

SUPER REGIONAL STRATEGY TEAM

Hosted by the Tampa Bay Partnership and the Central Florida Partnership

Summary of First Session ■ June 2008








From the offices of Stuart Rogel, President and CEO of the Tampa Bay Partnership, and Jacob V. Stuart, President and CEO of the Central Florida Partnership

SUMMARY

Thank you for participating in the June 19, 2008 milestone meeting of our two great regions. The level of attendance alone spoke volumes about leaders' interest in exploring shared agendas, opportunities, and strengths. The conversation as a whole revealed a sense of urgency about getting started and learning how to work together as a "super-regional" team for tangible benefits.

As the Tampa Bay Partnership and the Central Florida Partnership work together as convening agents to set the next meeting date, it is important to capture and test the results of the June 19 meeting. We welcome your comments and ideas, and look forward to the next steps. In the meantime, here are our joint session notes:

Tampa Bay and Central Florida mutually benefit when we work together on the following, interrelated issues:

- 
Commuter Rail/Tampa Bay Area Regional Transportation Authority (TBARTA)/The Long-view on Multi-modal Solutions
- 
Legislative Clout
- 
Workforce Housing
- 
Healthcare and Healthy Communities
- 
Water
- 
Energy Resources
- 
Growth Management

Issues requiring collaboration (above) are much too complex to be considered and launched, all together, as a shared agenda.

Transportation may provide both regions with the best opportunity to take on crisis issues with long-term context. The following opportunities present themselves when starting with transportation:

1. We can tackle a shared, near-term crisis and high-value outcomes when working together for commuter rail. Our regions are lagging on rail alternatives when compared to our peer markets.
2. We can work together to express the right, long-term multi-modal priorities for access to ports, health care, education, amenities, and business, including how Polk County can best engage in the Tampa Bay Area Regional Transportation Authority (TBARTA) and Central Florida Transportation Corridors "Task Force" (CFTCTF) process moving forward.
3. As we set near and long-term transportation priorities, we can learn, as a team, to leverage the state and federal legislative power that resides in our combined regions.
4. The focus on transportation will allow our regions to learn how to work together, leverage assets, express ourselves with one voice, and prepare for other challenging issues and opportunities.

OneBay and *myregion.org* may have differences of approach and history, but we should always find time to compare notes on these regional, community-informed growth planning initiatives.

We received good counsel about using clear language about regional issues, super-regional solutions, and mega-regional agendas. We should be mindful of the interconnectedness of infrastructure, natural systems, and policy advocacy. However, some issues may continue to be best addressed at the regional level and not among regions.

We may need to add some private sector participation to show balance, from the Gulf to the Atlantic, but "this is the group" we need to advance the right policies and visions for multi-modal transportation to connect our two regions.

We should not wrap up this summary without mentioning the number of participants who, after the close of the session, indicated **the next meeting needs to be set "right now" or as "quickly as possible"**. You have our commitment that we will act on this sense of urgency. Given the half billion dollar rail risk, we probably have no choice.