

Background

The Tampa Bay Transit Forum took place on Friday, July 20, 2018, in the Grand Ballroom of the Tampa Airport Marriott. Tampa Bay Area Regional Transit Authority (TBARTA) and Tampa International Airport (TPA) hosted the event. In total, 348 people signed into the event.

Invitations and Advertisements

Leading up to the event, invitations were sent to the region's counties, cities, metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs), and transit agencies, as well as business organizations, civic associations, business owners, media, and members of the Regional Transit Feasibility Plan mailing list. Each organization or agency was then asked to send the invitation to their mailing lists as appropriate. **Attachment A** includes the initial list of invitees. **Attachment B** includes the invitation flyer. Each of the transit agencies and TBARTA posted the event to their websites and/or social media accounts to ensure the meeting was publicly noticed.

For the forum, TPA created a Facebook event (www.facebook.com/events/854929654696290) and website (www.TampaBayTransitForum.com) to get the word out and provide details about the event. An EventBrite site was created for interested attendees to sign up for a tour of SkyConnect (discussed in more detail below).

Sponsorships

Several Sponsors, at Platinum, Gold, and Silver levels, helped make the event possible. Sponsors included:

Platinum:

- Tampa International Airport
- Tampa Bay Partnership
- The University of Tampa
- Urban Land Institute, Tampa Bay

Gold:

- St. Pete Chamber of Commerce
- Tampa Hillsborough Economic Development Corporation
- Pasco Economic Development Council
- Jacobs Engineering

Silver:

- Tampa Bay Beaches Chamber of Commerce
- St. Petersburg Area Economic Development Corporation
- Greater Tampa Chamber of Commerce
- Tampa Downtown Partnership
- Visit Tampa Bay

Event Format

The event was held in two parts. From 1:00pm to 4:00pm, the facilitated event included several speakers and a panel to discuss the need to speak regionally to move transit forward in Tampa Bay. From 4:00pm to 7:00pm, attendees were invited to network and participate in an open house.

Forum Agenda

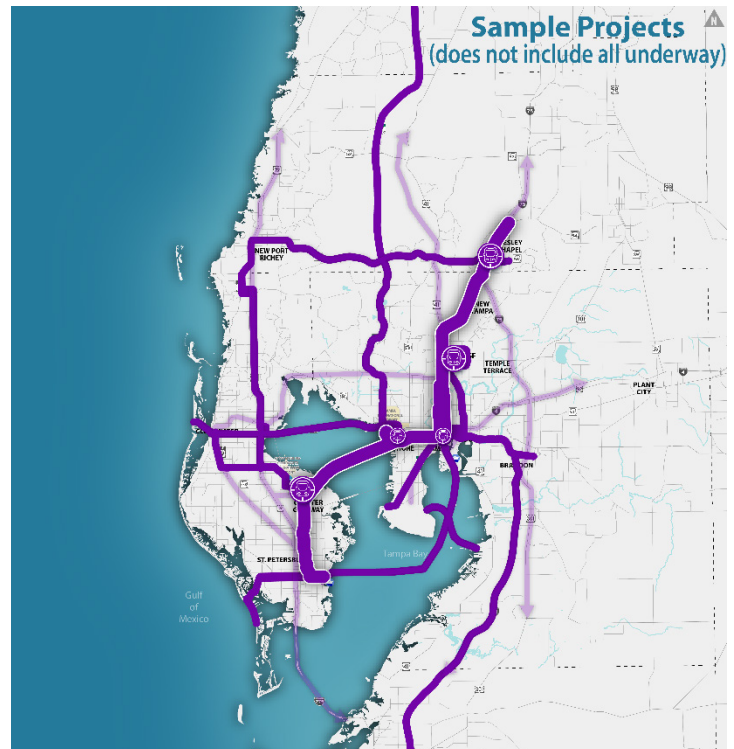
The publicized agenda is included in **Attachment C**. The Forum began with opening remarks by Moderator **Graham Brink**, Tampa Bay Times Business Columnist and Editor; **Joe Lopano**, Tampa International Airport CEO; and **Michael Case**, TBARTA Interim Executive Director (in place of Jim Holton, TBARTA Board Chair). **Senator Bill Galvano** gave the

Keynote address “A Vision for the Tampa Bay Region” and discussed the importance of speaking with one voice when identifying the first premium transit project for the region. Senator Galvano was followed by four speakers discussing “An Eye for the Future.” Speakers included:

- **Secretary David Gwynn**, District Seven Secretary, Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT)
- **Commissioner Sandy Murman**, Hillsborough County Commission Chair
- **Commissioner Jack Mariano**, Pasco County Commissioner
- **Commissioner Ken Welch**, Pinellas County Commission Chair

National Transit Expert Jeff Boothe then spoke about “Where We Are Right Now,” giving an overview of some of the transit projects underway across the Tampa Bay region and how they tie together to create a complete network. Sample projects included:

- Regional Transit Development Plan
- Regional Long Range Transportation Plan
- Central Avenue Bus Rapid Transit
- Clearwater Beach to TPA Express
- US 19 Commuter Express
- Vision 54/56
- Uptowner
- Tampa Arterial Bus Rapid Transit
- Tampa Streetcar
- TPA SkyConnect
- Westshore Circulator
- Ferry Service
- Manatee Connection
- Pasco/Hernando Connection
- Intermodal Center Studies
- Regional Transit Plan Top Connections
- Regional Transit Plan Catalyst Project
- Regional Transit Vision



The next segment of the event included a panel discussion made up of several community leaders and transit users to talk about the importance of transit for getting around, finding and retaining employees, and creating a healthy community. Panel members included:

- **Brant Peterson**, Greater Tampa Bay Chamber of Commerce’s Emerging Leaders of Tampa Bay
- **Gloria Lepik-Corrigan**, PSTA Transit Riders Advisory Committee
- **Barry Shevlin**, CEO of Vology
- **Alex Gerwe**, Pasco County Resident
- **Dr. Joe Bohn**, Visiting Assistant Professor and Director for USF College of Public Health
- **Mark Sharpe**, Chief Potential Officer for the Tampa !p

Jim Cloar, Governance Chair of the Urban Land Institute’s (ULI) Tampa Bay District Council, opened the 3:00pm session titled “Stop and Grow,” introducing **Marilee Utter**, President of Citiventure Associates and Leader with ULI, to discuss the importance of getting Transit Oriented Development (TOD) right and how to use TOD to create great spaces that people want to live in and visit. During the presentation, attendees were encouraged to fill out question cards for Marilee to respond to following the presentation. Jim asked Marilee several of the questions submitted. **Attachment D** includes the eight question cards turned in.

Selfie Videos

In addition to the presentations, three videos were compiled of leaders and residents around the region. Video participants were asked to answer three questions in a “selfie” format:

1. How does transit impact your daily life, your job, and your neighborhood?
2. Why are you excited about transit?
3. What are five words or phrases that describe the future of transit in Tampa Bay?

The compiled videos are available on the Regional Transit Feasibility Plan playlist on the HART YouTube page (www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLJZ-B5U_fAAXUC9dCx_izkJdGxr8iULbi).

Materials and Visuals

Each attendee was given a handout that included the agenda, speaker biographies, and list of sponsors. **Attachment E** includes the handout. In addition, a Prezi was used to present the information throughout the event. The Prezi is available on the forum website and the Regional Transit Feasibility Plan website (www.TBRegionalTransit.com).

Networking and Open House

An open house and networking opportunity was held from 4:00pm to 7:00pm. Several exhibitors were present with staff available to discuss current and future efforts and provide materials for attendees. Attendees were invited to converse about the presentations of the day and efforts underway, as well as ideas, concerns, comments, viewpoints, and perspectives on transit and the future of transit in the region. Exhibitors included:

- Hillsborough Area Regional Transit Authority
- Pasco County Public Transportation
- Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority
- It’s Time Tampa Bay (the effort underway to update the Regional Long Range Transportation Plan)
- TBARTA
- FDOT
- Regional Transit Feasibility Plan

SkyConnect Tours

Tampa International Airport representatives hosted behind-the-scenes tour of Tampa International Airport's new Rental Car Center and transit curb and an exclusive behind-the-scenes look at the SkyConnect maintenance facility. There were six 1.5-hour tours available throughout the duration of the event. Attendees were encouraged to sign up in advance. In total, 120 tour spots were available, and all were filled prior to the date of the event.

Summary

The number of attendees that signed in was 348. In addition to general citizens, attendees included representatives from a wide variety of agencies and organizations from around the region. These included transit agencies, FDOT, MPOs, chambers of commerce, elected officials, cities, counties, environmental groups, water management districts, media, local universities, civic associations, business organizations, economic development councils, developers, contractors, and consultants. The sign-in sheets for the event are included in **Attachment F**.

Comment forms were available for attendees to make general comments or ask questions. Five people provided general comments, included in **Attachment G**.

Appendix H includes the news coverage before and after the event.

Attachments

- **Attachment A:** Initial List of Invitees
- **Attachment B:** Invitation Flyer
- **Attachment C:** Forum Agenda
- **Attachment D:** Submitted Question Cards
- **Attachment E:** Forum Handout
- **Attachment F:** Sign-in Sheets
- **Attachment G:** Completed Comment Forms
- **Attachment H:** Media Coverage

Attachment A: Initial List of Invitees

The invitation for the Tampa Bay Transit Forum was sent out to the following list. Invitees were encouraged to forward the invitation to others (e.g., internal staff, mailing lists, etc.) as appropriate. Therefore, additional invitations were sent but not tracked.

Elected Officials

National Representatives

- Bill Nelson, United States Senator
- Marco Rubio, United States Senator
- Gus Bilirakis, United States Representative
- Charlie Crist, United States Representative

State Representatives

- Larry Ahern
- Daniel Wright Burgess
- Richard Corcoran
- Janet Cruz
- Ben Diamond
- James Grant
- Shawn Harrison
- Chris Latvala
- Amber Mariano
- Lawrence McClure
- Kathleen Peters
- Jake Raburn
- Daniel Raulerson
- Sean Shaw
- Ross Spano
- Chris Sprowls
- Jackie Toledo
- Newton Wengay

State Senators

- Jeff Brandes, State Senator
- Bill Galvano, State Senator
- Jack Latvala, State Senator
- Tom Lee, State Senator
- Darryl Ervin Rouson, State Senator
- Wilton Simpson, State Senator
- Dana Young, State Senator

County Commissioners

- Hillsborough County
 - Victor Crist
 - Ken Hagan
 - Al Higginbotham
 - Pat Kemp
 - Les Miller
 - Sandra Murman
 - Stacy White
- Pasco County
 - Camille Hernandez
 - Jack Mariano
 - Dale Massad
 - Mike Moore
 - Ron Oakley

- Lance Smith
- Jeff Starkey
- Kathryn Starkey
- Mike Wells
- Pinellas County
 - Dave Eggers
 - Pat Gerard
 - Charlie Justice
 - Janet Long
 - Kenneth Welch
 - Karen Williams-Seel

