

1                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to the Tampa Bay Area Regional Transit  
3           Authority; amending s. 339.175, F.S.; creating the  
4           Tampa Bay Area Regional Transit Authority Metropolitan  
5           Planning Organization Chairs Coordinating Committee to  
6           replace the Tampa Bay Area Regional Transportation  
7           Authority Metropolitan Planning Organization Chairs  
8           Coordinating Committee; providing that the Tampa Bay  
9           Area Regional Transit Authority Metropolitan Planning  
10          Organization Chairs Coordinating Committee is created  
11          within the Tampa Bay Area Regional Transit Authority;  
12          amending s. 343.90, F.S.; revising the short title to  
13          "Tampa Bay Area Regional Transit Authority Act";  
14          amending s. 343.91, F.S.; revising the definition of  
15          the term "authority" to mean the Tampa Bay Area  
16          Regional Transit Authority and to include only  
17          Hillsborough, Manatee, Pasco, and Pinellas Counties  
18          and any other contiguous county that is party to an  
19          agreement of participation; revising the definition of  
20          the term "commuter rail"; amending s. 343.92, F.S.;  
21          creating the Tampa Bay Area Regional Transit  
22          Authority, instead of the Tampa Bay Area Regional  
23          Transportation Authority; decreasing voting membership  
24          on the governing board of the authority; requiring the  
25          members to be appointed within a specified period;

26 | revising appointment and term requirements of such  
27 | membership; revising requirements for filling  
28 | vacancies on the board; requiring the Governor to  
29 | appoint an initial chair of the board from one of the  
30 | three members appointed by the Governor; requiring the  
31 | board to elect a chair from among certain members at  
32 | the end of the initial chair's term; providing that  
33 | seven members of the board constitute a quorum;  
34 | providing that the vote of seven members is necessary  
35 | for any action to be taken by the authority; requiring  
36 | the board to evaluate the abolishment, continuance,  
37 | modification, or establishment of specified committees  
38 | beginning on a specified date; requiring the board to  
39 | submit its recommendations for abolishment,  
40 | continuance, modification, or establishment of the  
41 | committees to the Legislature before a specified time;  
42 | deleting requirements related to the establishment of  
43 | a Transit Management Committee, a Citizens Advisory  
44 | Committee, and technical advisory committees;  
45 | conforming provisions to changes made by the act;  
46 | amending s. 343.922, F.S.; revising the express  
47 | purposes of the authority to include planning,  
48 | implementing, and operating mobility improvements and  
49 | expansions of certain multimodal transportation  
50 | options, producing a certain regional transit

51 development plan, and serving as the recipient of  
 52 certain federal funds under certain circumstances;  
 53 directing the authority to provide to the Legislature  
 54 a plan to produce the regional transit development  
 55 plan by a specified date; providing requirements for  
 56 the regional transit development plan; requiring the  
 57 authority to develop and adopt a regional transit  
 58 development plan instead of a transportation master  
 59 plan; deleting obsolete provisions; conforming  
 60 provisions to changes made by the act; amending ss.  
 61 343.94, 343.947, 343.95, 343.975, and 343.976, F.S.;  
 62 conforming provisions to changes made by the act;  
 63 providing an effective date.

64  
 65 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

66  
 67 Section 1. Paragraph (i) of subsection (6) of section  
 68 339.175, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

69 339.175 Metropolitan planning organization.—

70 (6) POWERS, DUTIES, AND RESPONSIBILITIES.—The powers,  
 71 privileges, and authority of an M.P.O. are those specified in  
 72 this section or incorporated in an interlocal agreement  
 73 authorized under s. 163.01. Each M.P.O. shall perform all acts  
 74 required by federal or state laws or rules, now and subsequently  
 75 applicable, which are necessary to qualify for federal aid. It

76 | is the intent of this section that each M.P.O. shall be involved  
77 | in the planning and programming of transportation facilities,  
78 | including, but not limited to, airports, intercity and high-  
79 | speed rail lines, seaports, and intermodal facilities, to the  
80 | extent permitted by state or federal law.

81 | (i) The Tampa Bay Area Regional Transit ~~Transportation~~  
82 | Authority Metropolitan Planning Organization Chairs Coordinating  
83 | Committee is created within the Tampa Bay Area Regional Transit  
84 | ~~Transportation~~ Authority, composed of the M.P.O.'s serving  
85 | Citrus, Hernando, Hillsborough, Manatee, Pasco, Pinellas, Polk,  
86 | and Sarasota Counties. The authority shall provide  
87 | administrative support and direction to the committee. The  
88 | committee must, at a minimum:

89 | 1. Coordinate transportation projects deemed to be  
90 | regionally significant by the committee.

