



**FORWARD  
PINELLAS**  
Integrating Land Use & Transportation

# Pinellas Planning Council FY27 Budget Information Session

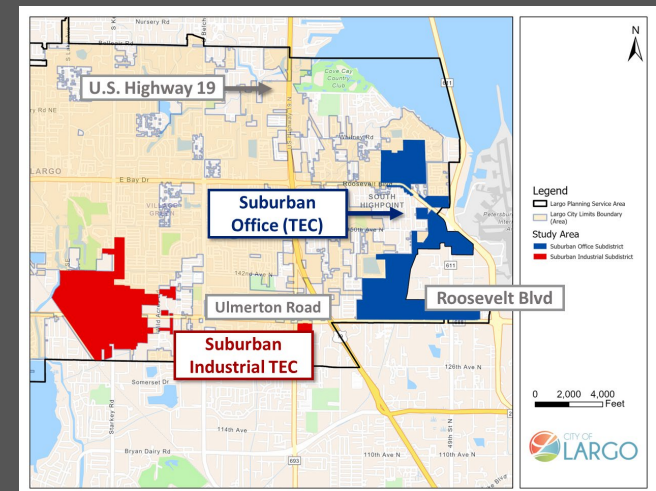
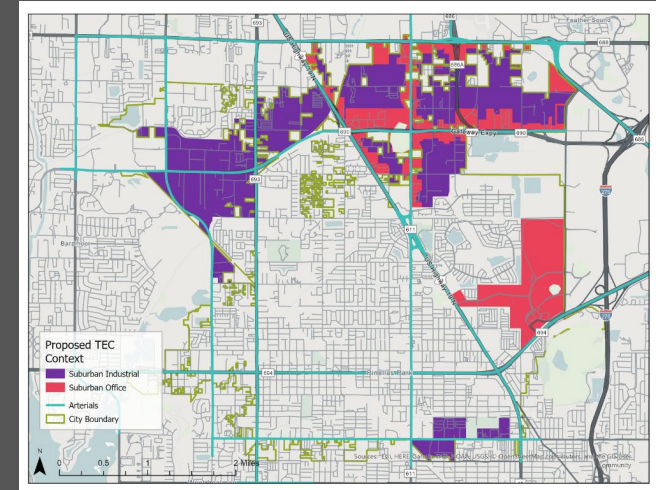
Board of County Commissioners

June 10, 2026

# Accomplishments and Key Activities

## Target Employment & Industrial Land Study Policy

- **Provided funding and technical support** to Largo and Pinellas Park to enable the creation of more high-paying jobs
- **New policies** adopted to compete with legislation like the Live Local Act to offer **more lucrative incentives** for the development or expansion of **target employment uses**
  - Business Services
  - Financial Services
  - Marketing, Design & Publishing
  - Information Technology
  - Medical Technologies/Life & Marine Sciences
  - Micro-electronics
  - Aviation/Aerospace/Defense



# Accomplishments and Key Activities

## Pinellas County Multimodal Impact Ordinance Update

- **Jointly managed and funded project** between Forward Pinellas, Pinellas County, St. Petersburg, Clearwater, and Largo
- Continued the process to update the ordinance **despite annual changes in state law**
  - SB 180 – “more burdensome and restrictive”
  - HB 479 – “interlocal agreement between cities and the county”
  - HB 1329 – “plan-based methodology”
- Split the remaining tasks into **Phase 2A and 2B**

### **Phase 2A Scope: Preliminary Technical Analysis and Administrative Policy Updates**

1. Update Demand Component
2. Benefit District Analysis
3. Travel Distribution Analysis
4. Administrative Policy Updates
5. Draft Report and Admin Manual

**Deliverables:** Round 1 of Ordinance Updates and Administrative Manual

**Cost:** \$126,525

### **Phase 2B Scope: Completion of Technical Fee Study and Fee Schedule Updates**

1. Update Cost and Capacity Components
2. Update Credit Component
3. LOS Standards and Variation in Fee Levels
4. Update Fee Schedule and Calculator Workbook
5. Finalize Ordinance Updates and Admin Manual

