June 2022

Message from Planning Council Executive Director Sean Sullivan

Over the course of the last several months, the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council (TBRPC) held two successful conferences where we engaged over 400 stakeholders to discuss resiliency and the need for additional resilient, affordable housing throughout the Tampa Bay Region. Numerous elected officials were in attendance, and at TBRPC, we remain grateful to our elected leaders for their continued commitment to support our regional initiatives.

TBRPC staff will be engaging stakeholders beginning in June to kickoff our federally mandated Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy. Our intention is to use virtual technology to engage as many stakeholders as possible.

On June 23rd, TBRPC will host a resiliency symposium at the Tampa River Center to present the results from our Resilient Ready case studies conducted in the cities of Tampa, Oldsmar, and St. Pete Beach. We held charrettes in each of these cities to brainstorm ways to improve functionality of areas in each city that have been impacted by increased flooding and coastal tide impacts. During this project, TBRPC welcomed professional engineering assistance from the U.S. Consulate from the Kingdom of the Netherlands. Additional project partners included the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and professional staff from each of the three cities.

Also, please remember that Hurricane Season started on June 1st and runs through November 30th. Forecasters predict an active hurricane season, so be sure to purchase supplies and non-perishable foods along with bottled water as you begin your storm preparations. Additional hurricane preparation information can be found on our website at tampabayprepares.org. Please accept my best wishes for a safe summer.

The Tampa Bay Regional Resiliency Leadership Summit

The TBRPC hosted the 2nd Resiliency Leadership Summit on April 5 & 6, 2022. The TBRPC unveiled the efforts, progress, and work that has taken place since the first summit with the introduction of the DRAFT Regional Resiliency Action Plan (RRAP). The Regional Resiliency Action Plan will include strategies and actions that are based on sound science and technical data to assess sea-level rise vulnerability, inform planning efforts, and provide guidance on what sea-level rise projections should be incorporated into local planning efforts.

The agenda was comprised of local leaders and experts in the field of resiliency and climate change and specifically addressed 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 also hosted 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 was the highlight of the Leadership Summit luncheon on April 6th. During the Future of the Region Awards luncheon, the planning council recognized and honored the public and private sectors for notable achievements in resilience planning and management.

The Resiliency Summit had over 250 attendees and 24 sponsors including the VINIK Family Foundation, Duke Energy, and the Rays Baseball Foundation & Rowdies Soccer Fund being the Premier Summit Sponsors. To learn more about the Tampa Bay Regional Resiliency Leadership Summit, visit TBRPC’s website: tbrpc.org/summit2022 where speaker presentations, sponsor case studies, and event photos can be found.
REACH Housing Affordability and Resiliency Conference

In 2020, the TBRPC received a grant from JP Morgan Chase Foundation to develop new resources to enable local governments to more easily conduct sea level rise and flood vulnerability assessments for affordable housing and identify hot spots, and support the integration of resilience and housing planning.

On May 6th, 2022, the TBRPC hosted the REACH conference with leading housing experts and dynamic panels. At the conference, participants learned about the following:

- New regional flood risk assessment of assisted and unassisted affordable housing and hotspots
- Local initiatives to increase housing construction including land-use policy changes to support missing middle, Countywide collaboration, locally derived housing trust funds
- Best practices for integrating resilience and housing planning, funding and finance strategies
- Panel with innovative affordable housing developers
- Programs that are addressing energy burden and increased sustainability

These are some of the primary issues that were discussed at the conference coordinated by the TBRPC and partners ULI Tampa Bay, Forward Pinellas, and the Florida Housing Coalition.

To watch the recordings, download the presentations, see the event photos, and look at the flood maps, go to the REACH conference page.

Resilient Ready Tampa Bay Symposium

Join the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council and the Urban Land Institute on June 23, 1:30 - 5:30 PM at the Tampa River Center for the Resilient Ready Symposium. This free event will showcase innovative design concepts, strategies, and resources developed through the Resilient Ready Tampa Bay project, feature speakers and subject matter experts, and provide networking opportunities for resiliency professionals, elected officials, and stakeholders throughout the Tampa Bay Region.

Resilient Ready Tampa Bay is a regional technical assistance project that enhances 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 designs. The Resilient Ready team, composed of public and private experts in resiliency, landscape design, engineering, and planning and local stakeholders, facilitated design charrettes in flood-prone study areas with the cities of Tampa, St. Pete Beach, and Oldsmar. These three case studies exemplify the flood challenges and adaptation needs faced by local governments throughout the Tampa Bay Region, and provide innovative design concepts, strategies, and resources to address them.

The Resilient Ready Tampa Bay project is coordinated by the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council and made possible by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection’s Resilient Florida Coastlines Program.

REGISTER FOR THE FREE SYMPOSIUM.
The Name behind the Expressway

In 1955, Lee Roy Selmon became the first Buccaneer to be inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame. Four years later, the Southern Crosstown Expressway was renamed after him in his honor. He did public outreach for the Tampa Hillsborough Expressway Authority and instead of getting paid for this, he had THEA set up educational opportunities for students, including scholarships and internships.

Pasco Industrial Land Use Study

Facing development pressures from the fastest growing housing prices in the Tampa Bay region, a recent wave of comprehensive plan amendments to clear the way for more residential development in Pasco County has raised concerns about the County's supply of industrial land. Pasco County turned to TBRPC to prepare an Industrial Land Strategy to respond to this challenge.

Overall, TBRPC found that the existing inventory of land designated as EC and IL is sufficient on a gross acreage comparison basis to meet future job needs. However, the availability of appropriately sized sites typically required to support target industries in corporate business and industrial parks is limited. TBRPC identified several potential Areas of Interest where the County may initiate Future Land Use amendments to add more EC and IL designated land in a more compact land use pattern, consistent with a jobs-housing balancing job growth goal.

Read the study on the Economic Analysis Program page: tbrpc.org/eap

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)

TBRPC is conducting an Economic Development Administration (EDA)-mandated Major Update to the Tampa Bay’s Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). Maintaining an up-to-date CEDS is a requirement for eligibility for EDA grant opportunities.

TBRPC requests participation in a virtual stakeholder meeting scheduled for Monday June 20th, 2022 at 1:00 PM to guide the direction of this Major Update to our region’s CEDS. This meeting will review the existing CEDS document, and will include a discussion of proposed changes.
Largo Medical Arts District Study

From emergency care to routine or specialized medical services, the Medical Arts District in Largo, Florida offers comprehensive healthcare to residents and visitors from throughout the Tampa Bay region. With funding provided by the Federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) of 2020, the City of Largo contracted with the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council to prepare a strategic plan which complements and expands upon the City’s past planning efforts within the Medical Arts District and the West Bay Drive Community Redevelopment District.

TBRPC’s strategic plan provides an update to the 2015 analysis of the district’s existing conditions, case study examples of medical districts from throughout the country, potential redevelopment design concepts and economic development considerations, and implementation guidelines that can support City staff in efforts to implement priority projects and engage local stakeholders.