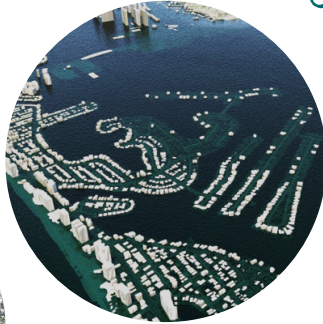




Changing the Tide

Creating a Resilient Future



20%

of Pinellas County residents and jobs are located in the Coastal High Hazard Area

Since 1946, the Tampa Bay area has seen over

7 inches

of sea level rise, and that rate is expected to increase.

2990 miles

of roads in Pinellas, Hillsborough, and Pasco Counties are vulnerable to major hurricanes, sea level rise, and more intense rainstorms.

With \$175 billion

in potential losses, the Tampa Bay region is the most vulnerable metropolitan area in the United States to storm surge

\$3.5 billion

in funding is needed to make the roads and bridges in Pinellas County more resilient according to the Regional Resiliency Coalition.



**FORWARD
PINELLAS**

The Tampa Bay region is one of the most vulnerable areas in the country, experiencing frequent storms and persistent flooding. Due to our coastal geography and changing climate, the region faces additional threats from sea level rise and frequent severe flooding from heavy rainstorms. These events have a detrimental impact on our homes, businesses, and critical infrastructure. Roads and bridges are integral to our way of life and new solutions are needed to make our infrastructure more resilient to these weather-related hazards.



Creating resilient communities is essential for our communities and businesses. It's up to us to adapt to the changing world so our cities can continue to thrive.

~Joanne "Cookie" Kennedy
Forward Pinellas Vice-Chair
Indian Rocks Beach Mayor

Creative Solutions

In September 2017 Hurricane Irma was on a collision course with Tampa Bay. That near-miss was a wake-up call that we are on borrowed time. During the 2020 hurricane season, Tropical Storm Eta made landfall near Cedar Key and caused dangerous storm surge, flooded streets, and damaging winds throughout Pinellas County. This issue is of utmost importance because flooded roads create challenges, including getting to work, school, businesses, and other routine activities, which can mean lost income, lost time, and other hardships.

Impassable roads and bridges can restrict access to emergency services and evacuation routes, which place lives in danger. Damaged transportation infrastructure, such as washed-out roads or bridges, create longer-term disruptions and increase repair and overall maintenance costs. It is clear that resilient roads and bridges are critical to the safety and prosperity of our community, and we need to prepare our region to be resilient in the face of these hazards.

Creative solutions can be realized with advanced planning and innovative engineering, such as hardening roads, strengthening the shoreline, adding breakwater devices, etc. As a coastal region, collective actionable steps are needed to enhance the resilience of our roads and bridges to guarantee the safety and prosperity of our communities and maintain our quality of life.