MISSION STATEMENT

To serve our citizens and member governments by providing a forum to foster communication, coordination and collaboration in identifying and addressing issues and needs regionally.
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Chair & Executive Director’s Message

We are proud to say that 2009 marked the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council’s (TBRPC) 47th year in regional planning. During the last four decades the Council has striven to achieve best practice standards in all aspects of its programs and endeavors. During a remarkable time in our cities, region, state and nation, the year 2009 proved to be another successful year in the Council’s history.

Due to the unprecedented economic events of the past year the Council continued to use resources wisely and in a fiscally responsible manner. Efforts were streamlined to provide our member governments with quality work products and attentive service. Part of those efforts was to build on the current programs of the Council and to limit any new initiatives to what was fiscally sound and fell within the scope of the Council’s mission.

With this in mind the Council embarked upon its third year as a marquee partner with the Reality Check/One Bay regional visioning initiative. In 2009 the One Bay technical team developed specific strategies and is working with the region’s counties and cities to learn how the jurisdictions short- and long-range plans may already be fulfilling the recommendations. The team also identified obstacles or changes that need to be made to support the recommendations in the future. The data collected will also be used as we move forward in amending the Strategic Regional Policy Plan. We feel strongly that the process we’ve established gives an equal voice to all segments of our community to become actively involved in planning for our future.

Another priority project for the Council in 2009 was the continued work on the Statewide Regional Evacuation Study (SRES). The Council produced the first Hurricane Evacuation Plan in the nation in 1980 and we continue to be in the forefront of this ongoing critical aspect of emergency management planning. The Council has held a leadership role in this important endeavor to coordinate all of the key components for the eleven regional planning councils’ evacuation plans in a consistent manner. For the first time the state of Florida will be able to document a consistent and coordinated approach for all evacuations throughout the state.

Florida’s regional planning councils continue to provide a foundation and play a pivotal role in developing a comprehensive framework for managing regional growth and expansion. The next forty to fifty years need to be approached with even more insight to develop the mechanisms to address the challenges facing each of the regions within our state. The ultimate goal is the achievement of the highest quality of life for future generations.

The Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council is proud to have been the first regional planning council in the state of Florida and we continue to be dedicated to providing the best services available to our member governments and to the citizens of the Tampa Bay region and beyond.
Commissioner Bill Dodson, Chair of the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council, arranged for the ladies from St. Clements to set up a table for Council Members to make their own strawberry shortcake, a taste of Plant City. The Church has been involved with the Florida Strawberry Festival since 1974 when they started their first strawberry shortcake booth.

Department of Community Affairs Secretary, Tom Pelham, participated as a panelist in the Senate Bill 360 Workshop which was hosted by the Council.

Commissioner Jack Mariano, Vice Chair of the TBRPC, assists USF President, Dr. Judy Genshaft with her new Herman Goldner Award for Regional Leadership at the annual Future of the Region Awards Luncheon.

Representative Rich Glorioso, District 62, made opening remarks at the Senate Bill 360 Workshop.

Dade City Mayor and former TBRPC Chair, Scott Black and Largo Commissioner, Woody Brown, at the annual Future of the Region Awards.

Former TBRPC Chair and Mistress of Ceremonies for the annual Future of the Region Awards, Ms. Barbara Sheen Todd, is honored for her service by TBRPC Secretary/Treasurer Ms. Jill Collins.
ONE BAY is a diverse partnership of public and private leaders spearheaded by five regional organizations: Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council, Tampa Bay Estuary Program, Southwest Florida Water Management District, Tampa Bay Partnership Regional Research & Education Foundation and the Urban Land Institute Tampa Bay District.

The organization was formed in 2007 to follow through on the success of Reality Check, a day-long event at the Tampa Convention Center where citizens from across the region came together to vision for the future of Tampa Bay. Since Reality Check the organization has engaged in a series of public input events and presentations engaging over 6000 citizens across the seven counties in the region.

To gather further input, in June 2009, ONE BAY commissioned Mason Dixon Polling to complete a telephonic quantitative survey of 1,100 adult residents of the seven-county Tampa Bay region. Findings of this phone survey included:

• Residents soundly reject “business as usual” when it comes to future growth in the region. A plurality of residents support a scenario for future growth that focuses on protecting water resources, followed by one that emphasizes compact design along transportation corridors to preserve open space.

• Employment, Public Education, Water Availability and Transportation Issues (Traffic or Mass Transit) are considered to be the Tampa Bay region’s most important issues that need to be addressed over the long-term.

• There was strong agreement among local residents that local planners should plan future growth to minimize water demand (89%), that they should give higher priority to protecting water resources than protecting open space (85%), that they should plan future growth around planned communities in order to maximize the amount of protected open space (81%) and that they should try to reduce automobile trips by enhancing rail and bus transit options throughout the Tampa Bay region (80%).

Preliminary Recommendations for Implementing the One Bay Regional Vision

• Promote transit and transit-oriented development
• Encourage compact and mixed-use development
• Encourage preservation of open space and agricultural land
• Support increased diversity in residential housing options for families and individuals
• Support environmentally sustainable growth and protection of water resources
• Promote economic development through sustainable job creation
• When looking at a combination of “high importance” and “medium importance,” Locating Businesses and Jobs Close to Where Employees Live (85%), Addressing Local Environmental Issues (84%), and Providing a Vision for Land Use Patterns within the Region (84%) also scored high.

This survey of 1,100 adult residents of Hillsborough, Pinellas, Pasco, Polk, Hernando, Manatee and Sarasota counties was conducted by telephone from June 1 through June 5, 2009 by Mason-Dixon Polling and Research, Inc. of Washington, DC. The margin of error is plus or minus 3 percentage points.

