

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:



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[www.hillsboroughmpo.org](http://www.hillsboroughmpo.org)

## **Hillsborough County Citizens Map Transit Needs & Opportunities *Consolidated Transit Scenarios Workshop Results Released***

Tampa, FL, May 18, 2007 – In March, the Hillsborough County Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) invited the public to take part in transit scenarios exercises at two workshops held at the Florida State Fairgrounds. In addition, citizen groups and businesses were invited to conduct the transit scenario planning exercise at their own location. A summary of the transit scenarios workshops, the citizens' maps that were produced, and the consolidated transit scenarios map are posted on the MPO Transit Study web site, [www.mpotransit.org](http://www.mpotransit.org).



Participants created future scenarios using maps as a layout board and chips for community design types. Ribbon was then used to connect activity centers at the urban, community and neighborhood levels, to represent potential enhanced transit corridors in the near future and over the next 20 years. The maps produced were consolidated to reveal alignments among the various transit needs and opportunities in Hillsborough County. In addition, numerous ideas were generated during the scenarios exercises with regards to growth, development, economy, livability, mobility and community values. A sampling of these ideas includes:

- Curtail sprawl with more urban residential development supported by transit
- Better multi-modal accessibility to entertainment and cultural attractions

**- MORE -**

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- Urban centers in Downtown, Westshore District/ Airport, Brandon & USF Area
- Cross-county connections between existing and emerging urban centers in areas like Citrus Park, South Tampa, Plant City, NetPark, Port of Tampa & SouthShore.

“The transit scenarios maps and ideas generated echoed sentiments we heard during the Community Values Focus Groups back in November and December. People feel strongly that better transportation options would improve their quality of life,” said Temple Terrace Mayor Joe Affronti, MPO Chair. “The urban and town center development strategies not only better support mass transit, but also meet the desire for more walkable, bikable and livable communities.”

A series of meetings (listed below) to discuss Transit Needs & Opportunities are being held next week for the Leadership, Citizens/Stakeholders, and Technical Teams for review and input, before the MPO Board weighs in at its June 5<sup>th</sup> meeting. The public is welcome to attend the meetings:

#### Leadership Team

Monday, May 21<sup>st</sup>, 10 a.m.  
Tampa Port Authority Boardroom  
1101 Channelside Drive  
Tampa, FL 33602

#### Citizens/ Stakeholders Team

**Transit Open House with HART**  
Tuesday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 5 p.m. – 8 p.m.  
Loretta Ingraham Center  
(in the Westshore District)  
1161 N. Hubert Street  
Tampa, FL 33607

#### Technical Team

Thursday, May 24<sup>th</sup>, 1:30 p.m.  
Planning Commission Board Room  
County Center Building, 18<sup>th</sup> Floor  
601 East Kennedy Boulevard  
Tampa, FL 33602

All meetings are open to the public. Additional information about MPO Transit Study meetings and events can be found at [www.mpotransit.org](http://www.mpotransit.org).



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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