

TBARTA and Central Florida MPO Alliance Team in Support of Trails and other Projects**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****CONTACT:** Michael Case, Senior Planner
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Tampa, FL. (July 8, 2016) – At their annual joint-meeting on Friday, July 15, 2016, the Tampa Bay Area Regional Transportation Authority (TBARTA) Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) Chairs Coordinating Committee (CCC) Board and the Central Florida Metropolitan Planning Organization Alliance (CFMPOA), will hear updates on the design and branding of the wayfinding signage system that will be installed along the Coast-to-Coast Connector (C2C) Trail from the Florida Greenways and Trails (FGT) Council, whom is requesting official support from the two Boards in moving forward with their recommendations.

The CFMPOA and the TBARTA MPOs CCC Board meet annually to discuss projects and issues that affect both regions as a whole, or portions thereof. The coordination between the two brings together 15 of Florida's 67 counties and 11 of Florida's 26 MPOs.

The C2C Trail is the first of two long-distance trails chosen for Shared Use Non-Motorized (SUN) Trails funding, and will connect 20 local trails through nine counties, starting at the Pinellas Trail and terminating at the end of the Space Coast Trail in Volusia County. Upon completion, the trail will span over 250 miles, and will be completely separated from the road network. In addition, it is anticipated that other local multi-use trails not identified as part of the SUN Trails network will eventually connect with the C2C, providing additional access to parks and public facilities.

“Connecting so many communities together by trail requires a signage system and set of design recommendations that allow each one of them to put in their local distinctiveness,” said TBARTA Executive Director, Ramond Chiaramonte. “This will also allow each community to design signage that best fits their needs and budgets, while providing a consistent wayfinding system for cyclists and pedestrians that may want to ride long distances or possibly explore areas and parks just beyond the trail.”

Other presentations for the meeting include an overview of the I-4 Ultimate Project, currently under construction in Orlando, by the Florida Department of Transportation, District 5; an update on the I-75 Relief Task Force from the TBARTA Executive Director; a presentation on beach accessibility in Pinellas County by the Forward Pinellas Executive Director; and an update on the continuing efforts of TBARTA to obtain funding for individual SUN Trails projects that make up the Southwest Coastal Regional Trail (SCRT).

TBARTA represented the Tampa Bay region at the Sun Trails meeting in Tallahassee earlier this year for the SCRT, which was ranked No. 3 out of 15 total submissions. The SUN Trails program allocates \$25 million annually to trails identified as part of the Florida Greenways and Trails system, with one-third each going to the top two trails, and the remaining third going to individual projects. The SCRT, once complete, will provide the north-south connection from the Pinellas Trail in St. Petersburg, through Tampa, and head south along the coast to Naples, Florida. Joined together with the C2C in Pinellas County, the two regional trails will form the largest system of locally connected trails in the United States.

For more information about the TBARTA - CFMPOA Joint Meeting, contact Michael Case, TBARTA Senior Planner and Project Manager, at Michael.Case@tbarta.com, or visit the [TBARTA Calendar listing on TBARTA.com](#). This is a public meeting, and full agenda will be available at the calendar link by Monday, July 11, 2016.

TBARTA was created by the Florida Legislature in 2007 to plan and develop a multimodal transportation system that will connect the seven counties of the Tampa Bay region – Citrus, Hernando, Hillsborough, Manatee, Pasco, Pinellas and Sarasota. For more information, visit www.TBARTA.com.