

TAMPA BAY AREA REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-02

**A RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT THE STUDY OF AIR TAXIS
IN THE TAMPA BAY REGION
IN COOPERATION WITH
THE HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY AVIATION AUTHORITY**

WHEREAS, the Tampa Bay Area Regional Transit Authority (“TBARTA”) is an agency of the State of Florida created to plan, 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 throughout its five-county region; and

WHEREAS, the Hillsborough County Aviation Authority is an independent special district of the State of Florida, established by the 1945 Florida Legislature with exclusive jurisdiction, control, supervision and management over all publicly owned airports in Hillsborough County; and

WHEREAS, the Special Act creating the Aviation Authority specifically addresses the importance of the county’s airports to Florida’s economic health and tourism industry, specifically stating: “The economic validity and stability of the publicly owned or operated airports in the county is a matter of statewide importance” and “The policy of this state is to promote the development of commerce and tourism to secure to the people of this state the benefits of those activities conducted in the state”; and

WHEREAS, worldwide there are more than 100 air taxi projects in development, which propose the use of electric vertical takeoff and landing (eVTOL) aircraft to provide short flights within or between urban areas to limited numbers of passengers; and

WHEREAS, TBARTA received \$1 million from the Florida Legislature to conduct a feasibility study of new innovative transit technologies and is currently undertaking such a study to examine the feasibility of hyperloop, aerial gondolas, and air taxis; and

WHEREAS, representatives from the Hillsborough County Aviation Authority have expressed interest in having Tampa International Airport be a test site for air taxis; and

WHEREAS, TBARTA regularly coordinates with multiple partners across the region to enhance regional connectivity, address issues such as congestion mitigation, and transit related infrastructure improvements and projects.

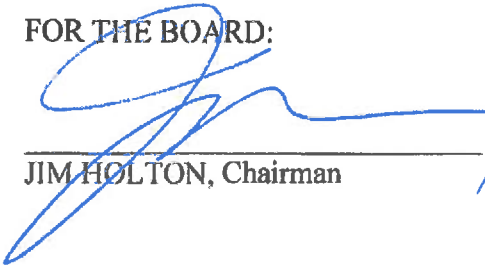
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the TBARTA Governing Board that:

TBARTA will study the feasibility of emerging technologies such as air taxis and cooperate with regional stakeholders such as the Hillsborough County Aviation Authority in their efforts to bring air taxis to the Tampa Bay region.


APPROVED AND ADOPTED by the TBARTA Governing Board on this 17th day of January 2020.

FOR THE BOARD:

ATTEST:



JIM HOLTON, Chairman



Commissioner Janet Long, Secretary-Treasurer