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CONTACT:
Beth Leytham
bethleytham@theleythamgroup.com
813.245.1522

GO Hillsborough to Host 54 Additional Meetings in Libraries across the County

Focus will be on ½% and 1% Project Lists for Community Transportation Plan

Tampa, Fla. – Go Hillsborough is kicking off another round of community engagement this week. Beginning August 17, residents, homeowners associations, civic organizations and businesses throughout Hillsborough County will have multiple opportunities, including through online and social media channels, to actively participate in finalizing a Community Transportation Plan and its projects for the next 10 years. Most importantly, participants will have an opportunity to weigh in on a critical community decision: a ½% sales tax increase to fund needed but basic transportation improvements; or, a 1% sales tax increase which will bring more transit options, better jobs, and an improved quality of life.

“We’ve received a lot of solid feedback in support of a ½% sales tax funding strategy to deliver the core projects in this Plan; however, we also know that a 1% sales tax could do so much more to create prosperity for our community,” said Mike Merrill, Hillsborough County Administrator. “Now, we want to make sure that our citizens understand what a ½% actually can fund, and the critically important projects it cannot.”

These additional 54 community meetings will also identify the specific projects as well as the funding strategy. The meetings are planned at libraries – 2 in each of 22 libraries -- throughout the county and cities during both day and evening hours, including several Saturday mornings. The meetings will run during August through mid-October 2015.

Building on an unprecedented community engagement effort, including focus groups, community workshops, and public opinion surveying, residents recognize there is a transportation crisis looming. And, they’ve also strongly indicated that they want new and improved roads, congestion and bottleneck relief, and improved traffic flow and transit choices.

“We fully intend to ensure that new growth will pay a greater and more equitable share of future transportation infrastructure and that existing gas tax revenue and even some ongoing general government revenue will continue as funding sources, but the reality is those are relatively small shares of the total cost,” Merrill emphasized. “The key to stopping this ongoing decline in our quality of life--and avoiding a transportation crisis--is the modest investment you can make with a sales tax that’s also paid by visitors to our community.”

Citizens are encouraged to attend one, many or all of the following scheduled meetings:

- Aug. 17 – Austin Davis Public Library 10a -12p
- Aug. 17 – Egypt Lake Recreation Ctr. 5:30p–7:30p
- Aug. 18 – Keel Regional Library 10a-12p
- Aug. 18 – Port Tampa City Library 5:30p-7:30p
- Aug. 20 – Brandon Regional Library 10a-12p
- Aug. 20 – Ruskin Library 5:30p-7:30p
- Aug. 21 – West Tampa Library 10a-12p
- Aug. 24 – Riverview Library 10a-12p
- Aug. 24. - Robinson Partnership Library 5:30p-7:30p
- Aug. 24 – John F. Germany Library 5:30p-7:30p
- Aug. 25 – Plant City City Hall Chambers 10a-12p
- Aug. 25 – Upper Tampa Bay Library 5:30-7:30p
- Aug. 26 – Jan Kaminis Platt Library 10a-12p
- Aug. 27 – C. Blythe Andrews, Jr. Library 10a-12p
- Aug. 27 – Lutz Branch Library 5:30p-7:30p
- Aug. 28 – Robert W. Saunders, Sr. Library 10a-12p
- Aug. 31 – SouthShore Regional Library 10a-12p
- Aug. 31 – Seminole Heights Library 5:30p-7:30p
- Sep. 1 – North Tampa Branch Library 10a-12p
- Sep 1 – Thonotosassa Branch Library 5:30p-7:30p
- Sep, 2 – New Tampa Regional Library 10a-12p
- Sep. 3 – Seffner-Mango Branch Library 5:30p-7:30p
- Sep. 8 – 78th St. Community Library 10a-12p
- Sep. 8 – C Blythe Andrews, Jr. Library 5:30-7:30p
- Sep. 9 – Town ‘N Country Regional Library 10a-12p
- Sep. 10 – Temple Terrace Lightfoot Sr.Ctr. 5:30-7:30p
- Sep. 14 – John F. Germany Public Library 10a-12p
- Sep. 14– SouthShore Regional Library 5:30p-7:30p
- Sep. 15 – Lutz Branch Library 10a-12p
- Sep. 15 – Austin David Public Library 5:30p-7:30p
- Sep. 17 – New Tampa Regional Library 5:30p-7:30p
- Sep. 18 – Port Tampa City Library 10a-12p
- Sep. 19 – Robinson Partnership Library 10a-12p
- Sep. 21 – Temple Terrace Lightfoot Sr Ctr 10a-12p
- Sep. 21 – Charles J. Fendig Public Library 5:30p-7:30p
- Sep. 22 – Egypt Lake Recreation Center 10a-12p
- Sep. 22 – Brandon Regional Library 5:30p-7:30p
- Sep. 23 – Bloomingdale Regional Library 10a-12p
- Sep. 24 – Robert W. Saunders, Sr Library 5:30p-7:30p
- Sep. 25 – Ruskin Public Library 10a-12p
- Sep. 28 – Upper Tampa Bay Regional Library 10a-12p
- Sep. 28 - Jan Kaminis Platt Library 5:30p-7:30p
- Sep. 29 – Seminole Heights Branch Library 10a-12p
- Sep. 29 – Riverview Branch Library 5:30p-7:30p
- Sep. 30 – Thonotosassa Branch Library 10a-12p
- Oct. 1 – Seffner- Mango Branch Library 10a-12p
- Oct. 1 – Bruton Memorial Library 5:30p-7:30p
- Oct. 5 – Charles J. Fendig Public Library 10a-12p
- Oct. 5 – Jimmie B. Keel Regional Library 5:30p-7:30p
- Oct. 6. – West Tampa Branch Library 5:30p-7:30p
- Oct. 8 – Bloomingdale Regional Library 5:30p-7:30p
- Oct. 13 – Town ‘N Country Library 5:30p-7:30p
- Oct. 15 – North Tampa Branch Library 5:30p-7:30p
- Oct. 15 - 78th Street Community Library 5:30p-7:30p

Residents may also take advantage of *GO Hillsborough*'s engagement channels, including Facebook, Twitter, our website, www.GoHillsborough.org. Residents can also leave a message on the public comment line at 813-274-6922 or email us at info@gohillsborough.org.

About *GO Hillsborough*



GO Hillsborough’s community engagement has been carefully designed to be thoughtful, collaborative and inclusive, and to achieve an overarching critical goal: to understand, explore and choose transportation options that make sense in the daily lives of Hillsborough County residents, businesses and organizations.

Beginning in February 2015, GO Hillsborough presented multiple opportunities to participate in creating a Community Transportation Plan and appropriate funding options. Through interactive workshops, online and social media channels, citizens can participate in discussions with elected officials and local government and transportation agency staff, providing everyone the opportunity to have their voices and choices heard.

To learn more, visit GOHillsborough.org.

About the Policy Leadership Group

The Transportation for Economic Development Policy Leadership Group (PLG) includes all seven Hillsborough County Commissioners, the mayors of Plant City, Tampa and Temple Terrace as well as the chair of the HART board. These elected leaders have come together to study, develop, and create consensus around a comprehensive community mobility plan that ensures continued quality of life and economic well-being now and into the future. Parsons Brinckerhoff, the international engineering firm with expertise in transportation, is analyzing and validating existing data and information and conducting broad public outreach, culminating in recommended options for a Community Transportation Plan. For more information on the PLG, visit www.hillsboroughcounty.org/TED.

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