

HB 251

Tampa Bay Regional Transportation Authority

The house and senate versions of the regional transportation authority have been running through committees under the radar of even the media. Although we support this bill in premise, there are three major flaws, that if not corrected before a final vote, will perpetuate another bill that would not be in the best public interest. This bill has one stop before it get voted on the House floor. **PLEASE ASK THE ECONOMIC EXPANSION & INFRASTRUCTURE COUNCIL MEMBERS TO MAKE SURE THESE THREE ITEMS ARE IN THE BILL, OR WE WILL NOT SUPPORT IT!** (Members' emails below) The next Council meeting is this Thursday at 8:00 am. We don't know if this bill will be on the agenda or not. SO, PLEASE EMAIL TODAY!

THREE FLAWS IN HB 251:

1. **THERE IS NO IDENTIFIED FUNDING SOURCE FOR THIS AUTHORITY** - we have many of these that have been shelved due to lack of funding (see Tampa Rail Authority set up a few years ago)

2. **THERE IS NO LINK BETWEEN LAND PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION PLANNING** - this will result again in a status quo sprawled development pattern (see Suncoast Parkway and I-75 in South Florida)

3. **THERE IS NO WAY TO ENFORCE OR IMPLEMENT THE TRANSPORTATION PLAN** - a plan is to be completed by July of 2009. Since all jurisdictions should have bought into this two-year visioning transportation plan WITH PUBLIC PARTICIPATION, then to **mandate comp plan compliance** by each jurisdiction is not unreasonable. Without mandating all local comp plans incorporate and reflect its section of this plan in their comprehensive plans once completed, one jurisdiction will be able to throw a monkey wrench into the works.

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*These are members of our Hillsborough County Legislative Delegation