

VISIONS



Tampa Bay
Regional Planning Council

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WELCOME TO THE TAMPA BAY REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

The tougher challenges of the 21st century will require regional thinkers, conveners and problem solvers. For the past 44 years, the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council has brought together local governments and gubernatorial appointees to coordinate planning for the Region's future, while providing a venue for analyzing issues, resolving problems, and sharing solutions among the 43 jurisdictions in Hillsborough, Manatee, Pasco and Pinellas Counties.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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- [Meeting Cancellation Policy for Hurricane Season](#)
- [2007 Regional Directory Now Available](#)
- [2007 Official Hurricane Guide for the Tampa Bay Region](#)

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2007 ANNUAL REPORT EDITION

A publication of the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council

Convening the region for 45 years

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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VISIONS is published twice annually by the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council, 4000 Gateway Centre Blvd., Suite 100, Pinellas Park, FL 33782. Telephone: (727)570-5151. Fax: (727)570-5118. Postmaster, please send change of address to Visions, 4000 Gateway Centre Blvd., Suite 100, Pinellas Park, FL 33782. The Visions logo is copyrighted. It is a registered trademark of the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council. No portion of this magazine's contents may be reprinted or reproduced electronically in whole or part without the written permission of the publisher.

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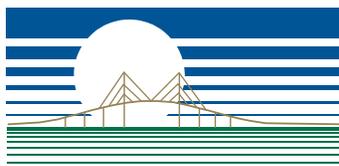
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REGIONALLY SPEAKING

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR AND THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council

<i>Chair</i> Commissioner Scott Black	<i>Vice-Chair</i> Vice Mayor Deborah Kynes	<i>Secretary/Treasurer</i> Reverend James T. Golden	<i>Executive Director</i> Manny Pumariega
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The past year marks the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council's (TBRPC) 45th year in regional planning. Through the last four decades the Council has strived to achieve best practice standards in all aspects of its programs and endeavors. The year 2007 proved to be another successful year in the Council's history.

The year began with an invitation to our member governments to *Celebrate Tampa Bay* and the great things about the communities in which we all live work and play. Several member governments showcased their best practices at the monthly Council meetings which included discussions about the ideas that have worked well in their communities regarding topics such as re-development, parks and recreation, and innovative planning techniques. The dedication to showcasing regional excellence and best practices is not a new commitment by the Council. The 16th Annual Future of the Region Awards program took place in March and provided both public and private sector entities with the opportunity to be recognized for their contributions to the Tampa Bay region.

Once again the Council led the way, and partnered with various stakeholders on several new projects and programs which we hope will one day be recognized as visionary and innovative. One such example is *Reality Check: One Bay, Fulfilling Life's Possibilities* which was spearheaded by the Urban Land Institute and the Tampa Bay Partnership. The Council served and continues to serve as a Marquee partner in Reality Check. Between 2001 and 2030 the population of the Tampa Bay region is expected to increase by 2.0 million residents; the population will double by the year 2050. Employment is projected to increase by more than 940,000 jobs by 2030 and 1.6 million jobs by the year 2050.

On May 18, 2007, over 300 invited leaders from the public, private and not-for-profit community participated in an exercise to build consensus on regional growth issues - Reality Check Tampa Bay. Using engaging materials such as Legos®, ribbons, and regional maps, participants in diverse groups of ten decided where and how our region should grow. Along the way they discovered a remarkable level of agreement on growth principles and a roadmap to build the region they want to live in and leave to their children and grandchildren.

This gathering was a tipping point for the region forming a lasting impression to understand the growth of the Tampa Bay region by the year 2050. The initiative was tailored to the specific needs of our region, yet building upon the expertise of visioning activities and other Reality Check exercises conducted in other major metropolitan areas.

The Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council continues to lead and share expertise in the arena of emergency preparedness. This year staff completed the 20th edition of the Official Hurricane Guide and began a statewide Regional Evacuation Study. Disaster preparedness training was provided to almost 600 emergency management professionals and first responders through the work of the Council's Local Emergency Planning Committee.

Council continues to support its mission statement by serving as a "convener of the region." This past year the Council hosted Regional Transit Round-tables, a Tampa Bay Area Regional Transit Authority meeting, two Workforce Housing Symposia and a Senate Bill 360 Implementation Workshop. Further, the Council has continued longstanding partnerships by working with Tampa Bay Water on their Future Water Supply Plan Update and the West Central Florida's Chair's Coordinating Committee's Regional Multi-Use Trails Element of their long-term transportation plan.

In 2007, the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Plan was updated in accordance with the Economic Development Administrations new federal regulations. Council staff also provided local governments with training in the Capital Improvements Element (CIE). This new requirement by the Department of Community Affairs requires local governments to prove financial feasibility before receiving approval of comprehensive plans. The Council provided training as well as devised a worksheet for local governments to use in meeting this new requirement.

Regional Councils and other regional organizations design strategies and create partnerships for effective regional planning. As we embark upon our 46th year we will continue to focus on the spirit of cooperation as we endeavor to serve our local governments and the citizens of the Tampa Bay region. The initiatives and programs implemented by the Council are intended to create a region of excellence and to *Celebrate Tampa Bay*.



Commissioner Scott Black
Chair



Manny Pumariega
Executive Director

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COUNCIL IN ACTION



AT A GLANCE

2007 was another busy year for all of the Council's planning programs.

Highlights include:

- ✦ Marque partner in Reality Check Tampa Bay/One Bay.
- ✦ Staff continues to assist with One Bay exercises throughout the region.
- ✦ 15th Annual Future of the Region Awards took place in March 2007.
- ✦ The Council website, brochures and publications were revamped and updated to reflect a more uniformed style.
- ✦ Staff produced a DVD describing Council activities and programs. This DVD has been used throughout the region for various meetings and events.
- ✦ Executive Director, Manny Pumariega, won the National Association of Regional Council's Walter Scheiber Award, the equivalent to Executive Director of the Year.
- ✦ Roger Tucker, General Counsel, retired after 36 years with the Council.
- ✦ TBRPC is participating in the Statewide Regional Evacuation Study (SRES) which will provide updated regional evacuation studies for all eleven regions in the state utilizing a consistent coordinated approach.
- ✦ Worked with the state and local governments to interpret new growth management legislation regarding the coastal high hazard area (CHHA).
- ✦ In partnership with the county emergency management agencies, produced and distributed 600,000 copies of the official Hurricane Guide in 6 counties and in two languages.
- ✦ Supported Program Committees for both the National Hurricane Conference and Governor's Hurricane Conference developing workshops and training sessions.
- ✦ Staff participated on numerous state level committees including the State Mitigation Planning Committee, the Post-Disaster Redevelopment Task Force the Catastrophic Planning Committee and FEPA Legislative Committee.
- ✦ Economic Analysis Program assisted regional economic development partners with numerous economic analysis projects. Examples include the impacts of corporate relocations, new manufacturing firms, and support for various grant applications.
- ✦ Completed first annual update of the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy.
- ✦ Hosted a Regional Transit Roundtable.
- ✦ The Agency on Bay Management, at the request of US Senator Bill Nelson's office, held a forum on Clam Bayou, an embayment nestled on the edge of Boca Ciega Bay in Gulfport and St. Petersburg which suffers from excess sediment and litter build-up.
- ✦ ABM also held a forum on the Environmental Protection Commission of Hillsborough County's proposed Seagrass Management Plan and potential management tools in the Cockroach Bay Aquatic Preserve. Recommendations were made to the Commission.
- ✦ ABM reviewed the proposed Apollo Isles development, and sent comments to Hillsborough County.
- ✦ ABM reviewed Tampa Bay Water's proposal to reclassify the Alafia River and the Tampa Bypass Canal to Class I - Potable Supply, but did not formally endorse the proposals, pending further information.
- ✦ ABM received the conclusions of the Tampa Harbor General Reevaluation study and provided comments provided to the US Army Corps of Engineers.
- ✦ Produced four issues of Bay Soundings, the environmental journal focusing on the Tampa Bay estuary and the other natural resources of the Tampa Bay Region. Increased distribution in print and on-line. Began sixth year of production.
- ✦ Continued implementation and capability expansion of an Emergency Management Module for the Spatial Growth Model, Decision Support GIS.
- ✦ Telework Tampa Bay (TTB) encourages Pinellas and Hillsborough employers to host pilot telework programs within their worksites. In turn, Telework Tampa Bay provides a comprehensive package of technical assistance services at no cost.

