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Tampa Bay Transportation Management Area (TMA) Leadership Group Executive Summary

Representing the MPOs in Pasco, Pinellas, & Hillsborough Counties

Summary for 11.3.17 meeting

Based on the importance and reach of the conversations that happen at the TMA Leadership Group, we are looking to keep our stakeholders aware of the outcomes of these meetings. The following is a summary of the most recent meeting highlights; you can find the full agenda [online](#).

The TMA Leadership Group spent the majority of the meeting discussing the criteria for regional transportation priorities and how to promote those priorities throughout the region.

- The group discussed the existing regional priority list and criteria for determining priorities that are compelling and have continued support
 - Previously, staff had created the criteria for priorities, but asked for member input on the criteria as well as the priority list for the review and recommendation of regional priorities in 2018
 - The group asked staff to update the previous priority list with scores that reflected projects currently underway and in the pipeline
 - Another update requested that the specific mode on a project be left general until a final commitment was made - for instance, “service” instead of “bus” - so as to avoid getting hung up on a mode rather than the project
- The discussion then segued into a conversation about how to promote the TMA’s work and accomplishments to others
 - The group agreed that the Regional Premium Transit Feasibility Plan is a legacy project and that the group needs to throw its energy behind promoting it
 - The group also agreed that it should be more than just a TMA push - that other agencies, such as economic development and tourism, should be involved
 - Some group members expressed concern that if the community push started too early, there would be nothing concrete to promote, and it would add

confusion to an already-saturated transportation conversation

- The consensus among the group was that after a draft of the transit plan is available for public input starting in January, representatives from each county and MPO directors should come before the three county commissions to advocate for the plan
 - ┆ Some members also noted that specifics as to the cost, project phasing and other actions that may be asked of the counties in the future – specifics that will be updated at the TMA’s meeting in January – would be helpful when presenting to the commissions

Scott Pringle from Jacobs Engineering updated the group on the progress of the Regional Transit Feasibility Plan.

- After last month’s announcement of the [top performing corridors](#), the consultant is working on a draft implementation plan for public input in January
 - For the “catalyst” project that results, the project needs to balance cost with performance
- Hillsborough MPO Executive Director Beth Alden noted that the TMA Group may need to come up with some possible funding strategies in order to make the realities of the project clear
 - Others echoed that people needed to understand the options and probable costs (including capital and operating costs) for the plan to be successful

Executive directors from Hillsborough, Pasco, and Pinellas discussed the growth forecasts for 2045 scenarios in the three counties.

- Projections indicate that, by 2045, the three-county region could see growth to the size of the Dallas metro area
- Planning for transit and transit-oriented development, as well as economic sustainability, are essential heading into development for the 2045 Long Range Transportation Plans
- The next Long Range Transportation Plan will be coordinated among all three MPOs
 - The plan will include a regional element, where all three MPOs need to approve inclusions and future further additions or removals
 - Each MPO will also have a local portion of the plan, a specific local plan for each county where changes would only have to be approved at the local level
 - The directors described the idea as a “three ring binder” where sections would be added separately to create one cohesive regional plan

FDOT's Ed McKinney also presented a brief update on Tampa Bay Next.

- McKinney said the department is working on developing consensus for the issues that face the region, and in relation to the growth scenarios, said they realize that building bigger roads will not solve the congestion problem the region is likely to face.

The group will meet jointly with the TBARTA CCC on December 1 to discuss regional priorities, and will have a longer TMA workshop January 19 to discuss the Regional Transit Feasibility Plan updates.