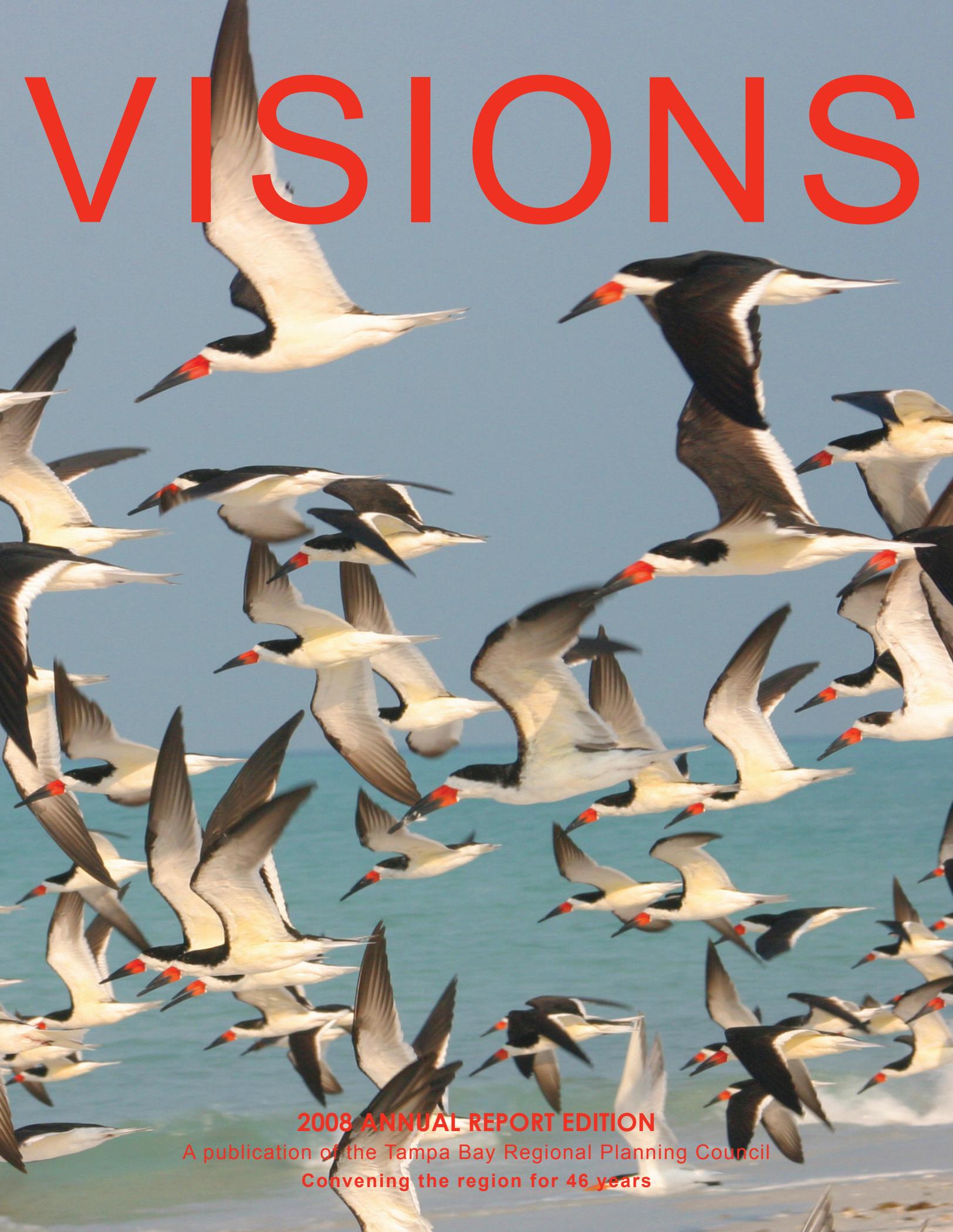


VISIONS



2008 ANNUAL REPORT EDITION

A publication of the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council

Convening the region for 46 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.

VISIONS

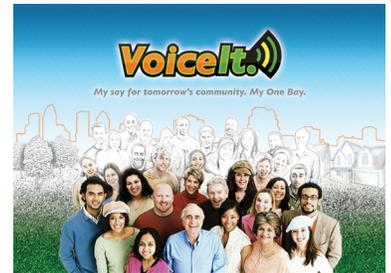
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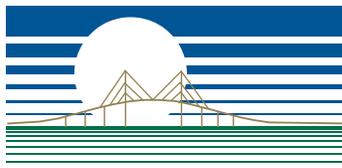
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REGIONALLY SPEAKING

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR AND THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council

<i>Chair</i>	<i>Vice Chair</i>	<i>Secretary/Treasurer</i>	<i>Executive Director</i>
Commissioner Deborah Kynes	Commissioner Bill Dodson	Commissioner Jack Mariano	Manny Pumariega

This past year marks the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council's (TBRPC) 46th year in regional planning. During the last four decades the Council has strived to achieve best practice standards in all aspects of its programs and endeavors. The year 2008 proved to be another successful year in the Council's history in a most remarkable time for our state and nation.

This past year we had the successful completion of the Telerwork Pilot Project and Implementation Guide and the statewide Florida Business Disaster Kit and Interactive Website. Another milestone for the Council was the Tampa Bay Estuary Tarpon specialty license plate surpassed the one million dollar revenue mark in 2008. The revenues from this specialty plate go to the restoration of Florida's largest open-water estuary and began when the Council obtained 10,000 signatures from citizens and received sponsorship in both the Florida House and the Senate. The Council achieved two important administrative goals. We successfully completed the refinancing of the building debt with a lower interest rate and revised and updated the administrative rules which govern Council activities.

During 2008, the Council continued its partnerships with many entities throughout the Tampa Bay region and beyond. This year we partnered with the West Central Florida MPO Chairs Coordinating Committee on the completion of the Regional Multi-Use Trails Project and with Tampa Bay Water on their 2007 Long-Term Water Supply Plan Update. The Council also provided support to the Tampa Bay Area Regional Transit Authority (TBARTA) by hosting several of their meetings and assisting with legal counsel during the formation of their rules and bylaws. It is our goal to continue to give our support to this regional transportation endeavor. Another important partnership included co-hosting, with the Tampa Bay Partnership, the 2008 Transportation Summit, A Cents of Place. With over 250 attendees and featuring nationally known speakers the event was a huge success.

For over two years the Council has been a marquee partner in the Reality Check/One Bay effort. This year marked the One Bay/Voice It! campaign in which citizens had the opportunity to complete a survey and voice their opinions on future growth scenarios developed from the Reality Check/One Bay exercises. One Bay recognizes the unique diversity of each of our communities and neighborhoods. The resulting outcome data will be offered to counties, planning commissions and government bodies to be used in a manner that each community deems appropriate.

We feel strongly that, as we move forward, the process we've established gives an equal voice to all segments of our community to become actively involved in planning for our future. What the future of Tampa Bay looks like is the responsibility of each and every one of us; by coming together and working collectively we assure the future we achieve is one we can all support.

And finally, in anticipation of our population densities increasing, never before has the need for regional thinking been more urgent in our towns, cities, counties, states and nation. Considering the diverse nature of the eleven regional planning districts within the state, and because they are multi-purpose entities, Regional Planning Councils have the ability to address specific challenges within those districts that may not necessarily apply throughout the state. RPCs also have the ability to adapt to the future and "switch gears" to address the regionally significant challenges that continue to evolve in each region of the state.

In the future Regional Planning Councils will provide a foundation and play a pivotal role in developing a comprehensive framework for managing regional growth and expansion. The next forty years need to be approached with even more insight to develop the mechanisms to address the challenges facing each of the regions within our state. The ultimate goal is the achievement of the highest quality of life for future generations. The Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council is proud to have been the first regional planning council in the State of Florida and we continue to be dedicated to providing the best services available to our member governments and to the citizens of the Tampa Bay region and beyond.