91 | 2. Review the impact of regionally significant land use  
92 | decisions on the region.

93 | 3. Review all proposed regionally significant  
94 | transportation projects in the respective transportation  
95 | improvement programs which affect more than one of the M.P.O.'s  
96 | represented on the committee.

97 | 4. Institute a conflict resolution process to address any  
98 | conflict that may arise in the planning and programming of such  
99 | regionally significant projects.

100 | Section 2. Section 343.90, Florida Statutes, is amended to

101 read:

102 343.90 Short title.—This part may be cited as the "Tampa  
103 Bay Area Regional Transit ~~Transportation~~ Authority Act."

104 Section 3. Paragraphs (a) and (e) of subsection (1) of  
105 section 343.91, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

106 343.91 Definitions.—

107 (1) As used in this part, the term:

108 (a) "Authority" means the Tampa Bay Area Regional Transit  
109 ~~Transportation~~ Authority, the body politic and corporate and  
110 agency of the state created by this part, covering ~~the seven-~~  
111 ~~county area comprised of Citrus, Hernando,~~ Hillsborough,  
112 Manatee, Pasco, and Pinellas, ~~Manatee, and Sarasota~~ Counties and  
113 any other contiguous county that is party to an agreement of  
114 participation.

115 (e)1. "Commuter rail" means a complete system of tracks,  
116 guideways, stations, and rolling stock necessary to effectuate  
117 medium-distance to long-distance passenger rail service to,  
118 from, or within the municipalities within the authority's  
119 designated ~~seven-county~~ region.

120 2. "Heavy rail transit" means a complete rail system  
121 operating on an electric railway with the capacity for a heavy  
122 volume of traffic, characterized by high-speed and rapid-  
123 acceleration passenger rail cars operating singly or in multicar  
124 trains on fixed rails in separate rights-of-way from which all  
125 other vehicular and pedestrian traffic are excluded. "Heavy rail

126 transit" includes metro, subway, elevated, rapid transit, and  
 127 rapid rail systems.

128 3. "Light rail transit" means a complete system of tracks,  
 129 overhead catenaries, stations, and platforms with lightweight  
 130 passenger rail cars operating singly or in short, multicar  
 131 trains on fixed rails in rights-of-way that are not separated  
 132 from other traffic for much of the way.

133 Section 4. Section 343.92, Florida Statutes, is amended to  
 134 read:

135 343.92 Tampa Bay Area Regional Transit ~~Transportation~~  
 136 Authority.—

137 (1) There is created and established a body politic and  
 138 corporate, an agency of the state, to be known as the Tampa Bay  
 139 Area Regional Transit ~~Transportation~~ Authority.

140 (2) The governing board of the authority shall consist of  
 141 13 ~~15~~ voting members appointed no later than 45 days after the  
 142 creation of the authority.

143 ~~(a) The secretary of the department shall appoint two~~  
 144 ~~advisors to the board who must be the district secretary for~~  
 145 ~~each of the department districts within the seven county area of~~  
 146 ~~the authority.~~

147 ~~(b) The 15 voting members of the board shall be as~~  
 148 follows:

149 (a)1. The county commissions of Citrus, ~~Hernando,~~  
 150 Hillsborough, Manatee, Pasco, and Pinellas, ~~Manatee,~~ and

151 ~~Sarasota~~ Counties shall each appoint one county commissioner  
152 ~~elected official~~ to the board. Members appointed under this  
153 paragraph ~~subparagraph~~ shall serve 2-year terms with not more  
154 than three consecutive terms being served by any person. If a  
155 member under this paragraph ~~subparagraph~~ leaves elected office,  
156 a vacancy exists on the board to be filled as provided in this  
157 paragraph within 90 days ~~subparagraph~~.

