

Draft Memorandum of Understanding

Forming a Regional MPO

Whit Blanton, FAICP
Forward Pinellas

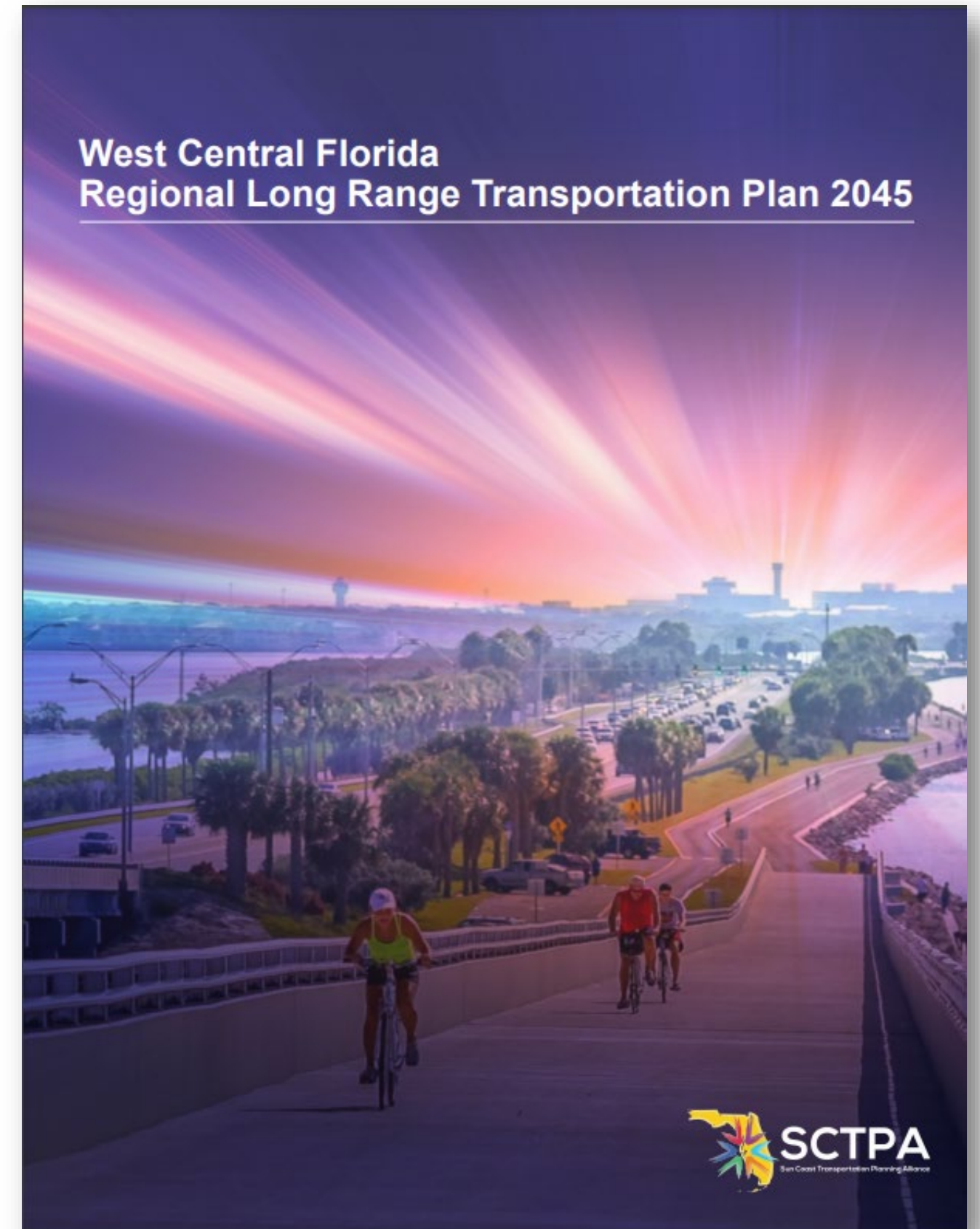


SCTPA
Sun Coast Transportation Planning Alliance

ONE REGION, ONE VOICE

Context

- SCTPA (and TMA) created to guide regional planning and collaboration among the MPOs
- 2020 Census-based apportionment plans
- Funding allocated to the urban area
- Long-standing and persistent advocacy to create a regional MPO for Hillsborough, Pasco, Pinellas
- MPO Long Range Transportation Plan Updates underway and due by fall 2024



