

# VISIONS

2008 FUTURE OF THE REGION 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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*My say for tomorrow's community. My One Bay.*

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*Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council*

# THE MCINTOSH AWARD

## Strategic Regional Transit Needs Assessment Video

West Central Florida  
(Citrus, Hernando, Hillsborough, Manatee, Pasco, Pinellas, Polk and Sarasota Counties)



## The Florida Department of Transportation recently completed a study of regional transit needs in the Tampa Bay area

called the Strategic Regional Transit Needs Assessment (SRTNA). The project was initiated to objectively and comprehensively identify key regional travel patterns and transit operations and infrastructure opportunities in the West Central Florida region for the next 50 years, and to assist prioritization of transit funding with local needs.

After many months of technical work and communication with local agencies and decision makers, the Department has identified what regional transit elements would be needed to create a balanced transportation system in the region and now proposes the “Interstate of Transit.”

To communicate to such a large community while maximizing public involvement dollars, minimizing staff time, and managing key messages of the study, the Florida Department of Transportation developed a video as an outreach tool for use at presentations, workshops, and meetings of business, neighborhood, and civic associations.

The video illustrates the views of different types of people and their need for mobility options. Elected officials, local business leaders, and the FDOT management discuss the community goals, objectives, and desires. The video emphasizes the importance of a strong, multi-modal transportation system and its effects on the economic vitality of the Tampa Bay region.

*“Although highways will remain the backbone of our system, we must look for other ways to get people to their destinations. I lived in the Tampa Bay area for most of my life and I believe this plan will improve the quality of life there.”*

- Governor Charlie Crist

The video includes an announcement of the new Tampa Bay Area Regional Transportation Authority (TBARTA) and its purpose. The video premiered at the Regional Transportation Forum held on August 21, 2007, prior to the inaugural meeting of TBARTA. It is available to the public by request and on the SRTNA website <http://fdot-srtna.c.b.com>.

Project participants included: The Florida Department of Transportation Districts Seven and One, Jacobs Carter Burgess and Tampa Digital Studios.

# THE GOLDNER AWARD



## *Joe Smith*

Chair, Tampa Bay Partnership's Transportation Initiative

*"He has demonstrated his dedication to his community, region, state and nation by being willing to take on the 'impossible jobs' that need to be done; and through sheer determination, tenacity and his incredible ability to form alliances, has been successful in achieving benefits for our community, region and state."*

-Rhea F. Law, CEO and Chair of the Board  
Fowler White Boggs Banker P.A.

Over the past 25 years Joe Smith has been involved with several unprecedented initiatives in the Tampa Bay region and beyond - from shepherding the largest privately funded Comprehensive Plan amendment covering more than 150 square miles in southern Hillsborough County along the I-75 Corridor in the mid-1980s to bringing the New York Yankees Legends Field Complex to Tampa as Director of New Development. He then served as special consultant to George Steinbrenner.

Throughout his quarter century in our region, in addition to serving on more than fifteen appointed bodies, including the Hillsborough County Charter Review Board for two terms, he has been tasked with many undertakings that many people thought would be impossible.

In the last 24 months Joe Smith has traveled the state attending more than 250 meetings, meeting with thousands of people and dedicating himself to working full-time toward the creation of the Tampa Bay Area Regional Transportation Authority (TBARTA), a regional undertaking that will unite eight counties and dramatically change the lives of Tampa Bay residents.

According to a recent Tampa Tribune editorial, "Without Joe's tireless diplomacy and optimism, it is unlikely the Tampa Bay Area Regional Transportation Authority would have been formed."

Although Joe formally works with Walbridge Aldinger, he's been "on loan" full-time to serve as Chair of the Tampa Bay Partnership's Transportation Initiative to unite local leaders and guide the project through legislation.

His dedication to TBARTA is an unswerving passion that refuses to be shaken. When asked why he does it, his response isn't economic or business driven. What motivates him is that the successful formation of this multi-faceted organization brings our region one step closer to building a multi-modal transportation system. Joe believes everyone should be able to work, live and play across the region, not just within the area they are confined to because of transportation inefficiencies.

The Tampa Tribune article went on to comment that Joe was always accessible, working the telephone and e-mail and defending the best elements of various bills that sought to bring this effort to fruition; but, more importantly, he helped weed out the weaknesses and compromised on the differences to better the bill for everybody. Joe understood the impact this project would have on the quality of life for the people in the entire Tampa Bay region and was skilled at expressing how each facet would benefit residents.

Congratulations to Joe Smith, winner of the 2007 Herman W. Goldner Award for Regional Leadership.

# TAMPA BAY AREA REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

The Tampa Bay Area Regional Transportation Authority (TBARTA) was created by the state legislature on July 1, 2007, and given the ability to plan and develop a multi-modal transportation system that will connect 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 you where you want to go.