158 ~~2. The Tampa Bay Area Regional Transportation Authority~~  
159 ~~(TBARTA) Metropolitan Planning Organization Chairs Coordinating~~  
160 ~~Committee shall appoint one member to the board who must be a~~  
161 ~~chair of one of the six metropolitan planning organizations in~~  
162 ~~the region. The member appointed under this subparagraph shall~~  
163 ~~serve a 2-year term with not more than three consecutive terms~~  
164 ~~being served by any person.~~

165 ~~(b) 3.a.~~ (b) Two members of the board shall be the mayor, ~~or~~  
166 ~~the mayor's designee,~~ of the largest municipality within the  
167 service area of each of the following independent transit  
168 agencies or their legislatively created successor agencies:  
169 Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority and Hillsborough Area  
170 Regional Transit Authority. The largest municipality is that  
171 municipality with the largest population as determined by the  
172 most recent United States Decennial Census.

173 (c) Each of the following independent transit agencies or  
174 their legislatively created successor agencies shall appoint  
175 from the membership of its governing body one member to the

176 board: Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority and Hillsborough Area  
177 Regional Transit Authority. Each member appointed under this  
178 paragraph shall serve a 2-year term with not more than three  
179 consecutive terms being served by any person. If a member no  
180 longer meets the transit authority's criteria for appointment, a  
181 vacancy exists on the board to be filled as provided in this  
182 paragraph within 90 days.

183 (d) The President of the Senate and the Speaker of the  
184 House of Representatives shall each appoint to the board one  
185 member from the regional business community, each of whom must  
186 reside in one of the counties governed by the authority and may  
187 not be an elected official. A member initially appointed under  
188 this paragraph shall serve a 1-year term. Thereafter, a member  
189 appointed under this paragraph shall serve a 2-year term with  
190 not more than three consecutive terms being served by any  
191 person. A vacancy during a term shall be filled within 90 days  
192 in the same manner as the original appointment for the remainder  
193 of the unexpired term.

194 ~~b. Should a mayor choose not to serve, his or her designee~~  
195 ~~must be an elected official selected by the mayor from that~~  
196 ~~largest municipality's city council or city commission. A mayor~~  
197 ~~or his or her designee shall serve a 2-year term with not more~~  
198 ~~than three consecutive terms being served by any person.~~

199 ~~e. A designee's term ends if the mayor leaves office for~~  
200 ~~any reason. If a designee leaves elected office on the city~~



201 ~~council or commission, a vacancy exists on the board to be~~  
202 ~~filled by the mayor of that municipality as provided in sub-~~  
203 ~~subparagraph a.~~

204 ~~d. A mayor who has served three consecutive terms on the~~  
205 ~~board must designate an elected official from that largest~~  
206 ~~municipality's city council or city commission to serve on the~~  
207 ~~board for at least one term.~~

208 ~~4.a. One membership on the board shall rotate every 2~~  
209 ~~years between the mayor, or his or her designee, of the largest~~  
210 ~~municipality within Manatee County and the mayor, or his or her~~  
211 ~~designee, of the largest municipality within Sarasota County.~~  
212 ~~The mayor, or his or her designee, from the largest municipality~~  
213 ~~within Manatee County shall serve the first 2-year term. The~~  
214 ~~largest municipality is that municipality with the largest~~  
215 ~~population as determined by the most recent United States~~  
216 ~~Decennial Census.~~

217 ~~b. Should a mayor choose not to serve, his or her designee~~  
218 ~~must be an elected official selected by the mayor from that~~  
219 ~~municipality's city council or city commission.~~

220 ~~(e)5.~~ The Governor shall appoint to the board three  
221 members from the regional ~~four~~ business community  
222 representatives, each of whom must reside in one of the ~~seven~~  
223 counties governed by the authority and, ~~none of whom~~ may not be  
224 an elected official ~~officials~~, and at least one but not more  
225 ~~than two of whom shall represent counties within the federally~~

226 ~~designated Tampa Bay Transportation Management Area. Of the~~  
227 members initially appointed under this paragraph, one shall  
228 serve a 1-year term, one shall serve a 2-year term, and one  
229 shall serve a term as the initial chair as provided in  
230 subsection (5). Thereafter, a member ~~Members~~ appointed under  
231 this paragraph ~~by the Governor~~ shall serve a 2-year term ~~3-year~~  
232 ~~terms~~ with not more than three ~~two~~ consecutive terms being  
233 served by any person.

234 ~~(e)~~ Appointments may be staggered to avoid mass turnover  
235 at the end of any 2-year or 4-year period. A vacancy during a  
236 term shall be filled ~~by the respective appointing authority~~  
237 within 90 days in the same manner as the original appointment  
238 ~~and only~~ for the remainder of the unexpired term.