ONE BAY is utilizing all sources of citizen input to draft a ONE BAY Scenario and Recommendations for the region to embrace smarter growth principles. These recommendations, along with implementing strategies are currently being developed and reviewed with key stakeholders. ONE BAY seeks to recognize efforts already in progress as well as identify the next steps needed to reach the region’s ultimate vision. ONE BAY will be hosting an implementation summit on February 26, 2010.

The Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council was the recipient of the Chair’s Cup for Excellence in Regionalism for their efforts on the One Bay regional visioning effort. The award is presented annually by the Tampa Bay Partnership.
Florida Business Disaster Survival Kit
Visit www.fldisasterkit.org!

The web site not only provides guidance on how businesses can survive a hurricane but all types of other disasters – natural and man-made - as well. The site now offers an online tool you can use to develop a business continuity plan (BCP). Similar to applications such as TurboTax®, the Florida BCP Wizard® asks a series of step-by-step questions and generates a detailed report that a business can use to draft their own BCP plan. It takes some time, but it’s relatively quick, easy and painless!

Not ready to commit the time to develop a plan yet? Then take 10 minutes at lunch to visit our online Pirate Bay Theme Park and play a game designed to be both fun and educational! The Pirate Bay Survival Game®

Oh yes, the web site, BCP Guidebook and Employee Guidebook are also available in Spanish!

For more information, go online or contact Betti Johnson at betti@tbrpc.org.
The Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council hosted a Workshop on Senate Bill 360 on August 25, 2009 at the Quorum Hotel in Tampa. The workshop included a distinguished panel of invited speakers who shared their views and answered questions related to the newly enacted legislation.

Plant City Commissioner Bill Dodson, TBRPC Chair, welcomed the nearly 200 workshop participants with his opening comments. State Representative Rich Glorioso then addressed the audience and introduced the panel.

The panel participants included Department of Community Affairs Secretary Tom Pelham, the Nature Conservancy Legal Counsel Janet Bowman, TBRPC General Counsel Don Conn of the Pennington Law Firm, land use attorney Ron Weaver of Stearns Weaver, and lobbyist Louis Rotundo of Rotundo and Associates. Each panelist shared their view on Senate Bill 360 with a brief presentation. The panelists then participated in a question-and-answer session with the audience. The workshop participants were given the opportunity ask the panelists questions directly and to submit written questions for discussion.

Please visit www.tbrpc.org for a full report on the SB360 Workshop.
This year 44 applications were received for the 17th Annual Future of the Region Awards Program. The Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council (TBRPC) sponsors this awards program each year to provide recognition for outstanding achievement and contributions which benefit the regional community. The competition is open to individual, private and public sectors. Awards are presented in the following categories: Community Service, Cultural/Sports/Recreation, Development, Environment, Infrastructure, and Public Education. All winners are chosen by an independent awards jury.

In addition to the individual category winners, an overall winner is chosen from the entire field of applicants. The Charles A. McIntosh, Jr. Award of Distinction (The McIntosh) is presented to the entry which touches each of the categories, provides excellence in the region, and exhibits distinction in regional visioning. This is the highest honor of the annual program. This year’s winner was the USF Research Park of Tampa Bay.

In 2003 an award for an individual was added to the competition. The Herman Goldner Award for Regional Leadership is presented to an individual who exemplifies the spirit of regional cooperation, dedication to his/her community and notable achievement in encouraging future vision. This year’s winner is Dr. Judy Genshaft, President of the University of South Florida. She was chosen based on her notable achievements within the Tampa Bay region and beyond.

The following are the First Place recipients in each category:

**COMMUNITY SERVICE CATEGORY**
Pinellas County MPO Livable Communities Initiative-Pinellas County Planning Department

**CULTURAL/SPORTS/RECREATION CATEGORY**
Pinellas County Countywide Historical & Cultural Resources Study-Pinellas County Planning Department

**DEVELOPMENT CATEGORY**
Port of Tampa Container Terminal-Tampa Port Authority

**INFRASTRUCTURE CATEGORY**
BEACHWALK-Clearwater Beach, City of Clearwater

**ENVIRONMENT CATEGORY**
Robinson Preserve Restoration Project-Manatee County Board of County Commissioners and SWFWMD

**PUBLIC EDUCATION CATEGORY**
Hillsborough MPO Transit Study-Renaissance Planning Group

See page 24 for information on the 18th Annual Future of the Region Awards.
TBRPC Chair Commissioner Bill Dodson and Executive Director Manny Pumariega present USF President, Dr. Judy Genshaft, with the Herman W. Goldner Award for Regional Leadership.

TBRPC Vice Chair Commissioner Jack Mariano (Pasco County) and Secretary/Treasurer Jill Collins (Hillsborough County Gubernatorial Appointee)

Commissioner Bill Dodson presents the Charles A. McIntosh Award of Distinction to USF Research Park of Tampa Bay.

Mistress of Ceremonies and former TBRPC Chair, Barbara Sheen Todd, and Commissioner Bill Dodson
The fifth Tampa Bay Area Scientific Information Symposium was held October 20 - 24, 2009 at the Holiday Inn Sunspree Resort in south St. Petersburg. The theme was: “Using Our Knowledge to Shape Our Future.” Over 50 presenters, covering myriad topics over its width and breadth, provided a reminder that the Bay is still a fascinating topic and that there remains much we do not know about it. More than 160 people learned about research into everything:

- from benthic invertebrates (tiny insect-like and worm-like creatures that crawl in the mud) to manatees, to shorebirds;
- from new information on the light requirements of seagrasses to the value of tidal creeks in the Bay's ecological balance, to improved habitat restoration techniques;
- the Bay's geology to the expected ramifications of climate change and sea level rise on our ecological systems; and
- from Tampa Bay’s native people to the use of three dimensional imagery to monitor vegetation in native and restored habitats.