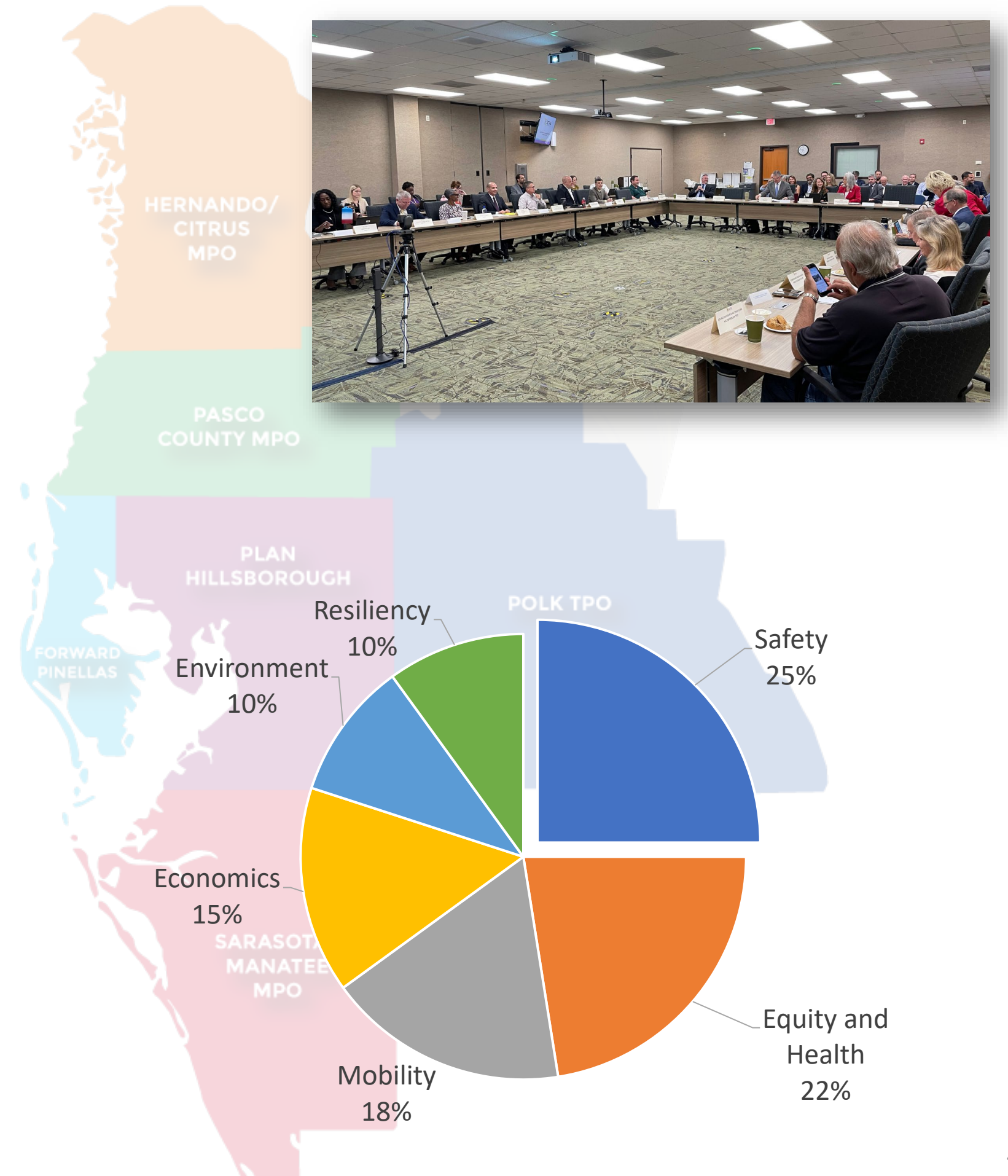
MOU Framework

- Start of a conversation – this is a draft
- Clarify expectations and assumptions in writing for review and discussion
- Identify areas of agreement and points of further discussion and refinement on whether and how to proceed
- Examine ways to create integrated county-based transportation and land use planning into a regional governance structure
- Enlist the formal support of the public, along with federal, state, regional, and local agencies to identify a path forward



MOU Structure

- Goal is to build collaboration and a forum for leveraging the strength of the region to achieve regional and county-specific outcomes
- Not a replacement or substitute for TBARTA
- Respect the differences in characteristics, conditions and needs among the three counties
- Determine a process that ensures local voices guide decision-making
- Ensure there is a stable funding mechanism to support planning activities that augment and be reimbursed by the federal government

