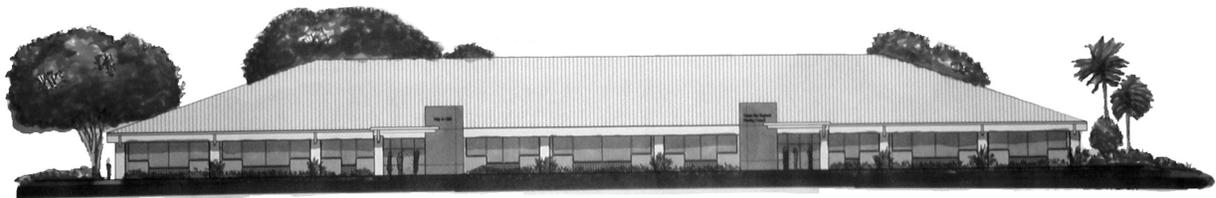


2003 Annual Report

TAMPA BAY REGIONAL
PLANNING COUNCIL

41 YEARS OF CONVENING THE TAMPA BAY REGION



Rendering of the new TBRPC building.

MISSION STATEMENT

To serve our citizens and member governments by providing a forum to foster communication, coordination and collaboration in identifying and addressing issues and needs regionally.

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2003 At A Glance

The year 2003 was another busy year for all of the Council's planning programs. Highlights include:

- ◆ Developed Continuity of Operations Plans (COOPs) for Pasco County, Plant City, Temple Terrace and Pinellas County.
- ◆ Updated and amended the Local Mitigation Strategy (LMS) reports for Pinellas, Manatee and Hillsborough Counties.
- ◆ Celebrated 40th Anniversary and 11th Annual Future of the Region Awards.



- ◆ In partnership with the *St. Petersburg Times*, produced and distributed 1.2 million copies of the official Hurricane Guide in eight counties and two languages.

- ◆ Partnered with the State and the *Tampa Tribune* Newspaper in Education Program to produce and distribute 450,000 copies of the Hazardous Weather Awareness tabloid to area schools and subscribers.

- ◆ Participation in numerous public outreach events including Home Shows, Safety Fairs, Hurricane Expos and conferences.

- ◆ Staff served as an instructor on Recovery From Disaster: The Local Government Role during the 2003 Governor's Hurricane Conference.

- ◆ Coordinated and implemented the 6th Annual Florida Brownfields Conference.

New Office Building Groundbreaking – May 12, 2003.

- ◆ Received the Economic Development District Designation.

- ◆ Received a grant from the Economic Development Administration for an economic development GIS module.

- ◆ Conducted the Hispanic Workforce Housing Forum.

- ◆ Conducted a Regional Roundtable on Transportation.

- ◆ The Council Chair and Executive Director made presentations to all 24 member governments.

- ◆ Worked with local chambers of commerce and economic development agencies to facilitate business disaster preparedness seminars and distributed 8,000 copies of the Small Business Disaster Kit.

- ◆ Updated the Small Business Disaster Kit for 2003 to include technological hazards including terrorism, cyber-attacks, sabotage and economic impacts.

- ◆ Served as chair for committees of the National Hurricane Conference and Governor's Hurricane Conference.

- ◆ The Economic Analysis Program conducted numerous studies. Examples include the impacts of St. Leo University, a cable T.V. rate increase, support for various grant applications, and

2003 At A Glance

numerous “new or retained” business impact studies.

- ◆ The Agency on Bay Management (ABM) formed a Task Force to develop alternatives to disposing of partially-treated process water from the Piney Point Phosphate facility in Manatee County.

- ◆ ABM held five full Agency meetings and eight Committee meetings, addressing pressing issues affecting the Tampa Bay estuary.

- ◆ Produced four issues of Bay Soundings, an environmental journal focusing on the Tampa Bay estuary and the other natural resources of the Tampa Bay Region.

- ◆ Continued Spatial Growth Modeling initiative. This project will produce a software tool to aid in growth management and growth policy decisions in the future.

- ◆ Conducted analysis of two small scale comprehensive plan amendments for the City of Holmes Beach and provided planning assistance on revisions to the City’s Comprehensive Plan and Land Development Code.

- ◆ Continued to facilitate meetings of local elected officials and representatives from regional arts, cultural, and scientific facilities and organizations to ascertain interest in the formation of an arts, cultural, and scientific district for the Tampa Bay region.

- ◆ Published the Tampa Bay Water Newsletter and maintained the web site.

- ◆ Facilitated community visioning programs for the city of Bradenton Beach.

- ◆ Hosted two workshops sponsored by the Sun Coast Section, Florida Chapter, American Planning Association.

- ◆ Participated in the West Central Florida Metropolitan Planning Organizations Chair’s Coordinating Committee (CCC) and its accompanying Staff Directors Committee.

- ◆ Responded to over 200 requests for DRI-related information.

- ◆ Updated and distributed nearly 400 copies of the 2003 Regional Directory.

- ◆ Made available to RIC users the most current releases and up-to-date information available from the Census Bureau related to the 2000 Census.

- ◆ Set up listserv so anyone can receive Council, CRC, ABM, RPAC, and LEPC agendas, and general announcements via e-mail. Sign up today at www.tbrpc.org.

- ◆ Created or improved web sites for Economic Programs; Agency on Bay Management; Intergovernmental Coordination & Review (IC&R); Spatial Growth Model (SGM); *Visions Magazine*; Employment Opportunities; and Site Contents.

- ◆ The LEPC (Local Emergency Planning Committee) updated the Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Plan; processed 1600 Tier Two (right-to-know) reports; provided staff assistance ranging from the answer to a single question to significant research effort to approximately 3000 inquires by phone, e-mail, or letter.