City Councilmembers

- City of Clearwater
 - David Allbritton
 - Doreen Caudell
 - Bob Cundiff
 - Hoyt Hamilton
- City of Plant City
 - William Dodson
 - Nathan Kilton
 - Mary Mathis
 - Bill McDaniel
 - Michael Schenk
 - Michael Sparkman
 - Lynn Spivey
- City of St. Petersburg
 - Gina Driscoll
 - Amy Foster
 - Brandi Gabbard
 - Charlie Gerdes
 - Steve Kornell
 - Ed Montanari
 - Darden Rice
 - Lisa Wheeler-Bowman
- City of Tampa
 - Harry Cohen
 - Guido Maniscalco
 - Charlie Miranda
 - Frank Reddick
 - Mike Suarez
 - Luis Viera
 - Yvonne Yolie Capin
- City of Temple Terrace
 - Robert (Bob) Boss
 - Frank Chillura
 - Cheri Donohue
 - David Pogorilich
 - Andy Ross

Metropolitan Planning Organization Board Members (note: board members listed above were not listed again; Pasco County MPO Board Members are all BOCC Members)

- Forward Pinellas
 - Douglas Bevis
 - Sandra Bradbury
 - Joanne Kennedy
 - Arthur Penny
 - Michael Smith
 - John Tornga
- Hillsborough County MPO
 - Paul Anderson
 - Trent Green
 - Cindy Stuart
 - Joe Waggoner

Mayors

- Bob Buckhorn, City of Tampa
- George Cretokos, City of Clearwater
- Mel Jurado, City of Temple Terrace
- Rick Kriseman, City of St. Petersburg
- Rick Lott, City of Plant City

Agency Staff

Counties

- Hillsborough County
 - Mike Merrill, County Administrator
 - Lucia Garsys, Development and Infrastructure
 - John Lyons, Public Works
 - Lindsey Kimball, Economic Development
 - Adam Gormly, Development Services
- Pasco County
 - Johathan Bramlett, Community Development
 - Don Rosenthal, Development Services
 - Margaret Smith, Engineering Services
 - Ernest Monaco, Planning and Development
 - Branford Adumuah, Public Works
- Pinellas County
 - Ryan Brinson, Planning
 - Rahim Harji, Public Works
 - Kenneth Jacobs, Traffic
 - Gina Harvey, Traffic
 - Tom Washburn, Traffic
 - Renea Vincent, Planning
 - Caroline Lanford, Planning
 - Scott Swearingen, Planning

Cities

- City of Clearwater
 - Bill Horne, City Manager
 - Jill Silverboard, Assistant City Manager
 - Michael Delk, Planning
 - Mike Quillen, Engineering

- Paul Bertels, Traffic
- Lauren Matzke, Planning
- Zain Adam, Transportation
- David Larremore, Traffic
- Bennett Elbo, Traffic
- City of St. Petersburg
 - Dr. Kanika Tomalin, Deputy Mayor
 - Kevin King, Policy and Public Engagement
 - Alan DeLisle, City Development
 - Dave Goodwin, Planning and Economic Development
 - Evan Mory, Transportation
 - Claude Tankersley, Public Works
- City of Tampa
 - Elias Franco, Public Information Officer
 - Bob McDonough, Economic Opportunity
 - Gloria Moreda, Land Development
 - Catherine Coyle, Planning and Urban Design
 - Brad Baird, Utility Services
 - Jean Duncan, Transportation and Stormwater Services
- Dade City
 - William Poe
 - Joseph Debono
 - Michael Sherman
- New Port Richey
 - Robert Rivera
 - Debbie Manns
- Zephyrhills
 - Steve Spina
 - Gail Hamilton
 - Todd VandeBerg
 - Shane LeBlanc

Metropolitan Planning Organizations/Planning Commissions

- Forward Pinellas
 - Whit Blanton, Executive Director
 - Rodney Chatman
 - Al Bartolotta
 - Hilary Lehman
 - Chelsea Favaro
 - Sarah Casper
- Hillsborough MPO/Planning Commission
 - Beth Alden, MPO Executive Director
 - Melissa Zornitta, Planning Commission Executive Director
 - Johnny Wong
- Pasco MPO
 - John Villeneuve, Executive Director
 - Manny Lajmiri
 - Ali Atefi

Transit/Transportation Agencies

- FDOT
 - Secretary David Gwynn
 - Ming Gao

- Elba Lopez
- Katina Kavouklis
- Stephen Benson
- Ed McKinney
- HART
 - Jeffrey Seward, Chief Executive Officer
 - Steve Feigenbaum
 - Christopher Cochran
 - Vanessa Brooks
 - Lena Petit
- PCPT
 - Kurt Scheible, Executive Director
 - Kevin Hoyt
 - Rosemarie Bruckner
- PSTA
 - Brad Miller, Chief Executive Officer
 - Cassandra Bochers, Chief Development Officer
 - Heather Sobush
 - Bonnie Epstein
 - Bob Lasher
 - Cyndi Raskin-Schmitt
 - Rachael Cappolla
- TBARTA
 - Michael Case
 - Sue Ebner
 - Gabriella Jimenez

- Juawana Williams, Pasco EDC
- Hope Allen, Greater Wesley Chapel Chamber of Commerce
- Chip Wichmanowski, West Pasco Chamber of Commerce
- Tom Morrissette, Central Pinellas Chamber of Commerce
- Kyle Caudell, Clearwater Regional Chamber - CYP (Clearwater Young Professionals, Economic Development Chair)
- Carol Hague, Clearwater Regional Chamber of Commerce
- Darryl Henderson, Clearwater Regional Chamber of Commerce
- Joe Farrell, Pinellas Realtor Organization
- Robert Griffin, RE/MAX Metro
- Chris Steinocher, St. Pete Chamber of Commerce
- Dave Metz, St. Petersburg Downtown Partnership
- J.P. Dubuque, St. Petersburg Area Economic Development Council
- Robin Sollie, Tampa Bay Beaches Chamber
- Jerry Custin, Upper Tampa Bay Chamber
- David Downing, Visit St. Pete/Clearwater
- Steve Cona, Associated Builders & Contractors, FL Gulf Coast Chapter
- Kevin Schwartz, Bay Area Apartment Association (BAAA)
- Becky Burton, Bay Area Manufacturers Association
- Juniper Duffin, Building and Office Management Association of Greater Tampa Bay (BOMA)
- Bill Roberts, Florida Gulfcoast Commercial Association of Realtors (FGCAR)
- Kelsey Bokor, NAIOP Tampa Bay
- Kami Corbett, SPCA Tampa Bay
- Martha Boden, SPCA Tampa Bay
- Ron Weaver, Stearns Weaver Miller
- Jennifer Motsinger, Tampa Bay Builder Association
- Rick Homans, Tampa Bay Partnership
- Daniel James Scott, Tampa Bay Technology Forum
- Siobhan O'Kane, ULI Tampa Bay
- Santiago Corrada, Visit Tampa Bay

Other

- Sean Sullivan, TBRPC Executive Director
- Heather Young, TBRPC
- Tambrey Lane, Pasco PIO
- Liana Lopez, Hillsborough Communications Office
- Barbra Hernandez, Pinellas PIO
- Craig Richard, Tampa EDC
- Michelle Bauer, Tampa EDC
- Mike Meidel, Pinellas EDC
- Shawn Fogarty, Westshore Alliance
- Heather Mackin, Westshore Alliance
- Lynn Cissna, St. Pete Chamber of Commerce
- Dennis Hinebaugh, CUTR
- Rob Bertini, CUTR

Regional Business Partners

- Christine Michaels, Greater Brandon Chamber of Commerce
- Bob Rohrlack, Greater Tampa Chamber of Commerce
- Brant Peterson, Greater Tampa Chamber, Emerge Tampa Bay
- David Loos, Greater Tampa Chamber, Emerge Tampa Bay
- Mike Peterson, GTAR (Greater Tampa Association of Realtors)
- Brenda Rabbitt, GTAR (Greater Tampa Association of Realtors)
- Tony Rodriguez, MacDill Airforce Base PAE
- Christine Miller, Plant City Chamber of Commerce
- Jake Austin, Plant City EDC
- Christine Burdick, Vinik Family Foundation
- Karen Kress, Tampa Downtown Partnership
- Mark Sharpe, !p
- James Ransom, Tampa Organization of Black Affairs (TOBA)
- Lee Bell, Temple Terrace Chamber of Commerce
- Ann Kulig, Westshore Alliance
- Dan Sullivan, Greater Pasco Chamber of Commerce (Trinity, Odessa, Lutz, LOL)
- Bill Cronin, Pasco EDC



TBARTA presents the

TAMPA BAY TRANSIT FORUM

Learn about the different transit efforts underway and how they are working together to build the Regional Transit Vision for Tampa Bay

Friday, July 20th at the Tampa Airport Marriott

1pm to 4pm Transit Discussion • 4pm to 7pm Networking & Open House

Sign up for an exclusive behind-the-scenes tour of SkyConnect!

SkyConnect Tours: Visit TBTransitForum.EventBrite.com to sign up for a tour of Tampa International Airport's new Rental Car Center and transit curbside and an exclusive behind-the-scenes look at the SkyConnect maintenance facility

Ride the Bus: The Airport is accessible using PSTAs Route 300X and HART's Routes 30, 32, 35, 60LX, and 275LX

Parking: Park in Tampa International Airport's Short-Term Parking Garage and bring your ticket into the event to be validated; the Marriott is accessible on the third floor between the red elevators

Pursuant to the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act, any person requiring special accommodations to participate in this meeting is asked to advise the Tampa Bay Area Regional Transit Authority (TBARTA) at least 2 business days before the meeting by calling 1 (800) 998-7433. If you are hearing or speech impaired, please use the Florida Relay Service, 1 (800) 955-8771 (TDD) or 1 (800) 955-8770 (Voice).

Visit www.TampaBayTransitForum.com to learn more about this exciting event!

Attachment C: Forum Agenda

TAMPA BAY TRANSIT FORUM

Learn about the different transit efforts underway and how they are working together to build the Regional Transit Vision for Tampa Bay

Friday, July 20th at the Tampa Airport Marriott

1pm to 4pm Transit Discussion • 4pm to 7pm Networking & Open House

Be sure to visit TBTransitForum.EventBrite.com to sign up for a behind-the-scenes tour of Tampa International Airport's SkyConnect

Event Agenda

- 1pm** **Opening/Welcome**
Tampa Bay Times columnist and Forum host **Graham Brink** will introduce Tampa International Airport CEO **Joe Lopano** and TBARTA Chairman **Jim Holton**
- 1:15pm** **A Vision for the Tampa Bay Region**
Florida Senator **Bill Galvano**
- 1:30pm** **An Eye to the Future: Local Plans, Community Vision**
FDOT District Secretary **David Gwynn**, Hillsborough County Commission Chair **Sandy Murman**, Pasco County Commissioner **Jack Mariano**, and Pinellas County Commission Chair **Ken Welch** will share their transit visions for the region
- 2pm** **Where We Are Right Now: Plans in the Works**
Learn about how current transit efforts intersect and listen to community leaders and transit users as they share personal stories of how transit impacts their lives
- 3pm** **Stop and Grow: How Transit Stops Spur Economic Development**
Marilee Utter, President of Citiventure Associates and leader with the Urban Land Institute, will present best practices on transit stations and transit oriented development and lead a follow-up discussion

Networking, Open House, and Tours

- 4 - 7pm** **Networking and Open House**
Explore exhibits from Tampa Bay agencies and partners to learn about efforts underway in the region
- 2 - 7pm** **SkyConnect Tours**
Tours available at 2 pm, 3 pm, 3:30 pm, 4:30 pm, 5 pm, and 5:30 pm

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS



Attachment D: Submitted Question Cards

TAMPA BAY TRANSIT FORUM

Friday, July 20th | 1:00pm
Tampa Airport Marriott

If you would like to ask the speaker a question or make a comment, please write your question below and pass the card to the end of the row for collection by staff.

