

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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MPO Invites Public Comment on 2035 Transportation Plan

Tampa, FL, November 9, 2009 – The Hillsborough Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) will hold a Public Hearing to adopt the **2035 Transportation Plan** on Wednesday, December 9th at 6:00 p.m. in the BOCC Chambers on the 2nd floor of the County Center Building, 601 East Kennedy Boulevard in Downtown Tampa. An official 30-day public comment period prior to the MPO Board’s consideration of the plan is required by law. To facilitate the public’s ability to receive information, ask questions, and make comments, the MPO has provided a variety of opportunities for people to make comments on the plan. The MPO’s Autumn 2009 newsletter, *The Mobility Focus*, summarizes the plan and is posted on www.hillsboroughmpo.org.

The MPO has been and will continue to present the plan to community groups and organizations throughout Hillsborough County. In addition, the MPO has scheduled Town Call Meetings from 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm on Tuesday, November 10th and Thursday, November 19th. Each night, 40,000 registered voters will be telephoned and asked to stay on the line if they would like to participate in the telephone conference. Participants will be able to ask questions, share comments, or just listen in. The moderator for the panel discussions will be AM Tampa Bay’s Jack Harris. He will be joined by the MPO’s Executive Director, Ray Chiamonte, AICP. On November 10th, MPO Chair, Temple Terrace Mayor Joe Affronti, Sr., and MPO Board member, Tampa City Councilman John Dingfelder will round out the panel. Sitting in on the November 19th panel will be Greg Horwedell, Plant City Assistant City Manager, and Hillsborough County Commissioner Mark Sharpe. People who are not directly dialed may join in by calling toll-free 1-877-229-8493 and entering ID Code 15177# during these calls.

A video overview of the plan and its significance can be viewed on Hillsborough Television (HTV), City of Tampa TV (CTTV), or online at www.mpo2035.org. Soon, this new site will be fully populated. In the meantime, more information about the draft plan is available at www.hillsboroughmpo.org in the 2035 Plan folder. The draft plan is also available in the Planning Commission Library, 601 East Kennedy Boulevard, 18th floor of the County Center Building in Downtown Tampa. Comments on the draft plan can also be left by calling toll-free 1-888-777-5730.

Persons in need of special accommodations to attend the December 9th Public Hearing under the Americans with Disabilities Act or who require interpreter services (free of charge) should contact Michele Ogilvie, 813/273-3774 ext. 317 or ogilviem@plancom.org, at least 3 business days in advance of the meeting. In accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and other nondiscrimination laws, public participation is solicited without regard to race, color, national origin, age, sex, religion, disability or family status.

The Hillsborough County MPO 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 unincorporated Hillsborough County.



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