It was a very full three and one-half days, organized by the Tampa Bay Estuary Program and the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council with the help of a skilled steering committee. The presentations of the first BASIS, held in 1982, were recalled and it was amazing to realize how far our understanding of Bay systems has come, while at the same time recognizing that we have as many questions now as we did back then. The research tools available have been greatly refined and improved, making it possible, for example, to break pollutants down to the atomic/isotopic level, fairly inexpensively, in order to determine their exact origin.

Another welcome find at the symposium was the wealth of young scientists in the region who are learning from their “elders” and preparing to take over the reigns of Tampa Bay research and management. They gained a deeper understanding for what has been accomplished thus far and the challenges that lie ahead. They learned that there are still plenty of questions about the Bay for them to answer.

A celebration marking the 75th Anniversary of the opening of the Courtney Campbell Causeway and the unveiling of the newly re-installed historical marker for the Courtney Campbell Parkway was held Thursday, June 25, 2009.

The event was hosted by the Courtney Campbell Causeway Corridor Advisory Committee, a partnership of the cities of Clearwater and Tampa, the counties of Pinellas and Hillsborough, the Florida Department of Transportation - District 7 and the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council.

The Rededication Ceremony for the original Courtney Campbell marker provided the occasion to celebrate the improvements and vision for this key corridor linking Pinellas and Hillsborough counties and the cities of Tampa and Clearwater.
This beautiful highway received the Florida Department of Transportation’s official designation as a “Florida Scenic Highway” on May 23, 2005, after years of collaboration by local leaders from government, the private sector and non-profit groups all seeking to maximize the potential of this key connection in the Tampa Bay area, which is enjoyed by tens of thousands of residents and visitors.

HISTORY:
The Courtney Campbell Causeway is a unique engineering endeavor started in the late 1920s by Captain Ben T. Davis. Although the Gandy Bridge had been built between St. Petersburg and Tampa there was no direct connection between Clearwater and Tampa. In 1927 Davis, a dredging contractor, explored ways to shorten the journey between Clearwater and Tampa. He obtained a franchise for the bridge and then started pumping sand for the causeway. He built the bridge in his spare time; when he didn't have any other dredging work to do, he'd go out and dredge up more of the causeway. It was slow going.

Captain Davis started the project in 1927, but it was brought to a standstill by the real estate depression. It was finally completed and opened on January 28, 1934, shortening the distance from Clearwater to Tampa by 10 miles. It cost $900,000 to build and opened as a private toll road charging 25 cents for a car and driver and five cents for each additional passenger. A special round trip rate of 50 cents applied to a car-full of passengers. The Davis Causeway was the longest over-water fill across an open body of water in the country.

In 1944 the federal government seized ownership as part of the war effort. They paid $1,085,861 and transferred control to the State of Florida. In 1948 the Road Department renamed the road in honor of its Florida Road Board member, Courtney W. Campbell, who was later a U.S. Congressman. The recognition came because of his work effecting major repairs and beautification. Campbell is remembered for the state’s widespread and much copied wayside park system.

INTERESTING TIDBITS
• During the Civil War the Confederate saltworks were located on the east end of where the Courtney Campbell now exists. With refrigeration almost unknown at the time, salt was used as a key preservative of meat.
• The title of captain from Captain Ben T. Davis came from his days as a steamboat captain.
• As a teenager Captain Davis was an American pioneer driving herds of cattle along the Chisholm Trail to Oregon.
• For a time the Davis family lived above the tollhouse on the causeway in an apartment.
• There was no speed limit when the causeway opened.
• The causeway is 9.9 miles long.
• Over 50,000 vehicle trips across the Causeway occur daily.
During 2009 the Agency served the Regional Planning Council as well as local, state and federal government-level authorities by vetting issues of concern. Some of the more important items considered by the Agency were:

- Proposed construction of two new berths at the Port of Tampa, requiring significant dredging and filling of shallow water habitat.
- State-proposed changes to the monitoring requirements associated with stormwater/non-point source permits, which would have significant repercussions on local government fiscal resources and the data-gathering efforts in Tampa Bay, as well as debatable improvements in water quality.
- US Army Corps of Engineers’ proposed widening of Tampa Bay Ship Channel Cut B and impacts to benthic communities and Bay circulation.
- 2009 Legislative initiatives of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission related to Tampa Bay.
- West Central Florida Area contingency planning regarding oil and hazardous substance releases.
- Recreational boat launch facility activities around the Bay.
- Proposed vessel mooring facility in the City of Gulfport.
- Tampa Bay National Wildlife Refuges Comprehensive Plan and Environmental Assessment.
- Proposed Uzita Heritage Park, southwest Hillsborough County.
- Proposed multi-modal center in southern Hillsborough County.
- Reclaimed water use planning in Pasco County.
- Port Manatee Master Plan update.
- Biodiesel production from algae.
- Oil & gas drilling in the eastern Gulf of Mexico.