TBARTA is charged with many responsibilities, including creating a regional multi-modal 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 one of the process which focuses on identifying the best locations for making regional transportation improvements. During the upcoming technical phases, TBARTA will continue to refine the most desirable route options and identify the best type of transportation improvements for each route. This will be followed by identification of the best performing networks of routes in Phase 3 of the screening process.

Additional public engagement will occur during upcoming phases of the master plan development process. For further information and updates, visit the Tampa Bay Regional Transportation Authority website at: [www.tbarta.com](http://www.tbarta.com).

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



**SUMMER 2008**  
**workshops**

TBARTA is creating a transportation master plan for the seven-county West Central Florida region, and wants to hear your ideas and concerns. The first phase concentrated on *where* transportation improvements should occur. The key focus of this next phase of the plan will be the *type* of transportation mode such as passenger rail, rapid bus, waterborne or managed/toll lanes that will connect our communities together.

**WORKSHOPS ARE OPEN 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.**  
Stop by anytime.



**Wednesday, July 30, 2008**

**Thursday, July 31, 2008**

**Tuesday, July 29, 2008**

**Tuesday, August 5, 2008**

**Thursday, August 7, 2008**

**Wednesday, July 23, 2008**

**Thursday, July 24, 2008**

**Citrus County**  
West Citrus Community Center  
8940 W. Veterans Dr., Homosassa

**Hernando County**  
Holiday Inn Express - Spring Hill  
3528 Commercial Way, Spring Hill

**Pasco County**  
Alice Hall Community Center  
38116 Fifth Ave., Zephyrhills

**Hillsborough County**  
DoubleTree Hotel  
4500 W. Cypress St., Tampa

**Pinellas County**  
Largo Cultural Center  
105 Central Park Dr., Largo

**Manatee County**  
The Lakewood Ranch Community Room  
(located in Northern Trust Bank, Ste. 203)  
6320 Venture Dr., Bradenton

**Sarasota County**  
Venice Community Center  
326 S. Nokomis Ave., Venice

**NEW!** **Online Community Workshops**  
Tuesday, July 22 from 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.  
Wednesday, August 6 from 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.  
Go to [www.tbarta.com](http://www.tbarta.com) and click on the Meetings tab to locate the link to our online workshop.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**  
[www.tbarta.com](http://www.tbarta.com) (813) 217-4048

Persons needing special accommodations to participate, please contact Brandie Miklus at (813) 217-4037 at least 3 days before the meeting.

info (813) 217-4048

[www.tbarta.com](http://www.tbarta.com)

## 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).

## HELP SHAPE TAMPA BAY'S GROWTH

Visit [www.myonebay.com](http://www.myonebay.com) & Voicelt!

What will Tampa Bay look like in the year 2050 when the region's population is expected to nearly double to seven million people? To help people visualize the alternatives, a series of four distinct scenarios was created to describe where and how those residents could live, work and play. The scenarios are part of a new campaign called One Bay Voicelt that offers today's residents a chance to share their opinions on how that growth should occur.

"We can't stop people from moving here, and we need to start planning now so that our quality of life and natural resources are protected," notes Commissioner Deborah Kynes, Chair of the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council.

### 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.

Planning protection for water resources, including Tampa Bay, is particularly important, adds Holly Greening, director of the Tampa Bay Estuary Program. "As we look ahead to a potential doubling of population in our watersheds over the next 50 years, it will be critical that we have a long-range vision and plan for sustainability in place that will ensure the continued progress towards healthier bays and waterways."

Scenario C, for instance, envisions a region designed specifically to accommodate mass transit options that help residents escape long commutes - and minimize the air pollution that creates about half the nitrogen loadings to Tampa Bay. More dense communities also require less impermeable surfaces so

stormwater has the opportunity to percolate back through soil and into aquifers or to move slowly through natural wetlands areas, again minimizing contaminants in the bay.



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

In Scenario D, planners specifically avoided construction in wetlands or in priority wildlife habitat, reducing potentially impacted lands from about 200,000 in the "business as usual" scenario to less than 500 acres.

"Even though the population growth forecast for the next 40 years continues a decades long trend, we've discovered that relatively few people recognize the impact it will have on our natural resources and sense of community," Pumariega said. "One Bay Voicelt is a

chance for people to decide which priorities are most important to them and to show their elected officials how they would like to see Tampa Bay continue to grow."

The TBRPC will work with all of the cities and counties to find those elements of One Bay that would support their local vision and integrate into their current Comprehensive Plans, he adds.

Voicelt 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. The organization 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.

"Our goal is to ensure that every resident understands that the decision we make today will drive the future - and the longer we delay in making those critical choices, the less impact they will have on how Tampa Bay looks in 2050," Pumariega said.

*See pages 8 and 9 for Scenario descriptions.*

*Adapted from Bay Soundings*

# REGIONALLY SPEAKING

## Scenario A

This alternative depicts how scenario builders expect Tampa Bay to look if future development follows the growth patterns and trends of the past. It's the "business as usual" representation of how and where growth would likely occur if those patterns continue – but it is not a forecast of what will happen in the future.

