The Tampa Bypass Canal, a flood control waterway east of Tampa and Temple Terrace, could become a major recreation corridor that will allow families, friends and visitors to enjoy scenic vistas, active recreation and possibly encounter wildlife close to the city.

The MPO has hired a Consultant to assess the feasibility of developing the Tampa Bypass Canal multi-use trail. The trail is part of a planned county-wide network of trails and greenway identified in the 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan and also is included in the Hillsborough County Greenways Master Plan.

Vision: The proposed concept consists of a multi-use trail running along the west side of the Tampa Bypass Canal. The vision is to connect the Flatwoods Park in New Tampa through Wilderness and Trout Creek Parks and run south to the McKay Bay Trail, the Selmon Greenway and the South County Trail. This 17-mile multi-use trail will provide tremendous recreational and social opportunities for residents and visitors, connecting the communities of New Tampa, Temple Terrace, East Lake/Orient Park and Palm River along the trail to each other as well as to the resources in north and south Tampa and Hillsborough County. Opportunities abound along this trail enjoy open space and view wildlife. From its beautiful, relaxing vistas to its uninterrupted, people–powered recreation and commuting opportunities, the Bypass Canal Trail has the potential to become a major resource for residents and visitors to Hillsborough County.

The greatest challenge to this concept is the major roadways that must be crossed along the proposed trail. These roadways include Interstate-75, US 301, Interstate-4, Fletcher and Fowler Avenues, Harney Road and Adamo Drive. In addition to providing a conceptual alignment for this multi-use trail, a primary component of this study is to recommend the best trail crossing options at each of these roadways.

**PROJECT TIME LINE:**  
**FEASIBILITY STUDY- FEB-JUNE 2012**

**HOW TO GET INVOLVED:** There will be a public meeting in May to review and comment on the DRAFT study. Dates and times will be announced. Please contact Michele Ogilvie, Hillsborough MPO, for more information at (813)273-3774 xt. 317 or ogilviem@plancom.org.

http://www.hillsboroughmpo.org/