Name: Iron WEAVER

Representing (if applicable): _____

Question/Comment: _____

LINES where in
WHAT RAIL ~~to~~ Tampa
Bay ^{are} soundest investments

the next 15 years, with
the longest and best value as

Use back side if you need more space.

automated vehicles and
other technologies converge

TAMPA BAY TRANSIT FORUM

Friday, July 20th | 1:00pm
Tampa Airport Marriott

If you would like to ask the speaker a question or make a comment, please write your question below and pass the card to the end of the row for collection by staff.

Name: Courtney Walker

Representing (if applicable): citizen/commuter

Question/Comment: _____

When is the Central Ave Rapid transit going into effect?³
When is the Westshore station going into effect?

Use back side if you need more space.

TAMPA BAY TRANSIT FORUM

Friday, July 20th | 1:00pm
Tampa Airport Marriott

If you would like to ask the speaker a question or make a comment, please write your question below and pass the card to the end of the row for collection by staff.

Name: Sean B.

Representing (if applicable): _____

Question/Comment: _____

1. What comes first, the "T" or the "OO"?
Where do we start in Tampa Bay?

Use back side if you need more space.

TAMPA BAY TRANSIT FORUM

Friday, July 20th | 1:00pm
Tampa Airport Marriott

If you would like to ask the speaker a question or make a comment, please write your question below and pass the card to the end of the row for collection by staff.

Name: BON WEAVER

Representing (if applicable): _____

Question/Comment: What are cost and other

pros and cons of building

parking for substantial

retrofit in 5 to 10 years,

like warehouse and
apartments etc

Use back side if you need more space.

TAMPA BAY TRANSIT FORUM

Friday, July 20th | 1:00pm
Tampa Airport Marriott



If you would like to ask the speaker a question or make a comment, please write your question below and pass the card to the end of the row for collection by staff.

Name: Tabatha Carlton

Representing (if applicable): _____

Question/Comment: Commissioner Murman mentioned it was fine to start construction. Understanding that we are still in the planning phase and construction may not be for 5, 10, 15 years, how do you sell today's voters on something that may not benefit them? Or is there away to advance these projects?

Use back side if you need more space

TAMPA BAY TRANSIT FORUM

Friday, July 20th | 1:00pm
Tampa Airport Marriott



If you would like to ask the speaker a question or make a comment, please write your question below and pass the card to the end of the row for collection by staff.

Name: _____

Representing (if applicable): _____

Question/Comment: Based on your observations, what is Tampa Bay's greatest hurdle to implementing premium transit & the benefits of associated development?

Use back side if you need more space

TAMPA BAY TRANSIT FORUM

Friday, July 20th | 1:00pm
Tampa Airport Marriott

If you would like to ask the speaker a question or make a comment, please write your question below and pass the card to the end of the row for collection by staff.

Name: Taylor

Representing (if applicable): _____

Question/Comment: _____

1) Are all transit projects created equal?
Does TOD rework when transit is
in the middle of interstate?

2) How important is walk/bike infrastructure
in supporting transit and economic
dev?

Use back side if you need more space.

TAMPA BAY TRANSIT FORUM

Friday, July 20th | 1:00pm
Tampa Airport Marriott

If you would like to ask the speaker a question or make a comment, please write your question below and pass the card to the end of the row for collection by staff.

Name: Christopher Gleason

Representing (if applicable): _____

Question/Comment: Is transit more about moving people to
where they need to go OR more about new
development (building stuff)?

Use back side if you need more space



TAMPA BAY TRANSIT FORUM

Learn about the different transit efforts underway and how they are working together to build the Regional Transit Vision for Tampa Bay

Brought to by...



Made possible by the sponsorship of the following...

PLATINUM



GOLD



SILVER



1 pm

Opening/Welcome



Our Moderator

Graham Brink

Business columnist for the Tampa Bay Times



Our Title Sponsor

Joe Lopano

Tampa International Airport CEO



Our Host

Jim Holton

TBARTA Board Chairman

A Vision for the Tampa Bay Region



Our Keynote Speaker

Senator Bill Galvano

President-Designate of the Florida Senate

An Eye to the Future



Secretary David Gwynn

FDOT District Seven Secretary



Commissioner Sandy Murman

Hillsborough County Commission Chair, HART Board Member, and more



Commissioner Jack Mariano

Pasco County Commissioner, Pasco County MPO Board Member, and more



Commissioner Ken Welch

Pinellas County Commission Chair, Forward Pinellas Board Member

2 pm

Where We Are Right Now



Jeff Boothe

National Transit Expert, Managing Principal of InfraStrategies

Community Leaders and Transit Users



Brant Peterson

Greater Tampa Chamber of Commerce's Emerging Leaders of Tampa Bay



Gloria Lepik-Corrigan

PSTA Transit Riders Advisory Committee



Barry Shevlin

CEO of Vology



Alex Gerwe

Pasco County Resident



Dr. Joe Bohn

Visiting Assistant Professor and Director for USF College of Public Health



Mark Sharpe

Chief Potential Officer for the Tampa !p

3 pm

Stop and Grow



Jim Cloar

Governance Chair of the Urban Land Institute's Tampa Bay District Council



Marilee Utter

President of Citiventure Associates and Leader with the Urban Land Institute

THANK YOU FOR JOINING US TODAY!

Please stay for networking and an open house
4 pm - 7 pm

Explore exhibits from
Tampa Bay agencies and partners
to learn about efforts underway in the region

Attachment F: Sign-in Sheets

TAMPA BAY TRANSIT FORUM

Friday, July 20th | 1:00pm
Tampa Airport Marriott



PLEASE PRINT. NOTICE: The information provided below is a matter of public record subject to examination by the general public upon request.

NAME	ORGANIZATION (If Applicable)	EMAIL ADDRESS	ZIP CODE
Kathleen Kowalko's	FDOT	Kathleen.kowalko@dot.state.fl.us	33612
TOM DANAHY	IBRE	T.DANAHY5983@gmail.com	
Scarlett Sharpe	FDOT	Scarlett.sharpe@dot.state.fl.us	34604
Dave Newell	FDOT	dave.newell@dot.state.fl.us	33612
Eiba Lopez	FDOT	eiba.lopez@dot.state.fl.us	33612
Bob LASHER	PSTA	File	33716
Diane Jones	DJPR	diane@djpublicrelations.com	34655
Kevin Hoyt	PCPT	K.Hoyt@Ridepcpt.com	34653
KARASO GARRETT	Legacy Concerns	Kgarrett@legacyconcerns.com	33646
LARI JOHNSON	ADVOCATE	lari@larijohnsonpr.com	33707
Tona Lepik Compton	PSTA TRAC	lepikcompton@gmail.com	33761
Bob O'Malley	Brightline	Bob.O'Malley@jobrightline.com	32701
Kelly Miller	PASCO MPO CAC	kelmiller Kelmil212@yahoo.com	34652
JOHN E TEWKSBURY	BEACHTRAN CLEARWATER	JOHN@BEACHTRAN.com	33764
Scott Humelbach	Taylor Morrison	shumelbach@TaylorMorrison.com	34605

TAMPA BAY TRANSIT FORUM

Friday, July 20th | 1:00pm
Tampa Airport Marriott



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NAME	ORGANIZATION (If Applicable)	EMAIL ADDRESS	ZIP CODE
Ruthie Reyes Burckard	HART	ReyesBurckardR@gohart.org	33605
Christine Buchanan	HART	BuchananC@gohart.org	33605
Marcia Mejia	OFFICE OF CONGRESSMAN CASSIDY	marcia.mejia@mail.house.gov	33607
KYLE KEETH	BOT	KKEETH@BANKOFTAMPABAY.COM	33607
STEVE Buhler	N3N	STEVE.Buhler@N3N.io	34683
ALI ATEFI	PASCO MPO	AATEFI@PASCOCOUNTYFL.NET	34685
Milton Martinez	City of Tampa	milton.martinez@tampagov.net	33602
Gianni Caruso		gncan381@gmail.com	33607
HARRY FULLER		hfuller358@hotmail.com	34689
Taylor Ralph	REAL BLOG	a.taylor.ralph@gmail.com	33629
Laura Lawson	Comm Kemp's Office	lawsonl@hillsborough	33603
MICHELE MOTLEY-DEQUENTHER	TOMLIN ST CIR REAL ESTATE	michele.motleydequenter@comcast.net	336029
Jessica Francis	QUEST Corp. of America	Jessica.Francis@QUESTUSA.com	33624
Kenyatta Lee	HART	leek@gohart.org	32605
Chris Matson		tammymatson@tampabay.com	33759

TAMPA BAY TRANSIT FORUM

Friday, July 20th | 1:00pm
Tampa Airport Marriott



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NAME	ORGANIZATION (If Applicable)	EMAIL ADDRESS	ZIP CODE
Phillip St Pierre	HART	st.pierrep@gohart.org	33605
Karen See	Pinellas County Bocc		33756
Bessie Reina	FDOT - DL	bessie.reina@dot.state.fl.us	33800
Louaine Smith	Sierra Club	lsmith777@gmail.com	33606
S.V. Davis	Sierra Club	NA	33549
Deborah Chona	FDOT - DI	deborah.chona@dot.state.fl.us	33830
Jeanne McCallough	VOLUNTEER TPA	jmcCallough@msn.com	33615
Debbie Ducey	Self	Duceyconsulting@snail	33611
Brynn Edwards	Sea Research	wofe@son.com	33705
ARTHUR J PEREZ	CDM SMITH	PerezA2@cdmsmith.com	32751
Ed Turanduk	Candidate Mayor	Ed@EDFORMATOR.COM	33601
Jenny Turanduk	" "	JennyTuranduk@hotmail.com	33609
Katie Habgood	Jacobs Eng.	katie.habgood@jacobs.com	33602
Eliza Lopez	FDOT	eliza.lopez@dot.state.fl.us	336
Rep Wesley "Nont" Newton	State FL House	nont.newton@myflhouse.gov	33707

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NAME	ORGANIZATION (If Applicable)	EMAIL ADDRESS	ZIP CODE
Chris Cochran	HART	cocchrance@hart.org	33625
DAYNA LAZARUS	All For Transportation	DaynaLaz@gmail.com	33610
Josh Aman	Rep. Grant's Office	joshua.aman@myfloridahouse.gov	33618
Ryan Matson		tammymatson@tampabay.ri.com	33759
Juanana Albert Williams	PASCO EDC	jwilliams@pascoedc.com	33617
HOWARD BOWERS	-	howbowers@gmail.com	33703
KEVIN BOWERS	-		
KIERAN BOWERS	-		
PHOENIX BOWERS	-		
Michael Charvatin		mcharv73@gmail.com	33596
Tracy Ingram	TBMO	Tracy@GoTBMO	33523
Soel Bran	SWFWMD	Soel.Bran@watermatters.org	33603
Jason Holloway	Sen. Rausser	Holloway.Jason@fl.senate.gov	33195
MIKE MEIDEL	PCEV	mmeidel@pinellascounty.org	33704
Lyada Remund	Tpa Dwntr. Part.	LRemund@tampadowntown.com	33600