- ✦ In 2007, Telework Tampa Bay hosted two workshops attended by over 60 interested parties; one at the Quorum Hotel and the other at the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council office; TTB Staff held 15+ employer meetings/trainings; and over 150+ employers have taken advantage of TTB services.
- ✦ Telework Tampa Bay, participated in the Transportation Supersession, and Commuter Choices Week.
- ✦ Responded to over 200 requests for DRI-related information.
- ✦ Updated and distributed nearly 300 copies of the 2007 Regional Directory which is available at www.tbrpc.org
- ✦ Maintained 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.
- ✦ The LEPC (Local Emergency Planning Committee) completed 6 bimonthly meetings and processed 1,970 Tier Two (right-to-know) reports.
- ✦ Provided staff assistance ranging from the answer to a single question to significant research effort; approximately 454 inquires by phone, and 2496 email communications or letters.
- ✦ Attended four quarterly SERC, Training Task Force, and LEPC Staff and Chair meetings and the annual Florida Emergency Preparedness Association (FEPA) Conference in Daytona Beach.
- ✦ Attended 2 Region 4 Regional Domestic Security Task Force (RDSTF) General Assembly meetings as representative of the LEPC, at Florida Department of Law Enforcement.
- ✦ Represented LEPC as member of Port of Tampa Heavy Weather Advisory Committee.
- ✦ Staffed a Planner position for the Region 4 Regional Domestic Security Task Force.
- ✦ Attended and Completed Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP) Training Course and Train-the-Trainer Training, in Tallahassee, FL.
- ✦ Participated in the development and design of 2008 USCG Port Reconstitution Table Top Exercise.
- ✦ Participated in the development and design of 2008 Pig Blast Exercise, hosted by Pinellas County Sheriffs Office-Forensic Division.
- ✦ Developed and implemented a Regional Resource Database.
- ✦ Facilitated RDSTF training classes and meetings.
- ✦ Established and maintained an RDSTF training forum that supports collaboration and coordination of limited training funds.
- ✦ Established and maintained an RDSTF website that provides a one-stop shop for homeland security updates and resources.
- ✦ Provided contract management support to Hillsborough County Emergency Management to complete Emergency Support Function site assessments.
- ✦ Drafted, edited, and reviewed Regional Response Plans for Domestic Incidents.
- ✦ Staff reviewed and reported on 56 local government comprehensive plan amendments representing 99 individual amendments.
- ✦ Staff prepared 14 Development Order Amendment Reports, four Development Order Reports, 16 Notice of Proposed Change Reports and 84 Annual Report Summaries, all associated with Developments of Regional Impact.
- ✦ Four Development of Regional Impact Final Reports were issued during the past year. The Reports were for: Hillsborough County Mine Consolidation S/D, Pasco Town Centre, Ashley Glen and Starkey Ranch.
- ✦ Reviewed and issued recommendations on 269 projects through the Intergovernmental Coordination and Review (IC&R) process, of which 214 projects were determined to be regionally significant.
- ✦ Staffed four meetings of the Stormwater Education Task Force, in compliance with the Department of Transportation District Seven's NPDES permit; and managed grant funds for stormwater education projects throughout the region, both under contract to FDOT.
- ✦ Prepared Logistical Staging Areas report for State Emergency Response Commission.
- ✦ Prepared an update the Regional Multi-use Trail Element.
- ✦ Conducted Public Input and Information activities for Tampa Bay Water's Long Term Water Supply Plan Update.

ONE BAY AT THE MIDWAY

ONE BAY:

CREATING A SHARED REGIONAL VISION FOR TAMPA BAY



WHAT WILL THE TAMPA BAY REGION LOOK LIKE IN 2050?

Where will 7 million people live and work? How will that many people get from place to place? It may seem like a long way off, but the decisions that are made today will influence the Tampa Bay region of the future.

An important step toward creating a regional vision of the future took place on May 18, 2007. Over 300 leaders from the public, private, and not-for-profit community sectors participated in Reality Check Tampa Bay. The exercise participants placed Legos® on large regional maps to represent their vision of where future population and employment growth should occur. The participants also placed ribbons on the maps to indicate where they envision future road and transit corridors that connect residential areas and employment centers. The Legos® and ribbons from each of 32 table exercises were counted and recorded to help develop population and employment scenarios for the year 2050.

The Reality Check Tampa Bay event served as catalyst for creating an understanding and awareness among the region's

residents about the issues related to growth of the Tampa Bay region over the next 40-plus years. This outreach effort continues as Reality Check has evolved into the project's next phase "One Bay: Fulfilling Life's Possibilities."

An emphasis of the One Bay effort is to create more awareness about growth issues by reaching out to residents in their own backyards. From September through November of 2007, the One Bay team took their "show on the road" to each of the seven counties in the Tampa Bay region. From Brooksville to Sarasota, and from Lakeland to Largo, One Bay public meetings were held to give residents an opportunity to participate in the Lego® exercise tailored for their home county. Participants at these county-level events were able to create their vision of the future based upon guiding principles that they developed prior to allocating future population and employment. The guiding principles, along with the Lego® and ribbon data collected from these county events is being incorporated into the regional alternatives scenario-building process.



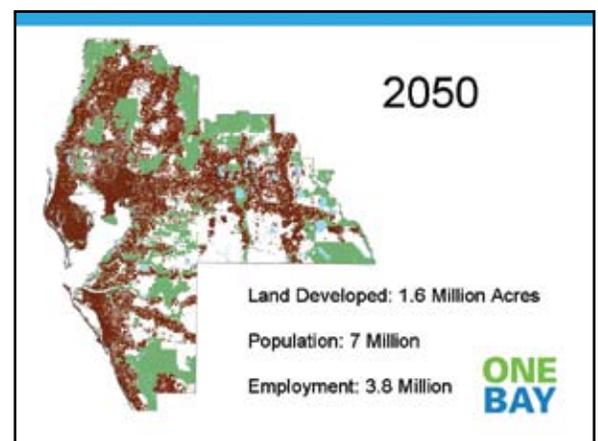
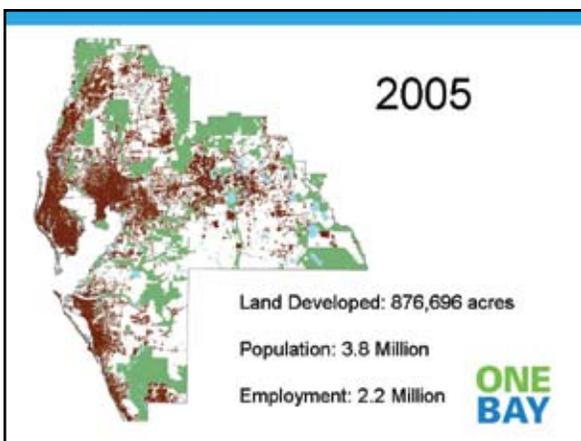


The county-level One Bay events also gave organizers the opportunity to survey local residents about their feelings on growth-related issues. Some of the results of the survey are given below:

- The top two concerns with population growth were infrastructure costs and traffic congestion.
- Water quality and loss of open space and wetlands were the top two environmental concerns.
- Most participants strongly agreed that the Tampa Bay region's quality of life can be improved with planning

and visioning, and that cities and counties should adopt a regional strategy to guide future development.

As the One Bay effort continues, input will continue to be collected from thousands of the region's community leaders, elected officials, and citizens. Population and employment growth scenarios will be developed, analyzed, and made available for public input and review. This process will lay the foundation for the development of guiding principles and implementation steps to assure quality growth for the Tampa Bay region over the coming decades.



The brown areas on the map on the left show the developed areas of the Tampa Bay region in 2005. Based on current development patterns and growth trends, development consumes nearly double the amount of land in 2050 (right) than it does today, as new residents push the region's population to 7 million. To grow smart, alternative growth strategies must be implemented on a regional level.

FLORIDA REGIONAL EVACUATION STUDIES

In an unprecedented strategy,

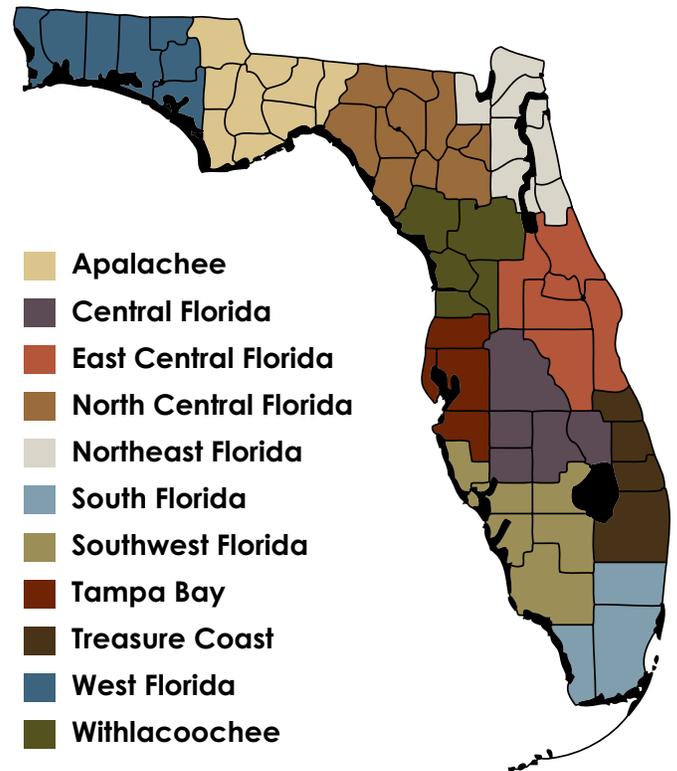
all eleven regional evacuation studies in the state of Florida are being updated at the same time in a consistent and coordinated manner. With cooperative funding from the legislature and the joint support of the Florida Emergency Preparedness Association (FEPA) and the Florida Regional Councils Association (FRCA), the Florida Division of Emergency Management (FDEM) is working with the Regional Planning Councils (RPCs) to develop the necessary methodologies and strategies which will result in a consistent all-hazards approach. “We are excited about the opportunity to demonstrate what can be accomplished regionally,” stated Commissioner Scott Black, TBRPC Chair. “The State will be able to document a consistent and coordinated approach statewide for evacuations. Our local emergency management will have new tools and strategies to facilitate evacuations which will have multi-jurisdictional impacts.”

