

TAMPA BAY AREA REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY

RESOLUTION NO. 2019-05

**A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING
THE MPO REGIONAL COORDINATION
AND BEST PRACTICES STUDY
FINAL REPORT**

WHEREAS, the Tampa Bay Area Regional Transit Authority (“TBARTA”) is an agency of the State of Florida created to plan, implement, develop, finance, construct, own, operate, maintain and manage multimodal systems in Hernando, Hillsborough, Manatee, Pasco, and Pinellas Counties; and

WHEREAS, TBARTA’s purpose is to improve mobility and expand multimodal transportation options for passengers and freight throughout its five-county region; and

WHEREAS, to achieve its purpose, TBARTA regularly coordinates with multiple partners across the region, including but not limited to local transit agencies, the Florida Department of Transportation (“FDOT”) Districts 1 and 7, and the individual Metropolitan Planning Organizations (“MPOs”) of Citrus-Hernando, Pasco, Pinellas, Hillsborough, Sarasota-Manatee and Polk Counties, whom together comprise the TBARTA MPOs Chairs Coordinating Committee (“TBARTA MPOs CCC”), as well as the Transportation Management Area (“TMA”) Leadership Group, whose membership includes the MPOs of Pinellas, Pasco and Hillsborough; and

WHEREAS, as described in its enabling statute, TBARTA provides administrative support and direction to the TBARTA MPOs CCC, whose main purposes include developing coordination mechanisms with one another to expand and improve transportation, and reviewing all proposed regionally significant transportation projects that affect more than one of its eight counties; and

WHEREAS, on June 27, 2017, the Federal Highway Administration (“FHWA”) and Federal Transit Administration (“FTA”) issued a joint proposed rulemaking (hereinafter “Proposed Rule”) that would require multiple MPOs sharing an urbanized area to consider merging their Metropolitan Planning Area’s (“MPAs”), or alternatively, coordinate to prepare unified planning products where the size and complexity of the MPA justifies maintaining multiple MPOs in a single MPA; and

WHEREAS, the MPOs of Pasco, Pinellas and Hillsborough (hereinafter “Core MPOs”) sponsored a public workshop on May 12, 2017 (hereinafter “First Workshop), to develop an understanding of the desired benefits, outcomes and guiding principles of greater regional coordination between MPOs and their partners in response to the Proposed Rule, which was rescinded on the same day; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Department of Transportation, District 7, recognizing the value of greater regional coordination, funded TBARTA to manage a study that builds on the

results of the First Workshop, and develop options for improving regional coordination and responsibility between the Core MPOs, with effective mechanisms for providing consistent, relevant information to elected officials and the public, based on examination of identified peer regions and nationwide best practices; and

WHEREAS, TBARTA contracted with Stantec and the Center for Urban Transportation Research (hereinafter “Consultants”) to achieve the above objectives, as well as conduct additional public workshops to develop consensus around coordination issues and alternatives for addressing them, and ultimately recommend short-term and long-term recommendations for implementing policy and organizational modifications that improve results and achieve common goals; and

WHEREAS, on April 26, 2019, the Consultants presented the completed final report to the TBARTA Governing Board for its review and acceptance to close out the project.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the TBARTA Governing Board that:

- 1. TBARTA has received the final report and all other documentation as described in the contract with the Consultants, and has verified the thoroughness and accuracy of its completion; and**
- 2. The TBARTA Governing Board formally accepts the final report as provided by the Consultant, closing the project; and**
- 3. TBARTA shall provide electronic copies of this resolution and the final report to each MPO Board in TBARTA’s service area, as well as FDOT Districts 1 and 7, Florida Senate and House leadership, members of the Transportation, Tourism and Economic Development (TTED) committees, and members of the Bay Area Legislative Delegation (“BALD”); and**
- 4. TBARTA will continue to make the final report and all other technical project documentation available on its website.**

APPROVED AND ADOPTED by the TBARTA Governing Board on this 17th day of May 2019.

FOR THE BOARD:

ATTEST:



JIM HOLTON, Chairman



Commissioner Janet Long, Secretary-Treasurer