



TBARTA Reaches Out to Community Groups and Elected Officials

For Immediate Release

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TAMPA, FLORIDA, FEBRUARY 14, 2008 – With a goal of reaching out to at least 250 organizations in its seven-county region during 2008, the Tampa Bay Area Regional Transportation Authority (TBARTA) has announced its first phase of public outreach and elected officials' presentations. Several presentations to community groups have already taken place including Hernando Progress, Pasco Democratic Executive Committee, NAACP of St. Petersburg, Wesley Chapel Republican Club, St. Petersburg City Council, Pasco County Board of County Commissioners, and the Sierra Club Suncoast Group.

To date, the following presentations have been scheduled:

Citrus County:

Citrus County Board of County Commissioners – Mar. 11, 2008
Citrus County Economic Development Council – Mar. 13, 2008

Hernando County:

Hernando County School Board – Feb. 21, 2008
Hernando County Board of County Commissioners – Feb. 26, 2008
Rotary Club of Brooksville – Mar. 4, 2008
Hernando MPO's Citizens Advisory Committee – Apr. 1, 2008

Hillsborough County:

Hillsborough County Alliance for Citizens with Disabilities – Feb. 27, 2007
12th Annual Downtown Development Forum, Tampa Downtown Partnership – Feb. 29, 2008
Hillsborough County Board of County Commissioners – Mar. 5, 2008
Hillsborough MPO's Citizens Advisory Committee – Mar. 12, 2008
Tampa City Council – Mar. 27, 2008
Hillsborough MPO Board Meeting – Apr. 1, 2008 (*tentative*)

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Manatee County:

South Tampa Bay Area Transportation Partnerships – Feb. 21, 2008

Parrish Civic Association – Mar. 4, 2008

Bradenton City Council Workshop – Mar. 5, 2008

Manatee County Council of Governments – Mar. 19, 2008

Manatee County Economic Development Council – Mar. 20, 2008

Pasco County:

Pasco County School Board – Feb. 19, 2008

Pasco MPO's Citizens Advisory Committee – Mar. 5, 2008

Pasco MPO Board Meeting – Mar. 13, 2008

Pinellas County:

Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners – Feb. 26, 2008

Pinellas MPO's Citizens Advisory Committee – Feb. 28, 2008

Pinellas MPO Board Meeting – Apr. 9, 2008

Pinellas Planning Council – Apr. 16, 2008

Sarasota County:

Sarasota City Commission – Mar. 3, 2008

Sarasota Board of County Commissioners – Mar. 19, 2008

Regional:

Tampa Bay Applications Group (TBAG) – Feb. 21, 2008

Joint-Citizens Advisory Committee for the MPO Chairs Coordinating Committee – Mar. 4, 2008

Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council – Mar. 10, 2008

Tampa Bay Trends Conference (Urban Land Institute) – Mar. 12, 2008

Manasota League of Cities – Mar. 13, 2008

MPO Chairs Coordinating Committee – Mar. 14, 2008

Semi-Annual Utility Liaison Conference – Apr. 4, 2008

Sarasota/Manatee MPO Board Meeting – Apr. 28, 2008

“Reaching out to the organizations and elected officials that make up the seven counties TBARTA represents is vital to achieving the goal of the Master Plan, which is to engage the public in developing a vision for regional integration of transportation systems and foster partnerships with government agencies and business entities,” said Shelton Quarles, TBARTA Chairman. “These scheduled presentations are just the

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beginning of what will be a major public outreach and education program that is instrumental during the master planning process.”

For those civic or community groups who would like to request a TBARTA presentation, simply go to www.TBARTA.com and click on the “Request a Presentation From Us” link, or call the Infoline at (813) 217-4048.

In addition to these presentations, seven Community Workshops will be held throughout the region during the month of March. The presentations and workshops will focus on significant “connections” in the region, areas where the majority of people are currently traveling back and forth. In each of a dozen connections, workshop participants will be asked to consider possible locations for transportation improvements. For example, I-75 today carries a significant amount of regional traffic between Sarasota, Manatee, Hillsborough and Pasco Counties, and sometimes breakdowns occur. Other parallel corridors in this connection include US 41, US 301, and a rail corridor owned by CSX Corporation. Would any of these four corridors be a good location for a major transportation project to carry regional trips? To find a Community Workshop near you, visit www.TBARTA.com.

The Tampa Bay Area Regional Transportation Authority was created by the Florida Legislature in 2007 to plan and develop a multimodal transportation system that will connect the seven counties of the Tampa Bay region. These counties include Citrus, Hernando, Pasco, Hillsborough, Pinellas, Manatee and Sarasota. TBARTA's mission is to improve mobility and expand multimodal transportation options for passengers and freight throughout the seven-county region. The legislature has mandated that TBARTA must create a Regional Transportation Master Plan for the Tampa Bay region by July 2009. The goal of this Master Plan is to engage the public in developing a vision for regional integration of transportation systems and foster partnerships with government agencies and business entities.

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