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NAME	ORGANIZATION (If Applicable)	EMAIL ADDRESS	ZIP CODE
Kurt Seble	PCPT	ku@seble	34668
LOW GOMES	TBARTA	low.gomes@tbarta.com	33607
Rosana Corrao	JACOBS	rosana.corrao@jacobs.com	33634
Nicole Dufva	PSTA	ndufva@psta.net	33707
Rose Bruckner	DCPT	rbruckner@ridepcpt.com	34668
Gary Cloyd	Transit Advocate	garycloyd@hotmail.com	33675
Lisa Silva	Hills MPO	silval@plancom.org	33626
BILL JOHNSON	TBARTA	BILL.JOHNSON@USA.NET	33761
DAVID GYNN	FDOT	dauid.gynn@dot.state.fl.us	33612
Roberto Roldan	WUSF	roldan@wusf.org	33714
Mark Sharpe	Tampa LP	Mark@tampainnovation.com	33612
Dave Eggers	Pine Hills County Comm	DEggers@PineHills.org	34698
BEN DORR	GHD	BEN.DORR@GHD.COM	33618
SIORHAN OKANE	ULL TAMPA BAY	siobhan.okane@uli.org	33704
Dennis Haebeugh	C.UTR - USF	haebeugh@ctr.usf.edu	33624

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NAME	ORGANIZATION (If Applicable)	EMAIL ADDRESS	ZIP CODE
Sam Harris	Samjen	info @ samjenrealty.com	33647
Jensen Harris	Samjen	jealthca@gmail.com	33647
Jayla Mitchell	Samjen	bmjayla22@gmail.com	33647
Nicole Flores	Samjen	nicki_flores@hotmail.com	33611
Cindy Komanowski	HES	CKomanowski@healthsystems.com	33607
Ali Shamansour	FDOT	Ali.shamansour@dot.state.fl.us	33617
Margie Wright	citizen	NCMARIJWRIGHT@YMAECO.COM	33607
Rob GATIAN	PRIORITY 1 SIGNS	rgatian@p1signs.com	33064
RAY GIARAMONTE	CANDIDATE FOR HILLSBOROUGH CO COMMISSION	RAYORATFORHILLSBOROUGH.COM	33626
GARY SCHAAF	BECKER LAW FIRM	gschaaf@beckertlaw.com	33602
Lauren Brooks	AECOM	lauren.brooks@aecom.com	33607
Mallory Kark	ultimate staffing	mrkark@ultimatestaffing.com	33607
Brian Jordan	Synapse	BrianJordan@synapsefl.com	33629
Patricia Mitchell	UF Political Consulting	pmitch@uf.edu	32601
Neil Khant	NEK Real Estate Advisors	neilkhant@gmail.com	33606

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NAME	ORGANIZATION (If Applicable)	EMAIL ADDRESS	ZIP CODE
BT Harris	Samjen	info@samjen-realty.com	33647
Christin Harris	Samjen	inlove0610@gmail.com	33647
Jennifer Straw	WSP		
Brandie Miklus	Jacobs		
Scott Pringle	WSP		
Darren Spencer		darren-spencer7@hotmail.com	33611
Alana Blake	HES	ablake@healthsystems.com	33609
Dianne Muncay			33635
Joel Provenzano	FDOT	Joel.provenzano@dot.state.fl.us	33543
Jim Carlstat	canw cts	JCARLSTAT@canw.net	33626
Nikhil Menon	CUTR, USF	nikhilmenon@ctr.usf.edu	33617
Gabriella		GZARITT@gmail.com	33625
Bob Clifton	WSP		
Jon Coley	Capitol Resources	Jcoley@capitolresourcesLLC.com	33611
Jake Hoffman	TBYR	Jake@invasiondigitalmedia.com	33607

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NAME	ORGANIZATION (If Applicable)	EMAIL ADDRESS	ZIP CODE
DAVID LOYD	CTS TOWING + TRANSPORT	DAVID@CTSTOW.COM	33756
STEVE RYAN	CONSULTANT	RYAN@PULPRO@GMAIL.COM	33624
Stephen Ryan		planomatia@yahoo.com	33624
BETH DANIELS		bdaniels36@gmail	33625
Courtney Walker	citizen	courtwalker@yahoo.com	33701
LUCIA GARSYS	HILLS CO		33609
Edith Wong	FOOT	edith.wong@dot.state.fl.us	33563
ANDREW CRISTEDT	HART	ANDREWCRISTEDT@GMAIL.COM	33626
Beth Alden	H MPO	aldenb@plancom.org	33602
David Korstanski		david.korstanski@gmail.com	33625
Ashley Durand	N/A	ilurdna585@gmail.com	33558
Melanie Fowler	HIDTR	Melanie.fowler@hdrinc.com	33609
Ken Sides	SSE		33618
Leslie Dayall-Sides	Attorney	ldsides1@gmail.com	33618
Karen Kynaski	Business Consultant	KKynaski@usf.edu	33713

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NAME	ORGANIZATION (If Applicable)	EMAIL ADDRESS	ZIP CODE
Auribel Rivero	Pasco County BOCC	arivero@pascocountyfl.net	
Gus Ignas	Hillsborough MPD LS	IGNAS@HCFI.gov.net	33609
Jillian Bander	St. Pete Chamber of Commerce	jillian.bander@banderconstruction.com	33701
Jennifer Mikosky	TB Partnership	jmikosky@tampabay.org	33511
Jared Gill		jared-gill@sagicor.com	33609
Brant Peterson	Emerging Leaders TB		
Rich Wilson	VHB	rwilson@vhb.com	33611
Jennifer Webb	Publicus	jw@publicusgroup.com	33727
ALLEN GRACE	PASCO COUNTY BOCC	AGRACE@PASCOCOUNTYFL.COM	?
L. Keith Toor	UT	Ktoorb@ut.edu	
Kevin Thurman		kevinmthurman@gmail.com	33602
Veronica Bretton	TIBBS	vbretton@bizjournals.com	
Leslie Trace	Swiftly	leslie@swiftly.ly	94114
Jacob Labatka	PSTA	jlabatka@psta.net	33705
Doreen Cardin	Forward Thinker	doreen.cardin@forwardthinker.com	33756

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NAME	ORGANIZATION (If Applicable)	EMAIL ADDRESS	ZIP CODE
Kyle Simpson	City of St. Petersburg	Kyle.Simpson@stpete.org	33701
Nick Fernandez	Tampa Heights	Rfernandez@shuffts.com	33602
Chris Sawails	Chickasaw	ceo@stpete.com	33701
Caroline Hanford	PC Planning	clanhford@pinellascounty.org	34695
Joseph Ayala	BES IMC	tonya@besimc.org.com	33617
Andrea Falvey	Pinellas County	afalvey@pinellascounty.org	33618
Jon Marshburn	Northdale Civic Assn	janmarshburn@gmail.com	33624
Janelle Irwin	TBRJ	jirwin@bizjournals.com	33772
Laraine Brown	Swiftly	laraine@goswiftly.com	33614
Mander Oglesby	PSTA	Moglesby@psta.net	34615
Ashley Hardy	PSTA	--	33754
Carla Williams	HART	williamsegohart.org	33605
Josh Baumgartner	Greater Tampa Chamber	jbaumgartner@tampachamber.com	33611
Charles Klup	PTB	cklup@tampaport.com	33611
Sean Baraudon	REAL Building	Sean@realbuildingconsultants.com	33617



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NAME	ORGANIZATION (if Applicable)	EMAIL ADDRESS	ZIP CODE
Dawn Brown	Quest Corp	dawn.brown@qcausa.com	33620
LARRY SILVESTRI	SILVESTRI LAW, P.A.	LARRY@SILVESTRI-LAW.PA.COM	33701
Bruce Rector	SPANGS FACILITIES ADMIN'G	bruce bructor@spangsfacilities.com	33767
JP DUBUQUE	ST PETE EDC	jp.dubugue@stpetedec.com	33707
Bob Rohrlack	Greater Tampa Chamber	brohrlack@tampanchamber.com	33626
Laura Fontanills	Tampa EDC	lfontanills@tamprcdc.com	33602
Robin Melly	TBBLOC	robin@tampabaybeaches.com	33706
Bill Cronin	PASCO EDC	bcronin@pascoedo.com	33543
Elizabeth Olden	Track Team	elisab.olden@yahoo.com	33781
Cori CHAPPELL	ASPEN ACCOUNTING	lorichappell@me.com	33606
Carlton Johnston	TBT	cjohnston@tampabay.com	33713
Amy Hyler	Pasco BOCC	ahyler@pascocountyfl.net	33556
MIRABEL DEUK	CITY OF CLEARWATER	MIRABEL.DEUK@MIRABELCONTRACTORS.COM	33755
LITURA EVERITT	VHS	LEVERITT@VHS.COM	33606
Manny Lajmiri	Pasco MPO	mlajmiri@pascocountyfl.net	34654 34638

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NAME	ORGANIZATION (If Applicable)	EMAIL ADDRESS	ZIP CODE
Jazl Rey	Tindale Oliver	jreyer@tindaleoliver.com	33618
BEN WALKER	HNTB	BGWALKER@HNTB.COM	33602
Angela Viviana Martinez	Pasco County - Planning and Development	amartinez@pascocountyfl.net	33545
Eric HANIMAN	CLEARWATER	RICKARD.HANIMAN@MYCLEARWATER.COM	33756
E. BALDUSCH	FAR BEYOND RAILS		14668
Michelle Greene	Valerin	michelle@valerin-group.com	33549
Chloe Coney	HNTB - Tampa Bay	CCONEY@HNTB.COM	33612
HANK HUMBERT	GEORGE F. YOUNG, INC	khumbert@georgefyoung.com	33701
Jerry Presley	HART	presleyj@ghart.org	33605
Ekica Wennlund	Pasco County Planning & Development	ewennlund@pascocountyfl.net	33556
Vishaka Shiva Ramon	FDOT	vishaka.shivaraman@dot.state.fl.us	33530
Brad Miller	PSTA	bmiller@psta.net	33719
Gina Clayton	Clearwater	gina.clayton@myclearwater.com	33757
Michelle Grimstey	FL House District 70	michelle.grimstey@myfloridahouse.gov	34208
Stefanie McQueen	HDR	stefanie.mcqueen@hdrinc.com	33601