The first phase of the evacuation study will consist of a Demographic and Land Use Analysis, Hazards Analysis, Behavioral Analysis, Critical Facility Inventories, Shelter Analysis and, Regional Evacuation Transportation Networks. All data will include a GIS-based component which will provide local emergency managers with information regarding not only the number of people in an area but their age, income, and race. “We will be able to pinpoint potential areas where residents may need transportation assistance or a special needs shelter,” stated Sally Bishop, Pinellas County Emergency Management Director. “In both Hillsborough and Manatee Counties, it is also important to know where we need to concentrate our efforts in the growing Hispanic communities” stated Laurie Feagans, Manatee County Emergency Management Director.

The hazards analysis shall identify the potential hazards to the region and shall include not only investigations of the history of hurricane activity in the region including potential storm surge/tide; high winds including tornadoes; and freshwater flooding; but the vulnerability assessment will also address the potential for dam/dike failures, local roadway flooding by freshwater flooding, hazardous material sites, wildfires and the urban interface and terrorism potential primary targets.

“The State will be able to document a consistent and coordinated approach statewide for evacuations. Our local emergency management will have new tools and strategies to facilitate evacuations which will have multi-jurisdictional impacts.”

**-Commissioner Scott Black
TBRPC Chair**

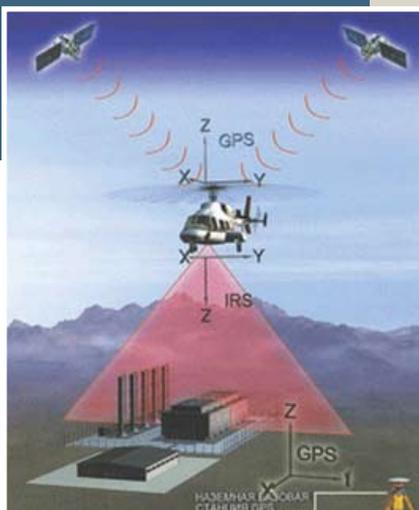


“This is an all-hazards approach,” stated Betti Johnson, TBRPC Principal Planner, “we are looking at all types of emergencies including those with limited notice.”

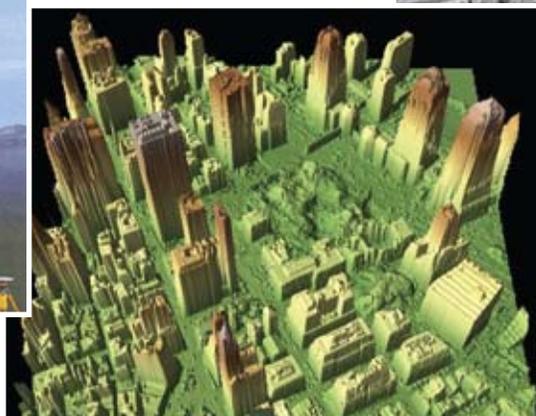
In addition, as part of the project, approximately 25,000 Florida residents will be surveyed via telephone to determine the appropriate planning assumptions regarding evacuation participation rates, perception of risk, destination assignments (in county, out-of-county, out-of-region), vehicle usage, obstacles to evacuation, or other issues as identified by DEM or the local emergency managers. Non-English speaking respondents will be accommodated in the survey process.

In many regions, including Tampa Bay, residents not involved in the official telephone behavioral survey can provide their comments and recommendations through an online web-based survey. Beginning in December 2007, residents can comment by clicking on www.tampabayprepares.org.

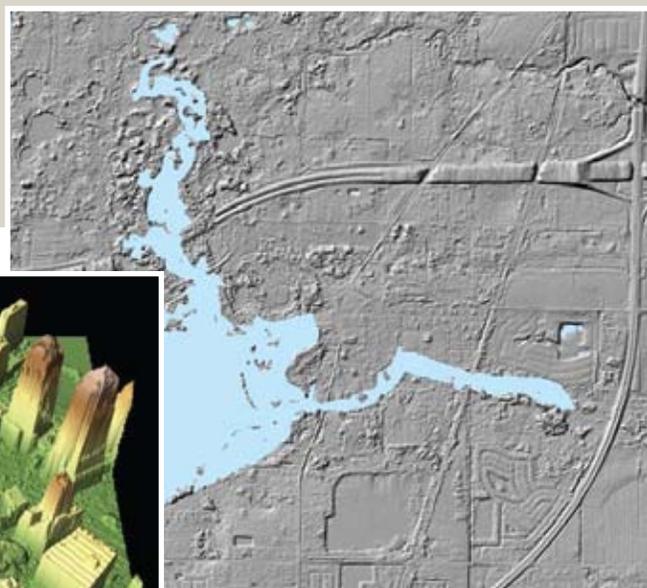
A critical prerequisite of the study update is the collection of detailed



LIDAR topographic data is collected using satellite coordinates, laser technology as planes fly over the area.



The LIDAR imagery creates a 3 dimensional picture of the community.



The raw data is through specialized software that "removes" buildings and infrastructure to produce true ground elevations.

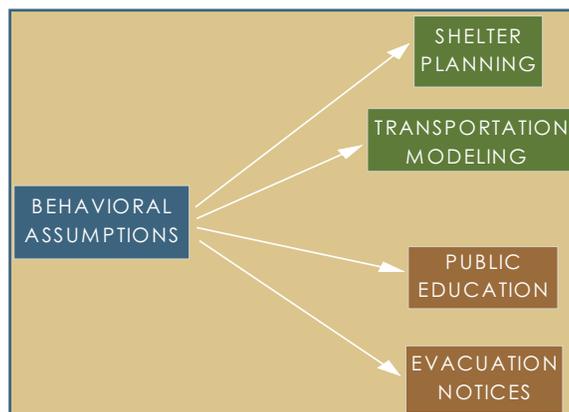
LIDAR topographic data in all coastal areas in the State. The Florida DEM is coordinating this data collection which will provide elevation data accurate within centimeters. "Typical Florida weather (heat and humidity) as well as the wildfires earlier this year delayed some data collection, but hopefully, we are back on track with this important element," stated Jim Martin, Pasco County Emergency Management Director. Once LIDAR topographic data is collected, the National Hurricane Center will be working to incorporate this data and update the SLOSH data for basins along the coast. This will be the first major update in more than 10 years for the Tampa Bay basin.

Once the LIDAR and new SLOSH models are available for a region, the regional planning council can proceed with the second phase of the scope to include: Vulnerability Analysis consisting of the delineation of the storm tide limits and the evacuation zones, identification of population-at-risk and evacuation populations, storm surge analysis of critical facilities and the evacuation transportation analysis.

"Ultimately, the evacuation transportation analysis may be the most important aspect of the study," stated Ron Anderson, Emergency Coordinator for FDOT District VII. Using a professionally accepted transportation model and planning

assumptions, the regions will recalculate vehicle travel time associated with moving threatened population, both coastal and inland (mobile home residents, etc.) evacuees, to areas of safety. Based on the results of the hazard analysis and updated behavioral data identifying desired shelter destinations of coastal evacuees, evacuating vehicles will be re-assigned to the quickest and safest evacuation routes, and routed to the appropriate risk shelters, consistent with operational considerations. The analysis shall consider a wide variety and complexity of multiple regions and multiple county evacuation scenarios. The modeling shall test various evacuation routes, timing strategies, shelter/refuge strategies, and traffic control measures in order to minimize clearance times.

The Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council is taking the lead on many of the tasks of the project particularly with regard to the GIS support. "This is an important project for the regional planning councils in the state. We have the opportunity to share what we have learned here in Tampa Bay over the last 25 years in emergency management planning and build capacity in all eleven "corners" of the State," stated Larry Gispert, Hillsborough County Emergency Management Director and President of the International Emergency Management Association (IEMA).



Evacuation behavioral assumptions, some of the most difficult planning assumptions to make, will have an impact on every aspect of evacuation planning.

REGIONAL ROUNDUP

REGION'S RESIDENTS PROVIDE INPUT ON FUTURE WATER SUPPLY

The Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council (TBRPC) is working in partnership with Tampa Bay Water on its Long-Term Water Supply Plan Update. In the Spring and Summer of 2007, TBRPC and Tampa Bay Water administered a water supply and source water protection survey and collected responses. Survey participants included:

- Attendees of each of six planning workshops held throughout the Tampa Bay region. A public workshop was held in each of Tampa Bay Water's six member government jurisdictions, including Hillsborough, Pasco, and Pinellas counties and the cities of New Port Richey, St. Petersburg, and Tampa.
- Members of the project's Planning Advisory Committee, comprised of professionals from local, regional, and state agencies that deal with water resource issues.

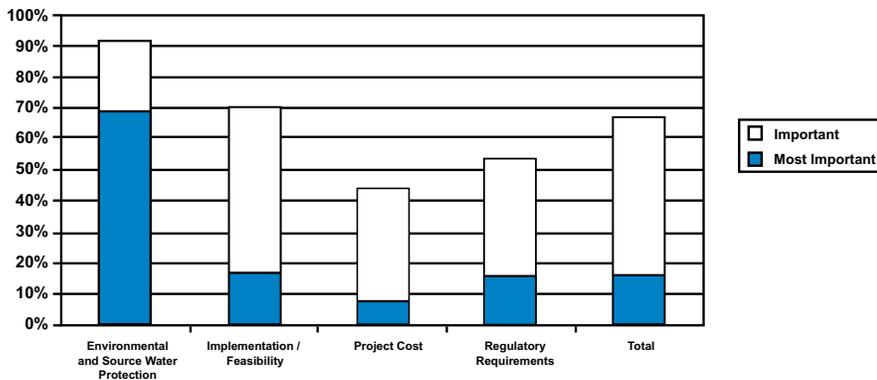
- Attendees of small group meetings to which water supply planning and source water protection information was presented.

