, complementing the region's network of highways.

Developing the master plan is a major task that will be achieved in sequential steps. Step one will focus on identifying significant "connections" in the region, areas where the majority of people are currently traveling back and forth. In each of a dozen regional connections, several corridors will be studied as possible locations for transportation improvements. For example, I-75 today carries a lot of regional traffic between Sarasota, Manatee, Hillsborough and Pasco Counties, and sometimes breakdowns occur causing major delays.



Figure 1, TBARTA Regional Transit Master Plan Initial Options 'Screen One' presents a draft of the TBARTA Master Plan as of February 11, 2008. This information, provided by the Florida Department of Transportation, is an example of how the master plan is developing.

Figure 1



Other parallel corridors for I-75 include US 41, US 301, and a rail corridor owned by CSX Corporation. Would any of these four corridors be a good location for a major transportation project to carry regional trips? Step one includes technical analysis and public discussion of questions like this.

Once the best opportunities for route locations have been identified, the next step in the master planning process is to select the most effective technology or service type. Depending on each corridor's unique needs, would the best option be passenger rail? New express toll lanes? Bus-based rapid transit, using the latest real-time technology? Public discussion will be key to deciding what makes the most sense for each community in the region.

The final step will test the choices made so far to see if they make sense for the region as a whole. Region-wide networks will be studied, putting together the route location and service type choices that made the most sense for each regional connection and corridor. What group of improvements would get the most use? Would a different group of improvements be more cost-effective? What funding is likely to be available, and what can we reasonably afford?

At each phase of the process, everyone will have an opportunity to hear more about the decisions this region faces and to express opinions.

WE NEED YOU

TBARTA aims to have a meaningful dialogue with the public throughout the master planning process. You can find out more about what TBARTA is doing by visiting, reading, and participating in the Authority's Web site (www.TBARTA.com), project newsletters, brochures, market research, surveys, presentations to community groups, and public workshops. The goal is to develop a plan based on public support – because public dialogue was an integral part of its creation.

TBARTA's Board of Directors encourages members of the public to get involved. The Board meets on the fourth Friday of each month at locations throughout the region. All meetings of the board and of its advisory committees are open to the public. For more information on locations and times, visit www.TBARTA.com.

Visiting the Web site also provides opportunities to:

- ✓ Learn more about TBARTA's progress
- ✓ Subscribe to a free digital newsletter
- ✓ Make comments
- ✓ Request a speaker for a civic group meeting or other function
- ✓ Find out about scheduled public workshops and informational presentations

There is also an **InfoLine**, (813) 217-4048, for those without internet access.

The first round of public workshops will be held in March 2008 and will focus on step one of the master plan, regional connections and corridor choices. These community workshops are open to the public from 5:30 p.m.–7:30 p.m.:

- | | |
|----------|--|
| March 10 | Hillsborough County
Hilton Garden Inn at I-75 & Fletcher,
13305 Tampa Oaks Blvd,
Temple Terrace |
| March 11 | Hernando County
County Courthouse,
20 North Main St., Brooksville |
| March 12 | Citrus County
Lecanto Government Building,
3600 W. Sovereign Path,
Room 166, Lecanto |
| March 13 | Pinellas County
Holiday Inn Select at
Ulmerton & Roosevelt,
3535 Ulmerton Road, Clearwater |
| March 17 | Manatee County
Bradenton Auditorium,
1005 Barcarrota Blvd. Bradenton |
| March 18 | Pasco County
West Pasco Government Center,
7530 Little Road, New Port Richey |
| March 20 | Sarasota County
Twin Lakes Park at I-75 & Clark,
6700 Clark Road, Sarasota |

It is up to Tampa Bay area residents and business people to help build a better future. We hope to see you at one of the many public meetings in 2008 as TBARTA works towards a strong, multimodal, regional transportation system with choices that improve our quality of life.

ATTENTION

Tampa Bay Applications Group

February 21, 2008

FDOT District Seven Office from 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.
(Auditorium Opens at 11:30 a.m.)

REGIONAL CONNECTIVITY

Bob Clifford, Department Head Intermodal Systems Development, FDOT District Seven

Regional Transportation Linkages

Several multimodal corridors in the FDOT District Seven area are undergoing transportation improvements. These corridors provide regional connectivity for the District and neighboring counties. This discussion will provide an update on the progress of major improvements such as the LINKS, Suncoast Parkway Extension, Crosstown Extension, and I-75.

Progress of TBARTA

The Tampa Bay Area Regional Transportation Authority (TBARTA) was created as an agency of the state of Florida on July 1, 2007 to plan, construct, and manage multimodal systems throughout a seven-county region. The authority's purpose is to improve mobility and expand transportation options for passengers and freight in Citrus, Hernando, Hillsborough, Manatee, Pasco, Pinellas, and Sarasota Counties. This discussion will provide an update on the progress of TBARTA.

Transportation Funding

The state of Florida has been undergoing fluctuations in the economy due to changes in taxation structures and fuel consumption. This discussion will address the impact of these economic trends on funding for transportation.

All Are Welcome!



TBARTA – Meet Your Representatives

YOUR TBARTA BOARD

Mayor Rick Baker, City of St. Petersburg
Michael Bullerdick, Gubernatorial Appointee
Commissioner Ronnie Duncan (Vice Chair),
Pinellas County
Commissioner Ken Hagan, Hillsborough County
Shawn Harrison, Gubernatorial Appointee
Mayor Frank Hibbard, West Central Florida
Chairs' Coordinating Committee
Commissioner Ann Hildebrand (Secretary/
Treasurer), Pasco County
Mayor Pam Iorio, City of Tampa
Hugh McGuire, Gubernatorial Appointee
Commissioner Nora Patterson, Sarasota County
Mayor Wayne Poston, City of Bradenton
Shelton Quarles (Chairman), Gubernatorial
Appointee
Commissioner Dave Russell, Hernando County
Commissioner Amy Stein, Manatee County
Commissioner John Thrumston, Citrus County
Secretary Don Skelton (non-voting), Florida
Department of Transportation

TRANSIT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Bay Area Commuter Services
Citrus County Transit
FDOT District One Commuter Assistance Program
Hillsborough Area Regional Transit
Manatee County Area Transit
Pasco County Public Transit
Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority
Sarasota County Area Transit
The Hernando Express
Polk County Transit Authority (Advisory Member)

CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The CAC is a committee made up of residents and business persons from around the region. Members are appointed by the TBARTA Board members and volunteer their time to advise the Board on a range of issues that affect TBARTA and the region.

Contact us at: Tampa Bay Area Regional
Transportation Authority www.tbarta.com
(813) 217-4048.

The Tampa Bay Applications Group Newsletter is published under contract to the FDOT District Seven Planning Office in Tampa. FSUTMS users and TBAG members contribute all information and material contained in the newsletter. Please contact the editors to submit articles for future issues or to get on the mailing list.

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