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NAME	ORGANIZATION (If Applicable)	EMAIL ADDRESS	ZIP CODE
Diane Williams		dianewb17@gmail.com	34660
Ron Weaver	Stewart Group	rweaver@stewartgroup.com	33601
James White		jwhite4610@gmail.com	33594
Clara White		cwhite1959@gmail.com	33594
Stephan Verberne	Lochner	sverberne@hwdlochner.com	33607
Dan Woodward	Highwoods Properties	dan.woodward@highwoods.com	33607
ALLEN CRAIG	FERMAN AUTO	ALLEN.CRAIG@FERMAN.COM	33606
AL BARTOLOTTA	FORWARD PINELLAS	abartolotta@forwardpinellas.org	33756
DAVID ALBRITTON	CLEARWATER CITY COUNCIL	DAVID.ALBRITTON@MYCLEARWATER.CITY.COUNCIL	33767
JAMES FOGARTY	JRB SOLUTIONS, LLC	JAMES@JRBSQL.COM	34695
Kenneth Posner	SAINT LEO UNIV.	Kenneth.Posner@saitleo.edu	33754
ED BRILL		ED_BRILL@HOTMAIL.COM	33603
Justin Wilk	Tide Ocean	justilw@tideocean.com	33603
Sean Sullivan	TBTPC	SEAN@TBTPC.ORG	33582
Michael Whalen	Pasco County	mwhalen@pascocountyfl.net	33603

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NAME	ORGANIZATION (If Applicable)	EMAIL ADDRESS	ZIP CODE
Scheyn Barbas	The University of Tampa	sbarbas@ut.edu	
Jack Mariano	Pasco County	jmarioano@pasco-county.fl.us	
Morgan Winchester	Hillsborough County	winchesterm@HCFloor.net	
Michael Coleman	RS&H	Michael.Coleman@RSandH.com	
EFREM SANCHEZ	PSTA	esanchez@psta.net	
JIM CLOAR	UM	jcloar@verizon.net	33602
Ander Smitz	BayCare	Ander.Smitz@BayCare.org	33759
John Thornton	Port Tampa Bay	jt@TampaPort.com	33602
Sarah Phinney	WFTS	Sarah.e.phinney@wfts.com	33605
Kelly Flannery	South Tampa Chamber	Kelly@SouthTampaChamber.org	33629
Tom Scherberger	Clerk of Court	Thomas.Scherberger@HillsCo.org	33629
Kayleigh Sagonowsky	City of St. Pete	Kayleigh.Sagonowsky@StPete.org	
Hussain Shamseddin	Tampa Hillsborough EOC	HShamseddin@TampaEOC.com	33602
Susan Brill		Sbrill999@gmail.com	33603
Joshua Beber	Tindale Oliver	JBeber@TindaleOliver.com	33604

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WMA

NAME	ORGANIZATION (If Applicable)	EMAIL ADDRESS	ZIP CODE
Chris D'Annunzio	PCPT	cdannunzio@ndpopt.com	33629
Alex Geswe	PCPT	Alexander.geswe@yachon.com	34668
Susan Black	Lochner	sblack@hwlochner.com	32803
Alan Pettrillo	TNTB	pettrillo.alan@gmail.com	33705
Charlie Johnson	Pinellas BPAC	cjohnson@jtbmarine.com	33707
Kevin Howell	Univ. of Tampa	KHOWELL@UT.EDU	33606
Jared Austin	Forward Pinellas	Justin@forwardp.inellas.org	33756
Brian Smolin	TB Partnership	Brian@wday.com	33767
Mike Peterson	GT Realtors	m1ppa@aol.com	33572
Betty Carlin	Carlin Comm	betty.carlin@outlook.com	33579
Steve Herley	BeachTram Clw	Steve@beachtram.com	33578
Bob Henion	FORWARD PINELLAS CAC TAMPA CAC	bbow222@yahoo.com	34697
Ken Welch	Pinellas Commission	ON FILE	33712
ANTHONY PALMIERI	Hernando MPO	RE FILE	
DOUB BEVIS	OLDSMAR	DBEVIS@nyoldsmar.com	34677

com

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NAME	ORGANIZATION (If Applicable)	EMAIL ADDRESS	ZIP CODE
JOHN PATRICK	Hillsborough County	patrickj@hillsborough.gov	33601
Charles R Lueb	N/A	4912 E. Luebway Ave #205 Tampa	33617
Matt Lettelle	St. Pete Chamber	mlettelle@stpete.com	33701
Don Schush	TBP	on file	on file
HUGH PARRIS	PRS	"	"
Fentrice Driskell	Fentrice for Florida	FentriceforFlorida@gmail.com	33618
Jeanne Greer	cc	cc	"
Shayra Rosario	FL House - D-66	Shayra.Rosario@myfloridahouse.gov	33772
Kyle Rowat	Pasco County	Krowat@pascocountyfl.net	34655
Leo J Auger	ACS	Augerleon@Gmail.com	33626
Melanie Jackson	Cushman & Wakefield	melanie.jackson@cushwake.com	33703
Cyndi Reskin Schmitt	PSTA		33716
Tony RODRIGUEZ	NW DILL AFB	tony.rodriguez.8.ctr@us.af.mil	33621
Maryanne Sobocinski	PSTA	MSobocinski@psta.net	33611
BILL BALL	TINDALE OLIVER	bball@tindaleoliver.com	33609

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NAME	ORGANIZATION (If Applicable)	EMAIL ADDRESS	ZIP CODE
Jennifer Flynn	USF (CUTR)	flynn@cutr.usf.edu	
Chulsa Fawero			
Rob Balmes	Jacobs	rob.balmes@jacobs.com	
Trisha Rodriguez	Clearwater Ferry	trisha@clearwaterferry.com	33767
RICHARD RANCK	HILLS COUNTY DEP	ranckr@HillsboroughCounty.org	33602
WAYNE ROBERTS	GRANITE COAST	WAYNE-ROBERTS@GCNC.COM	33558
JOHN BRANNIN	PLANNING Commission	BRANNIN@PLM.COM.ORG	33601
Roger Roscoe	FDOT 07	on file	
BRIAN BEATY	FDOT	on file	33612
DAN PAASCH	CONGRESSMAN GUS BILIRAKIS	dan.paasch@mail.house.gov	34698
MARSHALL HANPTON	FDOT - PROJECT MANAGER	marshall.hampton@dot.state.fl.us	33710
John Hinton	Forward Pellas	johnhinton@forwardpellas.org	33759
Doug Izzo	Tampa Bay Beaches Chamber of Commerce	doug@Tampabaybeaches.com	33706
Alex Steady	Hillsborough County	Steady@hillsboroughcounty.org	33629
Amira Ahmed	Department of Health	amira.ahmed@flhealth.gov	34654

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NAME	ORGANIZATION (If Applicable)	EMAIL ADDRESS	ZIP CODE
JOSEPH TISDALE		joet120@gmail.com	33604
ANN KULIG	Westshore Alliance	kulig@westshorealliance.org	33618
JAY BOTSCH	Westshore Plaza	JAY.BOTSCH@WESTSHOREPLAZA.COM	32609
Camille Keating	Clearwater Ferry	camille@clearwaterferry.com	33755
Ken Wooten		KENNETH.WOOTEN@JAEGS.COM	33572
MARCO BUCHMAN	Congressman Buchanan	Marco.Buchman@mail.house.gov	33566
David Bredahl	American Consulting	dbredahl@acp-fl.com	33556
Tom Nocera	Beachtram Clearwater, LLC	tom@beachtram.com	33755
Steven Schutrecht	HDR	stave.schutrecht@hdrinc.com	33609
Tyler Murphy	Representative Ben Damore	tmurphy84@gmail.com	33716
William Hunter	OSHANA	hainesworth@oshana.com	33604
Carleen Flynn	CDM Smith	flynncm@cdmsmith.com	32751
Brett Burks	Forward Pinellas	brettburks@gmail.com	33616
LINDA DEVINE	UNIV OF TAMPA	LDEVINE@UT.EDU	33606
Lynn L Gruber-White	Hernando County	lynngruber@tampabay.fl.com	33523

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NAME	ORGANIZATION (If Applicable)	EMAIL ADDRESS	ZIP CODE
Jean Paul Martucci	Moffatt & Nichol	jmartucci@moffattnichol.com	33701
Sarah Caper	Forward Pinellas	scaper@forwardpinellas.org	335450
Rick Homan	TB PARTNERSHIP	RHOMAN@tampabay.com	33609
Clarence Eng	Kimley-Horn	clarence.eng@kimley-horn.com	33602
Ronald L. Vaughn	Univ. OF Tampa		
Christopher Gleason	Sierra Club of TB	hondaman84200@yahoo.com	33637
Mave Brechwald	University of Tampa		33602
Alicia Parinello	Forward Pinellas	aparinello@forwardpinellas.org parinelloa@f	33776
JR KOZERA	GHD	JR.KOZERA@GHD.COM	33602
Stu Wilkin		StuWilkin@Gmail.com	34665
Lindsey Parks	Tampa Downtown Partnership	Lparks@tampadowntown.com	33602
Cynthia Spidell	King Engineering	cspidell@kingengineering.com	
Roger GRUNKE	Roger GRUNKE Architect	Roger@GRUNKEdesign.com	33602
Ronnie Blackstone	Polk TPO	ronnieblackstone@polk-county.gov	33830
Madelin Ghomshie	HCF	Mghomshie@hcfassociates.com	34683

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NAME	ORGANIZATION (If Applicable)	EMAIL ADDRESS	ZIP CODE
Austin Sipiorn	CUTR	asipiorn@cutr.usf.edu	33617
Victoria Perk	CUTR / USF	perk@cutr.usf.edu	33620
Ron Pierce	RSA Consulting	ron@rsaconsultingllc.com	33511
William Androckitis	Touring Central Florida.com	bill@touringcentralflorida.com	33617
Hilary Lehman	Forward Pinellas	hlehman@forwardpinellas.org	33704
RICH CLARENDON	HILLS MFD	clarendon@plam.com.org	33602
Richard Moss	FOOT	Richard.Moss@det.state.fl.us	33596
ENRIQUE FERNANDEZ	JACOBS	ENRIQUE.FERNANDEZ@JACOBS.COM	33602
JUSTIN T. MILLER	ACE Pinellas County	JUSTMILLER@acepinellascounty.org	33796
Kyle Harper	Parsons	Kyle.harper@parsons.com	33525
Chris Giffin	BeachTron	cmgr.giffin@tamu.edu	33764
BRUCE HAOSVZG	- PUBLIC -	bruce.haosvzg@tamu.edu	34685
London Bellamy	PUBLIC	elem.scorpia@yahoo.com	33110
Whit Reme	Citizens for a Better Bay 2 Bay	better-bay2bay@gmail.com	33629
Christina Kopp	Tampa Hillsborough Expressway Authority	christina.kopp@tampabayexpressway.com	33612

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NAME	ORGANIZATION (If Applicable)	EMAIL ADDRESS	ZIP CODE
Jeff Boothe	Boothe Transit	jeff.booth@boothetransit.com	20171
Christina Hummel	Hc PW	hummelc@hillsboroughcounty.org	33602
Steve Rice		steve4118@hotmail.com	33603
M. ROSAS	OSHNA	mrosas1001@mar.com	33604
Joan Rice	Pinellas County	jrice@pinellascounty.org	33705
Bob Esposito	FDOT	on file	33703
Doyle Walsh	Pinellas BIC	on file	33757
Lee Bell	Gr. TT Chamber	on file	33617
JAY Beyrout	Pinellas County	Jbeyrout@pinellascounty.org	
Neil Cosentino	GLOBAL AIR MOBILITY	Neil.Cosentino@icloud.com	
MICHAEL MAURINO	Westshore Alliance	maurino@westshorealliance.org	33607
GARY NADDEAU	Kimley-Horn & Assoc	GARY.NADDEAU@KIMLEY-HORN.COM	34219
Cassandra Borchers	PSTA	cborchers@psta.net	33716 33604
EDMUND M. VOLLRATH			33617
MATT LEWIS	Hills. County	lewis.m@hillsboroughcountypers	33612

TAMPA BAY TRANSIT FORUM

Friday, July 20th | 1:00pm
Tampa Airport Marriott



PLEASE PRINT. NOTICE: The information provided below is a matter of public record subject to examination by the general public upon request.