- ◆ Participated in Pasco County Weapons of Mass Destruction Exercise Planning meeting and in the planning of Hillsborough County Mass Casualty Exercise.



2003 At A Glance

- ◆ Provided LEPC updates to Tampa Bay Spillage Committee, the Greater Tampa Bay Marine Advisory Committee.

- ◆ Assisted with 13 Awareness/Operations HAZMAT Courses for Medical Responders at Bay Pines VA Hospital and Brandon Regional Hospital.

- ◆ Conducted 11 Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know (EPCRA) Workshops. Convened/chaired LEPC Meeting on Farmland Hydro Ammonia release.

- ◆ Participated in the Regional Domestic Security Task Force Bioterrorism Tabletop exercise. Completed analyses worksheets of Pinellas County facilities for data entry input for Section 302 Hazards Analyses.

- ◆ Completed 39 requests for EPCRA materials; 31 requests filled for How-to-Comply Handbooks or forms from the book for filing; 10 requests for Emergency Response Guides.

- ◆ Staff reviewed and reported on 39 local government comprehensive plan amendments containing a total of 114 individuals.

- ◆ Reviewed and supported 11 local applications for subjects pursuant to the Florida Forever program.

- ◆ Staff reviewed 27 Development Order amendments, 29 Notices of Proposed Changes and 86 annual reports for approved DRIs.

- ◆ Two Development of Regional Impact Final Reports were issued during 2003. The Reports were for Four Corners Mine second addition and Cypress Creek Town Center.

- ◆ Reviewed and issued recommendations on 348 projects through the Intergovernmental Coordination and Review (IC&R) process. Sixteen projects were determined to be regionally significant.

- ◆ Provided vision planning technical assistance to several communities including major assistance to



Land O'Lakes.

- ◆ Mapping included growth scenario modeling preparation for the regional spatial growth modeling project, preparation of facility maps for various local mitigation strategy projects, and numerous maps for staff reports.



The Big Picture: Tampa Bay Vision 2035

Spatial Growth Modeling

Tampa Bay Vision 2035 is an initiative of the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council and its Regional Planning Advisory Committee (RPAC). The initiative has its roots in RPACs search to find the "Big Picture" of growth and development patterns in the Tampa Bay region. Most communities have realized that post World War II development patterns cannot be sustained. If policy makers and planners expect to reduce urban sprawl and encourage infill and redevelopment of our existing urban centers, communities must become more livable. This initiative is all about promoting good planning and development practices.

A web site is a core component of The Big Picture: Tampa Bay Vision 2035. We spotlight development activities that, if replicated, will help promote better planning and a more livable region. The site will also provide links to numerous other sites around the country that are spreading the same message. The initiative also includes a workshop series that serves as a forum to educate the public and policy makers about the need to create livable communities.

What local planning in Florida has lacked over the past 14 years is obvious --vision. There has not been a meaningful state plan, and mandated local planning has operated on a checklist basis. Communities have been "planning" without a clear direction for their community. Many communities in Florida and the nation are turning to the visioning process as a method to envision what they want their communities to be in the future. Various techniques have been developed to facilitate the visioning process. Since a community would only go through the visioning "process" once every few years, it makes sense to utilize assistance from others who have been through the process or have facilitated the process on a regular basis.

As the Tampa Bay region grows, it is converting more and more land into urban uses. Various planning activities can benefit from a regional perspective on land development and resource utilization patterns. The RPAC and Council staff have worked together to produce land use coverages in ten year intervals for the region to provide a graphic representation of development patterns.

Another tool the Council is developing to look at the "Big Picture" is the Spatial Growth Modeling suite. This model suite will generate land use scenarios, in selected time steps, to a 50-year time horizon, as a function of population changes, land use policy decisions, environmental constraints, and other factors.

2003 Highlights:

- ◆ Spatial Growth Model under development with Prescott College's NASA Program. The model will help analyze future development scenarios and assist growth management decision makers.
- ◆ Collected and analyzed data for trends identification and benchmarking and indicator efforts.
- ◆ Mapped preliminary 2000 census data and land use data for spatial analysis of development patterns for use in "scenario-building."



Convener of the Region

The Council desires to examine issues that are truly regional (multi-jurisdictional) in nature and not interfere with local jurisdictional issues. The Council is an association of governments that seeks to strengthen the region. Rather than passing judgement, the Council seeks a reputation as an impartial body that listens to all sides while seeking to help all parties better understand all the issues involved.

The Regional Planning Advisory Committee (RPAC) is a committee comprised of planning officials from local and regional jurisdictions that provides technical assistance to the Council. The RPAC also serves as a conduit for information dissemination and intergovernmental coordination.

The objective of the Council's convener role is to:

- ◆ Provide a non-partisan forum to objectively discuss issues of regional significance. Be an "honest broker."
- ◆ Maintain and staff the RPAC as a forum for discussion and coordination on technical issues related to planning and development issues within the region.
- ◆ Provide education and information to the region on issues related to planning, development, and social issues in the region.
- ◆ Raise awareness and promote issues of regional significance.
- ◆ Maintain the Council's dispute resolution process. As trust in the Council as a non-partisan player increases, the process may become a viable vehicle for dispute resolution.

2003 Accomplishments

- ◆ Facilitated meetings of local elected officials and representatives from regional arts, cultural, and scientific facilities and organizations to ascertain interest in the formation of an arts, cultural, and scientific district for the Tampa Bay region.

- ◆ Hosted workshops sponsored by the Sun Coast Section, Florida Chapter, American Planning Association, on adult-use ordinances and historic preservation planning.
- ◆ Hosted the Department of Community Affairs Evaluation and Appraisal Report Workshop, School Funding Forum
- ◆ Hosted a Hispanic Workforce Housing Forum with the Hispanic Chamber and Fannie Mae.
- ◆ Hosted Florida Energy Plan Workshop.