239 (3) The members of the board shall serve without  
240 compensation but shall be entitled to receive from the authority  
241 reimbursement for travel expenses and per diem actually incurred  
242 in connection with the business of the authority as provided in  
243 s. 112.061.

244 (4) Members of the board shall comply with the applicable  
245 financial disclosure requirements of ss. 112.3145, 112.3148, and  
246 112.3149.

247 (5) The Governor shall appoint one of the three members  
248 appointed under paragraph (2) (e) as the initial chair ~~from among~~  
249 ~~the full membership~~ of the board immediately upon their  
250 appointment. ~~In no case may these appointments be made any later~~

251 ~~than 45 days following the creation of the authority.~~ The  
252 initial chair shall serve ~~will hold this position for~~ a minimum  
253 term of 2 years. The board shall elect a vice chair and  
254 secretary-treasurer from among its members who shall serve a  
255 minimum term of 1 year and shall establish the duties and powers  
256 of those positions during its inaugural meeting. During its  
257 inaugural meeting, the board shall ~~will~~ also establish its rules  
258 of conduct and meeting procedures.

259 (6) At the end of the initial chair's term, the board  
260 shall elect a chair from among the ~~its~~ members appointed by the  
261 Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the  
262 House of Representatives. The chair shall hold office at the  
263 will of the board. In that election, the board shall also elect  
264 a vice chair and secretary-treasurer.

265 (7) The first meeting of the authority shall be held no  
266 later than 60 days after the creation of the authority.

267 (8) Seven ~~Eight~~ members of the board shall constitute a  
268 quorum, and the vote of seven ~~eight~~ members is necessary for any  
269 action to be taken by the authority. The authority may meet upon  
270 the constitution of a quorum. A vacancy does not impair the  
271 right of a quorum of the board to exercise all rights and the  
272 ability to perform all duties of the authority.

273 (9) Beginning July 1, 2017, the board must evaluate the  
274 abolishment, continuance, modification, or establishment of ~~may~~  
275 ~~establish committees for~~ the following committees areas:

- 276 (a) Planning committee.
- 277 (b) Policy committee.
- 278 (c) Finance committee.
- 279 (d) Citizens advisory committee.
- 280 (e) Tampa Bay Area Regional Transit Authority Metropolitan
- 281 Planning Organization Chairs Coordinating Committee.
- 282 (f) Transit management committee.
- 283 (g) Technical advisory committee.

284

285 The board must submit its recommendations for abolishment,

286 continuance, modification, or establishment of the committees to

287 the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of

288 Representatives before the beginning of the 2018 Regular

289 Session.

290 (10) The authority may employ an executive director, an

291 executive secretary, its own legal counsel and legal staff,

292 technical experts, engineers, and such employees, permanent or

293 temporary, as it may require. The authority shall determine the

294 qualifications and fix the compensation of such persons, firms,

295 or corporations and may employ a fiscal agent or agents;

296 however, the authority shall solicit sealed proposals from at

297 least three persons, firms, or corporations for the performance

298 of any services as fiscal agents. The authority may, except for

299 duties specified in chapter 120, delegate its power to one or

300 more of its agents or employees to carry out the purposes of

301 this part, subject always to the supervision and control of the  
 302 authority.

303 ~~(11) (a) The authority shall establish a Transit Management~~  
 304 ~~Committee comprised of the executive directors or general~~  
 305 ~~managers, or their designees, of each of the existing transit~~  
 306 ~~providers and bay area commuter services.~~

307 ~~(b) The authority shall establish a Citizens Advisory~~  
 308 ~~Committee comprised of appointed citizen committee members from~~  
 309 ~~each county and transit provider in the region, not to exceed 16~~  
 310 ~~members.~~

311 ~~(c) The authority may establish technical advisory~~  
 312 ~~committees to provide guidance and advice on regional~~  
 313 ~~transportation issues. The authority shall establish the size,~~  
 314 ~~composition, and focus of any technical advisory committee~~  
 315 ~~created.~~

316 (11) (d) Persons appointed to a committee shall serve  
 317 without compensation but may be entitled to per diem or travel  
 318 expenses as provided in s. 112.061.

