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Boston Transportation Expert Chosen to Lead Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council

“After conducting an extensive national search, the TBRPC has found a unique and different leader who is highly accomplished. He is a proven expert in transportation matters which will be helpful in this region.” **Commissioner Victor Crist, Chair of the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council**

In May of this year the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council embarked upon a national search for a new Executive Director to replace Manny Pumariaga, a 35 year veteran with the Council, who retired in September. The Council partnered with the Pinellas County Human Resources department to conduct the independent search. The six month process included narrowing down the field of candidates to 33 highly qualified individuals, nine of which were interviewed by the Search Committee, followed by three finalists who were re-interviewed by the committee as well as two other stakeholder panels. The process culminated in a unanimous vote by the Council at the November meeting to select Mr. Sean T. Sullivan, currently a resident of Boston, Massachusetts and an accomplished expert in transportation.

Commissioner Victor Crist, Chair of the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council led the selection process. *“This is the most important decision this Board may have to make,”* stated Crist. *“We need a fresh perspective in our leadership and new ideas for innovation as we continue to build upon the great legacy of this organization. Sean is a collaborator and just the person to take the TBRPC and our region to the next level.”* Mr. Sullivan’s experience includes oversight of capital transit projects including extension of the Green Line in Boston and participation with planning of a Transit Oriented District in Greater Boston. His duties included working with multiple transit agencies, Federal and State Agencies, Regional Planning Councils/Commissions and numerous Local Governments to provide guidance pertaining to economic development, acquisition or disposition of property, capital construction projects, grant development, energy efficiency, and protecting the Federal interest of capital assets. Commissioner Kathryn Starkey represents Pasco County on the TBRPC and she also served on the search committee. Commissioner Starkey conveyed, *“I am delighted to welcome Sean Sullivan to the Tampa Bay region. His background in transportation, economic development and planning will be an asset to the community.”* Commissioner Janet Long, Pinellas County Commissioner and member of the search committee concurred that *“Mr. Sullivan is just what this organization needs. I am very excited about the expertise and experience he will bring to the Council and I look forward to working with him on moving our region forward on the important issues facing our local governments and our citizens.”*

Mr. Sullivan will begin his position with the TBRPC on January 11, 2016.

About Sean T. Sullivan...Mr. Sullivan comes to the TBRPC from the Federal Transit Administration in Cambridge, Massachusetts where he served as Program Manager/Environmental Specialist for Region One which encompasses six states. Mr. Sullivan earned a B.A. in Political Science from the University of Massachusetts Lowell and a Master’s Degree in Public Administration from Suffolk University in Boston. He is the recent recipient of the Administrator’s Award from the Federal Transit Administration. He was also honored by receiving the Fellowship Award from Suffolk University and the Presidents Medal from the University of Massachusetts Lowell. He is a member of the American Planning Association, a Certified Umpire with the American Softball Association and is a Certified Referee with the International Association of Basketball Referees. Mr. Sullivan is married and has two daughters who reside in Massachusetts.

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