Message from Planning Council Executive Director Sean Sullivan

The Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council’s Regional Resiliency Coalition made significant strides in the last two years by developing strategies with the goal of making the area more resilient to sea level rise, storm surge and extreme weather. The Coalition held the first resiliency summit of its kind in our region January 2020. Since then, the Coalition worked with stakeholder’s and elected officials throughout the region to establish priorities for inclusion in the Regional Resiliency Action Plan (RRAP).

This year, the Regional Planning Council will turn these regional resilience priorities into actionable strategies for municipalities to consider. The RRAP will provide guiding principles that serve as common denominator for development and enhancement of resilience efforts throughout the region.

As we focus on creating an actionable plan, the TBRPC is also involved in several other resiliency-related programs designed to help our communities, such as the Resilience and Energy Assessment of Communities and Housing (REACH) Initiative, FDEP sponsored projects Resilient Ready Tampa Bay and Safe Shelter Tampa Bay, and the USDOE sponsored project Clear Sky Tampa Bay, project, to name a few. Also, the TBRPC and five other RPCs around Florida will be working over the next three years on a CDBG sponsored project that will develop a statewide approach to flood planning, which will provide a framework for municipalities to create disaster models and mitigation strategies.

Tampa Bay Regional Resiliency Leadership Summit 2022

The second Tampa Bay Regional Resiliency Leadership Summit is set for April 5-6, 2022 at the Hilton St. Petersburg Carillon Park.

At the first Leadership Summit, we heard from national and international leaders in resiliency while engaging in a dialog about new and innovative programs, strategies, and policy that our local leaders can implement in their communities to create a more resilient Tampa Bay.

The 2nd Leadership Summit will take it to the next level as we unveil the efforts, progress, and work that has taken place since the first summit with the introduction of the DRAFT Regional Resiliency Action Plan (RRAP). Summit attendees and sponsors will participate in a historic event to solidify this resiliency plan for future generations to come. And like the first event, the agenda will be comprised of local leaders and experts in the field of resiliency and climate change and will specifically address issues such as storm water, flooding, heat, sea level rise, etc. that affect our region and how best we can work together to address those issues.

The Leadership Summit will also host the 60th Anniversary Celebration of the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council taking place on the evening of April 5th as well as the 28th Annual Future of the Region Awards which will be the highlight of the Leadership Summit luncheon on April 6th. Your voice and expertise are needed at this milestone event.

Visit tbrpc.org/summit2022 to register for the event.
The Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council has been awarded a Community Economic Adjustment Assistance for Responding to Threats to the Resilience of a Military Installation grant from the Department of Defense. The 18-month, $570,000 grant is designed to examine the long-term resilience and sustainability of MacDill Air Force Base and its surrounding community.

The TBRPC will complete a Military Installation Resilience Review, which is a community-driven initiative to analyze risks and future climate conditions and implement actions to foster, protect, and enhance military installation resilience and sustainability. Through the grant, the TBRPC will provide a roadmap that addresses vulnerabilities, as well as action items and an implementation strategy to address resiliency. It will develop collaborative partnerships to enhance natural hazards and man-made risks readiness and response capabilities today, while directly addressing future conditions to support longer-term planning and mitigations. It will also create a unified resilience assessment standard for the regional military and develop decision-support tools for resilience planning that can be integrated across the base.

The TBRPC has established relationships with key regional stakeholders and shares a long history of community-based work on issues of regional importance including resilience, disaster preparedness, affordable housing, economic analysis, and economic and community development.

TBRPC Project Updates

REACH

In 2021, TBRPC and subcontractors involved in the Resilience and Energy Assessment of Communities and Housing (REACH) project met with 11 local governments to review planning documents focusing on affordable housing and resilience and provided technical assistance. The REACH team also developed a new affordable housing coastal flood mapping tool and database. Other resources included the Housing Resilience Plan Self-Assessment Checklist and other guides are in development. Technical training workshops are planned for March and April. The project will host a one-day conference on May 6 to report on findings in the regional vulnerability assessment and discuss strategies for improving housing affordability and resilience.