319 Section 5. Subsection (1), paragraph (a) of subsection  
 320 (2), subsection (3), subsection (4), and paragraph (g) of  
 321 subsection (5) of section 343.922, Florida Statutes, are amended  
 322 to read:

323 343.922 Powers and duties.—

324 (1) The express purposes of the authority are to:

325 (a) Plan, implement, and operate ~~improve~~ mobility

326 improvements and expansions of ~~expand~~ multimodal transportation  
327 options for passengers and freight throughout the designated  
328 ~~seven-county Tampa Bay~~ region.

329 (b) Produce a regional transit development plan,  
330 integrating the transit development plans of participant  
331 counties, to include a prioritization of regionally significant  
332 transit projects and facilities.

333 1. The authority shall provide to the President of the  
334 Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, on or  
335 before the beginning of the 2018 Regular Session, a plan to  
336 produce the regional transit development plan.

337 2. The regional transit development plan prepared by the  
338 authority shall adhere to guidance and regulations set forth by  
339 the department or any successor agency, including, but not  
340 limited to:

- 341 a. Public involvement;  
342 b. Collection and analysis of socioeconomic data;  
343 c. Performance evaluation of existing services;  
344 d. Service design and ridership forecasting; and  
345 e. Financial planning.

346 (c) Serve, with the consent of the Governor or his or her  
347 designee, as the recipient of federal funds supporting an  
348 intercounty project or a regionally significant transit project  
349 that exists in a single county within the designated region.

350 (2) (a) The authority has the right to plan, develop,

351 finance, construct, own, purchase, operate, maintain, relocate,  
352 equip, repair, and manage those public transportation projects,  
353 such as express bus services; bus rapid transit services; light  
354 rail, commuter rail, heavy rail, or other transit services;  
355 ferry services; transit stations; park-and-ride lots; transit-  
356 oriented development nodes; or feeder roads, reliever roads,  
357 connector roads, bypasses, or appurtenant facilities, that are  
358 intended to address critical transportation needs or concerns in  
359 the ~~Tampa Bay~~ region as identified by the authority ~~by July 1,~~  
360 ~~2009~~. These projects may also include all necessary approaches,  
361 roads, bridges, and avenues of access that are desirable and  
362 proper with the concurrence of the department, as applicable, if  
363 the project is to be part of the State Highway System.

364 (3) (a) ~~No later than July 1, 2009,~~ The authority shall  
365 develop and adopt a regional transit development ~~transportation~~  
366 ~~master~~ plan that provides a vision for a regionally integrated  
367 multimodal transportation system. The goals and objectives of  
368 the ~~master~~ plan are to identify areas of the ~~Tampa Bay~~ region  
369 where multimodal mobility, traffic safety, freight mobility, and  
370 efficient emergency evacuation alternatives need to be improved;  
371 identify areas of the region where multimodal transportation  
372 systems would be most beneficial to enhance mobility and  
373 economic development; develop methods of building partnerships  
374 with local governments, existing transit providers, expressway  
375 authorities, seaports, airports, and other local, state, and

376 federal entities; develop methods of building partnerships with  
377 CSX Corporation and CSX Transportation, Inc., to craft mutually  
378 beneficial solutions to achieve the authority's objectives, and  
379 with other private sector business community entities that may  
380 further the authority's mission, and engage the public in  
381 support of regional multimodal transportation improvements. The  
382 ~~master~~ plan shall identify and may prioritize projects that will  
383 accomplish these goals and objectives, including, without  
384 limitation, the creation of express bus and bus rapid transit  
385 services, light rail, commuter rail, and heavy rail transit  
386 services, ferry services, freight services, and any other  
387 multimodal transportation system projects that address critical  
388 transportation needs or concerns, pursuant to subsection (2);  
389 and identify the costs of the proposed projects and revenue  
390 sources that could be used to pay those costs. In developing the  
391 ~~master~~ plan, the authority shall review and coordinate with the  
392 future land use, capital improvements, and traffic circulation  
393 elements of its member local governments' comprehensive plans  
394 and the plans, programs, and schedules of other units of  
395 government having transit or transportation authority within  
396 whose jurisdictions the projects or improvements will be located  
397 to define and resolve potential inconsistencies between such  
398 plans and the authority's developing ~~master~~ plan. ~~By July 1,~~  
399 ~~2008, the authority, working with its member local governments,~~  
400 ~~shall adopt a mandatory conflict resolution process that~~



401 ~~addresses consistency conflicts between the authority's regional~~  
402 ~~transportation master plan and local government comprehensive~~  
403 ~~plans.~~

404 (b) The authority shall consult with the department to  
405 further the goals and objectives of the Strategic Regional  
406 Transit Needs Assessment completed by the department.

