

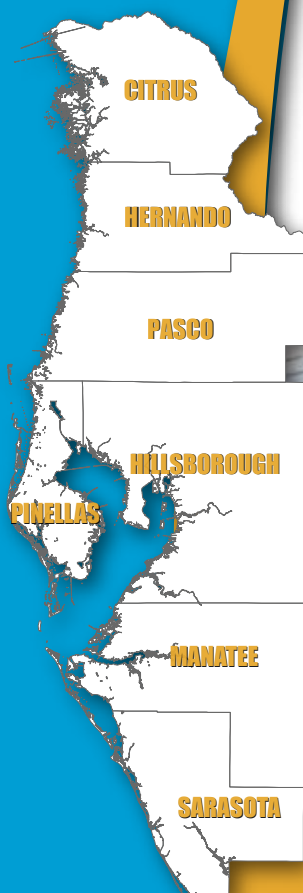


# A Connected Region For Our Future

**The foundation for the quality of life we desire is our transportation system. This is our opportunity to improve the outlook for our future.**

Ensure our region remains a desirable place to live and work. Stay involved as we implement the Regional Transportation Master Plan Vision for our region. To view the Master Plan documents, please visit our website.

**[www.tbarta.com/plan](http://www.tbarta.com/plan)**



ESTABLISHED BY THE FLORIDA STATE LEGISLATURE IN JULY 2007, TBARTA IS CHARGED WITH IMPLEMENTING A REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM FOR CITRUS, HERNANDO, HILLSBOROUGH, MANATEE, PASCO, PINELLAS, AND SARASOTA COUNTIES.



# Improving Our Future

## Why Do We Need a Master Plan?

Over the past three decades, population in Tampa Bay has more than doubled, employment has more than tripled, and 50 percent of our developable land has been built out. During that same period, the delay we experience in commute time has more than doubled. **Our area's rapid, sprawling growth has resulted in dispersed employment centers, massive suburban development, and a transportation system with few options. Residents often drive alone – overloading the roadways that link our suburban areas.**

We expect to see an additional 1.8 million new residents in our area by 2035. By 2050, our population and employment is projected to nearly double again, and another 20 percent of our land will be developed, leaving only 30 percent of developable land for future growth. As our region grows, commute times, travel costs, and congestion will continue to increase exponentially. **Compared to what we have today, traffic congestion in 2035 is expected to more than double and to triple by 2050.**

A vibrant economy and abundance of good jobs directly affect our quality of life. We want new employers to move here to provide greater job opportunities. Our families need to be able to find suitable housing, while maintaining affordable and convenient access to jobs, schools, medical facilities,

and entertainment. **The foundation for the quality of life we desire is our transportation system. This is our opportunity to improve the outlook for our future.**

## A Regional Approach:

**Traffic congestion does not start or stop at county lines.**

**Neither should our solutions.**

Focusing on a regional approach to our transportation issues will allow for seamless travel between counties, giving us choices to connect housing areas to employment, shopping, medical, educational, and entertainment centers spread throughout the region.

With the amount of available money diminishing, federal funding for projects is becoming more and more competitive each year. It is crucial to plan our transportation system on a regional level and speak with one voice to increase our chances for securing funding.





## What Are the Benefits?

**A robust, multi-faceted transportation network will benefit us all, even those that will use it infrequently, with advantages ranging from improved air quality and reduced greenhouse gas emissions to increased job opportunities and a boost to our economy – not to mention personal benefits.** An average commuter in the Tampa Bay region spends an EXTRA 46 hours per year sitting in traffic, costing the region \$1 billion annually, or approximately \$809 per commuter. If you drive 15,000 miles annually, it costs nearly \$8,000 per year to own and operate a mid-sized car. Using transit and driving less can save you money on fuel, car maintenance, and insurance, even if you keep your car and don't take transit every day. Every \$10 million invested in public transportation saves more than \$15 million in transportation costs, for both highway and transit users.