### The scenario anticipates:

- Ongoing development of suburban-type communities.
- The vast majority of new construction will be single family homes.
- The amount of developed land will nearly double as the population grows, requiring more than 500,000 acres to house new residents and provide them with jobs.
- The average commute is likely to become even longer and more expensive as homes are built farther away from employment centers.
- Subdivisions and planned communities will consist of homes that are similar to each other in style and price.
- Up to 200,000 acres of wetlands and wildlife habitat may be impacted.



## Scenario B

This scenario places populations and jobs in close proximity to where the more than 1000 citizens participating in Reality Check and One Bay events put their Legos®.

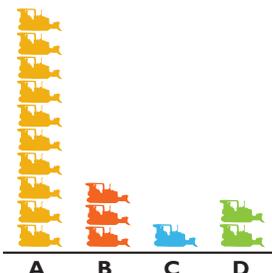
### The scenario anticipates:

- When compared to Scenario A, this alternative quadruples the use of revitalized properties in and near city centers.
- An increased focus on alternative housing, with approximately 60 percent of new homes consisting of options like townhomes, garden apartments, homes above retail stores in mixed-use buildings, and mid- or high-rise condominiums that take advantage of waterfront views or proximity to regional activity centers.
- The number and length of automobile trips will be reduced up to 25 percent.
- Enhanced rail and bus transit options become increasingly viable as the population density increases.
- Compared to Scenario A, land-use patterns include preservation of two-thirds more open space and agricultural land, protection of 75 percent more wetlands, and 80 percent more priority wildlife habitat remaining in its natural state.

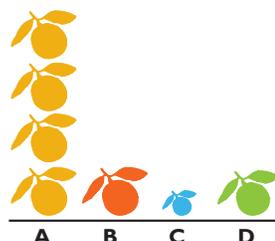


### Indicators

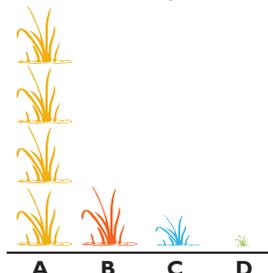
Total Land Consumed



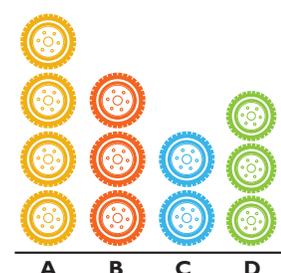
Agricultural Land Impacted



Wetlands Impacted



Vehicle Miles Traveled

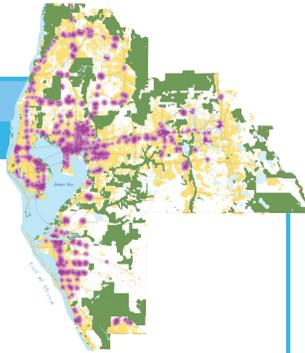


## Scenario C

This alternative emphasizes compact design that encourages mass transit. This scenario envisions the creation of compact, walkable communities located near transit stations to minimize dependency on automobiles.

### The scenario anticipates:

- New towns and communities with distinct borders would be built along the transit corridors.
- Generous parks and outdoor recreational areas are expected to be easily accessible by pedestrians and bicyclists in these new neighborhoods, along with schools and community activity centers.
- The most preservation of open space of any of the four options with more redevelopment in and near city cores.
- Of the four scenarios, it's also the most likely to make commuter rail feasible.
- Job densities are the highest of all four scenarios, with 90 percent more jobs per acre than Scenario A.
- Per capita water and wastewater usage will decrease by about 20 percent, compared to Scenario A, with fewer large lawns and more efficient use of reclaimed water.
- Homes in higher-density communities also cause less stormwater and use less electricity, resulting in cleaner air and water.

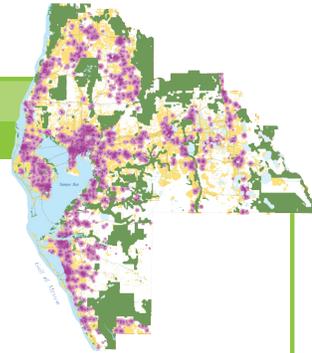


## Scenario D

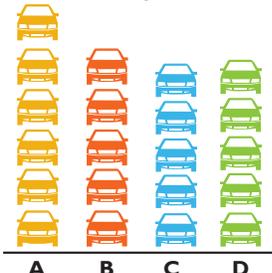
This scenario focuses on protecting water resources and wildlife habitat, reflecting the long-term commitment of residents to protect natural resources in our region.

