



Recap of TBRPC Council Meeting

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

Meeting Date: August 14, 2017

❖ TBRPC Receives National Attention by the Washington Post

Recently, a couple of articles in local and national media have shone a spotlight on weather and climate issues in the Tampa Bay area. On July 28, 2017, the *Washington Post* published a story titled "Tampa Bay's Coming Storm" by reporter Darryl Fears. The story and accompanying videos chronicle the region's vulnerability to hurricanes and flooding, which may be exacerbated by sea level rise in coming decades. In his story, Fears highlights the plausible, but very low-probability, worst-case hurricane scenario for Tampa Bay, known as "Hurricane Phoenix." The Hurricane Phoenix scenario was developed for TBRPC's "Tampa Bay Catastrophic Plan" in 2010. On July 25, 2017, the Tampa Bay online magazine *83 Degrees* featured a story by author Zac Taylor titled, "Florida communities prepare for sea level rise, potential costs to local economy." The article focuses on long-term risks in the Tampa Bay area from potential sea level rise. To help quantify those risks, the author cites TBRPC's recent "The Cost of Doing Nothing" report, which outlines the potential impacts of future sea level rise on the region's economy.

❖ Skyway ConneXion

In 2016, Manatee County Area Transit (MCAT) began operating a new inter-county limited stop, express service, the *Skyway ConneXion*, connecting Manatee and Pinellas County. The service connects the three major Manatee County Transfer Stations (DeSoto, Downtown Bradenton and Palmetto Stations) with stops in Pinellas County that include 54th Avenue South, the Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority (PSTA) Grand Central Terminal, PSTA's Tyrone Square Mall transit center and the C.W. Bill Young/Bay Pines Veterans Administration (VA) Hospital, which is also served by PSTA fixed route buses. The project was this year's winner in the Transportation and Mobility category of the Annual Future of the Region Awards. An overview of the project was provided.

❖ Tampa Streetcar Project

The Tampa Historic Streetcar System is a 2.7-mile long streetcar transportation network that provides a unique connection from downtown Tampa and the Channelside District to the Ybor City historic district. Today, the system is used mainly by tourists. But the City of Tampa is exploring a future for the streetcar as a true transportation option for residents, visitors, and employees in the downtown core. An overview of the project was provided.

❖ Council Approves Annual CEDS Update

As the federally designated Economic Development District (EDD) for the Tampa Bay Area, the Council conducts economic development studies and coordinates planning efforts with respect to economic development in the region. The Council is also responsible for maintaining and periodically updating the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). For its update of the CEDS, staff worked with partners in the public and private sector to update the document. Staff has circulated the draft update of the CEDS for a 30 day public review period, incorporating received comments.

All presentations, pertinent links and minutes of the meetings can be found on the Council website at www.tbrpc.org. Contact: Wren G. Krahl, Director of Administration/Public Information, wren@tbrpc.org.