THE JOY OF LOOKING AHEAD TO 2035

Recipes For Transportation Planning Success

A Citizens Guide To Transportation Planning For Hillsborough County
RECIPES FOR TRANSPORTATION PLANNING SUCCESS

Your Guide to What's on the Horizon with the MPO
# TABLE OF CONTENTS

**Menu Planning**  
What is the MPO? ................................................................. 3

**Quality Ingredients**  
Who are the members of the MPO? ....................................... 4

**Countywide Catering**  
What is the mission of the MPO? ........................................ 5

**Buffet Fare**  
Why are multi-modal choices important? ............................. 6

**Advance Preparations**  
What does the MPO do? .......................................................... 7

**Your Table Setting**  
What factors drive the plans? ................................................ 9

**Invitation List**  
Are MPO meetings and information fully accessible? .......... 10

**Engagement Parties**  
How do I get engaged in the planning process? ................. 11

**Kindly Reply**  
How do I get in touch? ......................................................... 12

**Grocery List**  
How can I participate? .......................................................... 13

**Alphabet Soup**  
What do all those letters stand for? ..................................... 15

**Main Course**  
Who else helps identify community needs? ........................ 16

**Regional Cuisine**  
Who are the MPO’s key regional partners? .......................... 17

**Just Desserts**  
Does my opinion really count? ............................................. 18

**Buen Provencho**  
¿Qué es la Organización para Planificación Metropolitana? ..... 19

**Cooking Tips**  
Where can I get more transportation info? .......................... 21
What is the MPO?

The Hillsborough County Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) is a transportation policy-making board mandated by federal and state law. The MPO is directly responsible for making sure federal and state dollars spent on existing and future transportation projects and programs are based on a continuing, cooperative and comprehensive transportation planning process. Committed to meaningful public engagement throughout this process, the MPO is responsible for establishing priorities to meet short-term (next 5 years) and long-term (20+ years) multi-modal transportation needs for Tampa, Temple Terrace, Plant City and unincorporated Hillsborough County.

It is a priority for this MPO that all citizens in Hillsborough County be given the opportunity to participate in the transportation planning process, including low income individuals, the elderly, persons with disabilities and persons with limited English proficiency.
Who are the members of the MPO?

The MPO is comprised of elected officials and representatives appointed from the local governments and transportation authorities listed below:

**Voting Members:**
- Hillsborough County (4 members)
- City of Tampa (3 members)
- City of Plant City
- City of Temple Terrace
- Expressway Authority
- Transit Authority (HART)
- Aviation Authority
- Port Authority

**Non-Voting Members:**
- Florida Department of Transportation - District 7
- The Planning Commission
What is the mission of the MPO?

To develop a comprehensive long-range transportation plan, which supports the mobility needs and economic development of the community, as reflected in the adopted comprehensive plans.

Integral to the plan are policies that guide the development of a balanced transportation system. These policies encourage:

- Preserving neighborhoods;
- Protecting the environment;
- Enhancing quality of life;
- Promoting public transportation;
- Cooperating with and coordinating between the community and agencies to enable the plan to work.
Why are multi-modal choices important?

The MPO is working to develop the 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). Comprehensive, countywide and inter-jurisdictional, the 2035 LRTP will integrate supportive land use and multi-modal transportation choices with safety, air quality, economic and other local and regional issues. An efficient and effective transportation system offers choices for people who can and can’t drive and provides travel flexibility even when fuel prices fluctuate. A balanced transportation network drives the local economy and overall quality of life by providing options for the movement of people and goods through the use of:

### Multi-Modal Choices

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Multi-Modal Choices</th>
<th>Multi-Modal Choices</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Standard Automobiles</td>
<td>Hybrid Vehicles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neighborhood Electric Vehicles</td>
<td>Flex Fuel Vehicles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carpools</td>
<td>Vanpools</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Light Rail</td>
<td>Commuter Rail</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Street Car</td>
<td>Bus Rapid Transit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neighborhood Circulators</td>
<td>Local Buses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bicycles</td>
<td>Motorcycles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sidewalks</td>
<td>Trails</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expressways</td>
<td>HOV &amp; Toll Lanes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trucks</td>
<td>Freight Trains</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Airplanes</td>
<td>Ships</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation Disadvantaged Services</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Metropolitan Planning Organization develops three key documents that are the ingredients for transportation planning and programming in Hillsborough County:

**Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)**

**Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP)**

**Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)**

Together, in tandem, these three documents represent the beginning, middle and end – the process, or recipes, if you will – for transportation planning success.
UPWP – MPO PLANS & STUDIES

Developed biennially, the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) identifies funding sources for cooking up planning activities to be worked on by the MPO and implementing agencies in the upcoming year. A sampling of menu items in the UPWP includes the:

- Air Quality Determination Report
- Comprehensive Bicycle Plan
- Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan
- Intelligent Transportation Systems Plan
- Corridor Studies
- Public Participation Plan
- The Ride Guide

LRTP – 20+ YEARS IN THE FUTURE

The MPO is required to develop the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). A blueprint guiding priorities for development programs and transportation projects within Hillsborough County, the LRTP identifies and prioritizes needed improvements and transportation goals 20+ years into the future. The plan seeks to balance investments in various transportation modes against anticipated funding from federal, state and local sources. The LRTP, updated every 5 years based on regional population and economic growth projections, reflects ever-changing conditions and new planning principles.