Several habitat or water quality restoration efforts are in various stages of planning, construction around Tampa Bay. Among the most significant are:

- Terra Ceia Preserve, a 1,988-acre area in western Manatee County, being undertaken by FDEP and SWFWMD;
- The 2,500-acre “Rock Ponds” site in southwestern Hillsborough County, being undertaken by SWFWMD and Hillsborough County; and
- Mangrove and tidal creek habitat in the area of Feather Sound, northeastern Pinellas County to improve water quality for seagrass recovery, being undertaken by the Tampa Bay Estuary Program and partners.
BAY SOUNDINGS

The Council’s environmental journal completed six years of quarterly publication and began its seventh with the same enthusiasm that has been present since its inception. Funding partners this year included the Tampa Bay Estuary Program, the Southwest Florida Water Management District and its Alafia River, Hillsborough River, Pinellas-Anclote River, Northwest Hillsborough and Manasota Basin Boards, District Seven of the Florida Department of Transportation, and the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council.

Topics covered in Bay Soundings during the 2009 year included: The State of the Fisheries; the One Bay regional initiative; Water Conservation innovations; Birding in the Bay Area; Fertilizer Ordinances; Backbay Adventures; Seagrasses in Tampa Bay; Links between Manatee and Pinellas counties; Weedon Island Preserve; the Business of the Bay - planning at the Ports; the transformation of the abandoned and environmentally-dangerous Piney Point fertilizer plant site into an industrial park; and Port Dolphin - the natural gas deepwater port planned 28 miles off the Manatee County coastline. The diversity of topics kept the editors hopping, and interspersed commentary from others kept things extra interesting.

The journal’s website - www.baysoundings.com - was updated and expanded coverage of some of the topics in each printed issue was added.

Additionally, during the year we conducted a survey of readers to gauge Bay Soundings’s effectiveness.

While the number of respondents was low, the ratings were high! Seventy-six percent rated the overall quality of the publication as excellent; 62% rated the variety of story content as excellent; and 77% said they liked the Backbay Adventures sections best while 65% said Science stories were the best. The overwhelming comment on the purpose of Bay Soundings was - to inform people about the Bay, raise awareness about environmental issues and encourage participation in activities related to the Bay and the region’s natural resources.

We look forward to another exciting year. The first issue of 2010 - Winter - will feature shark species in Tampa Bay, their value in the ecosystem, and the current research about them; and invasive species and their effect on our natives flora and fauna. Bay Soundings remains free to readers. Some 30,000 copies of each quarterly issue are distributed through major and local outlets throughout the region. Check it out!
PLANNING FOR RECOVERY

Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council is continuing to work with Pinellas County to update the Post Disaster Redevelopment Plan as well as their Disaster Housing Plan. This effort will update existing plans and procedures and take a comprehensive look at the strategies needed for Pinellas County to “come back” from a devastating disaster.

It is important that we learn from other recent catastrophes in Mississippi, Louisiana, Texas and California. We need to assure our residents that we will rebuild and be stronger and more resilient as a community – economically, physically and socially.

Recovery Obstacles in the aftermath of a disaster

• Lack of (affordable) housing continues to be the number one challenge in long term recovery. The loss of housing, jobs and opportunities can lead to a vicious downward spiral unless strategies are in place to mitigate the impacts.

• Louisiana’s broken healthcare system illustrates the need to focus on this critical sector in our communities in terms of both mitigation and recovery strategies.

• Rebuilding the region’s economy and providing good jobs is key to retaining our residents after a disaster.

• Cutting bureaucratic red tape while building back stronger and accomplishing the goals of the community vision are the prime goals of the Post Disaster Redevelopment Plans (PDRP). Pinellas County and the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council is working with the State of Florida and surrounding counties to ensure consistency and compatibility throughout the area.

HOST COMMUNITY PLANNING

When a major disaster strikes somewhere else along the Gulf Coast the region may be asked to provide host shelter for relocated survivors. The success of that initiative depends on pre-planning and strong partnerships in the region. Hillsborough County has asked the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council staff to assist in the enhancement of their existing plans and identify the capacity and “gaps” in their ability to provide the types of resources and services needed during this critical time. This plan will serve as the pilot Host Community Plan for the Tampa Bay Catastrophic Plan and will incorporate the lessons learned from Hurricane Katrina in Texas and Atlanta.

2009 HURRICANE GUIDE

For more than 20 years the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council, in partnership with the county emergency management agencies, the American Red Cross and other partners, has produced and distributed the Hurricane Survival Guide. In 2009 more than 400,000 copies of the Hurricane Survival Guides was distributed in six counties (Hernando, Pasco, Manatee, Pinellas, Hillsborough and Sarasota). The guides include detailed evacuation zone maps, shelter locations and preparedness instructions in English and Spanish. “Taking responsibility for disaster planning for your home and business is critical for all Floridians especially in Tampa Bay,” stated Manny Pumariega, Executive Director.

STATEWIDE REGIONAL EVACUATION STUDY (SRES)

In an unprecedented strategy all eleven regional evacuation studies in the state of Florida are being updated at the same time in a consistent and coordinated manner. With funding from the
legislature and the joint support of the Florida Emergency Preparedness Association (FEPA) and the Florida Regional Councils Association (FRCA), the Florida Division of Emergency Management (FDEM) is working with the Regional Planning Councils (RPCs) to develop the necessary methodologies and strategies to result in a consistent all-hazards approach. For the first time the State will be able to document a consistent and coordinated approach statewide for evacuations. In addition, our local emergency management will have new tools and strategies to facilitate evacuations which will have multi-jurisdictional impacts.

TBRPC has provided leadership in the development of the Technical Data Report and the GIS products including the new Storm Tide Atlases. “We are excited about the opportunity to share what we have learned over the years and to demonstrate what can be accomplished regionally,” stated Mr. Pumariega.