U.S. Rep. Jim Davis speaks at the Hispanic Workforce Housing Forum.

Expanded Technical Assistance

In addition to the traditional areas of technical assistance provided by the Council, new services have been developed to assist local governments, agencies, and communities. These include the Economic Analysis Program, Meeting Facilitation, Vision Planning, and other related services. Communities or agencies that need an independent analysis or viewpoint of regional or community

issues can look to TBRPC for an “honest broker” approach to their research or planning needs.

Since its inception, the Council has assisted local governments which have limited staff and/or planning expertise. Implementation of Florida’s growth management requirements has proven to be burdensome for many smaller communities. The RPC is able to provide the technical assistance necessary to either fulfill these requirements or aid the local government in revising its comprehensive plan to more accurately reflect current conditions. Technical assistance in other areas of planning can also be provided as necessary and as staff expertise permits.

With Convener of the Region as a priority initiative, staff has been developing skills and techniques

in meeting facilitation. This service has been utilized by regional organizations and communities to identify problems and issues and to develop strategies for solutions. The technical assistance objectives are to provide technical assistance on an as-needed basis to local governments; regional agencies; businesses and communities; while serving the needs of the Council, local jurisdictions, and staff.

2003 Highlights:

- ◆ Continued to provide assistance for the Land O’Lakes Community Vision Planning effort.
- ◆ Provided technical assistance to the City of Homes Beach on a variety of planning topics.
- ◆ Participated in the Inter-Agency Scoping meeting for the preparation of the Hillsborough County Evaluation and Appraisal Report sponsored by the Hillsborough County Planning Commission.
 - ◆ Provided continued assistance to the City of Bradenton Beach in the implementation of its Community Vision Plan.
 - ◆ Participated in the Pinellas County Interlocal Service Agreement workshop.
 - ◆ Continued to provide assistance to Tampa Bay Water in the development of its long range planning effort.
 - ◆ Continued preparation of the Tampa Bay Water quarterly newsletter.



Agency on Bay Management and Other 2003 Environmental Activities

The Agency on Bay Management (ABM) serves as the natural resources committee of the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council. In existence since 1984, its membership includes all interests in the Bay - commercial, recreational, research, regulatory, industrial, all levels of government, and the public at-large. The Agency provides recommendations to the Council, as well as directly to the requesting entity, on issues affecting the Tampa Bay estuary and the region's natural resources.

During 2003 the Piney Point issue remained near the top of the priority list. Monthly or semi-monthly updates were provided to the Agency members and the ABM's Piney Point Task Force members, respectively. ABM staff provided updates to the Tampa Bay Estuary Program's Policy and Management Boards routinely. Through September 30, 2003, the site had received 11 more inches of rain than normal for the year, making progress slow. The goal is now to remove as much water as possible, so that much of the facility can be closed during the winter dry season and no longer generate contaminated water which must be treated prior to release.



Another topic which received much attention from the Agency on Bay Management and its members was the Tampa Harbor Reevaluation Study underway by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Since its inception, the study has been revised and "fast-tracked" to evaluate a limited number of options for alleviating the congested shipping channel. The Agency prepared a list of concerns, issues to be addressed in the study, and resources available to the USACOE for preparing the report and recommendations which are due out in late 2004.

The topics presented to, researched or discussed by the Agency on Bay Management during 2003 included the following.

Action was taken as appropriate.

- ◆ ABM instituted a Boat Launch Task Force to investigate issues and opportunities for new or improved launch facilities in southern Tampa Bay, in response to a request from the Cockroach Bay Aquatic Preserve Management Advisory Team Hillsborough River Greenways Task Force.

- ◆ Coordinated Linear Infrastructure Project (CLIPs).

- ◆ The Proposed '43 Bridge to connect the Tampa Interbay peninsula to downtown St. Petersburg.

- ◆ Port Manatee's Seagrass Mitigation Project.

- ◆ An overview of the federal, state and local manatee protection measures in Tampa Bay and proposal to designate a Local Rule Review Committee to review state plans.

- ◆ The Study of Tampa Bay's Dredge Holes as potential sites for dredged material disposal and habitat restoration.

- ◆ Interim nutrient loading targets for Bishop Harbor, relating to the release of double-limed and aerated water from Piney Point.

- ◆ A marina proposed for the eastern shore of Old Tampa Bay, and the manatee protection measures planned to accompany it.

- ◆ The City of St. Petersburg's deep-well injection permit and its plan to study the potential to use Piney Point water in its reclaimed water system.