### The scenario anticipates:

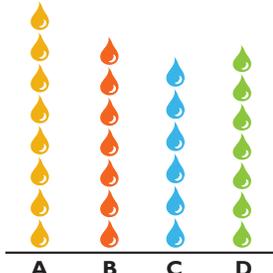
- The ability to sustain recovery efforts of water pollution in the bay. Efforts over the last 40 years have actually reduced water pollution in the bay even as the region's population boomed.
- An increased emphasis on protecting lands that have environmental value.
- Construction in areas defined as wetlands, aquifer recharge areas and priority habitat will be avoided, even in cases where it might increase conventional sprawl.
- Approximately 24,000 acres revitalized as new mixed-use communities near downtown cores.
- Less than 500 acres of wetlands or priority habitat will be threatened with development.
- The least amount of new construction in flood plains, minimizing harm to people, property and wildlife habitat.



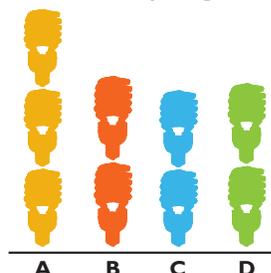
Automobile Trips Generated



Water Demand



Electricity Usage



# HONORING NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENT

The winners of the 16th Annual Future of the Region Awards are making innovative changes to enhance the quality of life in the Tampa Bay region.

The 16th Annual Future of the Region Awards, is the culmination of months of planning and preparation by the Council and those who submitted applications. This year forty-three applications covering the following categories were received:

- Community Service
- Cultural/Sports/Recreation
- Development
- Environmental
- Infrastructure
- Public Education

On February 9, 2008, the Independent Awards Jury, Charles D. Blume, Executive Director of the Apalachee

Regional Planning Council; Christopher Steinocher, Marketing Director of the Tampa Bay Partnership; and Ray Chiaramonte, Assistant Executive Director for the Hillsborough County City-County Commission, reviewed each entry on the following criteria:

- Regional quality of life benefit
- Benefit to the environment
- Innovation
- Cost effectiveness
- Capacity for continuing impact
- Regional benefit

After many hours of deliberation the judges acknowledged those projects representing notable achievement in resource planning and management in the Tampa Bay region.



*Congratulations to the following First Place winners!*

## **COMMUNITY SERVICE**

### **Environmental Lands Division Volunteer Program ~ Pinellas County Department of Environmental Management - Environmental Lands Division**

Already totaling 65,000 person-hours, the Division's volunteer program is the fastest growing section of volunteerism in Pinellas County Government. A model for other agencies, it provides benefits for natural resource protection through education, research, land management, and government administration. Amid stringent budget reductions, this program is also a cost effective avenue for conservation.



## **CULTURAL/SPORTS/RECREATION**

### **Pinellas County Clean Marina Program ~ Pinellas County Department of Environmental Management**

The Clean Marina Program offers education through published materials, workshops, and activities, making it easier for boaters to protect our waterways and marine life from pollution. Marinas receive assistance to protect the environment and meet standards that will provide them with a "Clean Marina" designation.



## **DEVELOPMENT**

### **University Area Community and North 22nd Street Master Plans ~ University Area Community Development Corporation, Inc./USF Area Community Civic Association, Inc./Hillsborough County Board of County Commissioners**

The University Area Community Plan outlines a comprehensive vision for revitalization of Tampa's most poverty stricken area. Systematically executed by strategic public/private partnerships, the Plan successfully addresses economic investment; housing; transportation; and community, educational, and enrichment facilities changing an economically and socially vulnerable "Suitcase City" into a stable, sustainable community.



## **ENVIRONMENT**

### **Developing a Model of Urban Ecology ~ Pinellas County Department of Environmental Management - Environmental Lands Division**

Through notable achievements in land management, restoration ecology, and environmental education, Pinellas County's Environmental Lands Division has established itself as a model of urban ecology. These accomplishments, including programs for volunteers, field research, land acquisition, and law enforcement, are praised widely across the country and even taught in university courses.



## **INFRASTRUCTURE**

### **Manatee County Reuse System (MARS) ~ Manatee Agricultural Reuse System**

Through its Manatee Agricultural Reuse System Manatee County, Florida, is providing a reliable source of reclaimed water and operating one of the largest reclaimed water grids in Florida. The award-winning project encompasses three pumping stations, more than 51 miles of force mains and a 3-million-gallon above ground storage facility.



## **PUBLIC EDUCATION**

### **"SouthShore: What a Difference a Bay Makes" Ecotourism Guide ~ Hillsborough County Economic Development Department, Tourism Development Program**

Hillsborough County's SouthShore, featuring the communities of Apollo Beach, Riverview, Ruskin and Sun City Center, is committed to the preservation of its natural environment. "What a Difference a Bay Makes" was created to educate visitors about the various natural highlights - bird sanctuaries, nature preserves, and county/state parks. It also promotes the diverse businesses that provide services to Tampa Bay residents and visitors to experience the area's many ecological assets.



## **HAZARDOUS MATERIALS EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

New to the Future of the Region Awards program this year, the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council and the Local Emergency Planning Committee recognized the efforts made by facilities to develop disaster plans to safeguard and protect the community and its environment from the effects of natural or manmade disasters. The following facilities were recognized for their current efforts: Lakewood Ranch Medical Center, Raytheon Company and Yara North America, Inc.