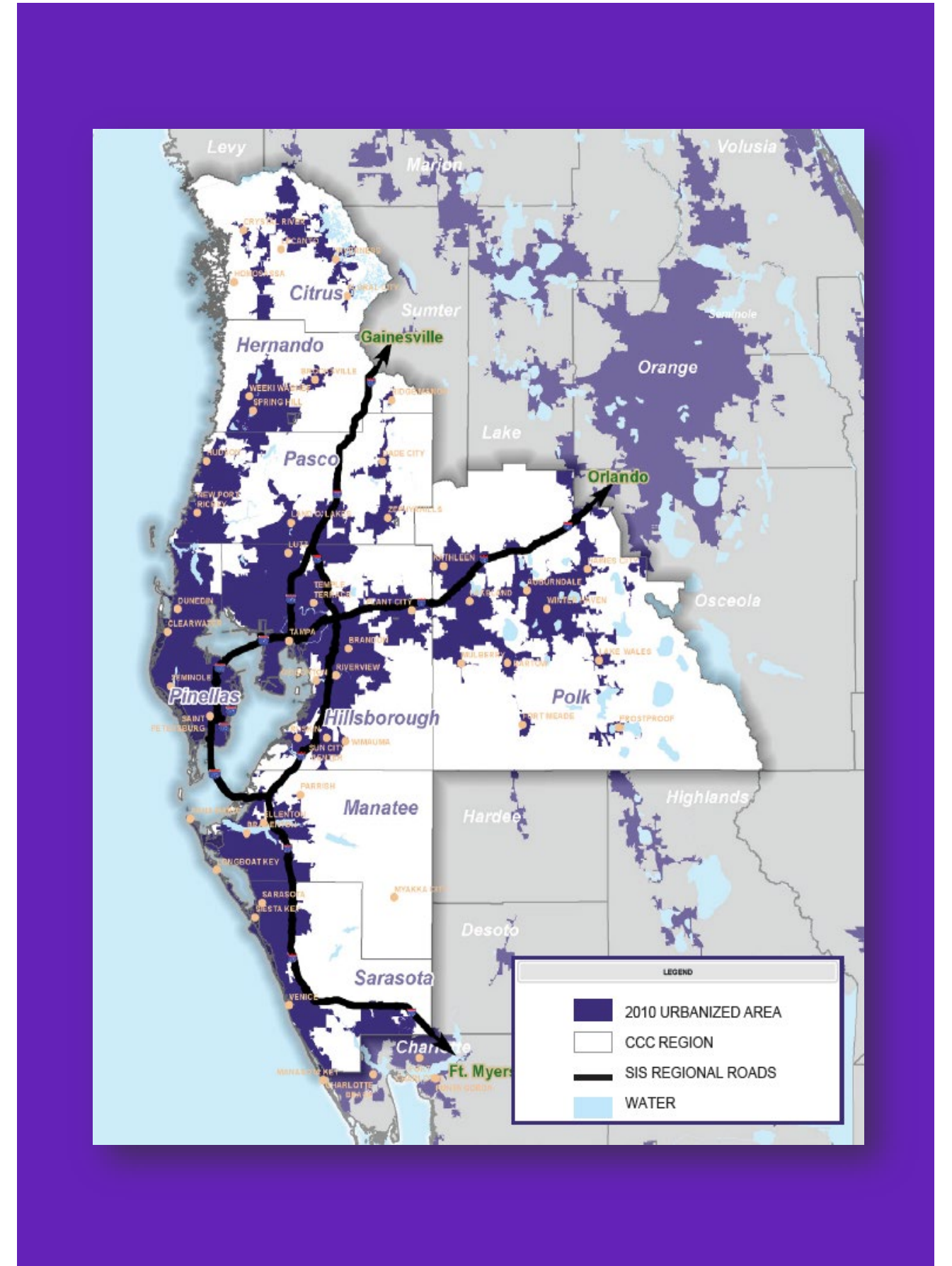


A Few Pros and Cons

- Build trust and collaboration
- Define the transportation agenda
- Compete more effectively with other regions for funding
- Align regional transportation with regional economic development
- Largest MPO in Florida
- Risk of smaller communities and neighborhoods losing influence
- Does not guarantee any more funding or change the need for operating funds for transit
- Could shift emphasis to regional projects instead of community safety, access and mobility needs
- Potential to weaken countywide planning

Considerations

- Have the communities of Tampa Bay and the Tampa Bay region delivered on their transportation goals?
 - Is the region working optimally to garner needed funds?
- Is projected growth and demand for housing, jobs and livable communities adequately reflected in our transportation plans, projects and outcomes?
- Are equity, safety, economic opportunity, and resilience adequately considered in our transportation investment decisions?
- Is there a different model where we can better harness federal and state resources to make more progress on both regional and local needs?





Next Steps

- Revise MOU language as guided by TMA and respective MPOs
- Engage MPO member local governments to discuss the MOU and obtain their input
- Monitor and inform any state legislative measures
- Work on apportionment plan and business model
- Provide update to TMA Leadership Group in September

SunCoastTPA.org

@SunCoastTPA