TBRPC was the first region to receive the new LIDAR topography and SLOSH model for the basin. These new decision-making tools will be developed incorporating the unprecedented statewide behavioral surveys conducted last fall and new technologies in evacuation transportation modeling. The final report will be completed in May 2010 and will be available on our website at www.tbrpc.org.

THE TAMPA BAY CATASTROPHIC PLAN: PROJECT PHOENIX

The state of Florida has contracted with TBRPC to develop a catastrophic plan for the Tampa Bay area including the nine counties within the footprint of the Regional Domestic Security Task Force (RDSTF) plus Manatee County. The plan will look at the necessary response to a Category 5 hurricane striking the region to save lives and the partnerships necessary to rebuild and recover from such a disaster. The kickoff for the Tampa Bay Catastrophic Plan will be held on January 5 – 6, 2010 and will bring together stakeholders from the federal, state and local governments as well as the private sector and volunteer and faith-based partners. For more information on this project and to register for the summit, go to www.tampabaycatplan.org.

TBRPC STUDY LOOKS AT WAYS TO MAKE THE REGION’S ECONOMY DISASTER-RESILIENT

Research shows that rebuilding the local and regional economy in the wake of a disaster is essential to an area’s overall recovery process. Economic challenges caused by disasters block the road to recovery and must be dealt with swiftly in order to restore a region’s economic vitality and quality of life. Taking a proactive approach to economic recovery by identifying challenges and solutions before a catastrophic event is much more effective than hastily trying to piece together a recovery plan after disaster strikes. With a plan in place, economic recovery can start much sooner. That’s important because the amount of time it takes to recover will often determine whether a business is able to reopen or is forced to stay closed permanently. Post-disaster business closures will hamper long-term recovery efforts because fewer jobs will be available to the region’s residents.

The Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council, through a grant from the U.S. Economic Development Administration, is examining the complex issues that go along with post-disaster economic recovery. Council staff is developing a detailed inventory of where people in the Tampa Bay area live and
By understanding how population and employment are distributed across the region and the different types of jobs that are concentrated in specific geographic areas, priority can be given to redevelopment projects that will yield the biggest return. Saving existing jobs and creating new employment will jumpstart the region’s economy and spur further economic redevelopment.

TBRPC is also simulating the economic effects of a large disaster such as a catastrophic hurricane barreling through the region. Using the Council’s econometric modeling tools the tremendous effects disaster would have on the region’s economy are measured in terms of lost jobs, damaged and destroyed property, and decreased economic output. Different scenarios are created to simulate various policy decisions and methods of economic recovery. The economic models are again utilized to determine which of the recovery scenarios would most swiftly and robustly bring the economy back to life.

Despite 88 straight hurricane seasons without a direct hit on the Tampa Bay area, we know that sooner or later disaster is inevitable. So we need to stay vigilant and plan for the worst while we hope for the best. For many that means restocking hurricane supply kits each spring in preparation for the coming hurricane season or deciding where to go if the need to evacuate arises. At TBRPC disaster planning means looking at the big picture to find solutions. The findings of this economic study will help the region’s decision makers determine what can be done currently to diminish the economic effects of any future disasters and to chart the best course for Tampa Bay’s long-term recovery after disaster strikes.

**RDSTF PLANNER**

During 2009 Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council (TBRPC) has staffed a planner position for the Regional Domestic Security Task Force (RDSTF) Region IV. The position is funded through the Florida Division of Emergency Management. The RDSTF Planner works closely with the various response agencies and personnel throughout the eight counties in the region on various projects and exercises. TBRPC has extended the RDSTF Planner position through 2010.

The primary duty of the planner is the continued implementation of the Region 4 All-Hazards Incident Management Team (AHIMT). The 36-man team is a unique group of highly trained personnel from various departments, organizations, agencies, and jurisdictions throughout the region. The AHIMT is comprised of the command and general staff elements of the incident command structure. The mission of the team is to deploy in support of response and recovery from emergency events across the region, state, and nation when activated by the Florida Department of Emergency Management (FDEM) or the RDSTF.

The RDSTF Planner has continued to improve the implementation of a training website open to all response partners, both traditional and non-traditional. The website supports the region by providing easy access to homeland security and domestic preparedness resources. The website can be found at [http://www.tbrpc.org/rdstf/training_calendar.shtml](http://www.tbrpc.org/rdstf/training_calendar.shtml).

**REGIONAL COLLABORATION**

Responsibilities of the RDSTF IV planner position include the development and continued growth of regional collaboration throughout all county, state, and federal organizations that support Region IV’s preparedness posture. This is grown through continued representation in committees such as the Regional Critical Infrastructure Protection and Key Resources Subcommittee, United States Coast Guard Sector St. Petersburg training and exercises, Regional Training and Exercise Subcommittee, and the National All Hazards Incident Management Consortium.

**FACILITY DISASTER PLANNING TEAM**

The Facility Disaster Planning Team (FDPT) met several times during the year to further efforts...
designed to bolster the hazardous materials information and resources available on the LEPC and Florida Business Disaster Survival Kit websites (i.e. www.tbrpc.org/lepc and www.fldisasterkit.com, respectively). Select FDPT members have additionally been conducting an informal poll of company representatives who have received prior training from the Subcommittee in order to determine what practical lessons have been obtained from past workshops and what improvements and practical steps they took to minimize exposures to and risks of their hazardous materials from future area wide disasters. The inputs received from these businesses will be compiled and can/ will be used to guide and/or determine future training needs. Once compiled, the information will be made available to past workshop participants as well as other businesses accessing the Florida Disaster Survival Kit.

