

HART Transit Infrastructure 1st Quarter FY2008 Status Report (10/1/07 through 12/31/07)

HART begins another active year for transit infrastructure. Activity in the first quarter has focused on planning and design. HART's bus stop study is in the final stage of review. We are finalizing procurement documents to request proposals for both a long-term construction contract and a shelter acquisition contract slated for solicitation and award in the coming months. HART's Board will also consider a shelter advertising contract in February 2008. The addition of this new partner will allow HART to increase the number of ADA-compliant sheltered stops with no capital or operating budget impact, and will provide a new source of revenue.

Five shelters were completed in the first quarter along with two landing pads and seven sidewalk/ADA improvements. Four landing pads were out to bid in December with award January 14, 2008 for construction. Work in progress leads the way for more projects to be implemented this fiscal year and beyond. Total shelter pad work totals 133, of which 30 will be constructed by HART. Eighty-one shelter pads will be constructed for HART shelter installation and 22 shelters will be sponsored by developers for land use or concurrency requirements. Thirty-four bus bays are in the works along with two park-n-rides. Landing pads are increasing with 82 to be constructed by FDOT, 16 by HART and seven by others. Sidewalk/ADA improvements in progress total 31.

Projects in progress for the Sidewalk & Accessibility for Transit Infrastructure (SAFTI) program with Hillsborough County shows further progress with Memorial Hwy improvements in construction last quarter and nearing completion January 2008. Hillsborough County is preparing for the Gornto Lake transit improvements to be completed in conjunction with the County right-turn lane on Causeway now in progress. HART is also working with the City of Tampa to expand our ability to provide more City Corridor sidewalk projects to meet connectivity and transit goals

Agency roadway projects that incorporate transit infrastructure are on the rise as a number of projects enter into construction and as design efforts are finalized. FDOT expects US 301 to be bid in June 2008. HART is working with FDOT on a local funding agreement, and with Hillsborough County to utilize impact fees to participate in the cost of bus bays and shelters at eight locations between Gibsonton and Balm Road. Hillsborough County roadway construction on 22nd Street north of Fletcher to Busch began in the first quarter. The FishHawk Park-n-Ride with the County Sports Complex is expected to be completed by April 2008. Construction and design work on 40th Street within the City of Tampa is progressing on schedule.

HART's relationships with our agency partners is working well and provides economies of scale by incorporating transit infrastructure and merging our respective work efforts to meet our common goals. Developer participation in sponsoring transit projects is also on the rise with many choosing transit to meet concurrency needs in the County, and others choosing transit to address land use requirements in the City of Tampa. These partnerships will be even more important as HART embarks on a campaign to address deficiencies at many bus stops identified in the soon-to-be-completed bus stop study.

As always, we welcome ongoing input from citizens, bus operators and staff. Let us know what is important to your transit experience.