# AWARD LUNCHEON





# COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF TAMPA BAY

## *Community Foundation of Tampa Bay Awards Grant to F.O.R. Community Service Winner*

The Community Foundation of Tampa Bay partnered with the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council by providing a \$2500.00 grant to the winner of the Community Service category at the 16th Annual Future of the Region Awards.

The lucky recipient was the Pinellas County Department of Environmental Management-Environmental Lands Division for their Environmental Lands Division Volunteer Program. Already totaling 65,000 person-hours, the Division's volunteer program is the fastest growing section of volunteerism in Pinellas County Government. A model for other agencies, it provides benefits for natural resource protection through education, research, land management, and government administration. Amid stringent budget reductions, this program is also a cost-effective avenue for conservation. The grant was announced and presented at the Future of the Region Awards luncheon.



For good. For ever.®



Mr. David Fischer, CEO of the Community Foundation of Tampa Bay presenting a \$2,500.00 grant to Pinellas County Department of Environmental Management - Environmental Lands Division.

To learn more about the efforts of the Community Foundation of Tampa Bay, Council staff had a conversation with the CEO and former St. Petersburg City Mayor, Mr. David Fischer.

**Q. Mayor Fischer, there are many people in our community who may not know what a community foundation is or what it does. Please explain.**

**A.** Community foundations are tax exempt public charities serving thousands of people who share a common philanthropic interest - improving the quality of life in their area. There are over 700 in the United States including 26 in Florida.

Individuals, families, businesses, and nonprofit organizations create permanent charitable funds with the Community Foundation of Tampa Bay that help meet the challenges of changing times. We invest and administer these funds, including IRS reporting and facilitating grant making from the investment earnings. The Foundation will be here to contribute to the well being of our communities thirty, fifty, a hundred years from now.

Currently, we have \$140 million in assets under management, and, more importantly, we have facilitated the grant making of more than \$90 million since our inception in 1990.

See COMMUNITY Page 16

# EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

## Prepare Your Home & Business!

### 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](http://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.fldisasterkit.org](http://www.fldisasterkit.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](mailto:betti@tbrpc.org).



# COUNCIL CAPSULES

## DICK FLETCHER, FORMER COUNCILMEMBER YEARS OF SERVICE: 1987-1993



The Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council dedicated the 16th Annual Future of the Region Awards in memory of former Council Member and Channel 10 News Meteorologist, Mr. Dick Fletcher (Fletch). On Tuesday, February 26, 2008, he passed away from complications of a stroke.

His leadership in the community and as a gubernatorial representative on the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council allowed him to provide valuable assistance in legislative and

policy initiatives. During his tenure on the Council, Dick served as chairman of the Regional Emergency Management Committee following Hurricane Andrew as well as the Agency on Bay Management, a successful arm of the Council which focuses on environmental issues. He also served on the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) which coordinates the hazardous material incident planning and public right-to-know programs as a media representative.



Heather VanNess, Lead Anchor, accepts framed dedication and memorial on behalf of Channel 10 News.

“The emergency management community is going to miss him and his contributions. More than that, the region is going to miss his caring, not only about weather and emergency management, but preserving our overall quality of life. His lasting legacy will be the effort we all continue to do toward improving emergency management and citizen awareness regardless of where we happen to live,” stated longtime friend and emergency management principal planner, Betti Johnson.

## COMMUNITY from Page 14

### **Q. What brought the Community Foundation of Tampa Bay into collaboration with the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council?**

**A.** Our task at the Foundation is to build a better community in partnership with our donors by understanding and addressing the issues and needs of our region, a mission very similar to your own. The criteria you used to determine the award winners for your Future of the Region event mirror ours when we engage in grant making. It’s a good fit. We are both working to improve the quality of life in Tampa Bay.

We were very pleased to provide the \$2,500 grant to the Volunteer Program at the Environmental Lands Division in Pinellas County. Their program represents a cost effective way to further conservation and environmental awareness.

### **Q. Why not give directly to a charitable organization? Why would someone want to invest in a Community Foundation?**

**A.** There are many reasons to invest in your local community foundation. We identify current and emerging issues. We gather and channel financial as well as human resources to address the needs of our community and we

help prepare our region for the future.

Our donors have told us that one of the most important aspects of having a community foundation is the sense of security they get from knowing their charitable contribution is housed in a permanent fund and that it will continue to provide support for their favorite causes long after they are gone.