TIP – THE NEXT 5 YEARS

The Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) identifies, prioritizes and allocates anticipated funding for transportation improvements over the next 5 years. Updated annually, it is not a wish list. Rather, the TIP is the culmination of the planning process, the LRTP and UPWP. It represents a consensus among local, state and regional officials as to which tangible and funded transportation improvements to implement in the short-term.
**What factors drive the plans?**

State and federal laws require MPOs to provide transportation projects and strategies that:

1. Support economic vitality, especially enabling global competitiveness, productivity and efficiency, and promote consistency between transportation improvements and state and local anticipated growth and economic development patterns;
2. Increase safety for motorized and non-motorized users;
3. Increase accessibility and mobility options, and enhance integration and connectivity of the transportation system, across and between modes, for people and freight;
4. Protect and enhance the environment, promote energy conservation, improve the quality of life, while minimizing transportation-related fuel consumption, air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions;
5. Promote efficient transportation system management and operation; and
6. Preserve the existing transportation system.
The MPO recognizes and values the diversity within our community. We also recognize the importance of including those individuals and groups who have been traditionally underserved. Workshops and forums will occur at various locations and times throughout Hillsborough County to give people a variety of participation opportunities. All MPO public meetings and events will be held in facilities that are accessible to persons with disabilities.

You are an important part of the planning process. Your opinion really does count and will help shape the future for the children of Hillsborough County.

Persons in need of special accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act or persons who require interpreter services (free of charge) for MPO meetings or workshops should contact MPO staff at 813-272-5940 or mpo@plancom.org at least three business days prior to the event or meeting.

Executive summaries of key documents, web pages, and informational brochures will be made available in Spanish. For more information, please see the MPO’s current Public Participation Plan and Limited English Proficiency Plan at www.hillsboroughmpo.org.
How do I get engaged in the planning process?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1 part</th>
<th>Via Telephone</th>
<th>1 part</th>
<th>E-mail</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 part</td>
<td>Mailing List</td>
<td>1 part</td>
<td>Watch Hillsborough</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 part</td>
<td>Public Meetings</td>
<td>1 part</td>
<td>Television</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 part</td>
<td>Free Newsletter</td>
<td>1 part</td>
<td>Speakers Bureau</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 part</td>
<td>Planning Commission</td>
<td>1 part</td>
<td>Community Displays or Workshops</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Library</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 part</td>
<td>Web Pages</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Beyond receiving public comment, this MPO strives to involve the public, stakeholders and partner agencies to participate throughout the long range transportation planning process. Hands-on mapping workshops, planning events and focus groups are among the many opportunities for early and recurring participation. However, there is no need for a meeting or event to be held to provide input. Public comment can be provided at any time and in a multitude of settings.
How do I get in touch?

Comments may be provided at any time in writing, online, through a variety of MPO participation opportunities (workshops, focus groups, discussion groups, etc.) and at every regularly scheduled MPO Board or committee meeting. Also, comments may be submitted via:

Phone: 813-272-5940  
Fax: 813-301-7172  
Email: mpo@plancom.org  
Web: www.hillsboroughmpo.org  
www.mpotransit.org  
U.S. Mail: The Planning Commission/MPO  
601 East Kennedy Boulevard  
County Center, 18th Floor  
Tampa, FL 33602

MPO staff can provide a wide range of information on roadways, transit, bicycle and pedestrian facilities, air quality and transportation disadvantaged services. Staff to the MPO is provided by the Hillsborough County City-County Planning Commission, ensuring transportation and land use plans are closely coordinated. MPO staff is comprised of transportation planners, traffic modelers, demographers, urban designers and other planning professionals.
**Free Newsletter**
The MPO produces and distributes a free newsletter covering transportation issues in Hillsborough County. The newsletter is published quarterly and mailed or e-mailed to those on our mailing list.

**Public Meetings**
Attend MPO meetings, all of which are open to the public and normally encourage the public to speak. A wide variety of MPO meetings and public participation programs are open to the public participation as well. All meetings are listed on the MPO web site for your convenience. Regular MPO Board and Committee meetings also are listed on page 16.
Watch HTV
MPO Board Meetings are broadcast on government access television Hillsborough Television (HTV).