Commissioner Deborah Kynes
Chair

Manny Pumariega
Executive Director

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COUNCIL IN ACTION



AT A GLANCE

2008 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 the One Bay visioning initiative.
- * Utilized the Council's technical capabilities and GIS expertise to develop alternative growth scenarios and indicators for the One Bay visioning effort.
- * 16th Annual Future of the Region Awards took place in March 2008 with over 280 attendees and 41 entries.
- * Executive Director, Manny Pumariega, was appointed by Governor Charlie Crist to the Florida Affordable Housing Commission.
- * Successful completion of the re-financing of the TBRPC Building note.
- * The Council's administrative rules were reviewed and revised per Florida State Statutes.
- * Co-hosted with the Tampa Bay Partnership on the Transportation Summit 2008, A Cents of Place.
- * Co-hosted with the Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council on the Sustainable Solutions: A Multi Regional Approach Workshop.
- * Recipient for the Tampa Bay Partnership's 2008 Chair's Award for the One Bay effort.
- * Hosted several TBARTA Board meetings and the TBARTA Land Use Working Groups.
- * 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 500,000 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 Hazard Mitigation Plan Advisory Committee, the State Post-Disaster Redevelopment Task Force the Catastrophic Planning Committee and FEPA Legislative Committee.
- * Staff completed the Florida Business Disaster Survival Kit and the new interactive website in Spanish and English – www.fldisasterkit.com
- * Assisted Pinellas County in the update of their Local Mitigation Strategy.
- * Began the development of the Pinellas County Recovery and Post-Disaster Redevelopment Plan.
- * Economic Analysis Program assisted regional economic development partners with over 30 economic analysis projects, which is a 15% increase over last year. Examples include the impacts of corporate relocations, new manufacturing firms, and support for various grant applications.
- * Completed annual update of the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy.
- * Provided GIS and mapping technical assistance to local governments in preparation of their Evaluation and Appraisal Reports (EAR) and comprehensive plan amendments.
- * Provided Audience Response System services to several clients including Tampa Bay Water, SCOPE, Sumter County, and the City of Sarasota.
- * The Agency on Bay Management discussed the baywide use of boat registration revenues - particularly concerning creation/maintenance of boat launch sites.
- * ABM received presentations on two utility-related projects within the region: Progress Energy transmission lines, Gulfstream Natural Gas Pipeline through Tampa Bay and provided recommendations.
- * ABM committees reviewed seagrass protection strategies in Pinellas County and similar measures proposed for portions of the Cockroach Bay Aquatic Preserve in Hillsborough County.
- * ABM received a presentation on the groundwater contamination in the Azalea Park area of St. Petersburg and discussed methods to prevent harm to Boca Ciega Bay and its natural resources.
- * ABM's Natural Resources/Environmental Impact Review committee conducted a site visit and discussed two proposed Port of Tampa projects, each impacting large sections of Hillsborough Bay. Follow-up meetings with Port officials were held to discuss potential mitigation options.
- * The NR/EIR committee also discussed proposed significant changes to the required stormwater quality monitoring programs for local governments. Letters were sent to FDEP officials voicing the Agency's concerns and requesting a presentation from FDEP on the proposal.
- * 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 seventh 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.
 - * Responded to over 150 requests for DRI-related information.
 - * Updated and distributed nearly 300 copies of the 2008 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 2011 Tier Two (right-to-know) reports.
 - * Provided staff assistance ranging from the answer to a single question to significant research effort, approximately 358 inquires by phone, and 3087 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 St. Pete Beach.
 - * Conducted 12 How-to-Comply Workshops to inform facilities on proper procedures for completing Tier Two Reports.
 - * Attended in April 2008 the National Association of SARA Title Three Program Officials Conference combined with the USEPA E-Plan Conference in Savannah, GA.
 - * Jointly taught with District VII LEPC, three 2-day courses on the Homeland Security Exercise Evaluation Program (HSEEP).
 - * Served as the compiler and distributor for the Tampa Bay Region, the 2008 USDOT Emergency Response Guides.
 - * Served as Chairman, Preparedness Subcommittee of the U.S. Coast Guard Area Committee and attended 6 Area Contingency Planning meetings, in conjunction with the Tampa Bay Spill Committee, to discuss ACP revision.
 - * Sponsored the Pinellas Police Standard's Council 11 monthly meetings at the TBRPC for the purpose of standardizing law enforcement approaches to emergency response.
 - * Organized and presented six Port of Tampa Ammonia Siren Warning Briefings at the Tampa Port Authority, and other port locations.
 - * Staffed a Planner position for the Region 4 Regional Domestic Security Task Force.
 - * Attended and Completed the Department of Homeland Security/United States Fire Administration All-Hazards Incident Management Team Training in Brooksville, FL.
 - * Developed and implemented the 2008 Regional Capabilities Review Workshop.
 - * Participated in the development and implementation of the Navy Equipment Deployment Experiment.
 - * Developed and executed Operation Higher Education, a full-scale Active Shooter exercise in Hardee County, FL.
 - * Developed and executed Hurricane Response exercise in the City of Clearwater, FL.
 - * Developed and implemented a Regional Resource Database; institutionalizing the use of the National Incident Management System Incident Resource Inventory System (IRIS).
 - * Facilitated RDSTF training classes and meetings.
 - * Established and maintained an RDSTF training forum that supports collaboration and coordination of limited training funds.
 - * Serve as a contributing member of the National All-Hazards Incident Management Team Think Tank.
 - * Updated and restructured the Regional All-Hazards Incident Management Team to support National Standards.
 - * Attended and supported the Regional Domestic Security Task Force Quarterly Meetings.
 - * Served as a functional member of the Regional Domestic Security Task Force representative during the 2008 statewide funding conference.
 - * Drafted, edited, and reviewed Regional Response Plans for Domestic Incidents.
 - * Staff reviewed and reported on 72 local government comprehensive plan amendment packages representing 180 individual amendments.
 - * Staff prepared 22 Development Order Amendment Reports, four Development Order Reports, 23 Notice of Proposed Change Reports and 84 Annual Report Summaries, all associated with Developments of Regional Impact.
 - * One Development of Regional Impact Final Report was issued during the past year. The Report was for the Starkey Ranch DRI.
 - * Reviewed and issued recommendations on 157 projects through the Intergovernmental Coordination and Review (IC&R) process, of which 103 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.
 - * Conducted Public Input and Information activities for Tampa Bay Water's Long Term Water Supply Plan Update.

CREATING A CENTS OF PLACE

By Deborah Kynes,
Commissioner and
Chair of the Tampa Bay
Regional Planning Council



Professionals in the fields of economic development and urban planning agree that creating a sense of place is vital to our economic future and quality of life in Tampa Bay. We must work to identify and build those characteristics and concepts that will improve our regional quality of life.

The traditional lines of economic development and community development have blurred in recent years. Florida's sunny weather and relatively inexpensive cost of living are not enough to assure continued population growth and economic prosperity. Now talented young workers, often called the creative class, can choose from a number of places nationally and globally where they can best "live, work and play." The Tampa Bay region must create places that engage, mobilize and entertain the "creative class" or we will lose our economic competitive edge. Thus, place-making and economic development is inextricably woven.

How can we best invest in Florida's future? We must build communities and regions with a "cents of place." A "cents of place" is best composed of open space preservation; green building and sustainable development; multi-modal transit systems; transit oriented development; an appreciation of the arts, culture and historic preservation as unique contributors to a community's identity; and, an understanding of the celebration of the rich diversity of Florida's people.

Mass transit will play a crucial role in Florida's economic future. Communities that invest in transit have seen tremendous returns on their investment. Charlotte's Lynx Blue Line, a component of the centers and corridors growth strategy, proactively promotes sustainable development and strategic infrastructure investment to reduce sprawl. The Lynx Blue Line provides access to jobs, housing entertainment and recreational activities. Lynx and it's related infrastructure also serves as an important stimulus to the local economy. Private investment in the Lynx Blue Line is estimated at over 1.86 billion dollars. Property values in the corridor have grown by 52 percent since the year 2000. Private investment development adjacent to the Lynx Blue Line have increased property tax receipts from 260,000 dollars per year to over 6 million dollars per year and are projected to reach receipts of 24 million dollars per year by the year 2011.