### **Q. There is a lot of public scrutiny of charities these days. How would you say the Community Foundation of Tampa Bay stacks up?**

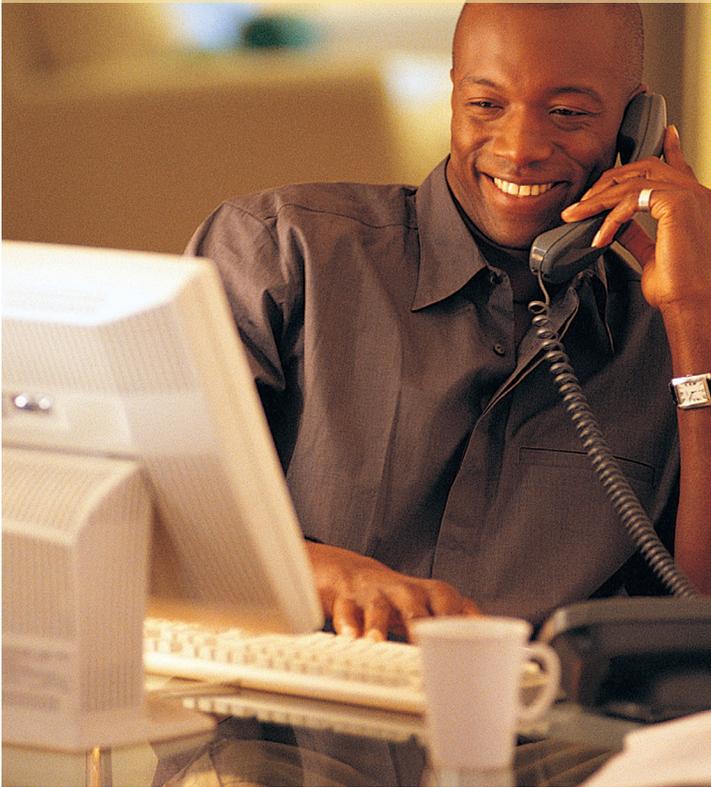
**A.** The Community Foundation of Tampa Bay was recently recognized by the Council on Foundations in Washington, D. C. for compliance with organizational and financial practices that are in accordance with the National Standards for U.S. Community Foundations. These are rigorous standards designed to measure our fiscal responsibility and we were very pleased to be awarded their National Seal.

We have recently been recognized by the watchdog group, Charity Navigator. We have had the distinction of being noted on their website as the top rated community foundation of all those rated in 2007. Our reputation is built on trust and integrity and we will do whatever it takes to maintain that reputation.

For more information visit [www.cftampabay.org](http://www.cftampabay.org).

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](http://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](http://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](mailto:brady@tbrpc.org), or **Avera Wynne**, [avera@tbrpc.org](mailto:avera@tbrpc.org).

# TBRPC Website Gets a Makeover

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.



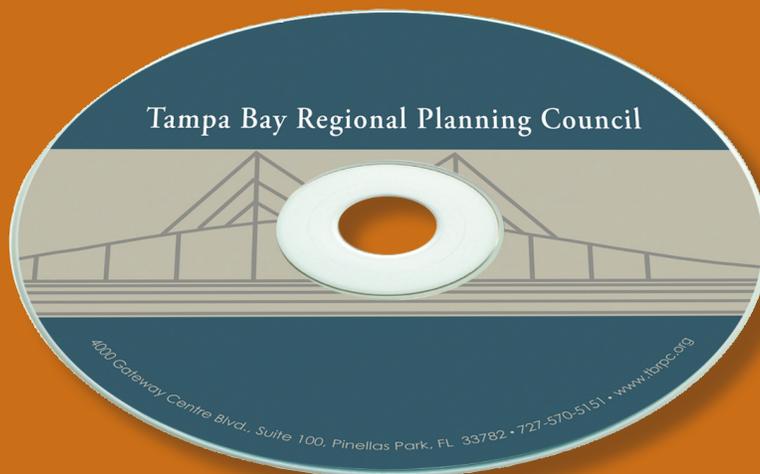
**VISIT**

[www.tbrpc.org](http://www.tbrpc.org)

**TO SEE OUR NEW AND IMPROVED LOOK!**

*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](http://www.baysoundings.com) or send an email to [circulation@baysoundings.com](mailto: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](mailto:suzanne@tbrpc.org).

[www.baysoundings.com](http://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

# 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.

# COUNCIL MEMBERS

## OFFICERS

Commissioner Deborah Kynes  
Chair  
City of Dunedin

Commissioner Bill Dodson  
Vice Chair  
City of Plant City

Commissioner Jack Mariano  
Secretary/Treasurer  
Pasco County

Mayor Scott Black  
Past Chair  
City of Dade City

## MEMBERS

Commissioner Nina Bandoni  
City of Safety Harbor

Jane Bittner  
Gubernatorial Appointee  
Pinellas County

Commissioner Woody Brown  
City of Largo

Mayor Larry Bustle  
City of Palmetto

Commissioner Linda Chaney  
City of St. Pete Beach

Bob Clifford  
Ex-officio, D.O.T.

Jill Collins  
Gubernatorial Appointee  
Hillsborough County

Deputy Mayor Bob Consalvo  
City of New Port Richey

Commissioner Larry Crowley  
City of South Pasadena

Commissioner Ronnie Duncan  
Pinellas County

Commissioner Rose Ferlita  
Hillsborough County

Council Member Alison Fernandez  
City of Temple Terrace

Julian Garcia, Jr.  
Gubernatorial Appointee  
Hillsborough County

Deborah Getzoff  
Ex-officio, D.E.P.

