



11.0 Summary of Public Involvement

A Public Involvement Program (PIP) was developed and implemented for the North / South Corridor BRT PD&E Study. The purpose of this program is to share project information with the individuals who live and work in this area, to listen to ideas and concerns, and to incorporate input received during the study process. For this project, the PIP focused on the Agency Working Group, Community Working Group, a public kick-off / alternatives information meeting, a preferred alternatives public information meeting and a project newsletter. These elements are described herein.

11.1 Agency Coordination Activities

Various agency coordination meetings have been held regarding the North / South Corridor BRT project. In addition, there have been other coordination efforts including telephone, electronic, and written correspondence with several agencies, including:

- Southwest Florida Water Management District;
- Florida Department of Transportation District 7;
- Hillsborough County;
- City of Tampa;
- City of Temple Terrace;
- Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority;
- Hillsborough County City-County Planning Commission; and
- Hillsborough County Metropolitan Planning Organization.

The correspondence is included in the project files

11.2 Working Groups

Three working groups were formed to identify key stakeholders within the project area. The purpose of the working groups was to promote information exchange with the various stakeholders in the project area from both a policy and technical aspect.

11.2.1 Agency and Community Working Groups

These Working Groups provide opportunities to keep stakeholders informed, seek their input and answer their questions concerning the project. An Agency Working Group was made up of representatives of the government agencies. A Community Working Group was made up of the community stakeholders, such as the business associations, disability advocacy groups, major employers and similar groups.

11.2.1.1 Joint Kick-off / Alternatives Meeting

The first Agency and Community Working Group Meeting was held on January 27, 2009 at HART's Administrative Offices, 1201 East 7th Avenue in Tampa, Florida. The purpose of the meeting was to kick-off the working groups, provide general project information, discuss the preferred station locations based on the results of the Draft *Preferred Station Technical Memorandum*, answer questions and hear ideas and concerns for the study. Copies of the meeting minutes are located in the project files.



11.2.1.2 Preferred Station Location Meeting

The second Agency and Community Working Group Meeting was held on April 28, 2009 at HART's Administrative Offices, 1201 East 7th Avenue in Tampa, Florida. The purpose of the meeting was to provide general project information, preferred station locations, conceptual station amenities and branding for the system name, architecture, colors and materials, answer questions and hear ideas and concerns for the study. Copies of the meeting minutes are located in the project files.

11.2.2 Traffic Working Group

A Traffic Working Group was formed to discuss the technical aspects of the implementation of the Transit Signal Priority (TSP) along the corridor. The group was made up of representatives who are primarily responsible for the traffic operations in their respective government agencies and other agencies (i.e. Fire and Rescue) who could utilize the TSP hardware / software.

11.2.2.1 Meeting #1

The first Traffic Working Group Meeting was held on June 9, 2008 at the FDOT District 7 Offices, 11201 N. Malcolm M^cKinley Drive in Tampa, Florida. The purpose of the meeting was to review the traffic analysis scope and discuss requirements of the study. Copies of the meeting minutes are located in the project files.

11.2.2.2 Meeting #2

The second Traffic Working Group Meeting was held on December 15, 2008 at FDOT District 7 Offices, 11201 N. Malcolm M^cKinley Drive in Tampa, Florida. The purpose of the meeting was to kick-off the working group, provide general project information, discuss TSP and the analysis process overviews, answer questions and hear ideas and concerns for the study. Copies of the meeting minutes are located in the project files.

11.2.2.3 Meeting #3

The third Traffic Working Group Meeting was held on March 16, 2009 at FDOT District 7 Offices, 11201 N. Malcolm M^cKinley Drive in Tampa, Florida. The purpose of the meeting was to provide an update on the traffic analysis/results, TSP technology, TSP parameters and implementation concerns. Copies of the meeting minutes are located in the project files.

11.2.2.4 Meeting #4

The fourth Traffic Working Group Meeting was held on June 17, 2009 at FDOT District 7 Offices, 11201 N. Malcolm M^cKinley Drive in Tampa, Florida. The purpose of the meeting was to provide the traffic analysis results, develop a consensus for the modeling alternatives, TSP parameters and implementation concerns. Copies of the meeting minutes are located in the project files.