- ◆ Scoping for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' St. Petersburg Harbor General Reevaluation study.
- ◆ Gulfstream Natural Gas Pipeline habitat impact mitigation projects.
- ◆ Temple Terrace water reclamation facilities project.
- ◆ Palm River/McKay Bay status report and plan for additional restoration and management projects.
- ◆ The Safety Harbor embayment in Old Tampa Bay: Status and Trends.
- ◆ The State of Florida's plan to designate manatee protection zones in Tampa Bay.
- Environmental Activities involving TBRPC and its staff included:
 - ◆ BASIS IV Symposium: Staff participated in the Steering Committee and attended the symposium; TBRPC sponsored the event.
 - ◆ Hillsborough River Interlocal Planning Board's Technical Advisory Council: Reviewed and made recommendations on issues affecting the health of the river.
 - ◆ Stormwater Management Task Force: TBRPC staff coordinated meetings and managed funding for educational projects under contract to the FL Dept. of Transportation District Seven. This helps fulfill the requirements of the FDOT and local governments under the federal National Pollution Discharge Elimination System permit for stormwater flowing off roads and from other non-point sources.
 - ◆ Tampa Bay Harbor Safety Committee: A group of public and private interests devoted to implementing a Vessel Traffic System for the Bay as well as to addressing other shipping-related issues.
 - ◆ Tampa Bay Estuary Program's Technical Advisory Committee: Provides technical expertise as requested by the Program.
 - ◆ West Central Florida Air Quality Coordinating Committee: Involving a seven-county area addressing air-related issues.
 - ◆ Talk To Your Government: Appeared on this government-access television show with Commissioner Jan Platt and others, discussing environmental issues affecting the Tampa Bay Region.
 - ◆ Myakka River Coordinating Council: Staff attended one of the quarterly meetings.
 - ◆ PORTS (Physical Oceanographic Real-Time System) : Staff assisted in obtaining a funding commitment from Manatee and Pinellas counties for this important program.
 - ◆ Manatee Awareness Coalition: Committee of the Tampa Bay Estuary Program discussing manatee protection issues.
 - ◆ ManaSota 88 - presented an overview of the Piney Point issue to this group of concerned citizens.
 - ◆ Conducted a fact-finding meeting for the City of St. Petersburg concerning the winter feeding of Pelicans at Spa Beach and on the Pier.
 - ◆ Attended the Submerged Aquatic Habitat Restoration Conference.
 - ◆ Worked with the editors of *Bay Soundings*; prepared grant applications for second-year funding.
 - ◆ Attended meeting of the Maritime Council of the Greater Tampa Bay Chamber of Commerce.
 - ◆ Conducted numerous reviews of Environmental Resource Permit applications, Florida State Clearinghouse projects, and Developments of Regional Impact applications.



Hazardous Materials

The Tampa Bay Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC), District VIII meets on a bi-monthly basis to provide staff support for the LEPC to facilitate hazardous materials reporting laws in the region. The Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA) requires public and private facilities that use, produce or store extremely hazardous substances or hazardous chemicals above certain thresholds, to report their inventories on an annual basis. Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council serves as the public access repository for more than 3600 facilities in the Tampa Bay LEPC area, which includes Hillsborough, Manatee, Pasco and Pinellas counties. Information provided in these reports is used to compile local and regional hazardous materials emergency response plans, which are put into action in the event of a chemical emergency or hazardous materials release.

During January and February, 16 How-to-Comply Workshops were scheduled throughout District VIII for facility operators. Additionally, special sessions were held at Essilor Lenses in St. Petersburg and teleconferenced to three other states. EPCRA Awareness Week was also proclaimed by both the LEPC and the Tampa Bay RPC for February 23 through March 1st and numerous city councils and all county commissions provided proclamations.



Again for 2003, Special Awareness Week activities were conducted by Essilor Lenses and Pinellas County which highlighted their emergency management radio programs. Since the school is so near to the Port of Tampa, special LEPC outreaches were made at DeSoto Park Elementary School in Tampa with the principal and staff regarding Shelter-in-Place. Additionally, staff conducted special outreach presentation to the Florida Department of Health, Bureau of Radiation Control.

The Florida State Emergency Response Commission for Hazardous Materials (SERC) awarded the Thomas Yatabe

- SERC Award in recognition for outstanding achievements and contributions to community protection from hazardous materials incidents and for HAZMAT planning, to First Lieutenant George Harris, Commander, Manatee County Sheriff's Office Hazardous Materials Unit. Lieutenant Harris received his award at the winter meeting of the SERC at Marco Island in January 2003. Additionally John M. Jacobs, Nitram Incorporated and Mark D. Rude, CF Industries received Certificates of Appreciation for their efforts in hazardous materials planning and safety.

Florida has responsibility for enforcing Section 112(r) or the Clean Air Act by the United States Environmental Protection Agency under the Florida Accidental Release Prevention and Risk Management Planning Act (ARP/RMP). This legislation requires Risk Management Planning for facilities which have listed toxic chemicals above identified thresholds whose vapors could be released into the atmosphere. The LEPC again participated with Florida RMP auditors from the Department of Community Affairs in auditing the risk management plans for four facilities in the Tampa Bay area. All facilities were able to correct any deficiencies noted by the audit team.

The Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness (HMEP) grant program is funded by the U.S. Department of Transportation, through the Florida Division of Emergency Management, for the

purposes of hazardous materials planning and training. Scopes of work govern each of these activities. The planning activities consisted of community outreach projects which included the EPCRA How-to-Comply Seminars as well as presentations in and around the Port of Tampa on the Ammonia Siren Warning System. Briefings were provided to the Channelside Merchants Association, Tampa, at the Florida Aquarium; the Davis Islands Chamber of Commerce and the Davis Islands Community Association; the Port of Tampa Board of Directors, and the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council.

Through the Training grant portion of HMEP program, the LEPC provided training to first responders throughout the region. In 2003, training again was heavily concentrated for hospital response personnel. The Bay Pines Veterans Administration Medical Center HAZMAT Team, in conjunction with the Bay Pines Educational Foundation, conducted 3-day Awareness/Operations courses. Additionally, a number of hospital courses were held in Hillsborough and Pasco counties taught by members of the HAZMAT Teams. One of the areas of emphasis given in courses this year was in the use of personal protective equipment (PPE) and in decontamination procedures for persons exposed to hazardous materials.

District VIII LEPC with District IX (Southwest Florida) LEPC and Tropicana Products, Inc. conducted a multi-jurisdictional exercise in fulfillment of the requirement for a biennial exercise in Bradenton. The tabletop exercise was designed on CD with scenarios, photos, and realistic portrayal of the exercise. The exercise, held on November 4, 2003 at the main conference facility at Tropicana, began with morning training sessions on plant familiarization, the effects of hazardous chemicals (toxicology), and the newly completed Field Operations Guide (FOG) manual. Approximately 175 people participated or observed the exercise which met all published exercise objectives.