Robert Kersteen  
Gubernatorial Appointee  
Pinellas County

Harry Kinnan  
Gubernatorial Appointee  
Manatee County

Angeleah Kinsler  
Gubernatorial Appointee  
Hillsborough County

Councilor Bob Matthews  
City of Seminole

Council Member Janice Miller  
City of Oldsmar

Michele Miller  
Ex-officio, Enterprise Florida

Commissioner Robert Minning  
City of Treasure Island

Councilwoman Mary Mulhern  
City of Tampa

Andy Nùñez  
Gubernatorial Appointee  
Pinellas County

Councilman Karl Nurse  
City of St. Petersburg

Council Member Carlen Petersen  
City of Clearwater

Todd Pressman  
Ex-officio, SWFWMD

Councilman Patrick Roff  
City of Bradenton

Vice Mayor Robin Saenger  
City of Tarpon Springs

Barbara Sheen Todd  
Gubernatorial Appointee  
Pinellas County

Councilman Ed Taylor  
City of Pinellas Park

Kim Vance  
Gubernatorial Appointee  
Hillsborough County

Commissioner Jane von  
Hahmann  
Manatee County

Charles Waller  
Gubernatorial Appointee  
Pasco County

Laura Woodard  
Gubernatorial Appointee  
Hillsborough County

Commissioner Robert Worthington  
City of Gulfport

Earl Young  
Gubernatorial Appointee  
Pasco County

# COUNCIL CAPSULES

## WHO ARE WE & WHAT WE DO

The Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council offers a wide variety of services and products. Can we provide a service to you?

Among the services and programs the council offers: economic modeling and analysis; community visioning and charette planning; spatial growth modeling; environmental technical assistance and analysis; hurricane and hazard preparedness planning; the official Hurricane Guide; the Florida Business Disaster Survival Kits; GIS mapping; and planning technical assistance to local governments.

Our Regional Information Center serves as a Florida State Data Center; official U.S. Census affiliate; provider of technical assistance; and clearinghouse for technical assistance and administrative materials related to planning and development in the Tampa Bay Region.

### **TBRPC Programs and Staff Contacts**

(727) 570-5151  
[www.tbrpc.org](http://www.tbrpc.org)

#### **Agency on Bay Management**

Suzanne Cooper, Principal Planner, x32

#### **Local Government Comprehensive Plans**

Jessica Lunsford, Senior Planner, x38

#### **Developments of Regional Impact (DRI)**

John Meyer, Principal Planner, x29

#### **Economic Development & Economic Analysis**

Patrick O'Neil, Senior Planner, x31

#### **Emergency Preparedness & Planning: Hurricane Guide, Small Business Disaster Kit**

Betti Johnson, Principal Planner, x39

#### **Telework Tampa Bay**

Jessica Lunsford, Senior Planner, x38

#### **Tampa Bay Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC)**

Bill Lofgren, Principal Planner, x33

#### **Public Information**

Wren Krahl, Manager of Administration/Public Information, x22

# STAFF

## Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council

4000 Gateway Centre Blvd., Suite 100, Pinellas Park, FL 33782  
Phone: (727) 570-5151  
FAX: (727) 570-5118 Suncom: 513-5066 Suncom FAX: 513-5118  
www.tbrpc.org

### TBRPC Administrative Staff

Manny L. Pumariega, Executive Director  
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)
	28	Richard Kephart	Senior Planner
	33	Bill Lofgren	Principal Planner, LEPC Sara III-Haz. Mat.
	38	Jessica Lunsford	Senior Planner
	29	John Meyer	Principal Planner, DRI Coordinator
	18	Greg Miller	Senior Planner
	31	Patrick O'Neil	Senior Planner
	42	Brady Smith	Senior Planner
	21	Mike Spina	Senior Planner
	43	Luis Suarez	Planning Intern
	41	Kim Williams	Communications/Graphics Coordinator
	21	Erika Wiker	Planner
	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 Future of the Region Awards edition of Visions: Organizations and entities that entered this year's Future of the Region Awards Program, Sponsors of the 2008 Future of the Region Awards, TBARTA, FDOT, Jacobs Carter Burgess, One Bay Partners, Community Foudation of Tampa Bay and Bay Soundings. Cover photo: Urban Advantage, [www.urban-advantage.com](http://www.urban-advantage.com).

