

HART LEGISLATIVE POLICY STATEMENT FOR THE 2012 FLORIDA LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The HART Board of Directors recognizes that the public is best served by local officials making deliberative decisions based on the best available information. Consistent with this perspective, the HART Board of Directors adopts the following position statements on issues pending in the 2012 Legislative Session:

1. HART would want to see a written, detailed, objective, independent study of consolidation, funded by the state, before further consideration of moving forward with consolidation of HART with any other local, regional, or state agency. Any study of consolidation should examine all factors necessary to determine the full costs, benefits, and impacts of consolidation including, but not limited to:

- Operating cost impacts and assumptions
- Capital cost impacts and assumptions
- Transition costs and time frame
- Governance and representation
- Transit funding and spending distributions/requirements for a consolidated agency
- Impacts on customers, labor and stakeholder groups

2. Any transportation consolidation, other state imposed transportation mandates, or transportation special district consolidation should be considered only after a deliberative process that includes vetting of the plan by the public and endorsement by the HART Board of Directors and/or its member governments. In the absence of this deliberative process, HART opposes these actions.

3. HART supports retaining local control over funding options and levels, and opposes statutory changes that could negatively impact HART's ability to meet existing and projected future transit service needs.

HART stands ready to explore ideas that can improve the effectiveness or efficiency of transit services in Hillsborough County and the region.