Past Subcommittee achievements have not gone unnoticed. Florida Department of Emergency Management staff has recently solicited an article highlighting the prior FDPT accomplishments. It is anticipated the article will be included in the State Emergency Response Commission 2009 Annual Report. This would certainly spotlight the achievements of this Subcommittee and LEPC District 8 as a whole.

**HMEP PLANNING TEAM**

The HMEP Planning Team continues to conduct numerous Ammonia Siren Workshops and companion Shelter-in-Place presentations at the request of various schools, community groups and/or civic associations located within or in close proximity of the Port of Tampa. Recipients of this year’s presentations included: DeSoto Elementary School and the East Ybor Civic Association.

**LEPC TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES**

Throughout 2009 the LEPC has been sponsoring training across the Region, primarily for emergency responders. Workshops conducted during 2009 included: Emergency Response to Railroad Car Incidents; Advanced Radiological Response; Chlorine Safety and Response; Hazmat IQ; Confined Space Rescue Operations; and Clandestine Drug Lab Awareness.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

A healthy economy is essential to the overall well-being of the region. The Tampa Bay area, which until recently had an abundance of job opportunities, is now struggling with double-digit unemployment rates that are higher than state and national averages. The Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council (TBRPC) is committed to improving the regional economy. TBRPC serves the region with several programs that assist local partners in industry recruitment, workforce development, and analysis of the current and future economic climate.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT**

TBRPC’s four counties have been designated an Economic Development District (EDD) since 2003. TBRPC and the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) are partners in providing this service to the region. Through its role as an EDD, TBRPC has helped several projects secure federal funding to stimulate local economic activity. Council staff is always on the lookout for new projects and funding sources to improve the region’s economic outlook.

Tampa Bay EDD maintains a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) which identifies the strengths and weaknesses of the regional economy along with economic development opportunities. The CEDS provides a list of goals, objectives, and policies to enhance the health of the region’s economy. The CEDS is required to be updated every five years, however, TBRPC keeps a 3-year update cycle to ensure the information contained in the document is timely and relevant to the current economic conditions.
ECONOMIC ANALYSIS PROGRAM

TBRPC has maintained an Economic Analysis Program (EAP) for over a decade, providing services to local government agencies, economic development organizations, universities and other research groups, as well as the private sector. TBRPC maintains economic forecasting software, such as REMI Policy Insight, Implan, Economic Development Module, and Community Fiscal Analysis Planning Tool. In the Tampa Bay area TBRPC is the exclusive provider of analysis services using these forecast models. The software is utilized to predict changes to the economy triggered by events such as a new company moving to the region, corporate downsizing, or changes to the tax rate structure. TBRPC also maintains a Regional Information Center, which includes the latest demographic and economic forecasts along with publications covering a variety of economic issues.

The TBRPC’s EAP conducted over 30 economic impact analyses during 2009. A few of the larger studies include:

- Economic impact forecast of the Tampa Bay Regional Transportation Authority (TBARTA) and Hillsborough Area Rapid Transit (HART) systems
- Economic impact analysis of Pasco County’s manufacturing industry
- Analysis of a change in the future employment mix along Hillsborough County’s I-4 Corridor
- Scenario development for Hillsborough County Emergency Management to forecast economic conditions following a major hurricane

EAP is currently working on a seven-county regional inventory and analysis of a major catastrophe to create potential damage estimates and determine the resiliency and elasticity of the Tampa Bay economy.

DECISION SUPPORT GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEM

Over the past 10 years the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council has developed a Decision Support Geographic Information System (DS-GIS) that gives users a tool to model a variety of planning scenarios and visualize how each scenario will affect local areas and the region as a whole. The capabilities developed support and enhance the domestic security, natural hazards, and general planning efforts of the TBRPC and the Tampa Bay Region.

The DS-GIS has been used recently to develop future growth scenarios for the One Bay regional visioning project. The DS-GIS showed how land use patterns would look across the region in 2050 if the current development trend is followed. Other alternative scenarios were created to show how changes in policy and development type might affect the look of the region in 40-plus years.

TBRPC is the lead agency on GIS coordination for the State of Florida Regional Evacuation Study. Not only has TBRPC given direction to the formatting and processing of the data, it has developed the GIS tool that is used in the creation of surge zones for every RPC in the state. This directly leads to the delineation of Evacuation Zones by each county.

Other projects that have utilized the DS-GIS include disaster resiliency studies, regional evacuation studies, and numerous economic analysis projects.
AUDIENCE RESPONSE SYSTEM

Over the course of the past year TBRPC has provided technical assistance to many local governments in numerous ways. Currently a popular service is the audience response system (ARS) that enables meetings to become interactive and provides instant feedback to the facilitator. Recent projects include Earth Day 2009 for SCOPE, a workshop for Sarasota EDC, a summit for Peace River / Manasota Regional Water Supply Authority, a Pinellas Transit and Land Use Workshop and the One Bay Technical Team efforts.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMPREHENSIVE PLANS

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INTERGOVERNMENTAL COORDINATION & REVIEW

Reviewed and issued recommendations on 105 projects through the Intergovernmental Coordination and Review (IC&R) process, of which 12 were determined to be regionally significant.
Five new Developments of Regional Impact were introduced into the review process during 2009. All of these proposals are located within Manatee County. Keeping in mind that the applications for development approval have yet to be submitted for any of these proposals, the initial project descriptions are as follows:

**Parrish Lakes** - FLM, Inc. will be proposing a multi-phase project consisting of 3,300 residential units, 400,000 sq. ft. of retail space and 50,000 sq. ft. of office uses. The planned 1,155+ acre project, with an anticipated buildout date of 2030, is located south of Moccasin Wallow Road, north of Erie Road and less than one mile east of Interstate 75, in northern Manatee County. The project’s northern boundary is approximately three miles south of the Hillsborough County line. The project is identified as “269” on the map.