Staff from the Tampa Bay LEPC has been performing the hazards analyses for Pinellas County for 2003. Mandatory site visits of 60 Pinellas County extremely hazardous substance (EHS) facilities during the current planning cycle were completed. The LEPC staff and the TBRPC Planning

Department entered the data in the USEPA's CAMEO program. Upon approval from DEM/DCA, the results are available to the facilities.

Revision 10 to the Tampa Bay LEPC Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Plan was forwarded in June 2003 to DCA for review. The current LEPC HAZMAT plan will continue in its present format as directed by EPCRA until such time as new direction is received from the National Response Team which sets plan criteria. The plan will be approved by the SERC in October, 2003.

The Tampa Bay LEPC also continued to refine and improve its web site as part of the Tampa Bay Regional Council web site. Listed at the site are the most recent quarterly reports sent to the State to form District 8's submission to the State's Hazmatters's newsletter. Also listed is a copy of the most recent meeting agenda and meeting recaps. Other items of interest are also posted to the site as well as links to other pertinent sites. These can all be downloaded and printed.



Tampa Bay Prepares

A major push in 2003 has been the federal, state and local efforts to develop Continuity of Government (COG) and Continuity of Operations Plans (COOP). Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council is assisting several of our communities in developing their COOP/COG Plans.

These plans focus on the business of government and ensuring they are in the position to continue to serve their citizens in an emergency even if the emergency directly impacts government operations. "You need to ask yourself, What do we do if we can't access City Hall or the 911 dispatch center? Where are our backup tapes and vital records? Where is our alternate facility? How do we communicate with our employees and our citizens? It's critical planning," stated Executive

Director Manny Pumariega.

"Even during a disaster, local governments still need to collect both taxes and garbage. That's why continuity of government planning is getting more attention than ever." (Homeland Protection Professional, May/June 2003).

Elements of the COOP include:

- ◆ plans and procedures;
- ◆ identification of essential functions;
- ◆ delegations of authority;
- ◆ orders of succession;
- ◆ identification of alternative facilities;
- ◆ interoperable communications;
- ◆ vital records and databases;
- ◆ test, training and exercises.



Through our partnerships, TBRPC and emergency management agencies were able to accomplish the following:

◆ TBRPC partnered with *Tampa Tribune* Newspaper in Education program to produce a 20-page tabloid, the Hazardous Awareness Guide. More than 450,000 copies were distributed to all Tribune subscribers and schools in a 10-county area along the west coast of Florida. The Guide met Florida State Sunshine Education standards.

◆ The official Hurricane Guide was even more successful in 2003 given the partnership with the *St. Petersburg Times* and WTSP Channel 10. More than 1million copies were produced for 8 counties including both English and Spanish versions. Approximately 500,000 copies were distributed through the newspaper the first Sunday of June. Another 250,000 were distributed through the US Post Offices and Kash n' Karry stores.

◆ The first Small Business Disaster Survival Kit – an interactive CDROM – was a tremendous success in 2001 with more than 8,000 copies distributed. TBRPC received a second grant to update the Kit with new information regarding technological hazards (terrorism, etc.) as well as natural hazards. The new CDROM will link to a web-based interactive program tool to assist in the development of business Continuity Plans. The State of Florida expanded this program with TBRPC to take the program statewide with a partnership among the Florida Regional Planning Councils, the Florida Chamber of Commerce, TECO, Progress Energy and Verizon. More than 50,000 copies will be distributed in February 2004.

◆ TBRPC is assisting the counties to amend their Local Mitigation Strategies (LMSs) to meet new federal requirements. These plans provide a guide for local governments to reduce their risk from major hazards.

◆ The Hurricane Safety House, a mobile demonstration unit continued to make the rounds at the Hurricane Expos, Suncoast Home Shows, Family Safety Day in Ybor City and neighborhood meetings.

◆ Our web page (www.tbrpc.org) sports a new emergency management section including an interactive Family Disaster Planning tool. You can also access it through www.tampabayprepares.org.

◆ Staff worked with both the National Hurricane Conference and the Governor's Hurricane Conference in Tampa (June 9-13, 2003) to increase attendee participation, conference underwriting and helped organize program training sessions and workshops.

For more information and links, log on to www.tbrpc.org.



Economic Development District

The Tampa Bay region was designated an Economic Development District (EDD) on April 30, 2003 by the Economic Development Administration. Local governments in the district are now eligible for an additional 10% bonus under EDA funded programs, (i.e, 60% federal participation instead of 50%). The designation relieves annual reporting of county adopted Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies (CEDS) which are now covered under the regional CEDS. EDD designation also increases access to additional federal funding: e.g. disaster preparedness and recovery, brownfield mitigation, revolving loan fund, and the Southern Crescent Commission.



The primary functions of the EDD are (but are not limited to):

- ◆ The preparation and maintenance of a CEDS.
- ◆ Assist in the implementation strategies identified in the CEDS.

◆ Provide technical assistance to local governments and economic development organizations on their economic development activities, programs, and grant applications.

The EDD is comprised of the four counties that make up the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council, i.e., Hillsborough, Manatee, Pasco, and Pinellas, and all municipalities therein. The staff of the Regional Planning Council will act as the administrative arm of the EDD.

The EDD must provide an annual report of the economic development activities in the region by the end of April each year. This will be accomplished with the help of the economic development departments/staff within each municipality and other economic development practitioners.

They will be expected to provide updated information about their respective economic development initiatives to the EDD staff. The CEDS will be updated every five years through a comprehensive planning process that addresses the needs of the entire region. The staff of the EDD will ensure that groups representing all socioeconomic segments of the Tampa Bay region will be invited to participate in the CEDS update.