- Visitors to the project website, www.futurewater.org.

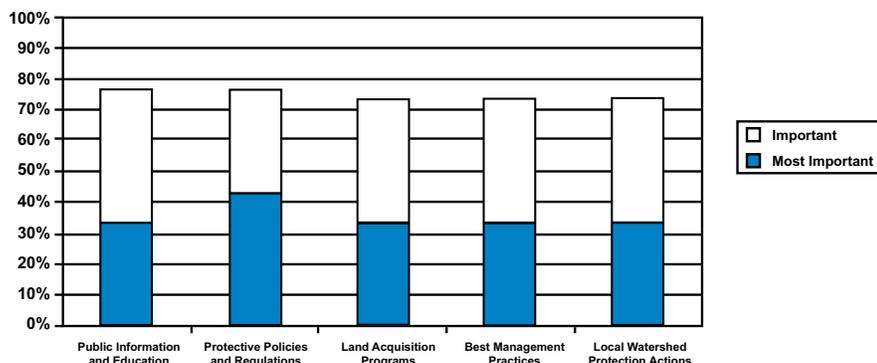
Survey participants were asked to consider five different project screening criteria for potential future water supply projects and to rank the importance of each from Most Important to Not Important. Over 90 percent of respondents ranked Environmental and Source Water Protection as Most Important or Important. Forty-four percent ranked Project Cost in the Most Important or Important categories.

Each of the Tampa Bay region's Source Water Protection options was ranked as Most Important or Important by a majority of respondents (between 74 and 77 percent). The highest number of responses for Most Important was for Protective Policies and Regulations at 43 percent.

Importance Ranking of Project Screening Criteria



Importance Ranking of Source Water Protection Options for the Tampa Bay region as a whole



For Tampa Bay Water's Source Water Protection options, 77 percent of respondents gave "Continue to advocate for protection of the water sources that provide the region's drinking water" a higher priority ranking. Forty-eight percent gave a higher priority ranking to "Develop educational materials for the public on how they can help protect ground and surface water sources to benefit the environment and regional drinking water supplies."

The complete set of survey results can be viewed at the project's website, www.futurewater.org. There, you will also find a link to post your comments on issues regarding long-term water supply planning.

A comprehensive list of over 300 potential future water supply projects is currently being screened using input from the public participation process. In 2008, a narrowed list of potential drinking water projects will be created for Tampa Bay Water board consideration.

TAMPA BAY AREA REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY (TBARTA)

Transportation remains among the most important issues to residents and businesses in our region. On July 28, 2007, Governor Charlie Crist signed into law legislation which created the Tampa Bay Area Regional Transportation Authority (TBARTA). The Authority was established to improve mobility and expand multimodal transportation options for passengers and freight within a seven-county region. The legislation creating the TBARTA encompasses Citrus, Hernando, Hillsborough, Manatee, Pasco, Pinellas and Sarasota counties. Further, TBARTA has the responsibility to plan, develop, finance, build and operate regional transportation facilities.

With the creation of the Tampa Bay Area Regional Transportation Authority we now have an authority that will take action on regional transportation issues, from the conceptual stage through construction and operations. TBARTA is charged with many responsibilities, including creating a regional multimodal transportation master plan by July 1, 2009. The master plan will identify and prioritize projects to improve multimodal mobility, traffic safety, freight mobility, and efficient emergency evacuation.

The authority is represented by a 16-member board serving two-year terms with a limit of three consecutive terms, or three year terms with a limit of two consecutive terms. TBARTA's inaugural Chair, Mr. Shelton Quarles, was appointed by Governor Charlie Crist. Pinellas County Commissioner Ronnie Duncan currently serves as Vice-Chair and Pasco County Commissioner Ann Hildebrand serves as Secretary/Treasurer. To ensure everyone's voices are heard, the 16 members on the TBARTA Board and committees include representatives from the region's business community, counties, major cities, transit agencies, Central Florida Chairs Coordinating Committee (CCC), and the Florida Department of Transportation.

"The Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council (TBRPC) is dedicated to supporting the regional transportation efforts of TBARTA," stated Manny Pumariega, TBRPC Executive Director. "One of our efforts to assist with the successful establishment of this new regional transportation authority was to



August 2007 TBARTA Board Meeting.

provide the interim services of our General Counsel, Mr. Don Conn of the Pennington Moore law firm." Mr. Conn will be assisting the board with various legal functions. "At our initial meeting the authority talked about needing to hit the ground running such as what should be done for the first 100 days, how to move forward, and how to organize," said Bob Clifford, FDOT District 7. "TBRPC stepped up to the plate and provided legal assistance. Mr. Conn is serving as the legal counsel for an interim time period to get the board over the hurdle of by-laws, committees and those types of activities until long-term legal counsel can be obtained. The authority appreciates this type of support."

For further information or updates regarding the Tampa Bay Area Regional Transportation Authority visit www.tbarta.com.

Contributors to this article: Carter & Burgess, Florida Department of Transportation.

Board Members

Mayor Rick Baker
 Michael Bullerdick
 Commissioner Ronnie Duncan (Vice Chair)
 Commissioner Ken Hagan
 Shawn Harrison
 Mayor Frank Hibbard

 Commissioner Ann Hildebrand (Secretary/Treasurer)
 Mayor Pam Iorio
 Hugh McGuire
 Commissioner Nora Patterson
 Mayor Wayne Poston
 Shelton Quarles (Chairman)
 Commissioner Dave Russell
 Commissioner Amy Stein
 Commissioner John Thrumston
 Secretary Don Skelton (non-voting)

Represent

City of St. Petersburg
 Gubernatorial Appointee
 Pinellas County
 Hillsborough County
 Gubernatorial Appointee
 West Central Florida Chairs'
 Coordinating Committee
 Pasco County
 City of Tampa
 Gubernatorial Appointee
 Sarasota County
 City of Bradenton
 Gubernatorial Appointee
 Hernando County
 Manatee County
 Citrus County
 Florida Department of
 Transportation

REGIONAL ROUNDUP

SEAGRASSES - MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES FOR THE LIFE OF TAMPA BAY



Shoal Grass.

Today there are about 28,300 acres of seagrass in Tampa Bay, key to the Bay's natural productivity and the result of improved water quality. With water clarity at an all-time high, it is expected that up to 40,000 acres of seagrass could reestablish in the Bay.

The five species of seagrass found in Tampa Bay are *Thalassia testudinum* (turtle grass), *Syringodium filiforme* (manatee grass), *Halodule wrightii* (shoal grass), *Ruppia maritima* (widgeon-grass), and *Halophila englemannii* (star grass); all flowering plants which require sunlight, substrate and nutrients, just as the grass in our yards and the plants in our wetland and upland habitats do.

And just like other, seagrasses do not grow well or reproduce when their roots are cut or the land erodes away from them. As the Bay's water quality has improved and its fisheries have rebounded, more boaters are enjoying our beautiful and bountiful estuary. Boats of all types can be seen on the Bay, but

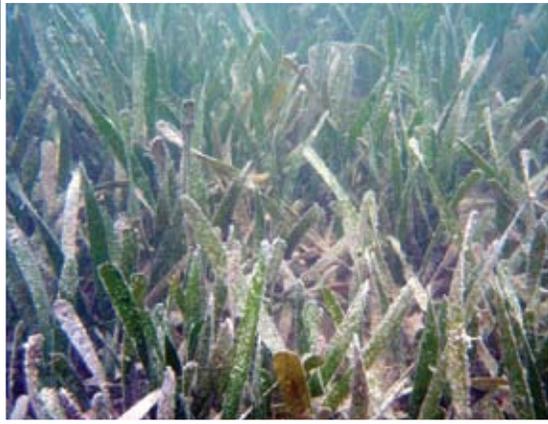
some are damaging the very resource that their operators seek to experience. Propellers are cutting into the seagrasses as the boats are driven into water that is too shallow for the craft. Seagrasses are slow-growing and sensitive to soil profiles, so the trenches dug by boat propellers, even if only an inch deep, can seriously affect seagrass growth.

In Pinellas County, as a result of documented moderate or severe seagrass scarring, boat access restrictions were authorized in 1991 in the area of Weedon Island and in 1994 in the vicinity of Ft. DeSoto County Park, with active enforcement.

The establishment of no combustion engine zones and seagrass caution zones was accompanied by several years of monitoring to determine the success of the program. It was determined that the no combustion engine zones showed less boating related damage than the caution zones, and that there was significant seagrass recovery in the regulated zones when

By the numbers...

28,230	Acres of seagrass in Tampa Bay (2006)
19%	Tampa Bay seagrass lightly scarred (1995)
27%	Tampa Bay seagrass moderately to severely scarred (1995)
10 Tons	Weight of leaves created by an acre of healthy seagrass per year
50 Million	Number of small invertebrates supported by an acre of seagrass
66 - 143	Pounds of aquatic vegetation consumed by an adult manatee each day
\$20,500	Annual economic value of an acre of seagrass (FDEP, 2000)



Healthy Turtle Grass.



Seagrass Scars.



Manatee Grass.

compared to unregulated seagrass meadows, indicating the effectiveness of the management strategies.