NAME	ORGANIZATION (If Applicable)	EMAIL ADDRESS	ZIP CODE
GALE TSCHWOR	FRINCE CONTRACTING	gtschwor@princecontracting.com	33610
John Lyons	HILLSBOROUGH County	lyonsj@hillsboroughcountys	33602
Steve Polzer	CUTR	polzst@cutr.usf.edu	33620
DAVE KOVAR	TRAC/PSA	transit@davekovar.com	34695
Darryl Henderson	Clearwater Regional Chamber of Commerce	dhenderson@clearwaterflorida.org	33755
Brian Lowack	Pinellas County BCC	blowack@pinellascounty.org	33756
Tabatha Carlsen	Pond & Company	tcarlson@pondco.com	33626
Stephen Benson	FDOT	on file	33602
JEFF SEWARD	HART	" "	34209
Trevor Ackerman	Pinellas Extension	tackerman@pinellascounty.org	33774
Kris Carson	FDOT	Kriston_Carson@doh.state.fl.us	
LAWRENCE MARTIN		MARTIN.MERKLE@gmcc.com	33611
DAN HARVEY JR @ gmail.com	EDGE Dist state chamber		33705
Joe Bohn	USF cu PH	jbohn2@health.usf.edu	
Mark S. Wadard	Pinellas Co. B.C.C.	mwadard@pinellascounty.org	33611

TAMPA BAY TRANSIT FORUM

Friday, July 20th | 1:00pm
Tampa Airport Marriott



PLEASE PRINT. NOTICE: The information provided below is a matter of public record subject to examination by the general public upon request.

NAME	ORGANIZATION (If Applicable)	EMAIL ADDRESS	ZIP CODE
Kathryn Ortega	WSP	Kathryn.Ortega@wsp.com	33626
Kathrine Parrish	In transition	parrishks@yanco.com	33624
Ming Gao	FDOT	Ming.gao@dot.state.fl.us	
Jabari Hampton	FDOT	Jabari.hampton@dot.state.fl.us	"
Todd Josko	Ballard Park	toddeballardfl.com	33602
Carlos Cortes	Signal Outdoor	carlosc@signaloutdoor.com	33634
James Jacobs	CFD Jimmy Patonis	James.Jacobs@myfloridacfo.com	
Carol Stricklin	City of Largo	cstrickl@largo.com	33770
Ed McKinney	FDOT	edward.mckinney@dot	33612
Chris Friend			33603
Chanelle Hernandez	Pasco MPO	chernandez@pasco-cityfl.com	33525
Cheryl Stacks	City of St. Pete	cheryl.stacks@stpete.org	33701
TOM KENNEDY	WESTPORT	TOM.KENNEDY@WESTPORTGROUP.ORG	33766
SEAN MOORE	JACOBS	SEAN.MOORE@JACOBS.COM	33602
Sarah Lindemuth	HCP	S.lindemuth@hcpa-33012.com	33702

Attachment G: Completed Comment Forms

TAMPA BAY TRANSIT FORUM

Friday, July 20th | 1:00pm
Tampa Airport Marriott



If you would like to make a general comment, please write your comment below and drop this form in the comment box.

Name: Brant Peterson

Representing (if applicable): Emerging Leaders of Tampa Bay

Question/Comment: Excellent event, thank you for allowing me to present!

Use back side if you need more space.

TAMPA BAY TRANSIT FORUM

Friday, July 20th | 1:00pm
Tampa Airport Marriott



If you would like to make a general comment, please write your comment below and drop this form in the comment box.

Name: H. BLANE

Representing (if applicable): _____

Question/Comment: AT A DIFFERENT LEVEL, THE TRANSPORTATION IS ELITE. WE DO NOT NEED MONIES TO BENEFIT BUILDERS/RESIDENTS OF HOME EXPENSIVE NEIGHBORHOODS AT THE EXPENSE OF THOSE WHO REALLY NEED GOOD BUS SERVICE. WOULD YOU CHOOSE TAMPA? SERIOUSLY?

PLEASE REEVALUATE YOUR PRIORITIES.

Use back side if you need more space.



If you would like to make a general comment, please write your comment below and drop this form in the comment box.

Name: BRUCE HARBURG, SAFETY HARBOR, 727. 796. 7981

Representing (if applicable): _____

Question/Comment: TBARTA SHOULD ADDRESS THE TRANSPORTATION CHALLENGES FACED BY LOW-INCOME WORKERS, CURRENTLY, THERE ARE FEW ROUTES WITH REASONABLE SCHEDULES AND TRANSFERS FOR THIS GROUP OF WORKERS, SOLUTIONS:
① USE 12-15 PASSENGER VANS ② PICK-UP & DROP-OFF RATHER
W/IN 1/2 BLOCK OF HOME & 1/2 BLOCK OF DESTINATION. I
WALIZE REGULATIONS PROHIBIT DOOR-TO-DOOR SERVICE
FOR PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION.

Use back side if you need more space.

(over, please)

OVERALL, THE RESOURCES SHOULD BE RE-ALLOCATED, IT MAKES NO SENSE TO RUN A 45-PASSENGER BUS TO NORTH PENNSILVA CITY THAT CONTAINS, AT MOST, ONLY 5 PASSENGERS, USING VANS, HOME VANS, WOULD:

- ① REDUCE NEED FOR DRIVERS WITH CERTIFICATIONS, ALLOWING MORE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR "REGULAR" DRIVERS
- ② IMPROVE SERVICE
- ③ OPERATE AT A LOWER COST/MILE
- ④ SERVE A WIDER SEGMENT OF THE PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION-RELYING PUBLIC.

THANK YOU,

If you would like to ask the speaker a question or make a comment, please write your question below and pass the card to the end of the row for collection by staff.

Name: BOB HENION

Representing (if applicable): TBARTA-CAC / FORWARD PINELLAS-CAC

Question/Comment: GREAT TONE OF OPTIMISM.

SANDRA MERMANS COMMENT, TIME FOR ACTION
NOT WORDS.

THE RECOGNITION OF DAVID GYNN FOR
THE CHANGE IN TONE HE HAS ACCOMPLISHED
IN A SHORT TIME, THE ~~DEAREST~~ COOPERATION &
PARTNERING HAS DISPLACED DISTRUST. THAT'S

Use back side if you need more space OVER

a real change.

Let's move on to ACTION
its long overdue.

Attachment H: Media Coverage

<http://www.83degreesmedia.com/devnews/Tampa-forum-focuses-on-transit-solutions071118.aspx>

Tampa Bay Area transit forum highlights regional vision

83degreesmedia.com | Jul. 11th, 2018

Talk about transit is everywhere in the Tampa Bay Area, more so today than ever before. But how will all this talk result in a buildable transit plan for the region? This question will be discussed at length at the Tampa Bay Transit Forum scheduled for Friday, July 20, from 1-4 p.m. at the Tampa Airport Marriott.

The event, moderated by business columnist Graham Brink of the Tampa Bay Times, will feature discussion from local transit leaders and elected officials, including State Sen. Bill Galvano, along with a presentation by Marilee Utter of Denver-based Citiventure Associates, who will talk about best practices for transit-oriented development and how we can realize such development in the Tampa Bay area.

The summit, hosted by the Tampa Bay Area Regional Transit Authority (TBARTA), includes the following presentations and discussions:

- “A Vision for the Tampa Bay Region” from State Sen. Bill Galvano, R-Bradenton.
- “An Eye to the Future: Local Plans, Community Vision” with Florida Department of Transportation District 7 Secretary David Gwynn, Hillsborough County Commission Chair Sandy Murman, Pinellas County Commission Chair Ken Welch, and Pasco County Commissioner Jack Mariano.
- “Where We Are Right Now: Plans in the Works.” Learn about how current transit efforts intersect, and listen to community leaders and transit users as they share personal stories on how transit impacts their lives. Among the panelists: Barry Shevlin, CEO of Vology; Gloria Lepik-Corrigan, a transit user and disability advocate; and Brant Peterson, a Tampa young professional.
- “Stop and Grow: How Transit Stops Spur Economic Development” with Marilee Utter, a national-level expert on transit-oriented development through her work as President of Denver-based Citiventure Associates and her previous role as Executive Vice President for the Urban Land Institute.

After the 1-4 p.m. session, attendees can attend an open house from 4-7 p.m., as area transportation officials will be on hand to talk about transit initiatives underway around the region. Also, attendees can take a tour of SkyConnect, Tampa International Airport’s new people mover.

The summit comes as the team developing the Regional Transit Feasibility Plan enters the final months of its public outreach efforts. Team members are asking the public their thoughts on the draft catalyst projects identified as the highest performers during the technical analysis phase. Feedback is currently being sought at a number of neighborhood events around the area, and interested residents can [take an online survey](#).

The Forum is free and open to the public, including free parking (park in Tampa International Airport's Short-Term Parking Garage and bring your parking ticket into the event to be validated). The event is also accessible by bus using PSTA's Route 300X and HART's Routes 30, 32, 35, 60LX, and 275LX.

Attendees interested in participating in the tour of Tampa International Airport's new people mover, SkyConnect, and its new Rental Car Center and transit curb, along with a behind-the-scenes look at the new SkyConnect maintenance facility, should sign up ahead of time since space for the tours is limited. For more information about the event and to sign up for the tour, [follow this link](#).

Kyle Parks is Principal at [B2Communications](#) of St. Petersburg. Comments? Contact [83 Degrees](#).

<https://www.bizjournals.com/tampabay/news/2018/07/11/transit-forum-to-tackle-economic-opportunity.html>

Tampa Bay Transit Forum to tackle economic opportunity

By Janelle Irwin | Tampa Bay Business Journal | Jul. 11th, 2018



Elected officials and transit and transportation professionals will come together next week to discuss how to turn talk into action for Tampa Bay's deficient transit network.

The Tampa Bay Transit Forum on July 20 will feature, among other topics, how transit stops can help spur economic development.

National transit-oriented development expert [Marilee Utter](#) will headline a talk called "Stop and Grow: How Transit Stops Spur Economic Development." Utter is the current president of Denver-based Citiventure Associates and is the previous executive vice president for the Urban Land Institute.

Transit-oriented development has become a focal point of transit conversations and a source for contentious debate. Urban planners like Utter want a regional transit network that includes stops within communities. Those stops encourage affordable housing, retail, restaurants and jobs nearby as young professionals are attracted to areas where having a car is an option, not a necessity.