Regional Information Center

The Regional Information Center (RIC) maintains a wide variety of books, periodicals, reports, and census data. It is a convenient resource for providing technical assistance regarding the Tampa Bay Region.

The RIC maintains all DRI applications, including developments orders and subsequent amendments, as well as local government comprehensive plans for the Tampa Bay Region.

As a State Data Center (SDC) affiliate, the RIC receives census data products for Florida and the nation. Census data are made available to the general public. This data describes how the nation, state and local areas are changing demographically, as well as the condition of housing, education, employment and income.

RIC Objectives

- ◆ Provide technical assistance regarding the Tampa Bay region to local jurisdictions through the Regional Information Center.
- ◆ Serve as a clearinghouse for technical and administrative materials related to planning and development in the region.
- ◆ Develop the Council's web page as the preeminent regional resource for regional data and information with an emphasis on collection and dissemination of data needed by the business and development community, natural and physical resource managers, local governments, economic development practitioners and grant writers.
- ◆ Maintain presence on the Internet for public access to our agency functions and to assist in providing a clearinghouse of local and regional planning information.



2003 Highlights

- ◆ Created a listserv so anyone can receive Council, CRC, ABM, RPAC, and LEPC agendas, and general announcements via e-mail. Sign up today at www.tbrpc.org.
- ◆ Responded to over 200 requests for DRI-related material.
- ◆ Updated and distributed over 400 copies of the 2003 Regional Directory.
- ◆ Made available to RIC users the most current releases and up-to-date information available from the Census Bureau related to the 2000 Census.
- ◆ Created or improved the following TBRPC web sites: Economic Programs; Agency on Bay Management; Intergovernmental Coordination & Review (IC&R); Spatial Growth Model (SGM); *Visions Magazine*; Employment Opportunities; and Site Contents.



Florida Brownfields Conference

The 6th Annual Florida Brownfields Conference, "Sustainability in the Sunshine" took place in St. Petersburg in August 2003.

It provided an opportunity for developers, and real estate professionals, lenders, regulators, attorneys, legislators, community stakeholders and environmental justice advocates to discuss the challenges associated with the restoration and reuse of urban and brownfield sites.



The conference covered such topics as Florida's Brownfields Redevelopment Act and Cleanup Criteria; federal, state and local economic incentives available for brownfield sites; targeting and recruiting developers and end users for redevelopment of brownfield sites; land use and planning issues; and public involvement necessary for successful redevelopment.

The Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council partnered with the Florida Brownfields Association and its Conference Planning Committee to implement this successful event. The four-day conference had over 250 attendees and 30 exhibitors from around the state of Florida.

The 7th Annual Florida Brownfields Conference will take place in Sarasota, Florida, August 15-18, 2004 at the Hyatt Sarasota on Sarasota Bay. Next year's theme is New Frontiers for Rural and Smaller Communities.



Regional Cooperative Alliance, Inc.

Council approved the establishment of a not-for-profit institute entitled Regional Cooperative Alliance, Inc. (RCA) to research, identify, develop and disseminate strategy to regional issues. RCA was incorporated as a Florida nonprofit corporation and received 501 (c) (3) status from the Internal Revenue Service.

The Council relies primarily on State funding and local dues to carry out the majority of its programs. Additional funding sources are provided from fees and contract services provided by the Council and grants. Contract service fees and grants have more annual variability than do the state and local funding sources. In order to conduct the Council activities consistent with the Mission Statement and to implement the priority initiatives, additional funding is needed. Some of the activities related to Convener of the Region may be more appropriately funded by non-traditional revenue sources. RCA was created to assist in attracting private sector funding to assist the Council's mission.



Strategic Regional Policy Plan

Evaluation and Appraisal Report

Section 186.511, FS, requires that the Council undertake an evaluation of its adopted Strategic Regional Policy Plan (SRPP) every five years. During 2001, an Evaluation and Appraisal Report (EAR) was prepared for the SRPP.



Upon review of the indicators, or measures, contained in the adopted SRPP, two problems immediately became evident: first, there were simply too many indicators; second, many of the indicators were unmeasurable or the data was either too old or not available.

The identification of a few critical and well thought out indicators would be more valuable and useful. These in turn, could serve as a guide to the SRPP on those issues of greatest importance to the Tampa Bay region.

The result of the EAR process and the overall assessment of the successes and failures of the Council's SRPP Future of the Region would be that it is neutral - neither a complete success nor a failure. The true purpose of the SRPP EAR is two-fold: to recognize its strengths and weaknesses; and to be willing to revise the document accordingly. Preliminary recommended revisions to the SRPP were identified during the preparation

of the EAR. Final revisions will be prepared following the completion of the Council's regional visioning effort.



Developments of Regional Impact

A DRI is a development which, because of its character, magnitude, or location would have a substantial effect upon the health, safety, or welfare of citizens of more than one county. The DRI process ensures that all large-scale development is adequately assessed and mitigated from all perspectives, including: transportation, environmental and affordable housing.

Aside from the 27 projects receiving approval to modify their Development Orders within the Tampa Bay area so far in 2003, several significant development proposals remain under review. These projects include:

A. Long Lake Ranch. If approved, this 1,080-acre project would contain more than 2 million square feet of commercial development, 300,000 sq. ft. of office space and nearly 2,000 residential units when completed in 2015.

B. Sunlake Centre. As currently planned, this 150+ acre south Pasco County project would add 340,000 sq. ft. of office space and 783,000 sq. ft. of retail establishments by 2010.

C. Cypress Creek Town Center. The developer envisions completing the project's 2.2 million sq. ft. of retail, 420,000 sq. ft. of office space, 882 residential units and 700 hotel rooms by 2011.