A 1995 report by the Florida Marine Research Institute identified that Manatee County had 12,160 acres of seagrass, 20.4% of which were lightly scarred by propellers and 45% were moderately or severely scarred. In recognition of the importance of seagrasses within Manatee County, when Port Manatee was approved to impact 12.7 acres of seagrass and 29.5 acres of shallow, unvegetated bay bottom for improvements to the port facilities in the early 2000s, the port was required to restore or enhance over 142 acres of seagrass beds or potential seagrass habitat and protecting 480 acres of shallow water habitat through implementation of a motorized vessel restriction zone.

In Hillsborough County the Environmental Protection Commission has adopted a Seagrass Management Action Plan, a multi-pronged approach to maintaining and restoring seagrasses within county waters. In addition to continued monitoring of water quality and seagrass condition/species composition and other existing programs, the plan proposes to encourage greater on-water enforcement of environmental laws and rules and to address propeller scarring and seagrass restoration.

Tentative proposals are to create a pilot “pole and troll” zone in the Little Cockroach Bay portion of the Cockroach

Bay Aquatic Preserve (CBAP), located just south of the Little Manatee River’s mouth, or perhaps across the entire 8,500-acre preserve. CBAP is famous for its flats fishing and hosts many guided recreational anglers as well as others on a daily basis. This designation would allow boats, but prohibit the use of combustion engines within the zone, resulting in a quiet fishing area without the potential for further propeller scarring. The zone would be monitored for five years to determine the effectiveness of the regulation. A similar effort was enacted in parts of the preserve some years ago, with mixed results as a result of poor enforcement.

This mechanism to reduce seagrass loss has been enacted in other parts of the state with excellent results. The significant difference in Little Cockroach Bay is the distance (up to one mile) that boaters would have to travel via pole or trolling motor to reach the fishing area. There is broad support for this pilot program, but considerable interest in the creation of higher speed accessways - through the manatee protection zone. A Pole & Troll Task Force has been created to develop ways to resolve access concerns, seagrass and manatee protection, public safety and compliance with the regulations that are enacted.

To view the adopted Seagrass Management Action Plan for Tampa Bay, go to: http://www.epchc.org/ERM%20Reports/Final_Seagrass_Management_Plan_Sep_2007.pdf.

REGIONAL ROUNDUP



Case Study:

Bayside Engineering, Inc.

"In the next three to five years, I envision a larger workforce, but remaining within our current office space, with many employees taking the benefit of teleworking."

-Robert Dvorak, Principal

Telework Program Summary:

Bayside Engineering, Inc. was founded in 1994 by three civil engineers dedicated to serving not only their clients and their profession but to a vision that superior engineering is accomplished through teamwork. It is with this vision that the founders of Bayside created an organization that is built on diversity, respect and passion. Today, with over 65 employees, these core values are the guiding principles of the firm.

Planning for the telework pilot started in 2006. An internal committee worked with staff from Telework Tampa Bay to develop a comprehensive telework program. A pilot program was implemented in 2007 with four employees teleworking once a week and an additional six casual users. Employees use company-provided laptops. The equipment is configured by the IT department so that proper safeguards are in place and there is secured access to the network. Bayside Engineering, Inc. provides a virtual private network to its employees. The employees pay for the High Speed Internet Access. The participants are from the IT, Engineering, and Accounting Departments.

Tailored policies and procedures, selection criteria, training sessions and evaluation parameters were developed for the program. Bayside is planning to expand the program to more staff.

FAST FACTS:

Bayside Engineering, Inc.

Industry:

Engineering

Location:

Telework pilot in Tampa, FL

Statistics:

- 4 teleworkers teleworking once/week
- 6 casual users
- Program implemented 2007

Business benefits:

- Improved morale
- Improved productivity
- Employee retention
- Overhead savings

Challenges:

- Improving technology and access to materials on-line

Transportation impacts:

- Reduced vehicle miles traveled by 7,000 annually. This is based on four teleworkers working at home one day per week for 50 weeks/year and driving 35 miles roundtrip.
- On average teleworkers save 76 minutes each day they telework. They use that time to work more, sleep, and exercise.

Reasons for implementation:

- Improve morale
- Improve recruitment/retention
- Improve productivity

Telework Program Results:

Productivity:

One hundred percent of the employees thought that productivity had increased. One employee estimates that her productivity improved by 15 percent. This is due to no interruptions and being able to focus on work. All supervisors are supportive of the program. Some were not as supportive initially but have come on board since the inception of the program.

All managers of teleworkers agreed that teleworking had improved productivity or had at least stayed the same.

The Workplace:

All of the teleworkers believe that the program had improved their morale and 75 percent of managers agreed with that statement. According to the teleworkers, their coworkers are supportive of the program and feel that they find the teleworkers quicker than their counterparts in the office. No impact was felt on teamwork. Seventy-five percent of managers agreed that teleworking had no negative impact on scheduling of meetings or on the timeliness and the quality of work. Teleworkers had to plan their weeks more carefully to accommodate meetings.

Program Expansion:

All managers agreed that teleworking is “good for the organization,” and have plans to expand the program. Seventy-five percent of managers thought that the telework program provided a competitive advantage for Bayside Engineering.

To expand the program, a new phone system will be rolled out so that calls can be forwarded to their home or cell phone number. Additionally, some improvements need to be made to download files faster. The policies and selection criteria and process will also be reviewed and refined as necessary.

“Teleworking has improved my productivity by about 15 percent. I am able to get more work done without interruptions; I save 40 minutes of driving per week. That equates to 32 hours saved per year and five less tanks of gas.”

-Kimberly Neal

For more information about Telework Tampa Bay
contact Jessica White at (727) 570-5151 ext. 38
or toll-free at 1-888-736-8640
www.teleworktampabay.org

Telework Tampa Bay is a program of the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council, Bay Area Commuter Services, and the Florida Department of Transportation

Bayside Engineering

Selection criteria for teleworkers:

- Need to have high speed internet access in home, paid for by employee
- Submit applications
- Need management approval

Staff teleworking:

- IT
- Accounting
- Engineers

Elements of the program:

- Bayside Engineering provided equipments and virtual private network (VPN)
- Policies and program guidelines
- Training
- Evaluation

Annual emissions savings (adjusted for 2007 factors):

- VOC (Volatile Organic Compounds): 6,972 grams/15 pounds
- CO (Carbon Monoxide): 75,600 grams/166 pounds
- NOx (Nitrous Oxide): 4,830 grams/11 pounds

Contact:

Gabriella Laub, HR and Payroll Manager
E-mail: glaub@baysideng.com
Phone: (813) 314-0314

Case Study Prepared by Telework Tampa Bay

Telework Tampa Bay - Case Study 101207

COUNCIL CAPSULES

TBRPC GENERAL COUNSEL RETIRES AFTER 36 YEARS



In February the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council honored long-time General Counsel, Roger S. Tucker, Esq. “It has been a privilege to have worked with Roger for 26 of the 36

years he has been providing legal counsel to this organization,” said Manny Pumariega, Executive Director. “Roger has left a mark on many of our programs and projects.” Mr. Tucker’s tenure with the Council has included many milestones. He has been involved with the Development of Regional Impact process since its inception; he was also involved in setting the rules and the very first appeal. Through the years Roger has been a key advisor during a number of re-structuring efforts of the Council and he proved invaluable during the building of the new Council facility in 2004.

It was a natural fit that Roger, an avid boater and water enthusiast, would be one of the principals in forming the Agency on Bay Management in 1984, and again in 1987

with his involvement in the newly formed SWIM legislation. The Water Management District has been administering this legislation for many years. Roger was also a key player in establishing the policies and procedures for the National Estuary Program which has been a prototype for the rest of the nation. Along with these efforts he is responsible for initiating the quarterly Bay Soundings Journal which has grown to a distribution rate of 30,000 per quarter.

At the February Council meeting Commissioner Scott Black presented Mr. Tucker with a replica of the US Coast Guard Eagle Cutter as a token of appreciation for his years of service. Roger served in the U.S. Coast Guard and talks fondly of his experiences. Commissioner Black reminded the board that “Roger has never missed a Council meeting, and most of all, Roger has kept the Council on solid legal ground over the past 36 years.”

Mr. Tucker thanked everyone for the many good years he had at the Council. “There has been a change in the makeup of the Council over the years, but it has all been for the better. The Council has a wonderful staff and I have been very happy working here.” Roger and his wife Alice continue to be involved in various community organizations and divide their time between their residence in Belleair and their home on the St. John’s River in Walatka, Florida.

Do you need a speaker or informative presentation for your next community or business organizations meeting?



The Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council staff is available to provide a presentation on various regional topics at your next community or business organizations meeting. Our most requested presentation is a general overview of the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council’s activities and programs. This presentation includes a 15 minute DVD with Q&A to follow. Audio visual capabilities are not required by the host facility. Upon request, Council staff will provide all the equipment needed for the presentation.

Contact Wren Krahl, Manager of Administration & Public Information, to schedule a presentation: wren@tbrpc.org or (727) 570-5151, ext. 22.



Explore the waterfront, surrounding coastlands, and issues of Tampa Bay with *Bay Soundings*!

Bay Soundings chronicles the news and issues affecting the bay, while profiling the people, places and creatures that make it so compelling. Thanks to generous community support, Bay Soundings is distributed free of charge due to the following prime sponsors: Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council, Tampa Bay Estuary Program, The Southwest Florida Management District and Gulfstream Natural Gas System.

Interested readers may subscribe online at www.baysoundings.com or send an email to circulation@baysoundings.com. Copies are also available at area attractions, and a wide variety of businesses and civic organizations throughout the region.