Charlotte is demonstrating in one corridor what many other highly regarded cities such as San Francisco, Soho (New York City), Buckhead, Portland, Toronto and Washington, D.C. have created with a multi-corridor infrastructure.

What brings people to Soho, Buckhead, Fisherman's Wharf and Dupont Circle? People want to be in high quality of life communities that provide easy and affordable mass transit access to their live, work and play destinations.

In the past, innovation and economic investment, both public and private, have made Florida a mega-trend place in which to live. As an example, the advent of affordable air conditioning played a pivotal role in the explosive growth in Florida's population. Individuals and industry invested in air conditioning to improve our quality of life. In the past, people patronized movie theaters and shopping malls that offered their attendees air conditioned comfort. Today, people patronize communities and regions that offer accessible, affordable mass transit. Investment from both the public and private sector will fuel this endeavor.

We live in a region that was shaped by the decisions of Tampa Bay's leadership in the 1950's and the 1960's. Now, the current leadership and Tampa Bay's residents must make the choices that will affect how people live, work and play into the 2050's and 2060's. Often, these decisions are not easy and transit decisions are never cheap. With this goal in mind, the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council and the Tampa Bay Partnership joined together to host a forum entitled a "Cents of Place." This forum provided valuable information to further educate our leaders and community planners on the importance of mass transit as a crucial component of our quality of life and explored the linkage between place-making and our economic future. The Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council and our partners around the region are committed to creating a Cents of Place. Together we can build those types of viable communities where people want to live, work and play. Join us in helping to create a Cents of Place.

A Cents of Place

TRANSPORTATION FORUM RECAP

On October 31st the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council along with the Tampa Bay Partnership hosted a transportation forum to stimulate discussion on transportation and place-making and to emphasize their importance to the economic future of our region. Moderated by Commissioner Deborah Kynes, Chair of the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council, and Mr. Roy McCraw, Jr., Chair of the Tampa Bay Partnership, the forum titled “A Cents of Place” provided both national and local perspectives on the connection between transportation and land use and the vital role they play in economic development.

The slate of speakers at the forum included Robert Puentes, with the Brookings Institution and Scott Polikov, with the Gateway Planning Group, along with regional representatives, Dan Mahurin for One Bay and Bob Clifford for the Tampa Bay Area Regional Transportation Authority (TBARTA). Robert Puentes, who is a fellow with Brookings Institution Metropolitan Policy Program in Washington, DC, focused on federal policy and the role of transportation in creating great metropolitan areas. The second speaker from the national perspective, Scott Polikov, focused his presentation on harnessing the

economics of regional transportation for place-making and how place-making can occur on the regional scale. A key to creating great places and harnessing sustainable growth, according to Scott, “is integrating urban design back into master plans, local land development codes, and restrictive covenants, as well as linking land use with a systematic regional mix of roads and rail transit.”



To take a closer look at what is underway locally, presentations were given by One Bay, the regional visioning initiative of the Tampa Bay region, and by TBARTA the region’s recently established transportation authority which is currently developing its master plan. The One Bay presentation provided by Dan Mahurin included a brief overview of the visioning process to date along with a first-time look at the results of the recently collected

VoiceIt! campaign survey responses. The responses collected by One Bay on alternative future scenarios indicated the public’s desire to create and maintain quality places and to provide transportation alternatives throughout the region. The final formal presentation was provided by Bob Clifford with the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT). This brief presentation included a summary of the efforts TBARTA has undertaken thus far as well as information about where they currently stand in the process of developing and adopting a master plan for the region.

The forum was concluded with a short panel discussion and Q&A session that allowed interaction between the speakers and regional leaders along with the opportunity for the audience to pose a few questions to the panel.

“The event was an overwhelming success as was reflected in the attendance of more than 250. The success of this event is an indicator that the planning community and various stakeholders are recognizing more and more that regional transportation and a healthy economy go hand in hand,” said Manny Pumariega, Executive Director, Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council.

Presentations may be viewed at www.tbrpc.org.

ONE BAY ~ Voicelt! SURVEY RESPONSES

Tampa Bay area residents have given their opinions on the future of the region

by responding to the One Bay Voicelt! Survey. Approximately 3,500 people completed the One Bay Voicelt! survey between June and October of 2008. The Voicelt! survey asked citizens what they want the seven-county Tampa Bay region to look like in the year 2050 and how they feel about the issues we face as the region continues to grow. The survey responses provide valuable feedback for elected officials, planners, and policy makers to consider as the One Bay regional visioning effort moves forward.

The Voicelt! campaign focused on the Guiding Principles that were identified during the 15 Reality Check workshops held across the region over extensive marketing campaign, with



My say for tomorrow's community. My One Bay.

publicity via newspaper editorials, guest columns, and articles along with the use of web links and blogs. The Tampa Bay Rays helped promote the regional visioning effort with "One Bay Community Corner" at Tropicana Field on July 21st and a large One Bay sign located on the left field wall of the ballpark throughout the regular season.

The One Bay team made 70 presentations to a wide variety of civic, community, and school groups around the Tampa Bay region. The presentations helped to increase awareness of land use and growth issues that will need to be addressed now and in the future. Responses to the Voicelt! campaign survey help to further assess and prioritize tradeoffs and compromises in pursuit of the growth and future development of the Tampa Bay region. The Voicelt! campaign also worked to engage the community for success in long-range planning.

Survey respondents were asked to comment on four alternative growth scenarios that were developed prior to the Voicelt! Campaign. The scenarios were created to illustrate the Guiding Principles that were identified using community input received during the Reality Check workshops.

THE FOUR SCENARIOS INCLUDE:

- A. Growth continues as it has over the past decade.
- B. The region is developed following guidelines identified in a series of meetings where more than 1000 people from across the region used Legos to identify development patterns.
- C. Compact pedestrian- and bike-friendly communities are built near transit centers to reduce the region's dependence on automobiles.
- D. New development avoids water resources and wildlife habitat.

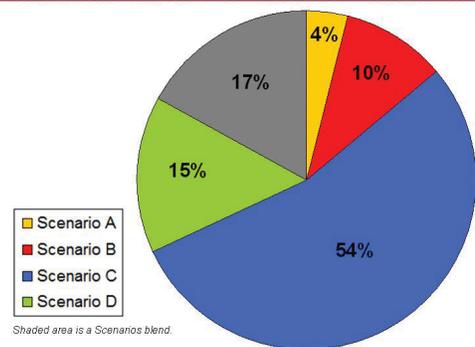
The scenario illustrations were presented to help convey the cause/effect relationship of different land use patterns on transportation options, environmental issues, preservation of drinking water resources, preservation of agricultural land, location of jobs vs. housing and future housing options. The alternative scenarios are conceptual, not "a plan" for the future land uses of the Tampa Bay region.

While a detailed compilation and analysis of the completed surveys will be available on-line, at www.myOneBay.com later this year or early in 2009, some preliminary findings include:

SURVEY RESPONDENTS WERE ASKED

"Which of the four alternative growth scenarios do you feel best reflects your overall values?"

Scenario vs. overall values



Shaded area is a Scenarios blend.



www.myOneBay.com



- More than 50 percent of the respondents (54%) identified Scenario C as the scenario selected that “best reflects own overall values;” followed by a “blend of scenarios” (17%), Scenario D (15%), Scenario B (10%), and Scenario A (4%).
- Mass transit, cost of living, and employment were selected by respondents as the top three most important issues for the future of the Tampa Bay region. Mass transit and traffic congestion, combined, accounted for more than 60 percent of the responses.
- Mass transit, comprising 25 percent of the responses was the most immediate issue requiring attention.
- Two open-ended questions provided respondents with unrestricted access to opine about the topics introduced throughout the survey. More than 50 percent of the respondents provided comments to one, or both, of the questions and commonly included remarks about growth management, transit, and environmental concerns. Overall, the comments concerned a wide array of topics; they are currently being compiled in more detail for inclusion in the upcoming findings report.