For every piece of the Regional Networks that must be planned, built, maintained, and operated, the economy benefits - **each dollar invested means \$5.84 in the economy, of which \$ 4.79 stays in our region.** Investing in the transportation improvements is expected to create an annual average of nearly 21,000 quality full-time jobs over the 40 years it will take to implement the Long-Term Networks. The number of jobs created will increase over time, with more jobs in the years construction is underway, as well as long-term jobs such as transit operators, office and maintenance staff. **The money spent by people working in those new jobs, creates more demand for services, creating additional jobs.**

**If the Long-Term Regional and Supporting Networks are built, our region would benefit from reductions in tailpipe emissions, greenhouse gases, fuel consumption, and traffic congestion.**

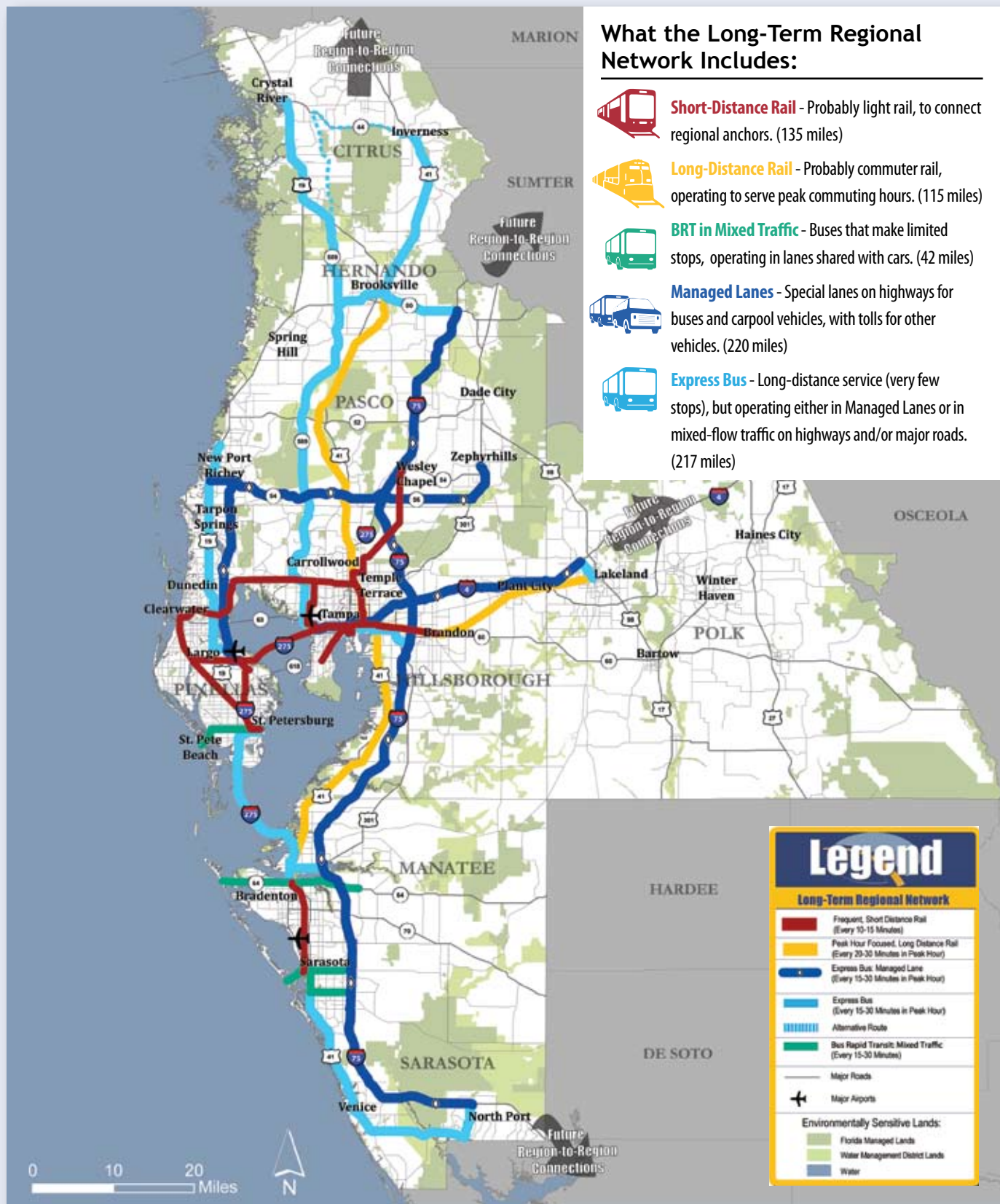


**Using transit as a tool to influence our region's growth patterns will allow us to better preserve our rural and environmentally-sensitive areas and minimize the costs of providing utilities and other services.**