**Deliverables:** Round 2 of Ordinance Updates based on fee study and Fee Calculator Workbook

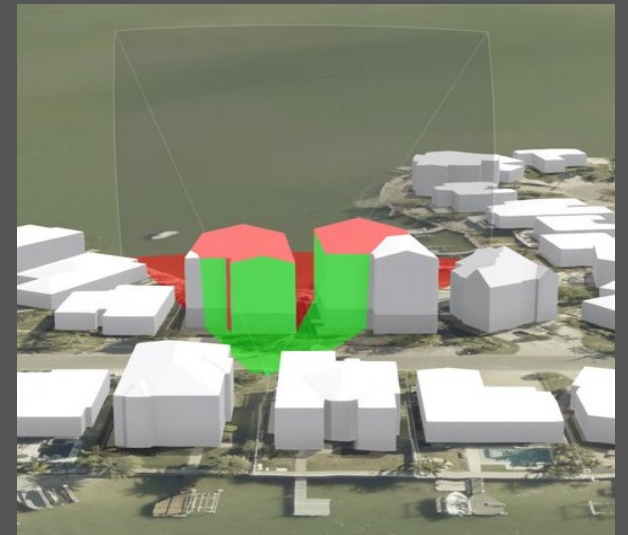
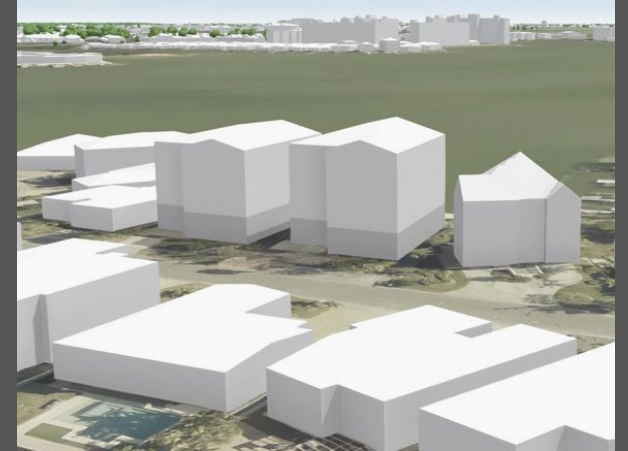
**Cost:** \$111,500



# Accomplishments and Key Activities

## ArcGIS Urban 3D Modeling

- Developed 3D models using ArcGIS Urban to inform elected officials, the public, and staff on technical assistance projects in **Indian Rocks Beach, Clearwater, South Pasadena, Dunedin, Redington Beach, and Palm Harbor**
- More effective testing of **zoning parameters**, understanding **site constraints**, and **development trade-offs**
- Awards:
  - Best Innovative Planning Methods by APA Florida
  - 2026 Special Achievement in GIS (SAG) from Esri



# Accomplishments and Key Activities

## Supporting the Needs of Local Government Partners

- Continue to maintain the “**Live Local Act**” Affordable Housing Dashboard
- Developing a strategic plan for the **Cooper’s Bayou** area in partnership with the **City of Clearwater**
- Conducting a **Corridor Planning Study for SR 60/Gulf-to-Bay Boulevard** in partnership with **FDOT, the City of Clearwater, and Pinellas County** (*PPC funding support*)
- Managing the **Clearwater Beach South Transportation Action Plan** in partnership with the **City of Clearwater** (*MPO project*)



# Special Act Review Subcommittee

- Forward Pinellas Board established a subcommittee in March to identify Special Act changes to:
  - **Reduce approval timelines**
  - **Create a new board structure for the Pinellas Planning Council (if MPOs merge)**
  - **Consider a new planning framework that furthers countywide land use, transportation, and employment policy formulation, while supporting local government needs and services**
- Subcommittee's recommended changes and draft legislative language will be considered by the **Forward Pinellas Board** and the **Board of County Commissioners** in the fall



# Regional MPO – Activities Completed



## MPO Employee (Culture) Survey Summary

- Initial Reactions to a Potential Merger
- Perceived Benefits and Concerns
- Key Leadership Priorities for a Successful MPO Merger

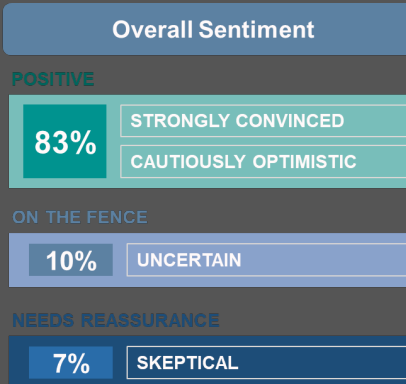


## Summary of MPO Operations

- Boards and Active Committees
- Contractual Agreements
- Financial State
- Staffing and Management



## Principals Workshop (November 14, 2025)



## MPO Operational Comparison Report

- Governing Board and Advisory Committees
- Contractual Agreements
- Organizational Management
- Financial Statement Review



# Regional MPO – Activities Underway

- Forward Pinellas Board approved a draft apportionment plan on May 12<sup>th</sup> for the Regional MPO consisting of **25 seats**, with 2 for the Port Tampa Bay & Tampa International Airport, 10 for Hillsborough County, 8 for Pinellas County, and 5 for Pasco County
- Developing **draft bylaws, operating procedures**, interlocal agreement, and other merger details for review, discussion, and refinement
- Presenting draft bylaws and project update at the **Tri-County BCC meeting on June 5<sup>th</sup>**
- Pinellas, Pasco, Hillsborough BCCs and City of Tampa to vote in **late 2026 or early 2027**



# Whit Blanton, FAICP

Executive Director

Phone: 727-464-8712

Main: 727-464-8250

Email: [wblanton@forwardpinellas.org](mailto:wblanton@forwardpinellas.org)

Visit us at: [www.forwardpinellas.org](http://www.forwardpinellas.org)