VoiceIt! is an initiative of One Bay, a diverse partnership of public and private leaders spearheaded by five regional organizations: Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council, Southwest Florida Water Management District, Tampa Bay Partnership’s Regional Research & Education Foundation and the Urban Land Institute Tampa Bay District. One Bay was formed in 2007 to follow through on the success of Reality Check, a series of events where citizens from across the region planned the future of Tampa Bay using Legos for buildings and ribbons for roads and transit options.



REGIONAL ROUNDUP



The Tampa Bay Area Regional Transportation Authority (TBARTA)

was created by the state legislature on July 1, 2007 with the ability to plan and develop a multi-modal transportation system that will connect the seven counties of our region.

The new authority can finance, construct, operate, maintain, and manage the transportation system it develops. It can issue bonds against future fares and tolls to get projects moving today. It can work in partnership with private business enterprises when that is the most efficient way to get things done. TBARTA members come from all around the region. TBARTA will work hand-in-hand with cities, counties, and the state to create seamless connections that get people where they want to go.

TBARTA is charged with many responsibilities, including creating a regional multimodal transportation master plan by July 1, 2009. The process of developing this regional plan is well underway and includes three phases and numerous opportunities for public involvement and input. The plan will consider a variety of transportation modes, and address mobility, traffic safety, freight movement, emergency evacuation, and economic development needs around the region. The plan will identify projects to accomplish these goals, estimate the costs of the projects, and identify potential funding sources. Projects may include express and rapid bus, passenger rail, ferries, freight services, and roadway improvements, among other types of transportation.

Currently the master plan development is nearing the end of phase three of the process which focuses on putting together region-wide networks to illustrate how the entire system will link the region. In Phase One of the master plan development the public provided relevant comments on where transit service should be located to serve regional transportation needs. In Phase Two the public told TBARTA what type of

transit mode would be best for each of the transportation corridors identified in the first phase. Now TBARTA is identifying the best performing networks of routes in Phase 3 of the screening process.

Additional public engagement will occur during this phase of the master plan development process. For further information and updates, including the latest public meeting dates, visit the Tampa Bay Regional Transportation Authority website at: www.tbarta.com.

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

CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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

TRANSIT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The TMC is made up of the region's transit agency directors, who advise the Board on creation and implementation of the Regional Transportation Master Plan. Executive Directors: Bay Area Commuter Services (BACS), Citrus County Transit, FDOT District One Commuter Assistance Program, Hillsborough Area Regional Transit (HART), Manatee County Area Transit (MCAT), Pasco County Public Transportation (PCPT), Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority (PSTA), Sarasota County Area Transit (SCAT), The Hernando Express (THE Bus), & Polk Transit Authority (Advisory Member).

REGIONAL VISIONING WORKSHOP



A Regional Visioning Workshop was held on May 23rd. This event was presented in collaboration with the Suncoat APA, Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council, Tampa Bay Estuary Program, and One Bay. The workshop was attended by more than 125 planners and civic leaders. John Fregonese, a nationally recognized regional visioning expert from Portland, Oregon provided an overview of some regional visioning efforts that are taking place throughout the United States. He emphasized that we cannot rely on what happened in the past to plan for the future. Mr. Fregonese presented to the TBARTA Board earlier that day and discussed the relationship of regional land use planning and transportation planning.

The alternate development scenarios for 2050 created by Reality Check and One Bay participants were previewed by attendees. Using citizen input generated from Reality Check and One Bay events across the region, four distinct scenarios were created to explore the consequences of potential growth patterns for the Tampa Bay region. All four scenarios accommodate the 3.2 million new residents expected to live here in 2050, with the 1.6 million new jobs and 1.3 million new homes they are expected to need. Based on citizens input, a shared vision for the future of Tampa Bay can be created. The workshop was approved for 2.75 AICP Certification Maintenance credits.

BILL LOFGREN, LEPC COORDINATOR RETIRES

“When a man retires and time is no longer a matter of urgent importance, his colleagues generally present him with a watch.”



Lofgren family at Bill's Retirement Party.

boots and retire to enjoy time traveling and fishing with his wife Terri.

Bill is known by his co-workers and colleagues for his organizational skills, his attention to detail and his dependability to get the job done, no matter what the task. “Not only will there be hard shoes to fill here at the Council, but he will be greatly missed throughout the state of Florida. Throughout his tenure with the Council, Bill has elevated our Local Emergency Planning Committee or LEPC, to being recognized as the best in the state,” stated Manny Pumariega, Executive Director.

Mr. Lofgren's service was honored at the statewide SERC meeting and by the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council at the November monthly meeting. A luncheon was also held in his honor by the Local Emergency Planning Committee

and the Council staff. November 30th marked a big milestone for one of the Council's key staff members. After 17 years with the Council, Bill Lofgren, Principal Planner and LEPC Coordinator, decided to hang up the old hazmat

boots and retire to enjoy time traveling and fishing with his wife Terri.

On October 2, 2008, Bill received a plaque from the Florida State Emergency Response Commission (SERC) recognizing his service to the LEPC and the citizens of Florida, and was selected by my Tampa Bay LEPC as this year's winner of the Thomas Yatabe SERC Award for Outstanding Contributions in the field of hazardous materials planning, training and exercising.

“I think we can all agree that it is difficult to properly thank an employee who has served in his position so well and for so long,” said Commissioner Deborah Kynes, TBRPC Chair. “Bill has been an exemplary employee to this organization.” Bill was presented with an engraved United States Air Force pocket watch for his service to the Council as well as to honor his past service to our nation. Bill had a long and distinguished career in the United States Air Force prior to his tenure with the Council.

The Council and its staff extend sincere best wishes to Bill and his family as he embarks on this new adventure called retirement.



Bill's famous HazMat socks.

REGIONAL ROUNDUP



QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

What is teleworking?

Teleworking, also known as telecommuting, replaces travel to, from and for work with telecommunications technologies. It refers to working at home or another location on a full or part time basis. Many employees telework only once or twice per week, on the other hand, some employees telework full time and only go to the office on an occasional basis.

What type of equipment is needed for teleworking?

While teleworking can be done with as little technology as a phone, most often it involves some remote access, computer hardware and software, email and other technologies.

What type of jobs are appropriate for teleworking?

Most “information-based” jobs are appropriate for teleworking. Teleworking is ideal for jobs that require reading, writing, research, working with data and talking on the phone. Many jobs that may not seem appropriate at first may be modified so that the employees can telework, at least on a part-time basis. One of the secrets to designing a good teleworking program lies in the ability to organize specific jobs so they can be done without constant interaction or need for feedback.

Which employees are ideal for teleworking?

The ideal teleworker is well-organized, able to work independently and requires minimal supervision. Successful teleworkers have a high degree of job skill and knowledge and strong time management skills. Teleworkers don't mind working alone. Teleworking is not ideal or desirable for every employee.

What are some of the problems managers face with teleworking employees?

Some managers of teleworkers have a problem with the concept of employees working from home. They fear that their employees may be distracted with household duties and/or dependent care and unable to accomplish their work, when, in fact, it seems to be the exact opposite. Managers can expect more productivity and a higher quality of work from teleworkers who are less stressed and distracted in their flexible work environment.

How do I know if the teleworkers are really working?

The employee's completed work product is the indicator. Telemanagers must focus on quantity, quality and timeliness. They must manage by objectives or results, rather than by direct observation.

Who is the ideal manager for supervising teleworkers?

The ideal manager of teleworkers (telemanager) has a positive attitude towards teleworking and is willing to allow employees to telework. A telemanager manages by results and not by monitoring work hours. Telemanagers delegate work easily, are well organized and trust their employees. Not every manager is comfortable with a style of management that is conducive to successful teleworking.

How will managers know how to supervise teleworkers?

Teleworking presents an opportunity for telemanagers to become better supervisors. By focusing on the employee's work product, telemanagers will improve their organizational abilities and their own skill in managing by objectives.

Will employees work less if they are at home working unsupervised?

No, survey results showed marked improvements in productivity. Productivity increases because employees have fewer distractions and interruptions, work at their peak times and experience less stress due to the absence of the commute to work.