For more information visit the REACH website: tbrpc.org/reach

Resilient Ready

Resilient Ready Tampa Bay is a year-long regional technical assistance project that will enhance the capacity of Tampa Bay communities to assess, plan for, and adapt to flood impacts through the expanded use of multi-functional green infrastructure systems and resilient site design and construction practices.

Out of the 13 applications, the project team has selected the City of Oldsmar and the City of St. Pete Beach, in addition to the City of Tampa (grant partner), to participate in Resilient Ready and receive technical analyses and design services for their flood-prone study areas, including R.E. Olds Park, historic Pass-a-Grille Beach, and the North Tampa Closed Basin, respectively.

These three case studies exemplify the flood challenges and design opportunities faced by other local governments throughout the Tampa Bay Region.

TBRPC awarded federal Military Installation grant from the DOD

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The TBRPC has established relationships with key regional stakeholders and shares a long history of community-based work on issues of regional importance including resilience, disaster preparedness, affordable housing, economic analysis, and economic and community development.
In conjunction with Governor DeSantis’ announcement on Feb 2 of $400 million for resilience projects, state Chief Resilience Officer (CRO) Dr. Wes Brooks met with staff across the region and toured projects. As the CRO, Dr. Brooks oversees the Office of Resilience and Coastal Protection and supports efforts of several state agencies, including the DEP, DOT, DEM, DACS, FWC and the DEO.

On Feb 3, Dr. Brooks visited the TBRPC office. He gave a brief introduction of his goals for getting to know and understand the local governments’ priorities regarding resilience. He also mentioned that he understands communities have many similarities but also differences when it comes to their goals and priorities for resilience, and that there is no better way for the State of Florida to know what these are than by talking to local governments himself.

Dr. Brooks expressed one of his missions is to help coordinate local governments with the State and Federal governments as well as connecting multiple agencies that have similar objectives with each other to make Florida resilient for generations to come.

The new 2022 TBRPC Officers are named

The Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council elected new board officers for 2022 at its meeting on December 13, 2021. The leadership reflects the Council’s wide geographic reach, with leaders hailing from the City of Largo, and Manatee, Pinellas, and Pasco counties.

St. Petersburg City Council Member Brandi Gabbard is the new chair of the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council board. Manatee County Commissioner Vanessa Baugh is vice-chair and Largo Mayor Woody Brown is secretary and treasurer. Pasco County Commissioner Jack Mariano is immediate past-chair.

New CRO, Dr. Wes Brooks Tours the TB Region

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Regionally Speaking - Did you know?
The Name Pinellas is derived from the Spanish words Punta Pinal meaning point of pines. It was an accurate description for this area when it was discovered by Panfilo de Narvaez in 1528, 36 years after Columbus arrived in the Caribbean and 37 years before the founding of the city of St. Augustine.

The T ampa Bay Regional Resiliency Leadership Summit @8:00am

60th Anniv. Celebration @5:00pm

TB Regional Resiliency Leadership Summit @8:30am

FOR Awards Luncheon @12:00pm

Courtney Campbell SHCAC Meeting @10:00am

ABM’s Legislative Review Committee Meeting @2:00pm

MARCH 2022

10 Agency on Bay Management @9:00am

NOAA 2022 Sea Level Rise update webinar @2:00pm

11 One Bay Working Group @1:30pm

14 Council Meeting @10:00am

15 Stormwater Committee Mtg. @9:30am

18 REACH Energy Workshop #2 @9:00am

APRIL 2022

5 TB Regional Resiliency Leadership Summit @8:00am

6 60th Anniv. Celebration @5:00pm

6 TB Regional Resiliency Leadership Summit @8:30am

FOR Awards Luncheon @12:00pm

8 Courtney Campbell SHCAC Meeting @10:00am

14 ABM’s Legislative Review Committee Meeting @2:00pm

MAY 2022

6 REACH Housing Affordability & Resilience Conference @9:00am

9 Council meeting @10:00am

23 Local Emergency Planning Committee Meeting @10:30am

Note: Please refer to our website calendar for updated meetings information regarding location and Zoom IDs at tbrpc.org/calendar. 
Follow us on social media and visit our website to stay updated with TBRPC news!

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