**Four Corners Mine Addition Substantial Deviation** - Mosaic Fertilizer, LLC will be seeking a 272+ acre expansion of mining operations at their Four Corners Mine site, as well as several development order modifications including those pertaining to management requirements for the federally-endangered Florida Scrub Jay. The mine is located north of S.R. 62 and uniquely situated in extreme northeastern Manatee County, abutting Hillsborough, Polk and Hardee counties. Designated as “270” on the map, the overall site encompasses nearly 12,000 acres.

**Mosaic/Texaco Tract** - Mosaic Fertilizer, LLC will be seeking initial approval to mine approximately 4,350 acres in east-central Manatee County between the Mosaic’s existing Southeast Tract Mine and Wingate Creek Mine DRIs. The mine site, identified as “272” on the map, is traversed by Duette Road. It is anticipated that mining of the site would occur over a 34+ year period following approval of the development order.

**Wingate Creek Mine Substantial Deviation** - Mosaic Fertilizer, LLC will be seeking substantial deviation development order approval to mine 717 more acres within the existing 3,029-acre mine site. These additional acres were previously approved for “disturbance only.” The applicant will also be requesting an extension of mine life by 30+ years, in addition to other changes. The project, classified as “273” on the Map, is located in eastern Manatee County, approximately two miles west of the Hardee County line.
Do you have a project or program that exemplifies regionalism?

The Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council is sponsoring the 18th Annual Future of the Region Awards program to provide recognition for outstanding achievement and contribution which benefit the regional community.

The Awards Luncheon will take place Friday, March 19, 2010, 11:45 a.m. at the Quorum Hotel, 700 North Westshore Blvd., Tampa, FL 33609.

For more information on eligibility and to download submission forms visit www.tbrpc.org or contact Ms. Wren Krahl, Director of Administration/Public Information, wren@tbrpc.org, (727) 570-5151 x22.

CALL FOR ENTRIES

SUBMISSIONS DEADLINE: Friday, January 8, 2010
The TBRPC website provides information which is easy to navigate and accessible to our internet visitors. On our website you will be able to view the history of the Council, a listing of our member governments and their representatives, along with links to their websites, and learn about our programs and upcoming events.

The website includes information about Council committees including their activities and agendas for various meetings. The website also serves as an archive for past Council meetings. Visitors are able to access minutes from past monthly Council meetings and sign up to receive upcoming agendas. Under Council Members & Committees visitors have access to Council presentations from guest speakers on a wide variety of topics. There is also a Resource Center which provides publications, grant information, workshop and seminar recaps, and links to other regional planning resources.

**Visit the site today!**

Staff Contact: Wren Krah, Director of Administration & Public Information, wren@tbrpc.org or (727) 570-5151, ext. 22.

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**Do you need a speaker or informative presentation for your next community or business organizations meeting?**

The Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council staff is available to provide a presentation on various regional topics at your next community or business organizations meeting. Our most requested presentation is a general overview of the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council’s activities and programs. This presentation includes a 15 minute DVD with Q&A to follow. Audio visual capabilities are not required by the host facility. Upon request, Council staff will provide all the equipment needed for the presentation.

Contact Wren Krah, Director of Administration & Public Information, to schedule a presentation: wren@tbrpc.org or (727) 570-5151, ext. 22.
Tampa Bay is getting better... YOU CAN HELP!

Reel in your tarpon tag today and help keep Tampa Bay on the road to recovery. Please request a Tampa Bay Estuary license tag the next time you renew your auto registration. Be a part of an environment success story - the restoration of Florida’s largest open-water estuary. When it comes time to renew your car, motor home or boat trailer license plate, or even before, choose the Tampa Bay Estuary specialty plate. You will be contributing directly to projects that restore Tampa Bay’s natural habitats and improve water quality - ensuring the survival of inhabitants like the spectacular Silver King Tarpon that’s pictured on the plate.

Tarpon illustration by Russ Sirmons
STOCKINGS FILLED WITH HOLIDAY CHEER

Council Staff Support Help A Child

Santa’s elves were hard at work at the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council (TBRPC) this year. The Council staff decided once again to do a holiday stocking project for our neighbors and tenants, Help A Child (HAC).

Each stocking was decorated by a creative TBRPC staff member. A vacant office was set up as a craft area and throughout the month of November staff voluntarily spent their lunch hour creating festive stockings for 30 children. Themes for the decorated stockings ranged from a traditional holiday look to rockets and spaceships, the jungle and sea life.

Council staff also donated dollars to purchase stocking stuffers. Several shopping trips were made to stock up on items to put in the stockings including candy canes, boxes of chocolates, pencils, yoyo’s and games. The stockings were filled with age appropriate items. Stockings were provided for infants, preschool children, elementary children, middle-school students and high school students.

Special thanks goes to Suzanne Cooper, our own Principal Planner, who donated the materials for the stockings and, most importantly, her time by sewing all 30 stockings. Florida Blood Services also donated items for the stockings. And, we would also like to thank our friends and colleagues at the Tampa Bay Estuary Program who learned of the project and personally contributed dollars to provide items for the stockings.