Will loyalty to the company be diminished?

No, loyalty is likely to improve as employees are happier with their working conditions. Employee morale also improves as a result of teleworking.

How can social interaction be maintained to keep teleworkers from feeling isolated from their colleagues?

Many techniques are available to overcome the feeling of isolation. These include part-time teleworking, core days in the office and frequent communication via telephone and voice-mail. In addition, teleworkers should be included in all scheduled meetings and events.

Is teleworking a substitute for child- or elder-care?

No, a teleworker must focus on his or her job, not handle demanding child- or elder-care situations. However, due to their flexibility, teleworkers are better able to manage their work/family schedules.

Can teleworking result in reduced use of sick leave?

Yes. An employee working in a regular office usually has to use half a day to get to the doctor or dentist appointment. A teleworker can take one or two hours and then return to work. In addition, often an employee that does not feel well enough to drive or whose child is sick may work some hours at home.

Will the need for overtime decrease as a result of teleworking?

For non-exempt employees, the rules for overtime are the same as they are in the office. Please refer to your HR handbook for guidance.

What are some of the issues that teleworkers should be aware of?

Teleworkers should designate a work area for teleworking in their homes. A separate room provides greater privacy but is not necessarily required. Teleworkers must gain the trust and support of their families, coworkers, clients and managers. Teleworkers need to be aware of the tendency to work long hours and the need to take breaks.

For more information about telework, visit www.teleworktampabay.org or call Telework Tampa Bay at 1-888-736-8640. Contact us today!



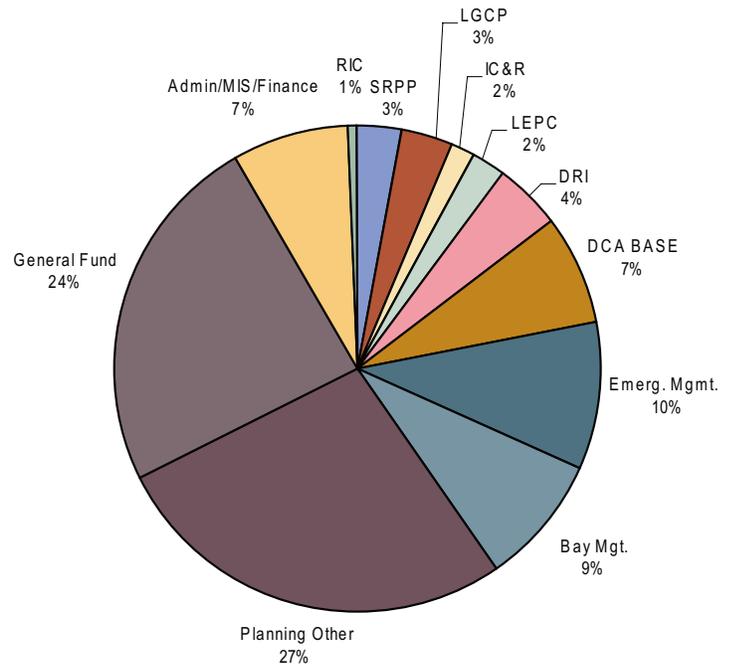
COUNCIL CAPSULES

THE ANNUAL BUDGET

The Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council's Budget Committee accounted for more than \$2,923,198 financing the regional programs featured in this annual report. The \$2,923,198 in revenues were derived from federal (13.21%), state (22.42%) and local (64.37%) sources. Staff worked closely with the Executive/Budget Committee during the 2008 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. This year the administrative staff completed the refinancing of the building debt with a lower interest rate and revised and updated the administrative rules which govern Council activities. Administration continues to emphasize staff development, encouraging each staff member to attend local workshops in areas of his or her expertise.

FY 08 EXPENDITURES



AGENCY ON BAY MANAGEMENT

The Council's Agency on Bay Management has had an exceptionally busy year. Several issues received special attention:

ABM's Natural Resources/Environmental Impact Review committee conducted a site visit and discussed two proposed Port of Tampa projects, each impacting large sections of Hillsborough Bay. Creation of proposed berths 151 and 152 would require filling 24 acres of shallow bay bottom habitat. Creation of berth 150 would entail dredging 18 acres of shallow water habitat. Letters of concern were sent to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers identifying the Agency's concerns and requesting further analysis of potential mitigation to improve water quality and habitat within McKay Bay. Followup meetings with Port officials were held to discuss potential mitigation options.

Egmont Key, at the mouth of Tampa Bay, was the subject of an entire meeting. The State Park System has proposed to return management to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; Pinellas County, which has been the local sponsor for all U.S. Army Corps of Engineers activities for the past many years will no longer serve in that capacity, which could result in

the cessation of shoreline stabilization projects; and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers recently completed a feasibility study outlining a course of action to protect the western shoreline and the historic structures. The Agency voted to send letters to: FDEP, USFWS, Tampa Bay Congressional delegates, and the Hillsborough County Board of County Commissioners concerning the management issue; and to Hillsborough County and the Tampa Port Authority requesting that those entities step forward to serve as the no-cost local sponsor for all projects on Egmont Key.

The NR/EIR committee received a presentation from Florida Department of Transportation on the closure of the eastern Sunshine Skyway fishing piers to pedestrians and vehicles. A letter was sent to FDEP, FDOT and the Chairs of the three counties' Boards of County Commissioners requesting a citizens committee to assist in developing plans for the structures.

The Agency discussed the proposed non-agricultural fertilizer use recommendations developed by a committee of the Tampa Bay Estuary Program and requested that the TBRPC support the adoption of a model ordinance prepared for Tampa Bay area local governments.

BAY SOUNDINGS

The Council's award-winning environmental journal began its 7th year of quarterly publication with the Fall 2008 issue.

The 2008 issues covered myriad topics. The first two issues focused on climate change - the challenges for local land use planning and how we can all help reduce greenhouse gas emissions, the continuing drought in the Tampa Bay region, renewable and eco-friendly energy sources, nitrogen and the efforts to curb it in stormwater, and beach nesting birds. The latter two issues highlighted the members of the Council's Agency on Bay Management - including the "State of Tampa Bay" reports from them, Tampa Bay tarpon, the One Bay "VoiceIt" survey, and the importance of mangroves to the bay.

The journal's website, www.baysoundings.com, was upgraded to be even easier to navigate. Statistics show over 631,000 requests over the four month period ending mid-November 2008 with an average of 5,150 successful requests per day transferring an average of 59 megabytes of data each day. That means a lot of people are using Bay Soundings as a resource for information about Tampa Bay and its watershed!

Also during 2008 staff initiated outreach to the Science Coordinators for the middle and high schools of the region. Additional funding was provided by the Department of Transportation - District Seven to make this possible.

Funding for Bay Soundings is currently provided by TBRPC through the Tampa Bay Estuary specialty license plate; the Tampa Bay Estuary Program; the Southwest Florida Water Management District and its Northwest Hillsborough, Pinellas-Anclote River, Hillsborough River, Alafia River and Manasota Basin Boards, and the Florida Department of Transportation - District Seven.

"After we mapped and digitized the shoreline habitat from 1876 to the present, we came up with numbers indicating we had lost almost half of the mangroves and marshes on Tampa Bay. It was a pretty stark realization that led to the next question: 'Can we get them back?'"

— Robin Lewis, long-time bay advocate



Photos: Ann Tihansky

Three types of mangroves thrive along the borders of Tampa Bay, including the white mangrove shown above with immature propogules. The white mangroves are the most cold-sensitive of the three species and usually occupy the highest land.

CHARTER MEMBER OF THE TBRPC AGENCY ON BAY MANAGEMENT RETIRES

George Henderson, Senior Research Scientist for the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's Fish and Wildlife Research Institute, recently retired after more than 30 years in state government. He spent his entire career at the Institute which was formerly the Florida Marine Research Institute under the Department of Environmental Protection.