D. Oakley Plaza. This 121+ acre project is unique in that it may contain 900,000 sq. ft. of "Auto Mall." This use would be best described as a congregation of new vehicle dealerships. In addition, the proposal includes provisions for 300 multi-family units.

E. Sarasota-Bradenton Airport Substantial Deviation. The proposal involves an expansion of non-SBIA related uses at various locations within the existing 1,121-acre site. The expansion would include additional industrial, office, commercial and hotel entitlements as well as 145 additional private aircraft hangars. The project is unusual in that it is located within (and governed by) three jurisdictions.

F. Bexley Ranch. Comprised of nearly 6,900 acres, this project would contain 7,000 residential units, 400,000 sq. ft. of commercial space, 250,000 sq. ft. of office space and three school sites upon completion in 2020.



Intergovernmental Coordination and Review

The IC&R process is a federally-mandated program designed to notify state and elected officials about federal projects, programs and documents within their jurisdiction of statewide significance which may affect them. State Executive Order 83-150 designated Florida's eleven Regional Planning Councils (RPC) as "regional clearinghouses," giving the RPCs responsibility for reviewing such projects and determining each project's significance.

The following types of proposals are routinely processed as part of the Regional Planning Council's IC&R Program:

- ◆ Environmental Resource Permits from the Southwest Florida Water Management District;
- ◆ Dredge and Fill Permit Applications from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and the Tampa Port Authority;

- ◆ Federal Consistency projects from the Florida State Clearinghouse/Florida Coastal Management Program;

- ◆ Federal Grant applications submitted on behalf of non-profit organizations or local governments;

- ◆ Transportation Improvement Programs and Unified Planning Work Programs submitted by Tampa Bay's four Metropolitan Planning Organizations; and

- ◆ Ten-Year Site Plans for the power companies serving the Tampa Bay Region.

Of the **348** applications/proposals processed over the past year, **143** were environmental permit applications, **59** were submitted by the Florida State Clearinghouse and **146** were federal grant applications.

TBRPC staff independently evaluates each proposal to assess the extent of regional significance. The designated criteria used to identify a project's regional significance may

include: wetland or natural habitat impacts proposed in areas designated on the Natural Resources of Regional Significance map series adopted as part of the SRPP, consistency of the proposal with its respective Development of Regional Impact Development Order (where appropriate), and/or other implications which may have multi-jurisdictional impacts.

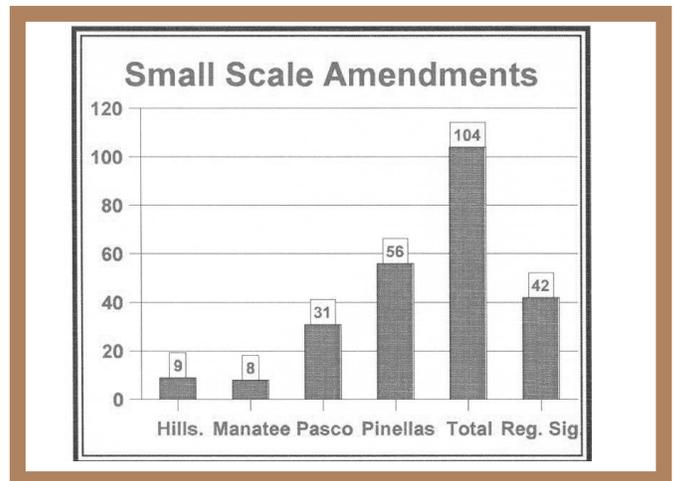
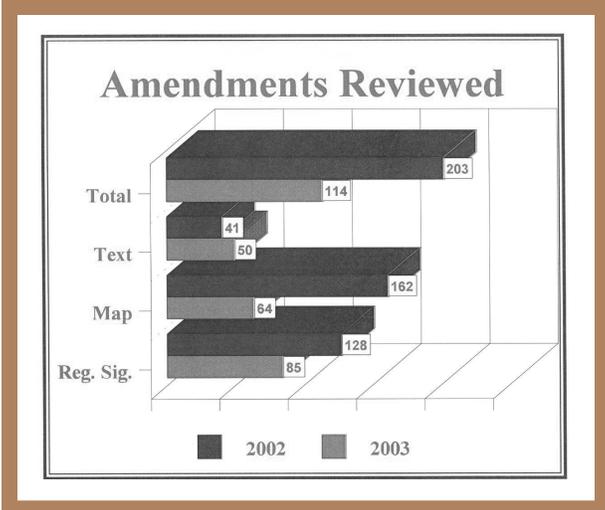
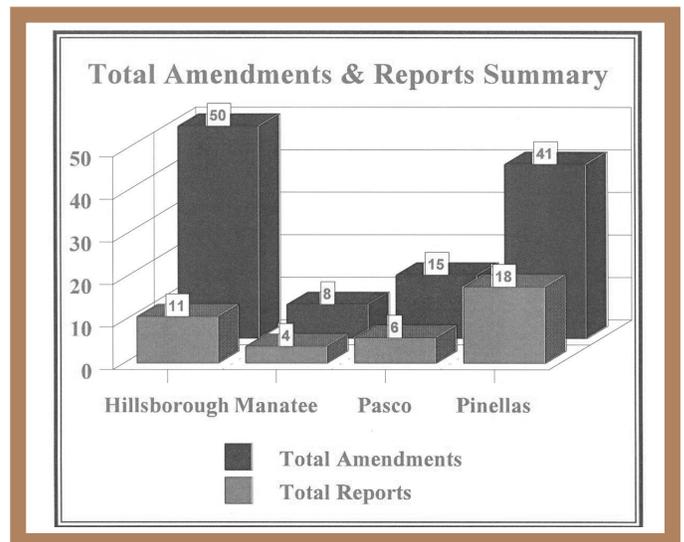
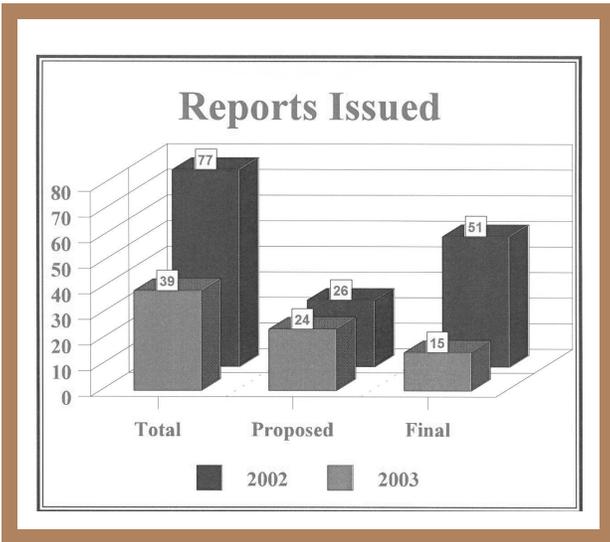
Select staff reports are prepared to fully evaluate many regionally significant proposals. Each of these reports include: a summary of the proposal; a consistency assessment with the SRPP and/or Development Order (when appropriate); and recommendations to (perhaps) mitigate and/or minimize a project's potential impact. Seventeen staff reports were prepared during the past year.