407 (c) Before the adoption of the regional transit  
408 development ~~master~~ plan, the authority shall hold at least one  
409 public meeting in each of the ~~seven~~ counties within the  
410 designated region. At least one public hearing must be held  
411 before the authority's board.

412 (d) After its adoption, the regional transit development  
413 ~~master~~ plan shall be updated every 5 years before July 1.

414 (e) The authority shall present the original regional  
415 transit development ~~master~~ plan and updates to the governing  
416 bodies of the counties within the designated ~~seven-county~~  
417 region, to the TBARTA Metropolitan Planning Organization Chairs  
418 Coordinating Committee, and to the legislative delegation  
419 members representing those counties within 90 days after  
420 adoption.

421 (f) The authority shall coordinate plans and projects with  
422 the TBARTA Metropolitan Planning Organization Chairs  
423 Coordinating Committee, to the extent practicable, and  
424 participate in the regional M.P.O. planning process to ensure  
425 regional comprehension of the authority's mission, goals, and

426 objectives.

427 (g) The authority shall provide administrative support and  
 428 direction to the TBARTA Metropolitan Planning Organization  
 429 Chairs Coordinating Committee as provided in s. 339.175(6)(i).

430 (4) The authority may undertake projects or other  
 431 improvements in the regional transit development ~~master~~ plan in  
 432 phases as particular projects or segments become feasible, as  
 433 determined by the authority. The authority shall coordinate  
 434 project planning, development, and implementation with the  
 435 applicable local governments. The authority's projects that are  
 436 transportation oriented must be consistent to the maximum extent  
 437 feasible with the adopted local government comprehensive plans  
 438 at the time such projects are funded for construction. Authority  
 439 projects that are not transportation oriented and meet the  
 440 definition of development pursuant to s. 380.04 must be  
 441 consistent with the local comprehensive plans. In carrying out  
 442 its purposes and powers, the authority may request funding and  
 443 technical assistance from the department and appropriate federal  
 444 and local agencies, including, but not limited to, state  
 445 infrastructure bank loans.

446 (5) The authority is granted and may exercise all powers  
 447 necessary, appurtenant, convenient, or incidental to the  
 448 carrying out of the aforesaid purposes, including, but not  
 449 limited to, the following rights and powers:

450 (g) To borrow money and to make and issue negotiable

451 notes, bonds, refunding bonds, and other evidences of  
 452 indebtedness or obligations, either in temporary or definitive  
 453 form, hereinafter in this chapter sometimes called "revenue  
 454 bonds" of the authority, for the purpose of financing all or  
 455 part of the mobility improvements within the ~~Tampa Bay~~ region,  
 456 as well as the appurtenant facilities, including all approaches,  
 457 streets, roads, bridges, and avenues of access authorized by  
 458 this part, the bonds to mature not exceeding 40 years after the  
 459 date of the issuance thereof, and to secure the payment of such  
 460 bonds or any part thereof by a pledge of any or all of its  
 461 revenues, rates, fees, rentals, or other charges.

462 Section 6. Subsection (1) of section 343.94, Florida  
 463 Statutes, is amended to read:

464 343.94 Bond financing authority.—

465 (1) Pursuant to s. 11(f), Art. VII of the State  
 466 Constitution, the Legislature approves bond financing by the  
 467 Tampa Bay Area Regional Transit ~~Transportation~~ Authority for  
 468 construction of or improvements to commuter rail systems,  
 469 transit systems, ferry systems, highways, bridges, toll  
 470 collection facilities, interchanges to the system, and any other  
 471 transportation facility appurtenant, necessary, or incidental to  
 472 the system. Subject to terms and conditions of applicable  
 473 revenue bond resolutions and covenants, such costs may be  
 474 financed in whole or in part by revenue bonds issued pursuant to  
 475 paragraph (2) (a) or paragraph (2) (b), whether currently issued

476 or issued in the future or by a combination of such bonds.