George was an integral part on the Tampa Bay Study Commission, the legislatively organized group which preceded and proposed the Agency on Bay Management. His knowledge of marine ecology, hydrodynamics, and Bay issues has served the region extremely well. He has also been a key member of numerous other state and regional committees ranging from oil spill management to habitat restoration.

Throughout his ABM membership, George served as Chair of the Natural Resources/Environmental Impact Review Committee throughout his membership, handling many tough issues brought before the Agency with pure professionalism and lending credibility to committee actions.

ABM honored George on the occasion of his retirement by presenting him with a framed Neil Adamson print and hosting a lunch after the November 13th ABM meeting. Past chairs and staff of the Agency were in attendance to recall George's contributions and to wish him well. We expect George to remain an active member of the Agency; his institutional knowledge of the Agency and of Tampa Bay's recovery are too valuable to lose.



COUNCIL CAPSULES

LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMPREHENSIVE PLANS

During the 2008 review period, 72 Local Government Comprehensive Plan (LGCP) amendment packages representing a total of 180 individual amendments were reviewed and reports issued. This represents an 82% increase in the number of individual amendments reviewed in 2007. Eighty-three were text amendments and 97 were land use amendments affecting over 38,564 acres in our four-county region. Four amendments were found to be inconsistent with the Strategic Regional Policy Plan.

Special requirement amendments increased the number of amendments reviewed during 2008. These included EAR-based amendments, the addition of the Public School Facilities Element, the 5-Year Financially Feasible Capital Improvements Element, and the Regional Water Supply Plan update. In addition, 16 amendments were submitted for review under the new Alternative Review process.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL COORDINATION & REVIEW

Reviewed and issued recommendations on 157 projects through the Intergovernmental Coordination and Review (IC&R) process, of which 103 were determined to be regionally significant.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Over the course of the past year TBRPC has provided technical assistance to many local governments. Often this assistance came in the form of GIS analysis and mapping services. Two such projects were completed for the City of Pinellas Park and City of Largo. These projects included the mapping and analysis necessary for completion of municipal Evaluation and Appraisal Reports (EAR) and eventual comprehensive plan amendments.

These technical assistance projects utilized the council's GIS capabilities to meet the needs of local governments and the comprehensive plan mapping requirements of the Department of Community Affairs (DCA).

PLANNING FOR RECOVERY

Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council is working with Pinellas County to update the *Pinellas County 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.

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

Recovery Obstacles in the aftermath of a disaster

- Lack of (affordable) housing continues to be the number one challenge in long term recovery. The loss of housing, jobs and opportunity can lead to a vicious downward spiral unless strategies are in place to mitigate the impacts.
- Louisiana's broken healthcare system illustrates the need to focus on this critical sector in our communities in terms of both mitigation and recovery strategies.
- Rebuilding the Region's economy and providing good jobs is key to retaining our residents after a disaster.
- Cutting bureaucratic red tape while building back stronger and accomplishing the goals of the community vision are the prime goals of the Post Disaster Redevelopment Plans (PDRP). Pinellas County is working with the State of Florida and surrounding counties to ensure consistency and compatibility throughout the area.

NEW DEVELOPMENT IS COMING...

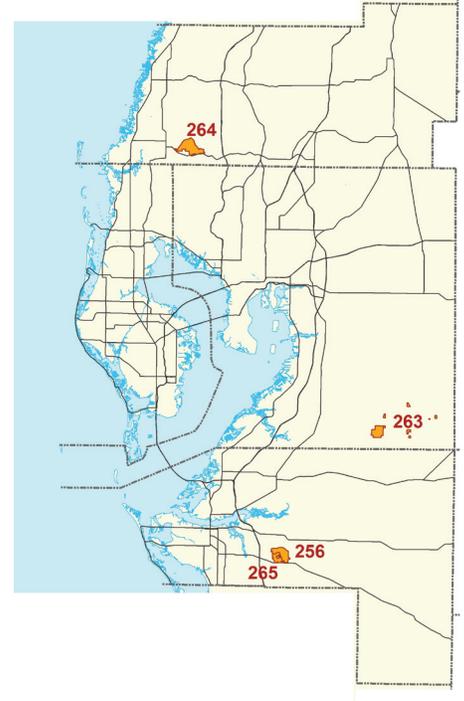
Four new Developments of Regional Impact were approved within the Tampa Bay Region during the past year. Those approvals are:

Northwest Sector - SMR 70 North, LLC was approved as a 1,500+ acre, mixed-use, project located in southcentral Manatee County, north of S.R. 70 between Lakewood Ranch Boulevard and Lorraine Road, slightly more than 1.5 miles south of S.R. 64. At full buildout, the development is slated to include: 4,446 residential units, 200,000 sq. ft. of Retail and 105,000 sq. ft. of Office. The latter two project phases are contingent upon further transportation and air quality analyses. Completion of the third and final project phase is anticipated during 2019. Manatee County granted Development Order approval on November 1, 2007. The parcel is identified as “256” on the map.

Hillsborough County Mine Consolidation Substantial Deviation - On March 11, 2008, Hillsborough County granted Mosaic Fertilizer, L.L.C. a Substantial Deviation Development Order whereby expanded the existing Hillsborough County Mine Consolidation DRI by 1,540 and removing 7,251 acres from the project. Much of the removed acreage was previously mined and included the Alafia River State Park. Consistent with the timelines established in the prior Development Order, mining associated with the seven-parcel expansion (i.e. 1,300 mineable acres) shall be completed by 2018, with reclamation activities completed eight years later (in 2026). The project is depicted as “263” 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, northeast of the S.R. 54/Starkey Boulevard intersection, less than three miles from the Hillsborough and Pinellas County lines. The Final Report is scheduled for consideration by the Council at the July 9, 2007 meeting. The project is depicted as “264” on the map.

Lakewood Centre - Manatee County granted Development Order approval to SMR 70 LLC, Inc. for the first phase of a three-phase, 697+ acre, mixed use development in south central Manatee County. The project is located along the north side of S.R. 70 between Lakewood Ranch Boulevard (to the west) and Pope Road (to the east), approximately two miles south of S.R. 64. Upon project completion, slated for 2019, the project is anticipated to consist of 3,675 residential units, nearly 1.8 million sq. ft. of Retail, more than 1.5 million sq. ft. of Office and 300 Hotel rooms. Approval of the final two phases will require further transportation and air quality analyses, as well as assurance of sufficient water supply availability. The location of this project is denoted as “265” on the map.



Exclusive of the mining expansion (i.e. DRI #263), the following summarizes recently approved DRIs:

Project	Acres	Resid. (Units)	Retail (Sq. Ft.)	Office (Sq. Ft.)	Indust. (Sq. Ft.)	Hotel (Rooms)	Other Uses
Northwest Sector	1,519	4,446	200,000	100,000	0	0	None
Lakewood Centre	697	3,675	1,774,000	1,563,000	0	300	None
Starkey Ranch	2,525	4,285	277,150	344,520	170,000	100	Movie Theatre, ACLF, Day Care Facilities, Schools

COUNCIL CAPSULES

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT MODULE

The Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council has developed a modeling tool for economic analysis called the Economic Development Module (EDM) to show how different locations are affected by various changes in the economy. The analysis package is integrated with geographic information system (GIS) software to enhance the presentation of economic forecast data. EDM users can clearly see on a map where economic impacts are forecast to occur based on scenarios that are input into the module. For example, the EDM can show the “ripple effect” distribution of new jobs that might be created by placing a new business in a particular location.

TBRPC has shared the EDM technology with the other ten regional planning councils in Florida and has 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. Staff is currently working with the South Florida Regional Planning Council to help tailor their version of the EDM for the specific needs of the South Florida region.

The EDM is a component of TBRPC’s Decision Support GIS program. The Decision Support GIS technology model and maps simulated outcomes based on land use, environmental, economic, fiscal, emergency management, and domestic security issues.