Comprehensive Plan Amendments And Florida Forever Applications

Between January and October 2003 Council meetings, 39 local government comprehensive plan amendment reports, representing a total of 114 individual amendments, were issued. Of the 50 text and 64 map amendments reviewed, 85 were found to be regionally significant and two determined to be inconsistent with the Future of the Region: A Strategic Regional Policy Plan for the Tampa Bay Region (SRPP). Not reflected in this total are the 104 small scale land use amendments which were evaluated by Council staff. All the small scale amendments were found to be consistent with the SRPP, with 42 found to be regionally significant.

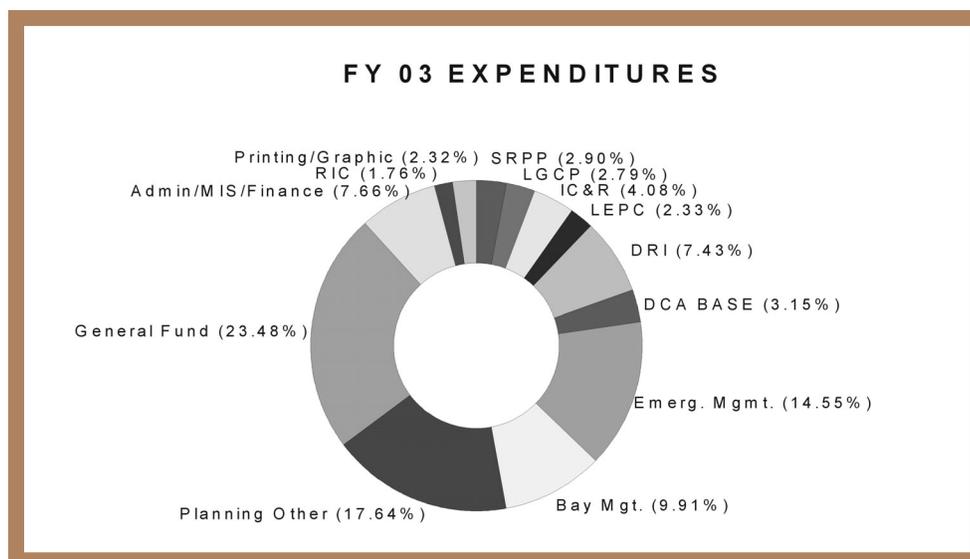
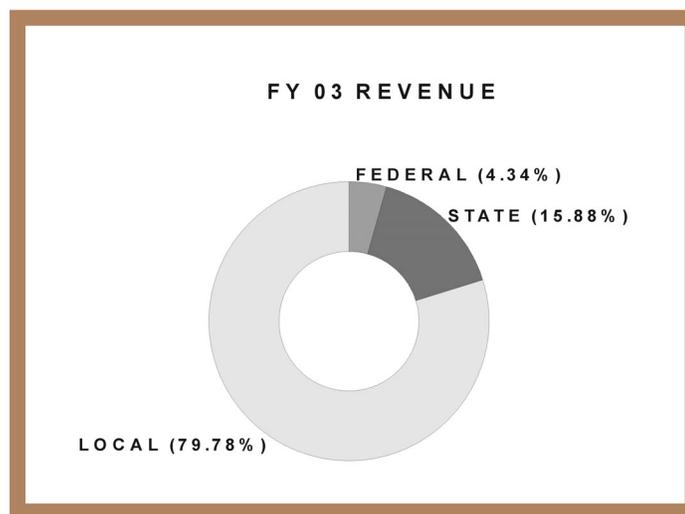
In 2003, 11 applications from the Tampa Bay Region were submitted for funding under the Florida Forever Program. The purpose of Florida Forever is to provide an opportunity for “the preservation of green space, including parks, open space, beaches and natural areas, an important factor in creating livable communities.” Since 1994, 99 applications have been submitted from the Tampa Bay Region.



Administration/Budget

The Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council's Budget Committee accounted for more than **\$5,435,000** financing the regional programs featured in this annual report. The increase in this year's budget also reflects the new office facility building project. Staff worked closely with the Budget Committee and the Executive Committee during the 2003 fiscal year.

Administration continues to emphasize staff development, encouraging each staff member to attend local workshops in areas of his or her expertise.



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Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council