The topic is fueling debate about a 41-mile [bus rapid transit route](#) connecting St. Petersburg to Wesley Chapel along Interstate 275. It's not clear yet where the stops will be along that route if it's built. Early iterations of the plan suggested some of the stops would be along the highway, which would not spur transit-oriented development.

Other talks during the transit forum include an update on current and future plans by [Barry Shevlin](#), CEO of Vology and the co-chair of the [transportation working group](#) for the Tampa Bay Partnership. He'll be

on a panel with [Gloria Lepik-Corrigan](#), a current transit user and disability advocate and [Brant Peterson](#), a local young professional.

Florida Department of Transportation District 7 Secretary [David Gwynn](#), Hillsborough County Commissioner [Sandra Murman](#), Pinellas County Commissioner [Ken Welch](#) and Pasco County Commissioner [Jack Mariano](#) will host a session called “An Eye to the Future: Local Plans, Community Vision.”

Mariano has been a vocal opponent of the proposed bus rapid transit route calling instead for light rail.

State Sen. Bill Galvano (R-Bradenton) will discuss his vision for the Tampa Bay region.

The forum is from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. at [Tampa International Airport](#). Transportation officials will meet with attendees after until 7 p.m. to discuss transit initiatives.

http://www.tampabay.com/news/business/economicdevelopment/Any-Tampa-Bay-transit-project-will-bring-development-opportunities-expert-says_169979548

Any Tampa Bay transit project will bring development opportunities, expert says

By Graham Brink | Tampa Bay Times | Jul. 16th, 2018



Marilee Utter, president of Citiventure Associates, a Denver-based real estate advisory firm specializing in transformational projects and public-private transactions. (Citiventure)

Big transit projects are often about much more than moving people from one place to another.

That's where real estate adviser Marilee Utter comes in. Her specialty is helping communities get the most out of development opportunities that arise from building a light rail or bus rapid transit system, like the one proposed for the Tampa Bay area.

The industry lingo is transit-oriented development. Think of it as all the new things that get built around the train or bus stations. It could be restaurants in an area without any. Or office space in a neighborhood that needs it.

The goal: Create a place around each station where people want to be.

"Done right, each area has a brand, an identity," said Utter, president of Citiventure Associates. She will be speaking at Friday's Tampa Bay Transit Forum.

Utter, who has worked on projects in Phoenix, Seattle, Charlotte, Houston, Salt Lake City, and her hometown of Denver, knows that not everyone is onboard with the benefits of big transit projects. That's why she stresses the importance of doing them right and maximizing the development features.

Last week, she spoke to the *Tampa Bay Times* about ways to get a diverse area to galvanize around a project. Here are the highlights from that interview, edited for length and clarity.

From a development standpoint, what does success look like? What would people notice near one of the stations?

Usually you put transit in areas where you want redevelopment. Often it's in industrial corridors, or in Tampa Bay's case, it's in a highway corridor. That allows for opportunities for change, to create new, interesting places for people.

You want it to be a place that people know about and want to go and do a lot of different things there. Some people work there. Some people live there. Some people shop there. People just hang out there. There might be recreation or entertainment. They all have different characters depending on the location and the market, but they all are a destination.

How far out from a station does the effect go?

What we've found happens, because it's market driven, is that it's more like an amoeba shape based on where the station is and where the roads are and any barriers. The shape and size of the amoeba depends a lot on the connectivity, the access, to that station. So if you have good streets and sidewalks, good lighting and parking, and interesting destinations along the streets, people will go a long way. They will walk a long way, they will ride their bikes a long way, a lot further than you'd expect, much further than we ever projected. Sometimes the amoeba is a mile long.

Think of it this way: People go to the mall and walk a mile without thinking about it because there are a bunch of interesting things for them to look at. That's what happens around the successful stations.

And that's good for ridership?

Absolutely. By creating interesting, vital areas around the station, ridership increases. Transit officials don't want it jammed at rush hour and empty the rest of the time. They want what's called off-peak ridership. They want people riding it during the day and later at night. So if you make the stations mixed-use destinations that attract people at different times of the day, that really suits the transit agency and it helps the community.

If Tampa Bay goes forward with a big transit project, is there a city it should emulate?

They are all different. Every city has to make it up to suit its purpose. If you follow a formula from another place you will probably fall into trouble.

How do you sell a sprawling area on the merits of a rail or bus rapid transit system that will run through many jurisdictions, with varying priorities and needs?

Don't feel alone. It's very typical.

Transit-oriented development does not happen by itself. It is a public-private project. It really takes a joint effort.

I'm doing work right now in Minneapolis. The new line will go through four or five jurisdictions with very different makeups and political views. Ultimately the most success we've had is working individually with each jurisdiction and with the neighborhoods around the stations. We talk with them about what they lose and what they get. We've found that to be a really powerful tool.

When you talk big generalities people don't really understand what it means for them.

Why not just expand or improve the roads instead of spending money on a transit project?

First, I'll give an example. In Denver, we had a lot of the same political dynamic and concerns going on as in Tampa Bay. When they decided to widen the interstate, it was great for about six years. Now it's 10 years later, and you don't want to be on it again. So adding two lanes and all the great stuff they did, 10 years later you can't tell you did it. It was super expensive, and it didn't solve the problem.

The second reason is that the economic development piece, especially for attracting young people, is huge. Denver has had a good run lately attracting companies. Of the companies that moved, 90 percent have located their office within a half mile of a transit station. They do that because their workers want to ride transit or at least have the option to ride transit.

It draws workers that draw employers that draw jobs that support the economy. It's not that everyone wants to live at a transit station, but a lot of them do. They want the option to try to live with one car or no cars. They want to live a different lifestyle. It's a much broader economic piece than it sounds.

What about bus rapid transit versus light rail?

I think BRT is a great option if it's designed properly. A lot of people will say they are adding an express bus to the freeway and call that BRT. But BRT needs permanent infrastructure at the station areas, and then a dedicated right-of-way that gives it preference over the rest of traffic, which is a really important point.

Any other advice?

The other thing I would say is it takes longer than you think. So better to get started now.

Contact Graham Brink at gbrink@tampabay.com. Follow @GrahamBrink.

About the event

The Tampa Bay Transit Forum is free and open to the public. State Sen. Bill Galvano, R-Bradenton, will give the keynote speech, "A Vision for the Tampa Bay Region". Other speakers will talk about the benefits of a regional transit plan and how best to go about building a plan to serve the entire region.

When: 1 p.m.-4 p.m. Friday, followed by an open house from 4 p.m.-7 p.m.

Where: Tampa Airport Marriott.

Parking: In the airport's short-term garage. Bring your parking ticket into the event to be validated.

More information: tampabaytransitforum.com.

<https://www.wtsp.com/article/news/is-now-the-time-to-fix-tampa-bays-transit-problems/67-574582539>

Is now the time to fix Tampa Bay's transit problems?

By Phil Buck | 10News | Jul. 17th, 2018

State and federal plans to improve the area's interstate infrastructure in the next few years could present the perfect opportunity for those looking to fix Tampa Bay's transit issues.

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. – It's four-o'clock in the afternoon, you need to get across the bay, and you're hopelessly trapped in gridlock on one of Tampa Bay's busy bridges.

Sound familiar?

Traffic is one of the Tampa Bay area's biggest issues despite various attempts to address it in recent years. As the region's population has grown, the issue has compounded to the point where it may start to hurt the local economy, and depending on who you talk to, it may already be having a negative effect on growth.

However, state and federal plans to improve the area's interstate infrastructure in the next few years, including a [revamp on the Howard Frankland Bridge](#), could present the perfect opportunity for those looking to fix Tampa Bay's transit problems.

"[Transit] has been, and will continue to be if we don't do something about it, the Achilles heel that we as a region have when it comes to economic development, when it comes to corporations looking at us for potential sites for relocation, when it comes to quality of life and the impact on us as citizens," said Tampa Mayor Bob Buckhorn. "It is the one area that we lag behind."



Buckhorn has repeatedly talked about the need to address the transit issue during his time in office, to no avail.

"What really is lacking is the consensus and the political will to build a transportation plan, understanding that these projects are expensive. They're certainly not free, and it's going to take the politicians having faith in themselves and, more importantly, having faith in the

voters," Buckhorn added. "I think there are some elected officials that are more concerned about the next election and less concerned about the next generation. We know we have a problem, we see it every day, we live through it every day, we know that solutions are expensive."

“We’ve got to start thinking differently,” Buckhorn said. “If we don’t do something and continue to just build roads as our only option, not only are we not going to solve the problem, we’re going to get deeper and deeper into the problem.”

One organization trying to do that is the [Tampa Bay Area Regional Transit Authority](#) [TBARTA], which currently has an [online survey](#) to help come up with the best regional transit plan for the area; One that not only offers options that people will choose to use over their own vehicles, but one that will fit the requirements for state and federal transit funding.

“This area really spends less on public transit than any of the other major communities in Florida and maybe, certainly, in the United States,” said Ramond Chiaramonte, who recently resigned as Executive Director for TBARTA to run for a district-wide commission office in Hillsborough County.

“One thing that’s different about us is we have a very challenging geography,” Chiaramonte added. “I’m not sure that we really ‘got it’ until recently that we do have 400 square miles of water right in the center of our metropolitan area called Tampa Bay, which makes us not Charlotte, not Jacksonville, not Orlando, not Houston.

“We’re different, so we have to have a transit system that fits us and not just say ‘Charlotte has light rail, that’s exactly what we need to do,’” he said. “They’re just one city and then suburbs. We have two major cities, Tampa and St. Petersburg, then you’ve got a bay in between them even though they’re only 20 miles apart.”

Part of the solution might be what’s known as Bus Rapid Transit, which would involve dedicated lanes for buses to move freely, even during high-traffic times. Even with that, in order to convince people to get out of their cars and use public transit, those buses need to be comfortable and clean, run on regular, reliable schedules, and they need to be easily accessible.

“We’re trying to get away from the word ‘bus’ because it really looks like rail,” Chiaramonte said. “It would operate like rail, but it would be in dedicated lanes and would be more of a rubber-tire vehicle; not our local buses, but more modern buses that they use in Europe and other places. Nobody’s really done a complete regional transit system using the kind of technology we’re talking about.”

“If we can get them [FDOT] to tweak the design of the modernization of the interstate to provide a dedicated lane, or at least a managed toll lane in some areas, we can play on that and use that for the transit but not have to pay for it with transit dollars,” he added. “So we can save a lot of money and get more bang for our buck.”

“Tampa Bay is behind the curve, we are of course congested as most growing metropolitan areas are, but we need to be careful,” said Dr. Steven Polzin, Director of Mobility Policy Research for the [Center for Urban Transportation Research](#) at the University of South Florida. “The need to do something is real if we want to continue to grow.”



“We do need to address the transportation issue, if it were simple we would have solved it a long time ago because there are a lot of people who have recognized it and been struggling to fix it and solve it. It isn’t easy,” added Dr. Polzin. “This community will need to spend more money, and then the real challenge is spending it wisely. Finding projects that make sense, that pencil out,

that actually contribute to improving mobility.”

Meanwhile, Buckhorn said he already sees consequences when corporations decide to relocate to areas other than Tampa Bay because of the area’s transit inaction.