# Long-Term Regional Network (2050)

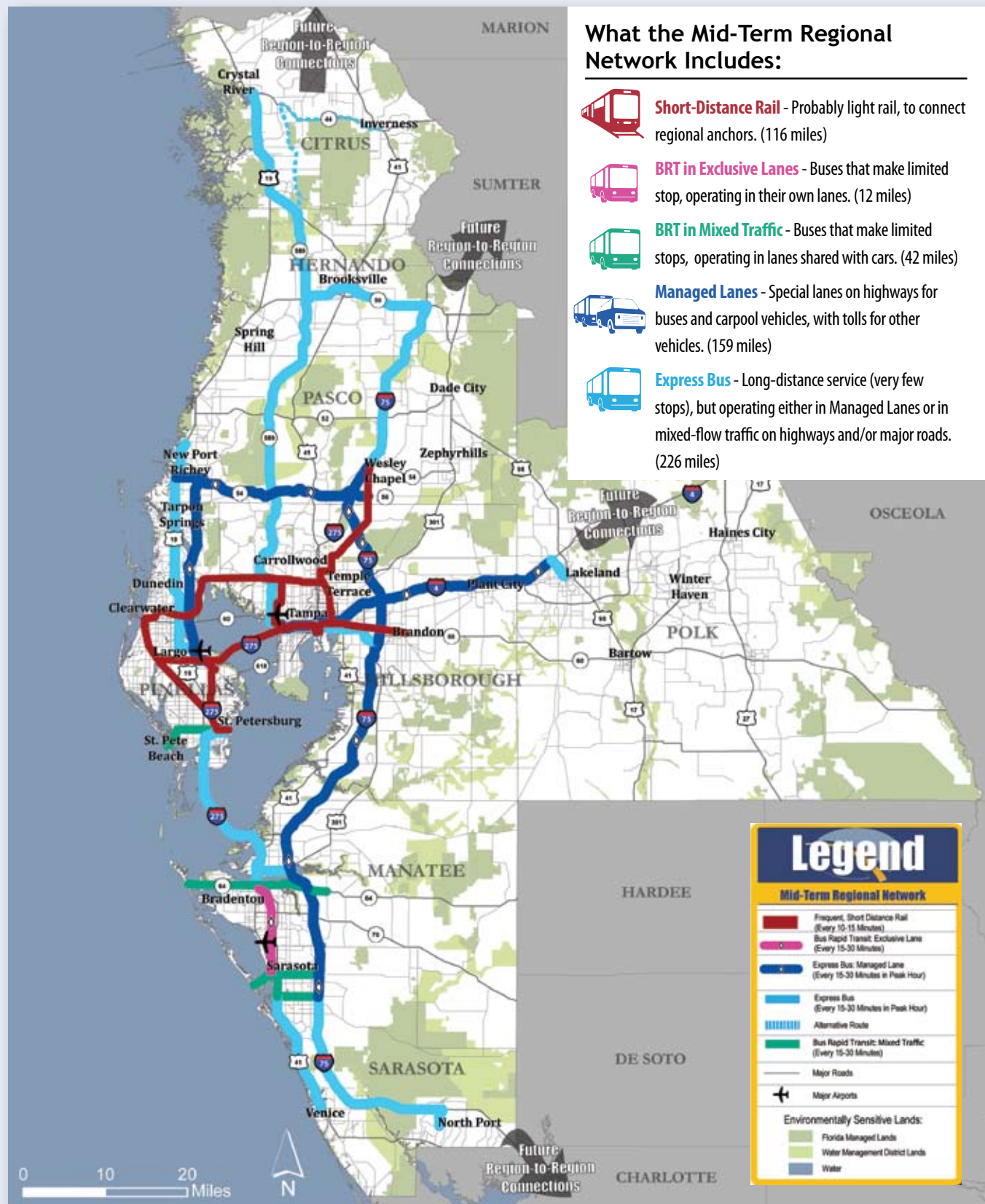
Shows What Our Future Can Be





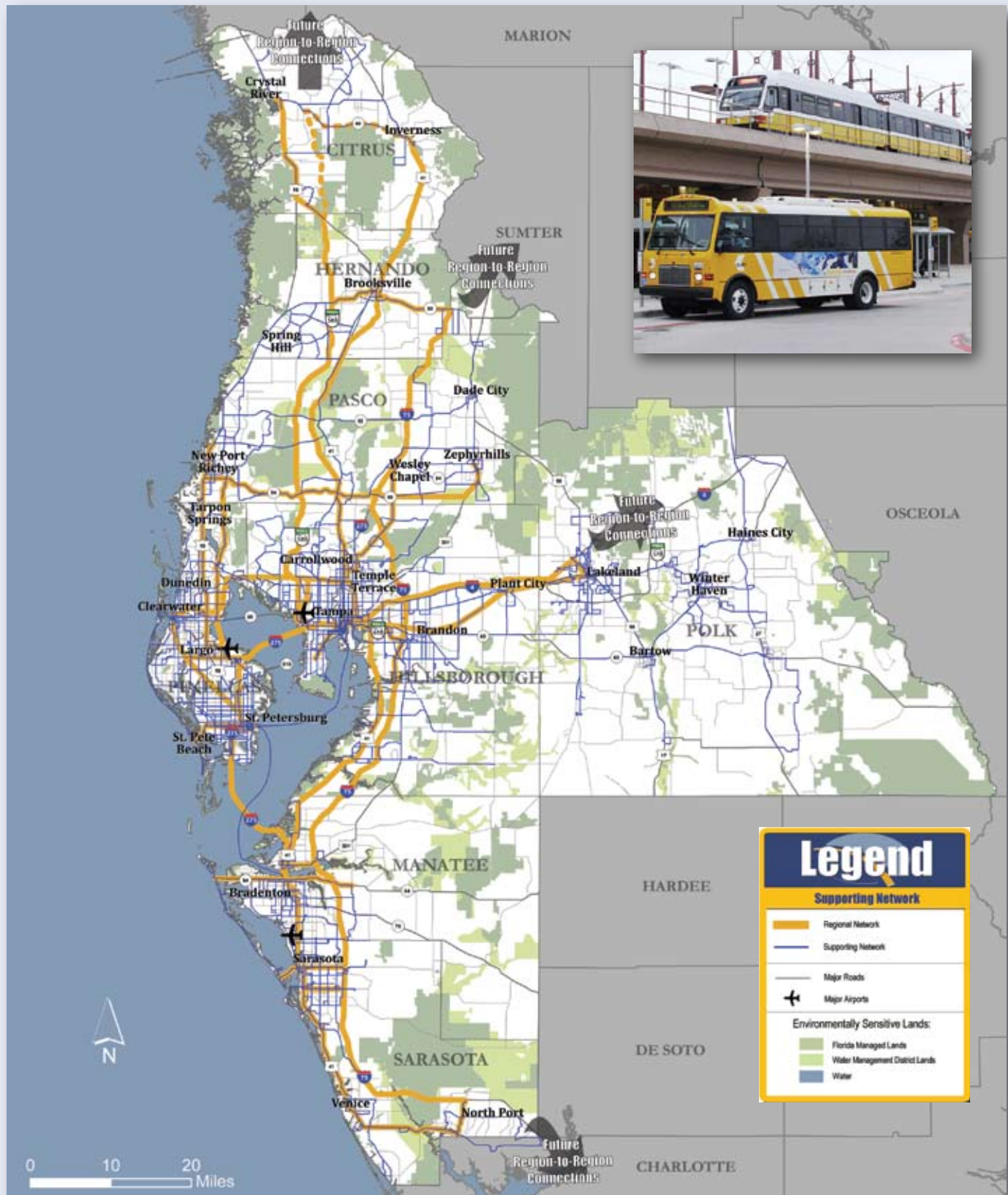
# Mid-Term Regional Network (2035)

## Focuses on Where We Should Begin



# Supporting Network

## Provides Connections to the Regional Network





## How Was the Master Plan Created?

The Tampa Bay Area Regional Transportation Authority (TBARTA) is charged with developing a Regional Transportation Master Plan for Citrus, Hernando, Hillsborough, Manatee, Pasco, Pinellas, and Sarasota Counties. The Plan was developed in cooperation with the region's agencies and the public, focusing on adjusting and expanding local transit to connect seamlessly to the regional system that links communities and activity centers. The planning process also examined transportation's relationship with land use – where people live, work, shop, and play influences where and how they travel. **Identifying regional destinations, such as population and employment centers, was critical to understanding where transportation improvements and connections need to occur.** It was also important to identify tourism areas; clusters of special uses such as sporting venues, universities, and medical centers, each of which generate high volumes of traffic; as well as areas that are ripe for redevelopment such as older malls or vacant commercial centers.

