



Recap of the TBRPC Council Meeting

Talking points to assist Board Members with their reports on Council activities.

Meeting Date: May 13, 2013

❖ **Tampa Gateway Rail Terminal Port of Tampa: 2012 Winner of the Future of the Regions Charles A. McIntosh, Jr. Award**

Engineering staff from the Tampa Port Authority provided an overview of this year's Charles A. McIntosh, Jr. Award winner, Tampa Gateway Rail Terminal, Port of Tampa. This project also took first place in the Going Green! category and is a new, rail-centric facility providing capacity for 96-car unit trains of ethanol arriving from the U.S. Midwest and establishing multi-cargo rail service to the Port's container terminal. Pipelines will transfer ethanol directly from rail cars to adjacent ethanol blending facilities before regional distribution. The project also provides on-dock capacity to the Port's intermodal container terminal to the national rail network. The Gateway Rail Facility supports national and State of Florida renewable energy policies by promoting domestic ethanol production and reducing dependence on foreign energy sources.

❖ **Statewide Energy Assurance Plan**

The Energy Resiliency Study is being managed by TBRPC and involves the rest of the RPCs across the state. Later this month, the RPCs will convene at TBRPC to formulate the final steps as the project will be completed by September. A subset of the Energy Resiliency study, the interim Energy Assurance Study phase was recently completed and is available online at <http://www.tbrpc.org/edd/energy/>. The Studies involved analyzing residential and business data, surveys, and policy changes and their respective impacts on society. The Energy Resiliency Study is being funded in part by the Economic Development Administration and the Assurance Report was an additional element requested and funded by the Florida Energy Office and the U.S. Department of Energy. Staff provided a short presentation on the Energy Assurance Study.

❖ **June is Hurricane Awareness Month**

June 1st will mark the beginning of the 2013 Hurricane Season and the time again to initiate a public awareness campaign to alert the region's citizens to get prepared. The Tampa Bay Disaster Planning Guide shares information about the steps you can take in your home, business and community to be safer and more resilient. It was produced for eight counties and in two languages. Resolution #2013-02 was passed declaring the month of June as Hurricane Awareness Month in the Tampa Bay region.

❖ **TBRPC Office Space for Lease**

The Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council has 1,500 to 9,352 of rentable square feet for lease. Reasonable lease improvements will be made to suit tenant. The space is centrally located in Pinellas county with ample parking and easy access to I-275. Reduced rates for Not for Profits.

All presentations, pertinent links and detailed minutes of the meeting can be found on the Council website at www.tbrpc.org. 727.570.5151