If you or your company would like to become a sponsor of *Bay Soundings*, please contact Suzanne Cooper at the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council, (727) 570-5151 ext. 32 or email suzanne@tbrpc.org.

www.baysoundings.com

LEPC BIDS FAREWELL TO LARRY GISPERT

During its March meeting the LEPC said farewell to a dedicated member, Mr. Larry Gispert, Director of Emergency Management for Hillsborough County. Mr. Gispert became an LEPC member in 1994 when most county emergency managers were not members. He recognized the value of the LEPC, the contributions it could make to the region and the contributions he personally could make to the LEPC. Since joining in 1994 Mr. Gispert has remained on the LEPC as a faithful member and rarely missed meetings.

In 1998 the LEPC was honored to select Mr. Gispert for the annual State Emergency Response Commission (SERC) award for outstanding achievement by an LEPC member. Mr. Gispert was the driving force to bring together the anhydrous ammonia terminals located on the Port of Tampa. He partnered with the U.S. Coast Guard, the Tampa Port Authority, and city and county emergency management, to install a \$150,000 siren system which went beyond the actual Coast Guard requirements for the industry; this effort provided area wide coverage.

He also served with distinction as President of the Florida Emergency Preparedness Association - FEPA. He currently serves as Vice President of the International Association of Emergency Managers and next year will become president. The LEPC is grateful to Mr. Gispert for his service during the past 13 years. To show that gratitude, the LEPC presented a glass plaque to Mr. Gispert in recognition of his many contributions.



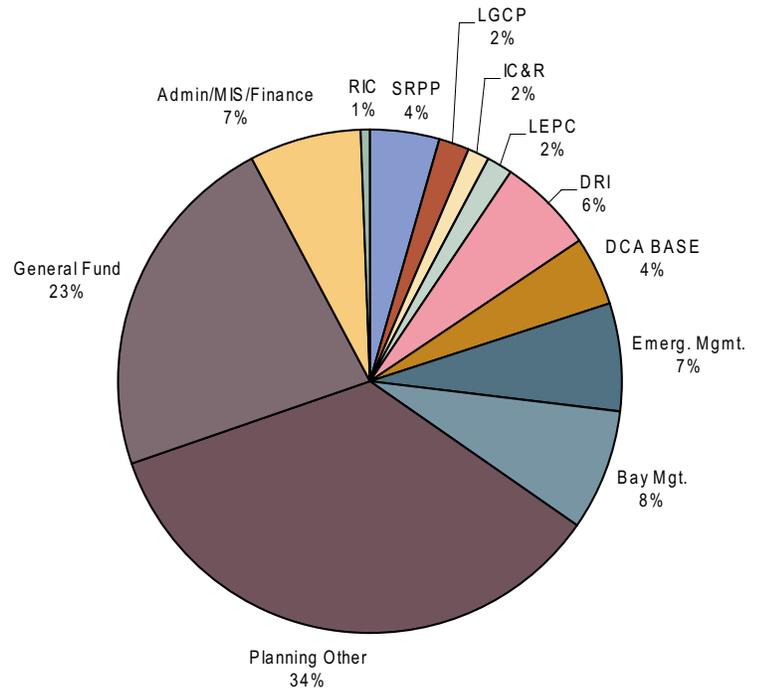
COUNCIL CAPSULES

THE ANNUAL BUDGET

The Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council's Executive/Budget Committee accounted for more than \$3,120,186 financing the regional programs featured in this annual report. The \$3,120,186 in revenues were derived from federal (10.80%), state (27.21%) and local (61.99%) sources. Staff worked closely with the Executive/Budget Committee during the 2007 fiscal year.

The administrative staff is responsible for the overall operations of the Council's office facility. These responsibilities include but are not limited to: Board operations, inner office procedures and policies, records management, human resources for Council staff, and public information. The administrative staff recently updated and revised the Council website, the Councilmember Handbook as well as several other Council publications. Administration continues to emphasize staff development, encouraging each staff member to attend local workshops in areas of his or her expertise.

FY 07 EXPENDITURES



AGENCY ON BAY MANAGEMENT

The Agency has had a busy year, as several issues received special attention. Most notably:

- At the request of US Senator Bill Nelson's office, the Agency held a forum on Clam Bayou, an embayment nestled on the edge of Boca Ciega Bay in Gulfport and St. Petersburg which suffers from excess sediment and litter build-up
- Protection of Cockroach Bay Aquatic Preserve's seagrasses was discussed, with recommendations made to the Environmental Protection Commission of Hillsborough County.
- The closure of the Piney Point Phosphogypsum Stack and Facility reached a milestone when the discharge of treated process water ended.
- The Apollo Isles planned development, which would have increased the residential canals accessing Tampa Bay, was reviewed for natural resource and water quality impacts with recommendations sent to Hillsborough County.

- Tampa Bay Water's proposal to reclassify the Alafia River and the Tampa Bypass Canal to Class I - Potable Supply was discussed on three occasions, with comments sent to the agency.
- A research study and restoration plan for Tampa Bay's longshore bars and associated seagrass was presented
- The conclusions of the Tampa Harbor General Reevaluation study were discussed and comments provided to the US Army Corps of Engineers.



BAY SOUNDINGS

The Council's environmental journal began its 6th year of quarterly publication with the Fall 2007 issue and continued to focus on sustainability, focusing on climate change, cooling our concrete cities, and the effect of sea level rise on Tampa Bay's coastal habitats. "We received rave reviews for providing greater detail than usually available in other media on these topics," stated Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council Chair, Commissioner Scott Black. "The reader-friendly format enables our readers to better relate the subject to their own lives and activities."

The journal's website, www.baysoundings.com, has been upgraded with new features, including the ability to e-mail or print stories from the screen. A recent check of the statistics showed that, in just one seven-day period, there were 46,900 successful requests for web pages and over 2.7 gigabytes of data transferred to users. We also changed the size of our printed publication. The slightly smaller size of Bay Soundings provides a cost-savings of almost two thousand dollars in postage annually.

The Winter 2008 issue, due out in January, will provide information on mitigating/reducing the effects of climate change, the variety of renewable and alternative energy sources under development or investigation in the Bay area, and how the expansion of biofuel production is impacting Chesapeake Bay.

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AMENDMENTS

During the 2007 review period, 56 Local Government Comprehensive Plan (LGCP) reports representing 99 amendments were issued. Sixty-two were land use amendments affecting over 50,000 acres in our four-county region. No amendments were found to be inconsistent with the Strategic Regional Policy Plan.

Involvement in the local comprehensive plan evaluation and appraisal report process increased during 2007. Council staff reviewed, and where necessary, offered comments on draft Evaluation and Appraisal Reports (EARs) from Holmes Beach, Palmetto, Dade City, San Antonio, St. Leo, Gulfport, Largo, North Redington Beach, Oldsmar, Pinellas Park, Redington Shores, Safety Harbor, St. Petersburg, St. Pete Beach, Seminole, and South Pasadena,

In addition EAR based comprehensive plan amendments were reviewed for the following: Anna Maria, New Port

Richey, Port Richey, Belleair, Belleair Bluffs, Belleair Shore, and Belleair Beach.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL COORDINATION & REVIEW

Reviewed and issued recommendations on 269 projects through the Intergovernmental Coordination and Review (IC&R) process, of which 210 projects were determined to be regionally significant. To view IC&R reports please visit www.tbrpc.org.

NEW DEVELOPMENT IS COMING TO PASCO COUNTY



The Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council has completed review for two Development of Regional Impact proposals within Pasco County. The proposals, which are awaiting final approval by Pasco County, are:

Ashley Glen, Pasco County

JES Properties, Inc. has proposed a 260-acre mixed-use proposal located in southcentral, essentially at the northeast corner of the Suncoast Parkway/S.R.

54 intersection. The project is about 2.5 miles north of the Hillsborough County line and would contain 900 residential units, 1.8 million sq. ft. of office, 444,000 sq. ft. of retail and a 6,000 sq. ft. day care facility when completed in 2019. The Council's Final Report was approved on July 9, 2007. The parcel is identified as "261" on the map.

Starkey Ranch, Pasco County

Proposed on approximately 2,525 acres, Starkey Ranch Investment Company, LLC anticipates development of 4,285 residential units, 277,150 sq. ft. of retail, 344,520 sq. ft. of office, 170,000 sq. ft. of light industrial, a 100 room Hotel, civic space, schools, day care facilities and movie theatres when completed in 2022. The project site is in southwest Pasco County, northwest of the S.R. 54/starkey Boulevard intersection, less than three miles from Hillsborough and Pinellas County lines. The Council's Final Report was approved on July 9, 2007. The project is identified as "264" on the map.

COUNCIL CAPSULES

ECONOMIC ANALYSIS PROGRAM

The Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council (TBRPC) is a regional leader in economic analysis. Local communities, governments, economic development agencies, and regional partnerships utilize an economic analysis to estimate how the change of a business activity or policy decision will affect the economy of the city, county, and/or region. Business relocations, closings, and expansions are studied along with the use of incentives to attract or keep the business in the region.

The Economic Analysis Program employs a number of tools to provide the community with high quality and lost cost analysis. Our tools include: strong data sources in the Regional Information Center, IMPLAN® (an input/output model), REMI Policy Insight® (a highly sophisticated econometric model), Economic Development Module, Fiscal Analysis Tool, and extensive staff training.

