Dear Regional Partners,

Like you, the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council (TBRPC) is monitoring public health recommendations regarding the COVID-19 pandemic. We are doing everything we can to minimize disruptions to the service we provide to our member governments throughout the Tampa Bay region.

As a regional convener, we understand the importance of collaborating with one another and continuing to move our work forward. The TBRPC website offers a wealth of resources that can be accessed at tbrpc.org. We have also created a resource on the website to assist local governments in dealing with COVID-19 and conducting virtual public meetings. You may also connect with us on social media: Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn.

For the past 58 years, the TBRPC has cultivated cooperation among our local governments to create stronger voices, accelerate progressive planning, and leverage our enhanced resources to address the challenges we face as a region. We will continue to meet these challenges side by side with our local governments.

Stay safe and be well,

Sean T. Sullivan Executive Director

July 2020

COVID-19 Economic Impact Analysis - Mid April 2020 Estimate

Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) is a novel infectious respiratory disease that has sickened over 10 million people worldwide and killed over half a million. While Florida’s share of nationwide cases is relatively low, the state faces higher than average economic risks.

Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council has produced a preliminary analysis of the economic impacts of COVID-19 on the Tampa Bay Area and Florida economies.

TBRPC found that the combined economic losses from excess deaths, the national recession and statewide losses in consumer spending could cost the Tampa Bay Area and all of Florida more than 11 percent of Gross Regional Product and Gross State Product, respectively, and 218 thousand jobs in the Tampa Bay Area and about 1.36 million jobs throughout Florida in 2020.

This analysis was highlighted in the National Association of Regional Councils’ (NARC) May newsletter, giving the TBRPC special state recognition.

Visit www.tbrpc.org/covid-19-economic-impact-analysis/ to read the full analysis.

COVID-19 Mortality Projections in Florida

Source: The Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME), 2020. covid19.healthdata.org/projections
TBRPC has released the 2020 All-Hazards Disaster Planning Guide which contains evacuation maps, shelter locations, and hurricane preparation tips for the Tampa Bay area. Over 160,000 printed copies have been distributed throughout Citrus, Hernando, Manatee, and Sarasota Counties; and the digital guide is available at tampabayprepares.org. The poster-size guides are available in libraries, post offices, and government buildings while supplies last. Spanish language versions are available in Manatee and Sarasota counties. TBRPC began producing disaster planning guides for the region in the early 1980s.

TBRPC is showcasing an updated version of the 2009 Project Phoenix video that features a realistic disaster simulation coupled with real stories of business owners challenged by a category 5 hurricane in Florida. The video supplements Project Phoenix 2.0: The Recovery.

This training exercise improves communications between emergency managers and small businesses in the immediate and long term recovery after a significant storm event. Project Phoenix 2.0: The Recovery combines 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. A Train the Trainer Webinar will take place in July 2020, and all training materials and videos will be available at tbrpc.org/phoenix.

Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council selected for Solar Energy Innovation Network project

Long-lasting, widespread power outages caused by hurricanes and other disasters have major impacts on communities and local economies. In response, many organizations and energy agencies are evaluating how solar energy and new battery technologies can improve the resiliency of the power grid. As part of this effort, the U.S. Department of Energy’s National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) has selected an innovative project led by the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council in collaboration with the City of Largo and Hillsborough, Manatee, and Pinellas counties for participation in the Solar Energy Innovation Network.

The Solar Energy Innovation Network, which assembles teams to research solutions to challenges associated with solar energy adoption, is supporting the Clear Sky Tampa Bay project, funded by a $125,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Energy’s Solar Energy Technologies Office.

The Clear Sky project, which runs through spring 2021, will develop processes and tools based on FEMA Community Lifelines methodology that will enable municipalities, nonprofit organizations and businesses to identify potential high-value sites for installing solar energy and battery storage systems to improve public safety and disaster preparedness.

When the project is complete, the evaluation criteria established by the project team can be used to prioritize solar energy installations at properties that store food and water, support critical infrastructure and communications, or offer shelter for a significant number of people, for example.
TBRPC Chair Appoints COVID-19 Recovery Task Force

Councilman Patrick Roff, TBRPC Chair recently appointed a COVID-19 Recovery Task Force to support the Council’s efforts in assisting local governments during this unprecedented time.

Chairing the Task Force will be Commissioner Vanessa Baugh, Manatee County, and Commissioner Jack Mariano, Pasco County who will serve as Vice Chair.

Other members include:

- Councilman Michael Fridovich, City of Gulfport
- Commissioner Jonathan Davis, City of Palmetto
- Councilwoman Linda Norris, City of Oldsmar
- Councilman James Chambers, City of Temple Terrace
- Vice Mayor Carlos Diaz, City of Safety Harbor

Florida Advisory Council on Climate and Energy

On March 5, Pinellas County Commissioner Janet C. Long and Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council Executive Director Sean Sullivan were appointed to the state's new Florida Advisory Council on Climate & Energy, which will play a key role in helping prepare Florida for the future.

Long, Sullivan and the other Council members will discuss and offer advice on issues such as energy conservation, renewable energy, climate change, sea level rise, alternative vehicle technology, and the state’s Florida Energy and Climate Plan.

Sean Sullivan became Executive Director of the organization in 2016. Since then, the group has taken a leadership role in addressing sea level rise and extreme weather in the Tampa Bay area, including coordination of the Tampa Bay Regional Resiliency Coalition’s activities. To read the full press release, visit tbrpc.org/news/
COVID-19 Resources for Conducting Effective Online Meetings

The Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council is here to serve local governments throughout the region and to provide collaborative resources in the decision-making process.

With this mission in mind, we have created an addition to our website titled Resources for Conducting Effective Online Meetings. You will find information for elected officials as well as for government entity planning staff on how best to navigate during these times of social distancing and virtual meetings.

The resources include "Planning During a Pandemic: 6 Resources for Planners" and "Using Online Tools for Public Engagement", both by the American Planning Association (APA). Additionally, it includes resources by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) such as "How to Facilitate a Virtual Meeting", "Virtual Meeting Resources", and "Training Resources".

We invite you to visit our website tbrpc.org/online-resources/ to take advantage of these new resources.