# FUTURE OF THE REGION AWARD NOMINEES

## COMMUNITY SERVICE

**Bring Back the Bayou** ~ Southwest Florida Water Management District/Kayak Nature Adventures  
**City of Clearwater CAN Awards** ~ Clearwater Development & Neighborhood Services Department  
**Community Care Package for the Troops in Iraq** ~ PSTA  
**Environmental Lands Division Volunteer Program** ~ Pinellas County Department of Environmental Management ~ Environmental Lands Division  
**Pasco County Elderly Nutrition Program** ~ Pasco County  
**Pinellas County EMS-Early Warning Biosurveillance System** ~ Sunstar Emergency Medical Services  
**St. Pete Beach Recreational Community Family Center** ~ City of St. Pete Beach

## CULTURAL/SPORTS/RECREATION

**Arcs in Motion** ~ PSTA  
**City of New Port Richey Recreation & Aquatic Complex** ~ City of New Port Richey  
**Comprehensive Canal Dredging & Preventative Measures Study** ~ Hillsborough County Public Works Department Engineering Division, Specialized Services Group  
**Loretta Ingraham Recreation Complex Improvements** ~ Harvard Jolly  
**Pinellas County Clean Marina Program** ~ Pinellas County Department of Environmental Management  
**Stirling Skate Park** ~ City of Dunedin  
**St. Pete Beach Recreational Community Family Center** ~ City of St. Pete Beach  
**"Tampa Bay Your Way!" Multicultural Visitor Guide** ~ Hillsborough County Economic Development Department

## DEVELOPMENT

**Sandpearl Resort** ~ JMC Communities, Inc.  
**University Area Community & North 22nd Street Master Plans** ~ University Area Community Development Corporation, Inc./USF Area Community Civic Association, Inc./Hillsborough County Board of County Commissioners

## ENVIRONMENT

**City of Dunedin's Green Local Government Program** ~ City of Dunedin  
**Developing a Model of Urban Ecology** ~ Pinellas County Department of Environmental Management/Environmental Lands Division  
**Hammock Park Natural Systems Restoration Phase 2** ~ City of Dunedin  
**Artificial Reef Program** ~ Environmental Protection Commission of Hillsborough County  
**Honeymoon Island Beach Restoration Project Phase 1** ~ Pinellas County Department of Environmental Management  
**James E. Grey Preserve** ~ City of New Port Richey  
**Lake Seminole Habitat Restoration** ~ Boy Scout Troops 371, 404, 340 & 417 of the West Coast Council/Pinellas County Department of Environmental Management & Parks Department/Lake Seminole

**McKay Bay - Eastshore Commerce Park Parcel Stormwater Retrofit Project** ~ SFWMD  
**McKay Creek Greenway Habitat Restoration** ~ Pinellas County - Culture, Education & Leisure Extension  
**Partnerships for Progress - Tampa Bay Nitrogen Management Consortium** ~ Tampa Bay Estuary Program  
**Pinellas County Sponsorship of the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES)/FDEP Storm Water, Erosion & Sedimentation Control Inspection Program** ~ Pinellas County Department of Environmental Management/Environmental Lands Division  
**Port Manatee Seagrass Mitigation a Port Manatee on Tampa Bay** ~ Port Manatee  
**Shell Key Preserve: A Model for Adaptive Environmental Mgmt.** ~ Pinellas County Department of Environmental Management/Environmental Lands Division  
**St. Pete Beach Recreational Community Family Center** ~ City of St. Pete Beach

## INFRASTRUCTURE

**Manatee County Reuse System (MARS)** ~ Manatee Agricultural Reuse System  
**Park Blvd. Drainage Improvements Phase 1** ~ City of Pinellas Park  
**PSTA's New Scherer Drive Administration & Operating Facility** ~ PSTA  
**Tampa Bay SunGuide System** ~ Florida Department of Transportation, District 7  
**Treasure Island C.W. Bill Young Bascule Bridge** ~ City of Treasure Island

## PUBLIC EDUCATION

**Catastrope Readiness and Response: Proactive Roles for Public Libraries** ~ Pasco County Library System  
**Connecting People & Place Weedon Island Preserve Cultural & Natural History Center** ~ Pinellas Co. Dept. of Environmental Mgmt./Environmental Lands Div.  
**Hillsborough River Watershed Awareness Week** ~ Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD)  
**Rollin' - PSTA's Trip Planner** ~ PSTA  
**"SouthShore: What a Difference a Bay Makes" Ecotourism Guide** ~ Hillsborough Co. Economic Dev. Dept., Tourism Development Program  
**Virtual Library Kiosk** ~ Safety Harbor Public Library

## HAZARDOUS MATERIALS EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

**Lakewood Ranch Medical Center**  
**Raytheon Company**  
**Yara North America, Inc.**

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17<sup>th</sup> Annual  
*Future* of the  
*Region Awards*

*We cordially invite you to participate in next year's...  
17<sup>h</sup> Annual Future of the Region Awards*

**Call for Entries - October 2008**

**Deadline for Entries - Early January 2009**

17th Annual Future of the Region Awards Luncheon - March 2009  
Venue to be announced

For more information or to be placed on the mailing list, please contact Wren Krahl, Manager of Administration/Public Information, [wren@tbrpc.org](mailto:wren@tbrpc.org), 727-570-5151 ext. 22.

Visit the website to view the Annual Future of the Region Commemorative Programs, [www.tbrpc.org](http://www.tbrpc.org).