### What Does the Plan Include?

The TBARTA Master Plan creates the framework for a seamless, linked transportation network, using a variety of modes (highways, rail, bus, ferry) where they are most effective. **Improving the level of transit service in our region as well as enhancing the capacity of existing roadways, are key to improving overall connectivity and mobility.** The Master Plan includes a Long-Term Regional Network for 2050 and a Mid-Term Regional for 2035 (see maps inside). Both regional

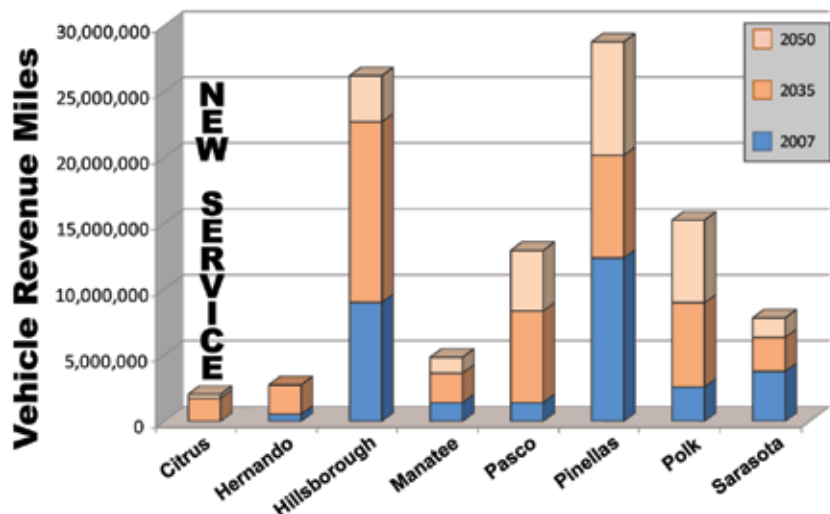
networks will be complemented by hundreds of miles of local or sub-regional transit services.

### How Will the Plan Be Funded?

Just as planning the transportation system has been a collaborative process between federal, state, and local governments, as well as the public, so will be the development of financing strategies. Locally and across the United States, major transportation projects often include a package of funding sources, including federal and state grants, locally-generated funds to match those grants, and private sector participation where possible. **TBARTA will work with its planning partners to leverage local contribution with opportunities for federal, state, and private dollars.**

**The key will be choosing priorities and determining what each community can afford. Each community within the TBARTA Region will need to determine what they can afford locally and how to set their priorities.**

### Magnitude of Service Expansion Over 2007 Service



## What Comes Next?

After receiving hundreds of public and agency comments on the Regional Networks, the TBARTA Board has refined and adopted the Master Plan prior to our legislatively mandated July 1, 2009 deadline.

**The TBARTA Board is asking for your continued participation** as we begin to prioritize projects, develop financial strategies for implementation, coordinate the advancement of more detailed planning and environmental analysis for the prioritized projects, and continue public engagement and education efforts. We will work with our partners to explore our regional long-term funding options, including how to use private partnerships, and answer the questions of how the regional system will operate and who will operate it.

Some of the questions you may have, such as "Can I get from my house to the airport on one ticket?", "Where will the stations be and what will they look like?", and "When is this going to happen in my area?" will be answered with more detail as we enter the next phase of the planning and priority-setting process.

### How Can You Help?

To keep informed about TBARTA's ongoing work building a connected region, and to learn about future public engagement and education efforts, sign up on our website: **www.TBARTA.com**. Remember that information on what projects should be implemented when, and how we could pay for them, will be discussed in coming months.

**Share your opinions about this Master Plan with us and your neighbors.** Ask your employer if they are "on board." You can send us e-mail through the TBARTA website or call us at (813) 217-4048 or toll free at (888) 684-9461. This is only the beginning and we need your involvement to help define and guide how transportation shapes our future in the Tampa Bay area. **Help us build a connected region for our future, not only for your children and grandchildren, but for yourself!**



Tampa Bay Area Regional  
Transportation Authority

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### TBARTA VISION

"A WORLD CLASS TRANSPORTATION NETWORK FOR THE TAMPA BAY REGION THAT WILL CONNECT PEOPLE AND PLACES, MOVE GOODS AND SERVICES, ENHANCE THE QUALITY OF LIFE, AND OFFER TRANSPORTATION OPTIONS THAT ARE SAFE, SUSTAINABLE, AFFORDABLE, AND EFFICIENT. WE WILL ACT AS A CATALYST FOR A VIBRANT ECONOMIC FUTURE THROUGH LEADERSHIP, COLLABORATION, AND PARTNERSHIPS."