ECONOMIC ANALYSIS PROGRAM

The Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council’s (TBRPC) Economic Analysis Program utilizes economic analysis to help communities and organizations to predict how policy changes or economic events (activities) affect the local and state economy. The Economic Analysis Program employs a number of tools to provide the community with high quality and low cost analysis. Our tools include: IMPLAN® (an input/output model), REMI Policy Insight® (a highly sophisticated econometric model), the Fiscal Analysis Tool (community based planning tool created in house in collaboration with DCA), and the Spatial Growth Model (In house creation allowing the user to map their results) coupled with strong data sources in the Regional Informational Center and extensive staff training.

The Economic Analysis Program has grown considerably popular, this year alone over 30 projects were analyzed. One such project that the program is currently undertaking is a Hurricane Impact Analysis for Hillsborough County. The project entails creating an inventory of businesses, residences, and infrastructure and assuming specific portions would be out of commission for specified periods. These impacts would then be modeled to determine the total affect to other businesses, tax collections, etc. on the local economy. The use of mitigation measures, such as structure hardening or business continuity plans, will be implemented to determine if there is a return on their investment.

DECISION SUPPORT GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEM

The Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council recently completed a grant project for the U.S. Department of Justice to develop a comprehensive spatial modeling software package. The Decision Support Geographic Information System (DS-GIS) gives users a tool to model a variety of planning scenarios and visualize how each scenario will affect local areas and the region as a whole. The capabilities developed during this project support and enhance the domestic security, natural hazards, and general planning efforts of the TBRPC and the Tampa Bay Region.

The DS-GIS was used to develop a future growth scenario for the One Bay regional visioning project. The DS-GIS showed how land use patterns would look across the region in 2050 if the current development trend is followed. Other alternative scenarios were created to show how changes in policy and development type might affect the look of the region in 40-plus years. As in the One Bay example, scenario maps for a wide array of planning topics help guide the decision process as planners and policy makers manage the future growth of our region.

2008 HURRICANE GUIDE



In partnership with the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council, county emergency management agencies, the United Way and the American Red Cross in six counties distributed 400,000 copies of the official hurricane guide. Copies became available through US Post Offices and all public buildings and libraries beginning June 1st. The guides include detailed evacuation zone maps and emergency preparedness instructions for Hernando, Pasco, Pinellas, Hillsborough, Manatee and Sarasota counties. The guides are available in both English and Spanish and on the TBRPC website (www.tampabayprepares.org). The Hurricane Guide enhances state, regional and local outreach efforts which encourage Floridians to take action and prepare for all types of hazards. “Preparations will make the difference between becoming a victim or a survivor,” stated Manny Pumariega, Executive Director. “It is up to us to take responsibility for ourselves, our families and to help our neighbors.”

THE NEW FLORIDA BUSINESS DISASTER SURVIVAL KIT

In July TBRPC launched the totally redesigned and interactive website www.fdisasterkit.org. The new website not only provides guidance on how businesses can survive a hurricane but all types of other disasters, natural and man-made, as well. The site now offers an online tool that can be used to develop a business continuity plan (BCP). Similar to applications such as TurboTax®, the Florida BCP Wizard® asks a series of step-by-step questions and generates a detailed report a business owner can use to draft his or her own BCP plan. It takes some time, but it’s relatively quick, easy and painless! “BCP is so critical for Florida businesses – now there’s really no excuse,” stated Stacy Swank, Pinellas County Economic Development agency.

Not ready to commit the time to develop a plan yet? Then take 10 minutes at lunch to visit our online Pirate Bay Theme Park and play a game designed to be both fun and educational! The Pirate Bay Survival Game® is a concept developed by Susan Mueller, Emergency Manager for TECO Energy, who teaches business continuity planning to TECO corporate/business customers.

Susan and Stacy are part of the Tampa Bay Business Continuity Planning Committee which has been working since 2002 to provide information and tools to our business community. “Business resiliency will directly equate to our economic recovery after a disaster. It is essential.” stated Laurie Feagans, Manatee County Emergency Management Director.

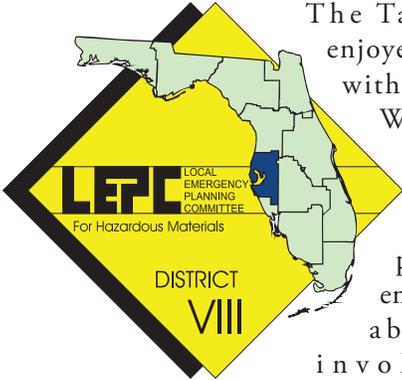
Oh yes, the website, BCP Guidebook and Employee Guidebook are also available in Spanish!

TBRPC will be looking for partners and sponsors to help promote the site and assist with future ongoing costs including remote hosting and updates. For more information, go online or contact Betti Johnson at betti@tbrpc.org.



COUNCIL CAPSULES

FACILITY DISASTER PLANNING



The Tampa Bay LEPC has enjoyed considerable success with the Disaster Planning Workshops to assist facilities in addressing hazardous materials in their disaster planning process. The 2008 emphasis was on learning about real situations involving hazardous materials during a disaster response

and recovery and how to prepare a gap analysis of their Business Continuity and Disaster Recovery Plan with respect to hazardous materials and evolving standards.

This Lessons-Learned and Gap Analysis Planning Workshop 2008 follows the highly successful Risk Analysis Workshops in Hazardous Materials Preparedness Planning conducted in 2006 and 2007. Experts from organizations with experience in emergency response, preparedness and disaster recovery planning involving chemicals, petroleum products, and other hazardous materials management in a regional disaster, such as a major hurricane, assisted participants in addressing the various topic areas for use in revising their own facilities plans. These workshops will continue throughout 2009.

ANHYDROUS AMMONIA ROUNDTABLE

The Tampa Bay LEPC collaborated with Hillsborough County Emergency Management and the U.S. Department of Transportation, Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, to bring to the area an ammonia roundtable held in August at the USF Port Authority campus. This roundtable was to provide an opportunity for interaction among anhydrous ammonia shippers, handlers, transportation, and emergency response personnel and was attended by more than 120 people.

LEPC TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Throughout 2008 the LEPC has been sponsoring training to local fire departments in the fighting of ethanol fires and the use of foam retardants. The courses are being provided to each county and consist of an 8-hour session offered in three successive days and the success of these courses has prompted

repeats in some counties for the 2008-2009 fiscal year. As a follow-up to the successful CSX Transportation three 8-hour days of safety car training in February, the Tampa Bay LEPC hosted a CSX Function Exercise in November which involved a major train development in Hillsborough County with many cars leaking hazardous materials. The exercise had 60 participants and was a resounding success. The future training programs will include a series of air-monitoring classes for the four counties and the proper use of highly technical air-monitoring equipment. The LEPC also sponsored a 2-day Chlorine training course for Hillsborough County water and wastewater treatment operators and other public works personnel.

MANATEE COUNTY'S NORTH RIVER AND PARRISH FIRE DEPARTMENTS RECEIVE SERC AWARDS



On June 4, 2008, a fully loaded tanker truck plunged off the southbound I-75 bridge and onto U.S. Highway 301 below and exploded, severely burning and eventually killing the driver. Upon arrival, consideration was given as to whether to put out the 8,000 gallons of burning diesel/gasoline mix or to let the fire

burn itself out, which is normally done in these catastrophic situations. In an effort to try to save the I-75 northbound bridge, the responding firefighters took an aggressive approach to extinguishing the fire. Northbound I-75 bridge was literally saved through swift response, fearless actions, and unified operational tactics by the North River and Parrish Fire Departments and the fire was out in only 30 minutes. Extinguishment of this fire permitted these highly traveled lanes and hurricane evacuation routes to reopen within a short period of time, as a temporary north-south traffic on the remaining artery on the remaining bridge. The outstanding team effort of each individual firefighter and the leadership of their departments won special recognition for the State Emergency Response Commission (SERC) Annual Thomas Yatabe Awards and Certificates of Appreciation were awarded to each department.

RDSTF PLANNER



During 2008 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 All-Hazards Incident Management Team (AHIMT). The 36-man team is a unique group of highly trained personnel from various departments, organizations, agencies, and jurisdictions throughout the region. The AHIMT is comprised of the command and general staff elements of the incident command structure. The mission of the team is to deploy in support of response and recovery from emergency events across the state, region, and nation when activated by the Florida Department of Emergency Management (FDEM) or the RDSTF.