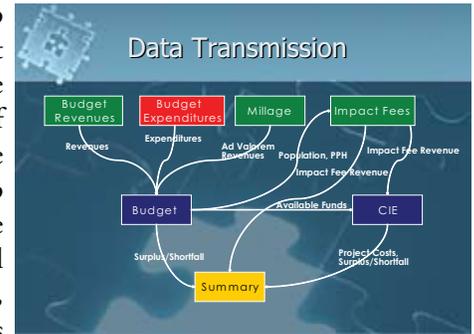
The tools help to determine the induced and implied impacts that will be felt by a decision. When a change is made to the economic environment, the affect ripples through the community. Spending habits will change, increasing or decreasing jobs, lowering or increasing personal income, changes in business production, tax collection, etc. This year alone, over 25 Economic Analyses were performed. One example was an analysis on the impacts of a Consumer Electronic and Medical Company expanding its operations by 800 employees. The employees spending habits along with the business's operations create an additional 3,805 employees in the community. The total impact of the combined jobs results in an additional \$569 million in Gross County Product (similar to Gross Domestic Product, GDP) and \$227 million in Personal Income. Knowing this information beforehand allows the users to plan smarter. The tools can convey which industries would benefit which communities better to assist with decision making. These tools help decision makers make informed decisions about their communities.

FISCAL ANALYSIS TOOL

The Fiscal Analysis Tool (FAT) was created by the TBRPC in conjunction with the Department of Community Affairs and Dr. James Nicholas as a useful planning guide. The tool is a Microsoft Excel based per capita forecasting guide. It also contains a Capital Improvements Element (CIE) module, allowing the users to input their local CIE to ensure fiscal

responsibility. Users with enough knowledge of Excel can customize the tool to fit their needs. FAT can be used on a county or city-wide area level.

FAT is made up of seven different tabs with the transmission of data following the entity relationship diagram to the right. The tool is color coded, allowing the users



to quickly and easily find the inputs and assumptions used to derive the results. The core of the forecasting is based upon the local budget, per capita costs, anticipated growth, millage rates, and impact fees. Each of these assumptions is changeable to allow the user to predict how a change will impact their community.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT MODULE EXPANDED TO PROVIDE ANALYSIS FOR ALL PARTS OF FLORIDA

The Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council (TBRPC) has recently developed region-specific Economic Development Modules (EDMs) that provide coverage for the entire state. In September, TBRPC delivered the modules to the ten other regional planning councils in Florida and provided training for their economic analysts and geographic information systems (GIS) users. The regional versions of the EDM allow zip code-level analysis of economic impacts created by business development and policy decisions.

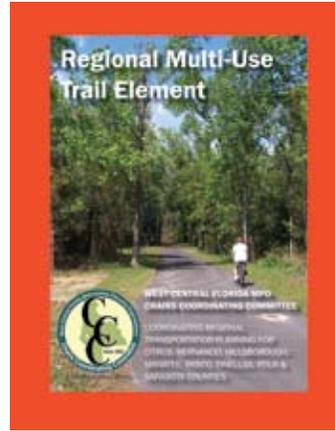
“The TBRPC Economic Development Module shows how different locations are affected by various changes in the economy. The modeling tool is integrated with GIS software to enhance the presentation of economic forecast data,” stated Avera Wynne, TBRPC Planning Director. Instead of having to wade through a sea of tables and spreadsheets, EDM users can clearly see on a map where economic impacts are forecast to occur based on scenarios that are input into the module. The EDM is a component of TBRPC’s Decision Support GIS program. The Decision Support GIS technology models and maps simulated outcomes based on land use, environmental, economic, fiscal, emergency management, and domestic security issues.

REGIONAL TRANSIT ROUNDTABLES

With its origin coming in May 2003, the Council again hosted regional transit roundtable discussions in 2006-07 to encourage coordination and the sharing of ideas on transit-related issues between local transit agencies and local governments. This year's meetings, held in October, December, and again in August, were well-attended by stakeholders from throughout the region.

Some of the topics that were discussed included: Polk County Transit's Regional Merger, Sarasota and Manatee transit cooperation, Central Florida Rail Corridor Acquisition, Regional Transit Work Group, Hillsborough County MPO LRTP Transit Component, Tampa Bay Area Regional Transportation Authority legislation, and the Pinellas Mobility Initiative. Additional presentations and discussions included identification of potential transit riders, bus rapid transit (BRT) initiatives, and success stories of transit systems in other regions. The transit roundtable meetings have turned out to be a valuable communication and brain-storming tool for the region's transit professionals and therefore the Council has plans to host additional roundtable discussions, as needed, throughout the upcoming year.

REGIONAL MULTI-USE TRAILS PLANNING



TBRPC has been working with the West Central Florida Chair's Coordinating Committee (CCC) to update their Regional Multi-Use Trail Element of their long-range transportation plan. The Multi-Use Trails Element seeks to increase awareness of the importance of regional and intercounty bicycle movement for regional mobility and to provide

guidance to local governments on issues and opportunities related to multi-use trail planning. Additionally, the Multi-Use Trail Element highlights the need for additional funding to implement a continuous system of trails and promotes the intergovernmental coordination that is necessary to maximize mobility within the region. The final element and regional multi-use trail brochure will be completed and available in December.

AUDIENCE RESPONSE SYSTEM

LET THE TAMPA BAY REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL MOVE YOUR NEXT MEETING INTO THE 21ST CENTURY!



Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council has acquired an Interactive Audience Response system. The system consists of credit card sized keypads, receivers, and software. Participants answer questions displayed on a screen and receive answer confirmation on their ResponseCard through two-way communication. Successful transmissions are acknowledged on the participant's keypad via a three second long visual green light signal. In addition to displaying the audience response instantly on-screen, the TurningPoint software can perform demographic slicing of all responses in countless ways. Currently the Council owns 200 keypads but can add additional keypads for larger events.



To find out how the system can energize your meetings contact, Brady Smith, brady@tbrpc.org, or Avera Wynne, avera@tbrpc.org.

COUNCIL CAPSULES

RDSTF PLANNER

During 2007, Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council (TBRPC) has staffed a Planner position for the Regional Domestic Security Task Force (RDSTF) Region 4; funded through the Florida Division of Emergency Management. The RDSTF Planner works closely with the various response agencies and personnel throughout the nine county region on various projects and exercises. TBRPC has extended the RDSTF Planner position through 2010.



The primary duty of the Planner is the continued implementation of the Region 4 Type 3 Incident Management Team (IMT). The 26-man Type 3 IMT team is made up of command and general staff members in an Incident Command Structure organization. It is a unique team of highly trained personnel from various departments, organization, agencies, and jurisdictions throughout the region. Focus has since shifted from development of the team to implementation and needs; current efforts are now placed in identifying resources and equipment that will be needed to respond to and support recovery efforts during emergency events.

The RDSTF website is up and running. This website supports the region by providing easy access to homeland security and domestic preparedness resources; it provides a forum for counties to submit training updates and course availability. Additionally, the website supports a bulletin board forum that allows for information to be passed freely and securely among registered users; this provides a great sounding board medium for first responders and first receivers throughout the region.

HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY GENERATOR PROJECT BRIEF

During 2007, Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council (TBRPC) and Hillsborough County Emergency Management have conducted site assessments of facilities throughout Hillsborough County who are charged with response and recovery activities during emergency events. To date the site assessments have proved successful in determining needs and capability gaps. The assessments will conclude December 31st, 2007.

PINELLAS COUNTY/TBRPC: PLANNING FOR RECOVERY

Pinellas County has contracted with the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council to work with them in 2008 to develop a Disaster Recovery Implementation Guide and Post Disaster Redevelopment Plan. This effort will update existing plans and procedures and take a comprehensive look at the strategies needed for Pinellas County to “come back” from a devastating disaster. A major challenge and priority will be to identify how to provide temporary disaster housing recognizing it may be with us for a while.

It is important we learn from other recent catastrophes in Mississippi, Louisiana and California. We need to ensure our residents that we will rebuild and will be stronger and more resilient, economically, physically and as a community.

Long-Term Recovery Obstacles in New Orleans and Programs/ Strategies to Evaluate

- Lack of affordable housing (CDB Funds)
- Repair of Louisiana’s broken healthcare system (Community Based Clinics)
- Rebuilding Region’s economy and providing good jobs (Gulf Opportunity Zones)
- Levee (Infrastructure) System Fears and Uncertainties
- Bureaucratic Red Tape (Post Disaster Redevelopment Plans)

FLORIDA BUSINESS DISASTER SURVIVAL KIT



This year TBRPC was funded to update the existing Florida Business Disaster Survival Kit and web site through the Emergency Management, Preparedness and Assistance Trust Fund. An active committee consisting of both public and private sector partners is revising materials based on recommendations

from business focus groups, economic development and emergency management agencies. These efforts include:

- Update materials including information on pandemic influenza
- A more Interactive Web Site with planning tools
- Translation of materials to Spanish with Outreach Program
- Sponsorships to fund necessary duplication (70,000 copies)

TAMPA BAY LEPC YEAR AGAIN HIGHLIGHTED BY DISASTER PREPAREDNESS WORKSHOPS

As an outgrowth of Hazardous Materials Awareness Week in January 2006, the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) undertook a series of workshops to assist facilities, both commercial businesses and government, with the development of plans to prepare for safeguarding hazardous materials during a disaster.

The workshops centered on discussion of pre-event, event, and post-event planning featuring Disaster in a Post-Katrina World, Basics of Business Continuity Planning, and What to do Before, During and After a Disaster. The workshops also included Pre-Disaster Risk Assessment, Risk Assessment Tools and exercises in Hazardous Materials Management & Business Recovery. Pre-Disaster Communications Tools for Facilities and Pre-Disaster Communications Planning included discussion of landlines, cell phones, satellite phones, radios, CBs; Warning/notification and communications and Public information issues. The workshops also encompassed elements of Facility Preparedness, Protection of Assets and Critical Data, Training and Security, Hazardous Materials, Resources, Media Relations, Critique and Plan Revisions, Pre-Event Scheduling, and finally Checklists.