11.2.2.5 Meeting #5

The fifth Traffic Working Group Meeting was held on August 17, 2009 at FDOT District 7 Offices, 11201 N. Malcolm M^cKinley Drive in Tampa, Florida. The purpose of the meeting was to provide further discussion on the traffic analysis/results, TSP parameters and implementation concerns. Copies of the meeting minutes are located in the project files.

11.3 Public Kick-Off / Alternatives Information Meeting

The Public Kick-off / Alternatives Information Meeting was held on November 18, 2008 at the Seminole Heights Baptist Church at 801 East Hillsborough Avenue in Tampa, FL. The purpose of the meeting was to present general project information, alternative station locations, answer questions, and hear ideas and concerns for the study.



In preparation for this meeting, notification mailings were sent to local elected officials, stakeholders and other interested parties. Public advertisements were provided in local papers (Tampa Tribune, Florida Sentinel, La Gaceta and Tampa Bay Times). Press releases were provided to newspapers, radio and television stations. The meeting was held in an informal, open house setting to encourage the exchange of information between the public and the project team. Project information and study alternatives were presented on display boards. Study materials were available at the meeting for public review. Representatives from HART and the project team were available to speak with the public and answer questions.

Approximately 36 people attended the Public Kick-off / Alternatives Information Meeting, including 21 citizens. A total of fourteen comment forms were received regarding this project. Most wanted passenger amenities such as additional seating (benches), shelter lighting, landscaping and more shelters for weather protection. Copies of comments are located in the project files.

11.4 Preferred Alternatives Public Information Meeting

The Preferred Alternatives Public Information Meeting was held on May 12, 2009 at the Seminole Heights Baptist Church at 801 East Hillsborough Avenue in Tampa, FL. The purpose of the meeting was to present general project information, preferred station locations, answer questions, and hear ideas and concerns for the study.

In preparation for this meeting, notification mailings were sent to local elected officials, stakeholders and other interested parties. Public advertisements were provided in local papers (Tampa Tribune, Florida Sentinel, La Gaceta and Tampa Bay Times). Press releases were provided to newspapers, radio and television stations. The meeting was held in an informal, open house setting to encourage the exchange of information between the public and the project team. A brief project overview and PowerPoint presentation were given at the meeting. Project information and preferred alternatives were presented on display boards. Study materials were available at the meeting for public review. Representatives from HART and the project team were available to speak with the public and answer questions.

Approximately 28 people attended the Preferred Alternatives Public Information Meeting. A total of seven comment forms were received regarding this project. The majority of respondents desired that the system have shelters for weather protection, frequent departures during commute hours and ability for drivers to change a traffic signal to green. Most wanted passenger amenities such as additional seating (benches), shelter lighting, landscaping and more shelters for weather protection. Copies of comments are located in the project files.

11.5 Other Activities

The public was able to stay informed throughout the course of the project even without attending any of the public information meetings. Communication was made possible through the use of periodic newsletters, a website, and other small group meetings dedicated to the project.

11.5.1 Newsletters

Newsletters will be mailed to property owners along the proposed BRT route as well as those who expressed interest in the project. Newsletters will be mailed prior to the second formal public meeting to inform the public progress and preferred alternatives of the study. The newsletters include information about the project, description of the study processes, and details about the upcoming public meeting. Contact information was also included for the public to contact the study



team with any comments or questions about the project. Copies of the newsletters are included in the project files.

11.5.2 Website

Information on the North / South BRT project is located on the HART website at www.gohart.org. A brief project description, PD&E documents, and newsletters are located on the website.

11.5.3 Small Group Meetings

Community outreach activities were developed and implemented to further involve the local community in the design process. The purpose of these community meetings will be to share progress updates and to solicit and respond to citizen comments. Several small group meetings have been held as noted below:

- Downtown Tampa Transportation Committee on May 8, 2009
- Tampa Bay Applications Group on May 14, 2009
- Highland Pines Community Task Force on May 14, 2009
- City of Tampa on July 20, 2009
- Hillsborough County on August 4, 2009
- USF Facilities on August 18, 2009
- USF Area Multi-Modal District Public Meeting on September 9, 2009
- Hillsborough County MPO Technical Advisory Committee on September 19, 2009
- Hillsborough County MPO Citizens Advisory Committee on October 14, 2009
- Hillsborough County MPO Transportation Disadvantaged Committee Board on October 22, 2009