The stockings were used in Help A Child’s Santa’s Toy Shop. Parents who receive services for their children through HAC had the opportunity to come in and select gifts for their child/children. The parents then had the pleasure and dignity of providing the gift to their child on Christmas morning. For more information about Help A Child visit www.helpachild.org. Help A Child is a division of Suncoast Center, Inc.

TBRPC Elves a.k.a. Erika Wiker and Wren Krahl (left) and Suzanne Cooper and Jessica Lunsford (Right) enjoy their lunch hour creating the stockings for Help A Child.

Creations by TBRPC Elf, Lori Denman.
THE ANNUAL BUDGET

The Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council’s Executive/Budget Committee provided for more than $2,592,269 financing toward the regional programs featured in this annual report. The $2,592,269 in revenues was derived from federal (8.92%), state (11.71%) and local (79.39%) sources. Staff worked closely with the Executive/Budget Committee during the 2009 fiscal year.

The administrative staff is responsible for the overall operations of the Council’s office facility. These responsibilities include, but are not limited to: board operations, inner office procedures and policies, records management, human resources for Council staff, the Annual Future of the Region Awards and public information. Administration continues to emphasize staff development and encourages each staff member to attend local workshops in the area of his or her expertise.

Is the cost of commuting starting to get you down? Is it starting to negatively impact your employees? What can you do to help?

Think Telework!

Allowing your employees to work one or more days per week from home can significantly reduce the cost of commuting for the employee, and at the same time increase productivity, improve employee retention and recruitment, improve morale, and help your company do its part in reducing fuel consumption, congestion and pollution.

To learn more about telework and how it can work for you; visit www.teleworktampabay.org or contact Jessica Lunsford at 727/570-5151 ext. 38 for a free copy of the Telework Tampa Bay Implementation Guide.

www.teleworktampabay.org

Telework Tampa Bay is a program of the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council, Bay Area Commuter Services and the Florida Department of Transportation.
Meet the Officers

COMMISSIONER BILL DODSON, CHAIR
CITY OF PLANT CITY, FLORIDA

Commissioner Dodson has served the City of Plant City since 2002; he has been with the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council since his election to the Plant City Commission. He also serves as Chair of the Council’s Executive/Budget Committee, he is a member of the Legislative Committee and he serves on the Florida Regional Council’s Association Policy Board as well. He is Senior Vice President for Florida Brick and Clay Company, Inc. He has received numerous honors including the Chamber of Commerce Leadership Award and the Florida Lions Foundation’s Grand Lion Life Member Award. Commissioner Dodson is a board member for the Plant City Community Redevelopment Agency, the Hillsborough County Council of Government and the Tampa Bay Convention and Visitor’s Bureau.

COMMISSIONER JACK MARIANO, VICE CHAIR
PASCO COUNTY, FLORIDA

Commissioner Mariano has served on the Pasco County Board of County Commissioners since 2004; he has been with the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council since 2006. He currently serves as Chair of the Council’s Clearinghouse Review Committee, Vice-Chair of the Executive/Budget Committee and he is a member of the Legislative Committee. Commissioner Mariano is past Chair of the Pasco Metropolitan Planning Organization and past Chair of the Pasco County Tourist Development Council. He is currently a board member for the Richey Suncoast Theatre and the West Pasco Habitat for Humanity. Commissioner Mariano is the recipient of many honors which include the Outstanding Government Service Award from the West Pasco Board of Realtors and Kiwanian of the Year.

JILL COLLINS, SECRETARY/TREASURER
HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY, FLORIDA

Ms. Collins is a gubernatorial appointee from Hillsborough County. Ms. Collins was first appointed to the TBRPC by Governor Jeb Bush in 2000; she was reappointed by Governor Charlie Crist.

Currently, Ms. Collins serves on the Council’s Executive/Budget Committee; the Legislative Committee and the Florida Regional Council’s Policy Board. She also serves on the National Association of Regional Council’s Policy Board, the Citizen’s Advisory Board for the Hillsborough County Metropolitan Planning Organization and the Hillsborough County Transportation Task Force. Ms. Collins is a graduate of Eckerd College in St. Petersburg, Florida and holds a Florida Real Estate Salesperson License.
Staff

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Avera Wynne, Planning Director
Wren Krahl, Director of Administration/Public Information/Editor

Ext. 17 Manny Pumariega Executive Director
30 Avera Wynne Planning Director
22 Wren Krahl Director of Administration/Public Information
19 John Jacobson Accounting Manager
11 Marshall Flynn Information Systems Manager, GIS
32 Suzanne Cooper Principal Planner, ABM (Environmental)
17 Lori Denman Administrative Assistant
26 Nancy Harrison Accountant
15 Frank Hughes Accounting Assistant
10 Bobbi Jaroy Planning Secretary
39 Betti Johnson Principal Planner, Emergency Management (Hurricane)
28 Richard Kephart Senior Planner (Military Duty)
29 John Meyer Principal Planner, DRI Coordinator, LEPC Sara III-Haz. Mat.
18 Greg Miller Senior Planner, GIS/Transportation
31 Patrick O’Neil Senior Planner, Economic Development/Analysis
42 Brady Smith Senior Planner, GIS/Economic Development/Emergency Management
38 Jessica Lunsford Senior Planner, LGCP, Telework Tampa Bay
21 Erika Wiker Planner, Regional Domestic Security Task Force
14 Sue Young Planning Secretary

Credits

The Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council extends gratitude to the following for their contributions to the 2009 Visions Annual Report: Photo cover courtesy of Urban Advantage.