

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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MPO Premieres ‘A Transit System We Desire’ at Channelside Cinemas Bay Area Carpoolers & Transit Fans Gather to Watch ‘Carpoolers’

Tampa, FL, October 17, 2007 – The Hillsborough County Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) has spent the last year working with community leaders, technical experts, citizens and other stakeholders exploring the need for better public transit and how it can support sustainable communities and smart growth in Hillsborough County. Now, the MPO’s vision for ‘A Transit System We Desire’ is ready for its premiere this Tuesday, October 23rd, at 7:00 p.m. at the Channelside Cinemas Theatre 8.

Admission is free, and the public is encouraged to attend. The program for the evening includes:

7:00 p.m. Sign In & Open House

7:30 p.m. Transit Concept for 2050 with guest speakers Jack Harris, host of 970 WFLA’s ‘A.M. Tampa Bay’; City of Tampa Councilman John Dingfelder, Hillsborough Area Regional Transit Board of Directors; Hillsborough County Commissioner Mark Sharpe; Elaine McCloud, City of Tampa Transit Manager; and presentation by Executive Director Lucie Ayer, AICP, followed by Q&A.

8:30 p.m. “CARPOOLERS” BIG SCREEN VIEWING PARTY

Join Bay Area Commuter Services (**BACS**), the Tampa Downtown Partnership, the Westshore Alliance, and the New North Transportation Alliance, local carpoolers and vanpoolers as they get together to learn about future transit options then watch ABC’s new sitcom “Carpoolers” in stadium-style comfort on the huge theatre screen.

“The *MPO’s Transit Concept for 2050* gives us a platform to work with the Regional Transportation Authority (TBARTA) to make our communities’ vision a reality,” said Temple Terrace Mayor Joe Affronti, MPO Chair. “The wheels are in motion for a regional transit network that will efficiently connect Tampa, Temple Terrace, Plant City and other locations within Hillsborough County as well as to other destinations throughout West Central Florida.” Final recommendations of the **MPO Transit Study** will be considered by the MPO Board at its November 6th meeting. Additional information about the **MPO Transit Study** can be found at www.mpotransit.org.

Attendees will have the opportunity to play trivia games, win door prizes and will enjoy complimentary popcorn in the theatre and 2 slices of pizza with a soft drink for \$5 at the concession stand. The Channelside Cinemas 10 & IMAX, located at 615 Channelside Drive in Tampa, offers parking validation for the Channelside Garage for up to four hours for fifty cents.

For live audio feed arrangements or for any other special accommodations to attend or cover this event, please contact Lynn Merenda at 813.273.3774 x342 by Monday, October 22nd.



The Hillsborough County Metropolitan Planning Organization is a transportation policy board comprised of representatives from local governments and transportation agencies focusing on transportation planning and programming decisions that support the mobility needs and economic development of

Tampa, Temple Terrace, Plant City and Hillsborough County.

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