Speakers Bureau
MPO Board members and staff make presentations to business and citizen groups throughout the county upon request. To schedule a speaker for an upcoming event, please call 813-272-5940 or email mpo@plancom.org.

Planning Commission Library
The Planning Commission Library, a central depository for all agency publications and other transportation and land use planning related materials, is open to the public during regular business hours at:

The Planning Commission, County Center Building, 18th Floor, 601 East Kennedy Boulevard, Downtown Tampa www.theplanningcommission.org

Community Displays or Workshops
The MPO often hosts workshops or informational displays in communities affected by transportation plans, such as libraries. Workshops are held so the public is not only informed, but also has the opportunity to speak one-on-one with MPO staff, provide meaningful comments, or even work hands-on in the creation of plans. Visit the MPO web site for more details on upcoming events.

Public Hearings
Public hearings are normally advertised ten days in advance in local newspapers and are held by the board before adoption of major plans or programs. All comments, whether written or oral, are formally recorded and considered by the MPO Board before rendering a decision.
Savor the numerous acronyms and abbreviations representing the various agencies, organizations or documents often referred to in transportation planning and in MPO reports and materials:

- **BACS** Bay Area Commuter Services
- **BPAC** Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee
- **CAC** Citizens Advisory Committee
- **CCC** Chairs Coordinating Committee
- **CMAQ** Congestion Mitigation/Air Quality
- **CUTR** Center for Urban Transportation Research at USF
- **DEP** Department of Environmental Protection
- **DOT** Department of Transportation
- **EPA** US Environmental Protection Agency
- **EPC** Environmental Protection Commission (local)
- **FDOT** Florida Department of Transportation
- **FHWA** Federal Highway Administration
- **FTA** Federal Transit Administration
- **GIS** Geographic Information Systems
- **HART** Hillsborough Area Regional Transit Authority
- **ITS** Intelligent Transportation Systems
- **LEP** Limited English Proficiency
- **LRTP** Long Range Transportation Plan
- **MPOAC** Florida MPO Advisory Council
- **PPP** Public Participation Plan
- **SAFETEA** Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users
- **SOV** Single Occupancy Vehicle
- **STP** Surface Transportation Program
- **TAC** Technical Advisory Committee
- **TAZ** Traffic Analysis Zone
- **TBARTA** Tampa Bay Area Regional Transportation Authority
- **TBRPC** Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council
- **TDCB** Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board
- **TDM** Transportation Demand Management
- **TIP** Transportation Improvement Program
- **TMA** Transportation Management Area
- **TOD** Transit Oriented Development
- **UPWP** Unified Planning Work Program
- **VMT** Vehicle Miles of Travel
MAIN COURSE

Who else helps identify community needs?

In addition to ongoing public input, the MPO receives recommendations from seven standing committees. Their perspective and insight on projects, plans and policies enhances the board’s commitment to making informed decisions. Citizen representatives are appointed by the MPO. Please contact MPO staff for an application to be considered. Regular MPO and committee meetings:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Committee</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Standard Day &amp; Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MPO - Metropolitan Planning Organization Board</td>
<td>County Center, 2nd Floor</td>
<td>Monthly, 1st Tuesday, 9 a.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAC - Citizens Advisory Committee</td>
<td>County Center, 18th Floor</td>
<td>Monthly, 2nd Wednesday, 1:15 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BPAC - Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee</td>
<td>County Center, 18th Floor</td>
<td>Monthly, 2nd Wednesday, 5:30 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TAC - Technical Advisory Committee</td>
<td>County Center, 18th Floor</td>
<td>Monthly, 3rd Monday, 1:30 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Policy - Policy Committee of MPO Board</td>
<td>County Center, 18th Floor</td>
<td>Monthly, 4th Tuesday, 9 a.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LRC - Livable Roadways Committee</td>
<td>County Center, 18th Floor</td>
<td>Monthly, 4th Wednesday, 9 a.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ITS - Intelligent Transportation Systems</td>
<td>County Center, 18th Floor</td>
<td>Bimonthly, 3rd Thursday, 1:30 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TDCB - Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board</td>
<td>County Center, 18th Floor</td>
<td>Bimonthly, 4th Thursday, 9:15 a.m.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Who are the MPO’s key regional partners?