477 Section 7. Section 343.947, Florida Statutes, is amended  
 478 to read:

479 343.947 Department may be appointed agent of authority for  
 480 construction.—The department may be appointed by the authority  
 481 as its agent for the purpose of constructing and completing  
 482 transportation projects, and improvements and extensions  
 483 thereto, in the authority's regional transit development ~~master~~  
 484 plan. In such event, the authority shall provide the department  
 485 with complete copies of all documents, agreements, resolutions,  
 486 contracts, and instruments relating thereto; shall request the  
 487 department to do such construction work, including the planning,  
 488 surveying, and actual construction of the completion,  
 489 extensions, and improvements to the system; and shall transfer  
 490 to the credit of an account of the department in the treasury of  
 491 the state the necessary funds therefor. The department shall  
 492 proceed with such construction and use the funds for such  
 493 purpose in the same manner that it is now authorized to use the  
 494 funds otherwise provided by law for its use in construction of  
 495 commuter rail systems, transit systems, ferry systems, roads,  
 496 bridges, and related transportation facilities.

497 Section 8. Subsections (1) and (3) of section 343.95,  
 498 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

499 343.95 Acquisition of lands and property.—

500 (1) For the purposes of this part, the authority may

501 acquire private or public property and property rights,  
502 including rights of access, air, view, and light, by gift,  
503 devise, purchase, or condemnation by eminent domain proceedings,  
504 as the authority may deem necessary for any purpose of this  
505 part, including, but not limited to, any lands reasonably  
506 necessary for securing applicable permits, areas necessary for  
507 management of access, borrow pits, drainage ditches, water  
508 retention areas, rest areas, replacement access for landowners  
509 whose access is impaired due to the construction of a facility,  
510 and replacement rights-of-way for relocated rail and utility  
511 facilities; for existing, proposed, or anticipated  
512 transportation facilities within the ~~seven-county Tampa Bay~~  
513 region designated ~~identified~~ by the authority; or for the  
514 purposes of screening, relocation, removal, or disposal of  
515 junkyards and scrap metal processing facilities. The authority  
516 may condemn any material and property necessary for such  
517 purposes.

518 (3) When the authority acquires property for a  
519 transportation facility within the designated ~~seven-county Tampa~~  
520 ~~Bay~~ region, the authority is not subject to any liability  
521 imposed by chapter 376 or chapter 403 for preexisting soil or  
522 groundwater contamination due solely to its ownership. This  
523 subsection does not affect the rights or liabilities of any past  
524 or future owners of the acquired property, nor does it affect  
525 the liability of any governmental entity for the results of its

526 | actions which create or exacerbate a pollution source. The  
527 | authority and the Department of Environmental Protection may  
528 | enter into interagency agreements for the performance, funding,  
529 | and reimbursement of the investigative and remedial acts  
530 | necessary for property acquired by the authority.

531 | Section 9. Subsections (1) and (3) of section 343.975,  
532 | Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

533 | 343.975 Complete and additional statutory authority.—

534 | (1) The powers conferred by this part are supplemental to  
535 | the existing powers of the board and the department. This part  
536 | does not repeal any of the provisions of any other law, general,  
537 | special, or local, but supplements such other laws in the  
538 | exercise of the powers provided in this part and provides a  
539 | complete method for the exercise of the powers granted in this  
540 | part. The projects planned and constructed by the Tampa Bay Area  
541 | Regional Transit ~~Transportation~~ Authority shall comply with all  
542 | applicable federal, state, and local laws. The extension and  
543 | improvement of the system, and the issuance of bonds hereunder  
544 | to finance all or part of the cost thereof, may be accomplished  
545 | upon compliance with the provisions of this part without regard  
546 | to or necessity for compliance with the provisions, limitations,  
547 | or restrictions contained in any other general, special, or  
548 | local law, including, but not limited to, s. 215.821. An  
549 | approval of any bonds issued under this part by the qualified  
550 | electors or qualified electors who are freeholders in the state

551 or in any other political subdivision of the state is not  
552 required for the issuance of such bonds pursuant to this part.

553 (3) This part does not preclude the department from  
554 acquiring, holding, constructing, improving, maintaining,  
555 operating, or owning tolled or nontolled facilities funded and  
556 constructed from nonauthority sources that are part of the State  
557 Highway System within the geographical boundaries of the Tampa  
558 Bay Area Regional Transit ~~Transportation~~ Authority.

559 Section 10. Section 343.976, Florida Statutes, is amended  
560 to read:

561 343.976 Effect on local government action.—This act does  
562 not prohibit any local government that is a member of the Tampa  
563 Bay Area Regional Transit ~~Transportation~~ Authority from  
564 participating in or creating any other transit authority,  
565 regional transportation authority, or expressway authority.

566 Section 11. This act shall take effect July 1, 2017.