Hazards/Risk Assessment Workshop.

Efforts for 2007 focused on Hazards/Risk Assessment Workshops which were conducted in Pinellas, Hillsborough, and Manatee Counties. A fourth workshop is scheduled for January 2008

in Pasco County. Since the response to these workshops has continued to be high, the LEPC will continue throughout 2008. Other community outreach activities included the annual round of 25 How-to-Comply Workshops, held throughout the region to assist facilities with a requirement to report on an annual basis, their chemical inventories under the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA). A third outreach continued with briefings on the ammonia siren warning system. The system provides for more than twice the coverage of the old system for warning the residents and tenants on the Port of Tampa of an event regarding release of ammonia from one of the three Port ammonia terminals.

In January, Florida's Annual Thomas Yatabe SERC (State

Emergency Response Commission) awards are announced for individuals or facilities, both private and government, who have made outstanding contributions in the field of hazardous materials



Chlorine Training Workshop.

preparedness, planning, mitigation, or response. This year's recipient for District 8 was The Tampa Bay LEPC nominee, Mr. Chester W. Klinger, Essilor of America, Inc. He was nominated for his vision for the Disaster Planning Workshops and his hard work in putting the whole mechanism into operation and recruiting the outstanding team members who currently serve. Certificates of Appreciation were presented to Mr. Richard Wojnowicz, R2J Chemical Services, Inc. and Captain Robert S. Stiner, Pinellas County Sheriff's Office.

In the area of training, District 8 LEPC conducted a number of courses with funds provided by the U.S. Department of Transportation's Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness (HMEP) program. These included the following :

- Hazwoper Refresher Course
- 24-hour EMS HazMat Instructor Course for the Manatee County Hazmat Team.
- Three one-day CAMEO trainings for Hazmat Technician First Responders
- A 24-Hour Chlorine for Chlorine Handlers in Water and Wastewater Facilities
- 8-Hour Awareness Clandestine Meth Lab Awareness Course
- Three ICS 300 courses
- Two ICS 400 courses
- 24 Hour Bridge Course for Manatee County Hazmat Technicians
- 4-hour Clandestine Lab Training Course in partnership with Pasco County.
- A total of 586 people were trained during FY 06-07.

A highlight of the year was the LEPC's hosting of the Homeland Security Exercise Evaluation Program (HSEEP) mobile training course. A total of 38 people were trained with most going through the Train-the-Trainer course in order to deliver this new, updated version of HSEEP - which is both the federal and state standard for evaluating exercises.

COUNCIL CAPSULES

Executive Director Receives National Recognition

The National Association of Regional Councils (NARC) presented the prestigious Walter Scheiber Leadership Award to Manny L. Pumariega, Executive Director of the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council (TBRPC). The award, given annually by NARC, recognizes the significant impact an Executive Director of a regional planning organization has made at the local, state, and national levels. It is named after Walter Scheiber, former Executive Director of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments and a founder and first president of NARC. Since 1976, one executive director in the nation is chosen each year to receive the honor. Manny received the award at the National Association of Regional Councils 41st Annual Conference held in Orlando. The recipient is nominated by a policy official or a fellow executive director and chosen by the NARC Executive Committee, the NARC Executive Director and the NARC Deputy Director. The Award was presented at the annual awards luncheon by keynote speaker, General Barry McCaffrey and the Honorable John P. Thompson, current President of NARC. Those in attendance at the luncheon included his wife, Doreen Pumariega; his three daughters, Lisa Pumariega; Dina Howell and her husband, Troy; Natalie Dean, her husband Trey, and their two children, Charlie and Julia; and family friend, Luis Suarez.

Throughout his 27 year tenure with the Council, Manny has continually worked to promote the concept of regionalism on all levels with accomplishments such as the following: the first Hurricane Evacuation Plan which served as a model for the nation; the first Regional Planning Council in the state and the nation to complete and adopt a Comprehensive Regional Policy Plan; the Future of the Region Plan which served as a model for the 10 other RPCs in the State; 10,000 signatures to enable the Tampa Bay Estuary to have its own Florida State license tag, which brings in more than \$150,000 annually back to the Region for environmental programs; first to produce and distribute the Official Hurricane! Guide, which is in its 20th year of distribution (now also printed in Spanish); first to receive designation of a National Estuary Program for Tampa Bay; and first to adopt a growth policy and use it as a guide in the review of large scale development and other planning programs.

He was also responsible for the following initiatives: the Regional Economic Impact Analysis Model, a state of the art GIS Decision Support System and the Telework Tampa Bay Pilot Program. Manny represented the Council as a marquee partner in the recent regional visioning exercise, Reality Check-One Bay. He is a gubernatorial appointee to the State Emergency Response Commission.



General Barry McCaffrey presents Manny Pumariega with the Walter Scheiber Leadership Award.

“From community leader to executive director, Manny Pumariega is always in the forefront ready to take the lead. Those who know Manny personally are aware of his personal dedication and unsurpassed energy and his willingness to help and share ideas. With his strong leadership ability and warm demeanor it is obvious why he has been elevated by his peers locally, statewide and nationally.”

-Commissioner Scott Black,
2007 TBRPC Chair



Pumariega Family with General Barry McCaffrey .

TAMPA BAY REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL PRESENTS THE...

16th Annual

Future of the

Region Awards

Do you have a project or program that exemplifies regionalism?

The Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council is sponsoring the 16th Annual Future of the Region Awards program to provide recognition for outstanding achievement and contribution which benefit the regional community.

The Awards Luncheon will take place Friday, March 28, 2008, 11:45 a.m. at the Quorum Hotel, 700 North Westshore Blvd., Tampa, Florida 33609.

For more information on eligibility and to download submission forms visit www.tbrpc.org, or contact Ms. Wren Krahl, Manager of Administration/Public Information, wren@tbrpc.org, (727) 570--5151 x22.



CALL FOR ENTRIES

SUBMISSIONS DEADLINE: Friday, January 11, 2007

COUNCIL CAPSULES

MEET THE OFFICERS

COMMISSIONER SCOTT BLACK, CHAIR CITY OF DADE CITY, FLORIDA



Commissioner Black has served Dade City since 1990 and has been their representative on the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council since 1999. Commissioner Black also served as Mayor from 2000-2004 and as Mayor Pro-Tem from 1992-2000. Commissioner Black is known for his past service as President of the Florida League of Cities and Chair of the Florida Investment Trust, 2000-2001. He also served as President of the Suncoast League of Municipalities.

VICE MAYOR DEBORAH KYNES, VICE CHAIR CITY OF DUNEDIN, FLORIDA



Vice-Mayor Kynes has served the city of Dunedin since 1999 and has been with the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council since 2000. Vice-Mayor Kynes was President of the Junior League of Clearwater-Dunedin, Chair of the Pinellas County Arts Council and Chair of the Clearwater Jazz Holiday Foundation. She is an alumna of Leadership Pinellas, Leadership Tampa Bay and Leadership Florida and is in her third term as Chair of the Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority.

REVEREND JAMES T. GOLDEN, SECRETARY/TREASURER COUNCILMAN, CITY OF BRADENTON, FLORIDA



Reverend Golden has represented the City of Bradenton on the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council since 2000. He currently serves on the Legislative Committee, the Regional Planning Advisory Committee, the Clearinghouse Review Committee and he has served as Co-Chair of the Council's Workforce Housing Think Tank. Reverend Golden is pastor of Ward Temple AME Church and received his Juris Doctorate from the University of Florida.

STAFF

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Avera Wynne, Planning Director
Wren Krahl, Manager of Administration/Public Information/Editor

Ext.	17	Manny Pumariega	Executive Director
	30	Avera Wynne	Planning Director
	22	Wren Krahl	Manager of Administration/Public Information
	19	John Jacobson	Accounting Manager
	11	Marshall Flynn	Information Systems Manager, GIS
	32	Suzanne Cooper	Principal Planner, ABM (Environmental)
	17	Lori Denman	Administrative Assistant
	26	Nancy Harrison	Accountant
	15	Frank Hughes	Accounting Assistant
	10	Bobbi Jaroy	Planning Secretary
	39	Betti Johnson	Principal Planner, Emergency Management (Hurricane)
	33	Bill Lofgren	Principal Planner, LEPC Sara III-Haz. Mat.
	28	Richard Kephart	Senior Planner (Military Duty)
	29	John Meyer	Principal Planner, DRI Coordinator
	18	Greg Miller	Senior Planner, GIS/Transportation
	31	Patrick O'Neil	Senior Planner, Economic Development/Analysis
	42	Brady Smith	Senior Planner, GIS/Economic Development/Emergency Management
	38	Jessica White	Senior Planner, Telework Tampa Bay
	21	Erika Wiker	Planner, Regional Domestic Security Task Force
	41	Kim Williams	Communications/Graphics Coordinator
	14	Sue Young	Planning Secretary

CREDITS

The Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council extends gratitude to the following for their contributions to the 2007 Annual Report edition of Visions: Carter & Burgess, Florida Department of Transportation, Tampa Bay Area Regional Transportation Authority, Tampa Bay Partnership: Reality Check/One Bay and Tampa Bay Water.



Visit our new and improved website:

www.tbrpc.org