March 2020
Champions of Change: Creating Resilient Communities

Message from Planning Council Executive Director Sean Sullivan

The Tampa Bay area's first regional resiliency conference, “Champions of Change: Creating Resilient Communities”, drew more than 350 attendees in January, who heard best practices from other cities and made suggestions for regional resiliency priorities going forward.

So where do we go from here?

At the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council, we see the conference as a first step toward turning ideas into action. The Council has initiated meetings with area municipalities as they start to determine local resiliency priorities. In turn, this will inform a regional resiliency action plan set to be completed by early next year.

But knowing that sea level rise threatens our coastal areas now, we need to focus on more than long-term planning. As conversations with local governments unfold, we’ll be working to see if we can help them take short-term steps to address issues like sunny-day flooding and inadequate seawalls.

Sharing best practices is a key. One community can learn from another, whether it’s figuring out ways to better manage storm runoff, considering ideas for making our housing more resilient and affordable, or determining creative ways to pay for solutions.

We are pleased that several grants will help these efforts along – a $500,000 grant from JPMorgan Chase for a study into ideas for making affordable housing more resilient, and a $210,000 federal grant to help us update our Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy for the region.

Area’s first regional resiliency summit sparked discussion and ideas

The Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council’s resiliency conference in January, called “Champions of Change: Creating Resilient Communities,” was the first area-wide conference of its kind, providing a healthy exchange of ideas for more than 350 attendees.

Along with numerous local and state elected officials, attendees ranged from a sustainability management professor at St. Petersburg College to a concerned citizen from Pasco County. More than 40 speakers shared research, resiliency strategies and details of successful initiatives from around the state and the country.

Highlights included a mayors panel discussion on resiliency with Tampa’s Jane Castor, St. Petersburg’s Rick Kriseman, and Clearwater’s George Cretekos.

At the end of the second day, attendees broke into small groups to identify priorities in numerous topics that are part of resiliency efforts, such as shorelines and transportation.

Their feedback will play a part in creating goals for the region to consider in the coming year.

Visit the planning council’s website, www.tbrpc.org/summit2020, to read more about the summit.
Program funded by JPMorgan Chase will study how to make affordable housing resilient

It takes consistent data and mapping for communities to better measure and understand the problems affordable housing residents face before or after a weather disaster strikes.

A $500,000 grant from JPMorgan Chase to the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council will help the Tampa Bay area start to tackle this issue. The grant will enable collaborative research and planning on effective strategies and policies for making affordable housing more resilient to the impact of sea level rise and weather events.

The two-year grant program will fund the Council’s new Resilient and Energy Analysis of Communities and Housing program, known as REACH.

REACH’s team will include experts from the Florida Housing Coalition, United Way Suncoast, the University of Florida’s Shimberg Center for Housing Studies, and the University of South Florida’s Florida Center for Community Research and Design.

Visit the planning council’s website, www.tbrpc.org, to read more about the grant.

TBRPC receives federal grant to help update area’s Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy

A three-year, $210,000 federal grant from the U.S. Department of Commerce’s Economic Development Administration will help the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council update its Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) for the Tampa Bay region.

The CEDS, a compilation of updated information on the local economy and workforce, is a key tool for recommending effective economic development strategies.

Citrus, Hernando, Hillsborough, Manatee, Pasco, and Pinellas counties are included in the process, which brings together public and private sectors to create a road map to diversify and strengthen the regional economy.

“*The Planning Council is grateful for our U.S. congressional representatives who helped to secure this federal funding*,” said Sean Sullivan, Executive Director of the Planning Council.

According to StatsAmerica, the employed labor force in all Citrus, Hernando, Hillsborough, Manatee, Pasco, and Pinellas counties has been increasing every year since 2013. In other words, in 2018, there were over 30,000 more people employed than in 2013.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Average Employed Labor Force</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>252K</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>256K</td>
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<td>260K</td>
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<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>277K</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>282K</td>
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Source: StatsAmerica
Officers will lead Planning Council's continuing mission

Councilman Patrick Roff, Chair; City of Bradenton
Councilor Bob Matthews, Vice-Chair; City of Seminole
Commissioner Jack Mariano, Secretary-Treasurer; Pasco County
Commissioner Ron Kitchen Jr., Immediate Past-Chair; Citrus County

Small Business Hurricane Virtual Exercise

The TBRPC is creating an updated version of the original Project Phoenix video and will create a virtual training tool to improve communications between emergency managers and small businesses before, during and after a major storm event.

The virtual training tool will work through a simulation of what happens when a major hurricane strikes the Tampa Bay area, and what happens after the storm passes and reconstruction begins.

Project Phoenix 2.0 will combine professional services in audiovisual production, meteorological forecasting, and storm damage assessment and modeling to support the work of a steering committee of emergency management professionals.

City of New Port Richey Land Use Visualization Project

Sarah Vitale, TBRPC Senior Planner, and Marshall Flynn, TBRPC IT/GIS Director, presented a conceptual vision of Downtown New Port Richey to the New Port Richey City Council on February 18, 2020. The 3D model incorporates urban design concepts that increase the area’s resiliency to storm surge and inland flooding. The project showcases TBRPC’s proficiency in mapping and 3D visualization technology.

CALENDAR

APRIL 2020

6 2020 All-Hazards Disaster Planning Guide available at tampabayprepares.org
17 Courtney Campbell Scenic Highway Meeting @10am AECOM, Tampa

MAY 2020

11 Council Meeting @10am Council Chambers
12 FDOT Stormwater Meeting Council Chambers
27 LEPC Meeting @10:30am Council Chambers
28 Small Business Disaster Recovery Steering Committee Final Planning @12pm Council Chambers
29 Pinellas County Flood Risk and Mitigation Public Information working group @11am Council Chambers

JUNE 2020

8 Council Meeting @10am Council Chambers
11 ABM Meeting @9:00am Council Chambers
16 Project Phoenix 2.0: The Recovery (registration required) To Be Announced
18 Manatee County LMS Meeting @3:30pm, Central Library Auditorium, Bradenton

Note: all meetings scheduled in the Council Chambers through April 30 have been postponed. Please check our website for current updates on the calendar.
TBRPC temporarily closes office to the public and suspends all-in person meetings.

Dear Regional Partners,

Like you, the TBRPC is monitoring the news and public health recommendations about COVID-19. We are doing everything we can to minimize disruptions to our work, while prioritizing the health and safety of our staff and the citizens of the Tampa Bay region.

As the regional convener since 1962 and as a leader in emergency preparedness for over four decades, we understand the importance of collaborating with one another to protect the quality of life that we all love and cherish. We are currently working from home for the time being, and will remain available via email, phone, or virtual meetings. The Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council remains committed to our projects and programs and to the mission of serving our local governments and the citizens of our six-county region.

Visit our website www.tbrpc.org and click on the Resources tab to find helpful resources on how to transition to online work.

Wishing you and your family safe passage as we navigate through this international health crisis.

Sean Sullivan, Executive Director.

CDC recommends to stay 6 feet apart from each other.