

## THE MISSION

*Given the current characteristics of automobile usage in Sarasota and Manatee Counties and expected population growth through 2025, the region is facing a \$1 billion deficit in its long-term roadway construction needs. The purpose of the Public Transportation System Analysis is to identify an effective strategy to maintain and enhance the region's mobility using the full range of transit modes that reflects financial resources, land use objectives, physical and socioeconomic characteristics and community preferences.*

## THE CHALLENGE

You've heard the problems with public transportation. "We love the automobile, and you can't get people out of their cars. Americans won't use mass transit." And this: "I rode the bus up north. I'm not doing that here." Or this: "It's too slow and takes too long to be anything but a social service program for people who can't drive."

But building roads to solve congestion problems has its limits. The MPO's recently adopted long-range 2025 Transportation Plan recognizes a \$1 billion shortfall in funding for needed roadway projects. Many argue that road widening further erodes a sense of community, makes walking or bicycling a daunting challenge and creates a uniform, uninteresting pattern of strip shopping malls and walled neighborhoods. They say new roads fragment habitat, spoil ecosystems and create sprawl. Worse yet, some claim that "induced traffic" simply fills up newly-built roads to congestion levels equal to that before the widening or new construction.

Certainly, some road-building is needed. Is there common ground? Can public transportation be more of an option, available not just to those who must use it, but as a viable option to those who have a choice? If the state or Amtrak builds high speed rail with a stop in the Sarasota - Manatee area, what kind of

### What Makes the PTSA Different from other Studies?

Most public transportation studies are incremental - making relatively small changes to existing operations. This study takes a long-range, big picture perspective, with "outside of the box" thinking.

The MPO's 2025 Long Range Transportation Plan was financially constrained and did not include an in depth analysis of transit options. The PTSA takes the blinders off for an unconstrained assessment of viable service options, technology and funding.

Your views count. The PTSA has an active community outreach program. Become involved and help shape the community's direction for transportation.

local transit system should connect people, places and jobs with that system and Tampa, Fort Myers and Orlando?

In that context, the two-county region needs to determine what role buses, trains, trolleys, hovercraft or automated people-movers, and yes, land use, should play in getting people from here to there, in-town, out-of-town and through town in the future.

### PTSA INFORMATION AND SCHEDULE

The Sarasota/Manatee MPO, made up of local elected officials, is the agency responsible for completing the PTSA. The MPO has formed a multi-agency steering committee, composed of area elected officials, technical staff, and citizens to guide the project.

The PTSA is expected to take approximately 12 to 14 months to complete, with final recommendations presented in March or April 2002.

## Types of Issues the PTSA will Address:

- How can public transportation work as a system of different services and modes to meet community needs for jobs, social services and recreation?
- How should the transit system be organized and funded for maximum effectiveness and efficiency?
- Is some form of passenger rail service or Bus Rapid Transit in the future for the Sarasota-Manatee County Region?
- How can bus service better link neighborhoods to work places, shopping and other centers?
- How will strategic investments in transit help reduce the need to build new and wider roads to meet growth pressures over the next 25 years?



*Public transportation comes in various forms and styles, but it has one overriding goal: providing mobility to meet community needs for work, school, shopping, health care and recreation. What strategies are needed to enable public transportation to maximize that goal in Sarasota and Manatee Counties?*

**VISIT THE PTSA WEBSITE:**  
**www.mpo-ptsa.org**



The **PTSA Website** features a project calendar, public documents, a public comment section, survey questions, meeting summaries, maps, photo gallery and other items of interest. The website is updated frequently. Check it out and stay updated with the project.



**Your Input IS Important. So, Get Involved Today!**

**JOIN THE PLAN INFORMATION NETWORK**

Participate in a meaningful dialogue about how the region should strategically plan for public transportation. Become a PIN member to keep abreast of study developments by completing the form below and returning it to Diana Schultz at Renaissance Planning Group (407/893-8175, extension 14, or via e-mail at DSchultz@CitiesThatWork.com).

**Complete and return this form to join the Plan Information Network (PIN)**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Affiliation:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**Telephone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Fax:** \_\_\_\_\_

**E-mail:** \_\_\_\_\_

**PTSA Steering Committee Members**



- Ernie Gerlach, Steering Committee Chair
- Commissioner Shannon Staub, Sarasota Co. BCC
- Commissioner Mary Quillin, City of Sarasota
- Doug Soles, Greyhound Bus Lines
- Brian Beatty, Sarasota Co. Growth Management
- Jay Goodwill/Phil Lieberman, SCAT
- Harry Mendenhall, Manatee Co. Transportation
- Leon Kotecki, Manatee Co. Planning Department
- Frank Reuss, MPO CAC
- Mary Runnells, MPO CAC
- Richard Dreyer, FDOT District One
- Nazih Haddad, FDOT Central Office
- Carl Gaites, MCAT
- John Barry, AMTRAK
- Ray White, Sarasota-Manatee Airport Authority

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**PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION**



**SYSTEM ANALYSIS**

[www.mpo-ptsa.org](http://www.mpo-ptsa.org)

A Project of the  
**Sarasota/Manatee  
 Metropolitan Planning Organization**



[www.sarasota-manateempo.org](http://www.sarasota-manateempo.org)