**CCC** – The West Central Florida MPO Chairs Coordinating Committee is composed of chairpersons from the six member MPOs (Hernando, Hillsborough, Pasco, Pinellas, Sarasota/Manatee counties and Polk), and in a non-voting capacity, Citrus County, two FDOT Secretaries (District 1 and District 7), Florida’s Turnpike Enterprise and the Regional Planning Councils. The CCC meets quarterly to cooperatively address transportation challenges on a regional, long range basis. [www.regionaltransportation.org](http://www.regionaltransportation.org)

**FDOT** – The Florida Department of Transportation is the state agency responsible for transportation issues and planning. [www.dot.state.fl.us](http://www.dot.state.fl.us)

**TBARTA** – Tampa Bay Area Regional Transportation Authority – TBARTA’s mission is to improve mobility and expand multimodal transportation options for passengers and freight throughout the seven counties (Citrus, Hernando, Hillsborough, Manatee, Pasco, Pinellas, Sarasota) in our region. This new authority can finance, construct, operate, maintain and manage the transportation system it develops. It can issue bonds against future fares and tolls to get projects moving today and is charged with developing a Regional Master Plan by July 1st 2009. [www.tbarta.com](http://www.tbarta.com)
JUST DESSERTS

Does my opinion really count?

The citizens of Tampa, Temple Terrace, Plant City and unincorporated Hillsborough County are working hand-in-hand with the Metropolitan Planning Organization to achieve our transportation goals. This is truly a recipe for transportation planning success. You can influence the future of transportation in Hillsborough County.

View the MPO Public Participation Plan online at: www.hillsboroughmpo.org

The transportation system is here to serve you. We encourage you to get involved in the transportation planning process. The best ideas for improvements often come from you, the citizen. These Recipes for Transportation Planning Success were designed to give you a better understanding of The Joys of Looking Ahead to 2035 and how you can get involved in the decision-making process and have a positive impact on the future of transportation in Hillsborough County.
¿Qué es la Organización para Planificación Metropolitana?

La Organización para la Planificación Metropolitana del condado de Hillsborough, también conocida como MPO, es una junta creadora de políticas de transporte que está formada por representantes del gobierno local y del condado, así como por autoridades de transporte. Determinado por las leyes federales y estatales, MPO es responsable de establecer un proceso de planificación de transporte continuo, cooperativo y completo para el condado de Hillsborough. Una de las principales funciones del MPO es identificar cuales proyectos de transporte pueden ser financiados usando fondos federales y del estado. También, esta junta es responsable de establecer las prioridades de transporte para satisfacer las necesidades de la red de transporte a corto plazo (5 años) y a largo plazo (20 años).

La Organización para la Planificación Metropolitana no es una agencia de implementación de proyectos ni está diseñada para construir o comprar derecho de vía, sin embargo, MPO se le consulta a menudo con este tipo de asuntos y puede ayudarle a identificar cual es la agencia más apropiada que pueda responder a sus preguntas. Nosotros recibimos con beneplácito y estimulamos todas sus preguntas, comentarios y reacciones al respecto del proceso de planificación de transporte a largo plazo. También, ofrecemos varias formas para que usted nos pueda contactar o bien, nosotros podamos organizarle presentaciones a su grupo o organización.
Los ciudadanos del Condado Hillsborough que trabajan estrechamente con la Organización para la Planificación Metropolitana con el propósito de cumplir nuestros objetivos de transporte son la clave del éxito en la planificación del transporte. Usted puede influir en el futuro del transporte en el Condado de Hillsborough. Un sistema de transporte eficiente y efectivo es crítico para todas las formas de movimiento en la región. Un sistema de transporte equilibrado proporciona opciones para el desplazamiento de personas y bienes a través del uso de automóviles, camiones, aviones, motocicletas, bicicletas, andenes, autobuses y otras formas de tránsito.

MPO está aquí para ayudar a servirle mayor a sus necesidades de transporte. Nosotros lo invitamos a que se involucre en el proceso de planificación de transporte. Las mejores ideas para mejorar vienen a menudo de usted, el ciudadano.

Usted es una parte importante en el proceso de planificación, su opinión cuenta y ayudará a formar el futuro para los niños del Condado de Hillsborough.

Consultas telefónicas: 813-272-5940
Página web: www.hillsboroughmpo.org
Correo Electrónico: mpo@plancom.org
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Transportation Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>BACS</strong> – Bay Area Commuter Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City of Plant City</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City of Tampa Transportation Department</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City of Temple Terrace</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Florida Department of Transportation – District 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HART – Hillsborough Area Regional Transit Authority</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HART info Line</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hillsborough County Aviation Authority</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hillsborough County Planning &amp; Growth Management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunshine Line (Specialized Transportation)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tampa/Hillsborough Expressway Authority</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tampa Port Authority</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TBARTA – Tampa Bay Area Regional Transportation Authority</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation Disadvantaged Helpline</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Position</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mayor, Chair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commissioner, Vice Chair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commissioner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Councilman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Councilman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HART Representative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commissioner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mayor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Louis E. Miller</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joseph Waggoner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richard Wainio</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ex-Officio Members:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>