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. The website also supports a bulletin board forum that allows for information to be passed freely and securely among registered users; this provides a great sounding board for first responders and first receivers throughout the region. The website can be found at http://www.tbrpc.org/rdstf/training_calendar.shtml.

REGIONAL CAPABILITY WORKSHOP

On October 20-23 2008 Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council (TBRPC) conducted a regional capabilities workshop at the Intercontinental Hotel in Tampa. The intent of this workshop was to identify requirements outlined by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) in the Target Capabilities List (TCL) to prevent, respond to, and recover from terrorist attack and/or catastrophic events. The workshop required participants to review activities and measures within the TCL and determine regional capabilities as they pertain to a vehicle borne improvised explosive device (VBIED) and a category II hurricane scenario. The workshop proved to be a success; the after action report will be completed December 1, 2008.

LEPC/RDSTF BIENNIAL FULL-SCALE EXERCISE

On May 7-8 2008 Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council (TBRPC), in partnership with Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) District VIII, conducted a full-scale exercise. The objective of the exercise was to test the response capability of the region's Hazardous Material Teams and Forensic Response Teams (FRT) post terrorist event involving extremely hazardous material. The exercise proved to be a success, showing the overwhelming support of local, state, and federal response partners to ensure the Tampa Bay area is safe.



Is the **cost of commuting** starting to get you down?

Is it starting to negatively impact your **employees**? What can you do to help?



Think Telework!

Allowing your employees to work one or more days per week from home can significantly reduce the cost of commuting for the employee, and at the same time increase productivity, improve employee retention and recruitment, improve morale, and help your company do its part in reducing fuel consumption, congestion and pollution.

To learn more about telework and how it can work for you; visit www.teleworktampabay.org or contact Jessica Lunsford at 727/570-5151 ext. 38 for a **free** copy of the *Telework Tampa Bay Implementation Guide*.

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.

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.

w w w . t b r p c . o r g

The TBRPC website has been revamped to provide information which is much easier to navigate and even more accessible to our internet visitors. On our website you will be able to view the history of the Council, a listing of our member governments and their representatives, along with links to their websites, and learn about our programs and upcoming events.

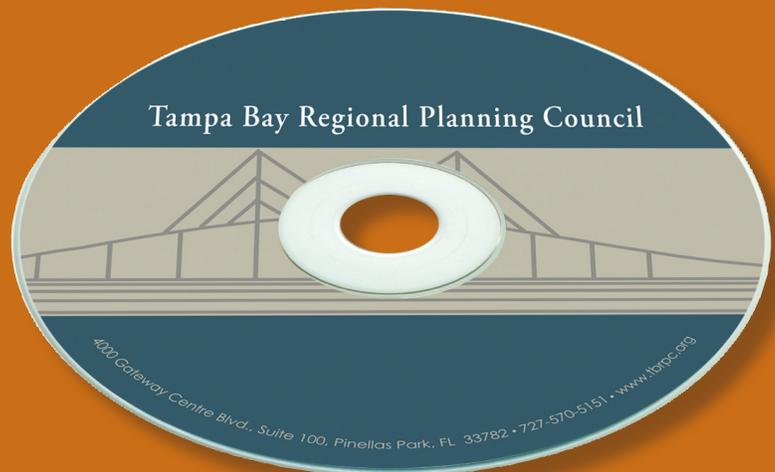
The website includes information about Council committees including their activities and agendas for various meetings. The website also serves as an archive for past Council meetings. Visitors are able to access minutes from past monthly Council meetings and sign up to receive upcoming agendas. Under Council Members & Committees visitors have access to Council presentations from guest speakers on a wide variety of topics. There is also a Resource Center which provides publications, grant information, workshop and seminar recaps, and links to other regional planning resources. *Visit the site today!*

Staff Contact: Kim Williams, Communications/Graphics Coordinator, kim@tbrpc.org or (727) 570-5151, ext. 41.



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, Director 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 Water Management District and its Pinellas-Anclote River, Northwest Hillsborough, Hillsborough River, Alafia River, and Manasota Basin Boards, and the Florida Department of Transportation – District Seven.

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

Tampa Bay is getting better... YOU CAN HELP!



Reel in your tarpon tag today and help keep Tampa Bay on the road to recovery. Please request a Tampa Bay Estuary license tag the next time you renew your auto registration. Be a part of an environment success story - the restoration of Florida's largest open-water estuary. When it comes time to renew your car, motor home or boat trailer license plate, or even before, choose the Tampa Bay Estuary specialty plate. You will be contributing directly to projects that restore Tampa Bay's natural habitats and improve water quality - ensuring the survival of inhabitants like the spectacular Silver King Tarpon that's pictured on the plate.

Tarpon illustration by Russ Simons

TAMPA BAY REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL PRESENTS THE...

17th 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 17th 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 20, 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, Director of Administration/Public Information, wren@tbrpc.org, (727) 570--5151 x22.



CALL FOR ENTRIES

SUBMISSIONS DEADLINE: Friday, January 9, 2009

COUNCIL CAPSULES

MEET THE OFFICERS

COMMISSIONER DEBORAH KYNES, CHAIR CITY OF DUNEDIN, FLORIDA



Commissioner Kynes has served the City of Dunedin since 1999 and she has been with the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council (TBRPC) since 2000. Commissioner 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; she has served three terms as Chair of the Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority. Commissioner Kynes is also a member of the Florida Regional Council's Association Policy Board.

COMMISSIONER BILL DODSON, VICE CHAIR CITY OF PLANT CITY, FLORIDA



Commissioner Dodson has served the City of Plant City since 2002 and he has been with the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council since his election to the Plant City Commission. He also serves as Chair of the TBRPC Clearinghouse Review Committee, he is a member of the Legislative Committee and he serves on the Florida Regional Council's Association Policy Board as well. He is Senior Vice President for Florida Brick and Clay Company, Inc.; he has received numerous honors which have included the Chamber of Commerce Leadership Award and the Florida Lions Foundation's Grand Lion Life Member Award. Commissioner Dodson is a board member for the Plant City Community Redevelopment Agency, the Hillsborough County Council of Government and the Tampa Bay Convention and Visitor's Bureau.

COMMISSIONER JACK MARIANO, SECRETARY/TREASURER PASCO COUNTY



Commissioner Jack Mariano has served on the Pasco County Board of County Commissioners since 2004 and he has been with the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council since 2006. He currently serves as Vice-Chair of the Council's Clearinghouse Review Committee; he is also a member of the Legislative Committee. Commissioner Mariano is past Chair of the Pasco Metropolitan Planning Organization and past Chair of the Pasco County Tourist Development Council. He is currently a board member for the Richey Suncoast Theatre and the West Pasco Habitat for Humanity. Commissioner Mariano is the recipient of many honors which include the Outstanding Government Service Award from the West Pasco Board of Realtors and Kiwanian of the Year.

STAFF

Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council

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TBRPC Administrative Staff

Manny L. Pumariega, Executive Director
Avera Wynne, Planning Director
Wren Krahl, Director of Administration/Public Information/Editor

Ext.	17	Manny Pumariega	Executive Director
	30	Avera Wynne	Planning Director
	22	Wren Krahl	Director 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)
	38	Jessica Lunsford	Senior Planner, IC&R/LGCP/Telework Tampa Bay
	28	Richard Kephart	Senior Planner (Military Duty)
	29	John Meyer	Principal Planner, DRI Coordinator & LEPC Sara III-Haz. Mat.
	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
	21	Erika Wiker	Planner, Regional Domestic Security Task Force
	41	Kim Williams	Communications/Graphics Coordinator
	14	Sue Young	Planning Secretary

Design by Kim Williams, Communications/Graphics Coordinator

CREDITS

The Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council extends gratitude to the following for their contributions to the 2008 Annual Report edition of Visions: Carter & Burgess, Florida Department of Transportation, Tampa Bay Area Regional Transportation Authority, Tampa Bay Partnership: Reality Check/One Bay.