“When we get turned down we’ll go to them and say ‘where did we fall short?’, because we want to learn,” Buckhorn said. “In what is normally an exemplary report card the one area that we fall badly, badly behind Denver, behind Charlotte, behind some of our other competitors is the lack of mass transit. That, for us, will become the death nail over time if we don’t fix it, and if we don’t start that process now we get further and further behind the eight ball because the people are still coming.”

“These things are expensive, I get it,” he added. “But doing nothing is not a solution because doing nothing only exacerbates the problem, and gets us further and further behind to the point where it gets almost impossible for us to catch up.”

Phil Buck is a reporter with 10News WTSP. Like him on [Facebook](#) and follow him on [Twitter](#). You can also email him at pbuck@wtsp.com.

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<http://wusfnews.wusf.usf.edu/post/new-bus-rail-proposals-receive-wide-support-transit-forum>

New Bus, Rail Proposals Receive Wide Support At Transit Forum

By Roberto Roldan | WUSF News | Jul. 22nd, 2018



Real estate adviser Marilee Utter told the crowd at the Tampa Bay Transit Forum on Friday that mass transit stops can become sites for new development districts.

The overriding message at the Tampa Bay Transit Forum on Friday was that it's finally time for action on mass transportation.

Politicians, activists and transportation officials came together to discuss the future of mass transit in the region at Tampa International Airport. Several key Republican and Democratic politicians are lining up behind the plan for a 41 mile bus rapid transit route from Wesley Chapel to St. Petersburg. The stretch from St. Petersburg to the University of South Florida Tampa will use a dedicated lane, and the entire route would have more frequent and updated busses.

Listen: https://cpa.ds.npr.org/wusf/audio/2018/07/7-23_transit_forum_aired.mp3

Sandy Murman, the Republican chair of the Hillsborough County Commission, said she wants taxpayers to see tangible improvements to transportation within the next decade.

"There are no more words that can say 'Let's just do it,'" she said. "I'm not saying we should stop the conversations because you have to keep the conversations going, but we have a fabulous plan."

Murman also said she'd like to see voters decide on a proposed referendum that would increase the sales tax in the county from seven to eight cents for public transit and roadway improvements. She voted against a proposal in 2014 to put a half-cent sales tax increase for transportation on the ballot.

A proposal for a private company to build a high speed rail link between Tampa and Orlando also received bipartisan support at the forum. Earlier this year, Brightline submitted plans to the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) to build a rail system in the median of Interstate 4.

Ken Welch, the Democratic chair of the Pinellas Board of County Commissioners, called on the public to embrace a project that would connect the two largest metro areas in Central Florida.

"The connected Tampa Bay-Orlando mega-region has a population exceeding 6 million and will be an economic and political powerhouse when it is connected with congestion-proof, high-speed transit," Welch said.

The forum also served as a venue for transportation officials to highlight ongoing projects. David Gwynn, the regional FDOT secretary, said he was excited about a circular bus service that will connect the University of South Florida area and downtown Tampa starting next year, as well as a grant that will make the Tampa streetcar system free for the next three years.

While many transportation advocates spoke on how a new mass transit system to alleviate congestion in the region, real estate adviser Marilee Utter also gave a presentation on how it could also bring new business and residential developments.

Utter told the crowd that a stop on a bus or train line can attract what's called transit oriented development. That's areas outside of downtown with plazas, multi-use buildings and easy access to public transportation. She used a district she helped build in Englewood, Colorado as an example.

"It is not a building, it's a district," she said. "Ideally it's a multi-block experience so it's got enough interest to attract you, and it's walkable, it's bikeable."

Building in these districts are generally funded at least in part by reinvesting money that comes from increased property values near the transit stops.

Utter warned that when mass transit stops are chosen, they can quickly attract developers. For that reason, local officials need to be ready to work hand-in-hand with the private sector to plan the right kinds of districts.

Transit-oriented developments can be created around whatever mode of mass transit officials settle on, and Utter said the biggest challenge for the Tampa Bay region will be getting out of the planning stage.

"Don't let the perfect be the enemy of the good," she said. "There is not yet a transit system that is perfect. I'm rooting for you guys to come to some conclusion and get underway with whatever you come up with."

Utter said some up and coming areas of Tampa are already primed for this type of building. She pointed to the Armature Works just north of downtown Tampa as the type of development a new mass transit system could attract.

<https://www.bizjournals.com/tampabay/news/2018/07/23/transit-forum-speakers-attendees-show-support-for.html>

Transit forum speakers, attendees show support for bus rapid transit in Tampa Bay

By Janelle Irwin | Tampa Bay Business Journal | Jul. 23rd, 2018

Support for a 41-mile regional bus rapid transit route is gaining support, according to conversations during the Tampa Bay Transit Forum on Friday at Tampa International Airport.

Several elected officials and transit and transportation professionals praised the plan as the first piece in robust transit that will attract new jobs and emerging young talent.

Young professionals are increasingly looking for transportation options when deciding where to begin or continue their careers.

“They are choosing where they want to live before they choose where they want to work,” said Vology CEO Barry Shevlin. “[Lacking transit] limits the pool of potential employees. I think most of the [business] leaders I’m talking to are not connecting those dots.”

Florida Senate President Designate Bill Galvano (R-Bradenton) said the region needs to capitalize on an opportunity to begin a transit revolution in an area lagging behind other major metros, but said the route has to be done right.

“We cannot afford to do this unless we have a dedicated lane all the way through,” Galvano said during a presentation. “That’s what thinking in the future is about.”

The plan, which would create an express bus service from St. Petersburg to Wesley Chapel along Interstate 275, has received harsh criticism from transit activists because it didn’t necessarily include exclusive lanes for buses independent of other traffic.

The dedicated lanes are necessary to create a quick and efficient route and to make way for future technologies that would require a designated right-of-way.

“With this we can move from mode to mode at whatever level very shortly we’ll be using — autonomous vehicles to move people en masse,” Galvano said.

The planned bus rapid transit route is also an opportunity for an economic development boom as micro-communities emerge around transit stations.

“Transportation-oriented development (TOD) is an amazing opportunity for communities to build better communities. They’re destinations,” said TOD expert Marilee Utter, a leader with the nationally recognized Urban Land Institute. “Transit only works when it takes you to where you want to go, so we’re creating those places.”

But she emphasized getting it right is the hard part.

Utter rifled through an extensive list of components for successful TOD. Districts have to be walkable and they have to offer amenities and services the community demands. That's something she said is unique to every community and cautioned planners based on other communities' successes.

"What you normally see is, 'Oh, we're going to put more housing in' or 'We're going to put some offices in,'" Utter said. "To really create a mixed-use space takes a lot of cooperation."

The Tampa Bay region is a prime spot for TOD, according to Utter. It checks most of her boxes. Traffic congestion is perceived as bad, driving costs are high and housing is expensive.

For TOD to work, it has to be in a desirable district and connect to job centers and other local transit routes.

Part of the criticism of the bus rapid transit plan centers on its alignment along the interstate and the lacking bus network that would connect to it. But the general consensus among speakers was that improving transit access has to be a long-term vision. The 41-mile route would serve as a proof of concept and trigger action on connecting routes.

Jeff Boothe, a managing principal of InfraStrategies in New York, said the series of local transit plans aimed at complementing a regional route fill the void that currently exists and, if completed, would create a network where owning a car becomes an option and not a necessity.

"There are moments in time when you have the right leadership and a successful region recognizes that moment," he said.

That time is now, according to Boothe.

In Tampa, plans are in the works to create a more efficient and expanded downtown streetcar system, one that could get transit riders from the interstate route to their final destinations. There are also preliminary plans for a local bus rapid transit route along the emerging Tampa Street corridor, which would give transit access to communities currently missing out.

St. Petersburg is in line for federal funding to build a bus rapid transit route connecting its downtown to the Gulf beaches, and studies are in place for routes along major arteries connecting all of Pinellas County's major job centers, entertainment hubs and residential areas.

"No one is going to want to come here if we don't have the right transit system for them. At the end of the day it's about jobs," said Hillsborough County Commissioner Sandra Murman.

If the region can make it clear that action is happening, young professionals can look at the Tampa Bay region as one that is in the process of providing the mobility options they crave rather than seeing a region obsessed with cars.

“Imagine the day when we can all attend this transit forum by taking transit from anywhere in the region,” said Pinellas County Commissioner Ken Welch.

For now, that’s not the case. An example of that came after the forum ended. Attendees — several hundred of them — arrived by car and had their parking tickets validated. The line exiting the airport’s parking garage was clogged.

But it will get better, according to longtime transit supporter Mark Sharpe who heads IP Tampa, a University of South Florida area group whose mission is to turn the area into an economic powerhouse. Sharpe ditched his car about a year ago and uses Hillsborough County’s bus network.

“It’s stressful when you have to rely on transit to get from point to point. I can buy a cup of coffee with my phone, but I need exact change to get on the bus,” Sharpe said. “A lot of professionals don’t want to admit they don’t know how to read a bus map.”

Sharpe said in addition to making the region’s transit network more robust, working professionals also need to shed the stigma around riding a bus. Giving transit a chance would help make the case for spending more money to make it better.

“Let’s just get it done. There are no more words that I can say besides let’s just get it done. It’s going to be up to us at the local level,” Murman said.

<https://www.businessobserverfl.com/article/transit-forum-tampa-vology-ceo>

Transit forum gets ideas moving

By Business Observer Staff | Business Observer Florida | Jul. 27th, 2018

The Beach Boys' "I Get Around" could be the anti-theme song of commuters in the Tampa Bay region, whose patchy, inadequate public transit and clogged highways and interstates make getting to and from work the subject that everyone loves to hate — and talk about, *ad nauseum*.

There are signs that talk is beginning to turn into action, however.



Last week's Tampa Bay Transit Forum at the Tampa Airport Marriott gathered some of the region's top business leaders, elected officials and transit authorities to discuss plans in the works that aim to solve some of the area's most pressing transportation woes.

Vology CEO Barry Shevlin was part of a panel discussion that focused on how public transit, or lack thereof, affects disabled people as well as young workers, who often choose not to drive, and who increasingly opt for quality of life over career when choosing where they want to live.

Shevlin tells *Coffee Talk* that lack of cohesion on transportation hurts his company's ability to recruit and retain workers. "It's pretty clear to me that the entire region needs to be working together to try and solve some of these problems," he says.

Vology, based near St. Pete-Clearwater International Airport, did \$151 million in sales last year and employs more than 300 people, but Shevlin says less than half — 40%, by his estimation — live in Pinellas County. He says 45% "live in Hillsborough, and maybe 15% live in the other counties, so when a decision is being made in Hillsborough, it affects me just as much as a decision being made in Pinellas."

Shevlin expresses cautious optimism a proposed 41-miles bus rapid transit (BRT) system that connects downtown St. Petersburg to Wesley Chapel, via the creation of new dedicated express lanes and using Interstate 275 as a spine, could be the "catalyst" project that spurs development of a true regional approach to transit. "I've heard alignment around support for that," he says. "People today choose where they're going to live first, and then they find a job based on that, so the more options we have to get people to where our headquarters are, the better off we'll be."