

**HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
POLICY COMMITTEE
MEETING OF JULY 22, 2008**

AGENDA ITEM V-A

Agenda Item: **TBARTA Regional Transportation Master Plan – Phase Two**

Presenter: Beth Alden, AICP, TBARTA Public Engagement Leader

Summary: The Tampa Bay Area Regional Transportation Authority (TBARTA) is developing a regional transportation master plan for the counties on the west coast of Florida from Citrus to Sarasota, as required by state law. The second phase of a three-phase process to develop this plan is now underway.

The first phase of the plan development focused on the question of where improvements are most needed to serve regional transportation needs and support public transit. Consideration of this question included travel demand modeling and public review and comment, with corridor options evaluated with respect to four Guiding Principles adopted by the TBARTA Board. The first phase culminated in a series of recommendations to TBARTA's advisory committees and board in June regarding corridors to advance to the next phase and corridors to drop from further study.

The second phase will evaluate transit mode options in the corridors retained for further study, looking at the viability and appropriateness of technologies such as commuter rail, light rail and bus rapid transit to serve the region's travel markets. Travel demand modeling and public comment will play a major role in this phase as well. A series of community workshops – one in each county – is scheduled for late July and early August. In addition, TBARTA has convened a technical working group of land use planners from around the region to identify the region's major destinations and provide advice on the potential for transit-supportive development in the future.

In the fall, the best performing options will be assembled into region-wide networks for the third phase of this study. Several network options will be evaluated for effectiveness and cost. The third phase will also look at the potential for greater benefits to be realized if land use patterns shift towards a greater transit orientation over the long term.

Today's presentation will give an overview of the corridor and mode options currently under consideration and provide an opportunity for review and comment on those options.

Recommended Action: None. For information only.

Attachments: None.