 2018-2019 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

# Transportation & Infrastructure

Transportation Funding - Support adequate State funding for transportation projects. Also support sustaining multimodal infrastructure funding for projects that enhance regional mobility.

Regional Transportation Feasibility Plan (RTFP) – Potential to advocate for the Clearwater – Gateway – St. Pete Corridor as identified by the RTFP as one of the 5 most suitable for federal funding.

**Regional Transportation Feasibility Plan (RTFP) Priorities:**

* Move people and goods safely and efficiently
* Build a comprehensive regional transportation system
* Create meaningful opportunities for public input
* Balance regional needs with community concerns
* Commit to sustainable infrastructure decisions

Transit Options & alternatives - Support increased transit options on the SR 60 corridor and from Downtown to Clearwater Beach, and Clearwater Beach to TIA express.

Regional Transportation Authority - Support regional cooperation for transportation solutions within the Tampa Bay Region including the possible merger of MPOs.

Emerging Technology - Advocate for emerging technologies and, to build a regional system that can solve today’s problems and is ready for the challenges of the coming decades.

# Economic Development/ competitive business climate

Redevelopment - Support changes to local government ordinances to facilitate infill redevelopment and reflect the urban nature of our community.

Downtown clearwater redevelopment:

IMAGINE CLEARWATER- Monitor the progression of the Imagine Clearwater redevelopment plan and continue to support the project that ensures a vibrant downtown and waterfront.

North Marina Master Plan – Monitor the progression of the North Marina Master Plan and advocate for a plan that ensures economic vitality in the area.

Flood Insurance Reform - Support extending the reforms of the federal flood insurance program to business properties and owner-occupied second homes, ensuring that these properties receive the same relief already provided to residential properties and single-family homes.

Worker’s Compensation - Monitor the upcoming changes to worker’s compensation rates and advocate for a possible legislative remediation.

# Workforce and Talent Development

Support the business and training organizations, community based organization, private and for-profit training providers, community colleges and others to help increase the opportunity for technical and vocational training programs across our region.

Increase funding of programs administered by Pinellas County Schools and local technical institutions that are focused on workforce development.

# Tourism

Support Increased Tourism FUNDING throughout the State and County –

Continue to advocate for adequate and increased state funding of Visit Florida to ensure our state’s continued competitiveness in the area of destination marketing.

Sports Tourism - Provide State and local incentives to encourage the growth and development of organized sporting events and competitions at all levels and the retention of baseball spring training in our community.

Bed TAX - Monitor and advocate for the appropriate allocation of bed tax funds that allows for the continued marketing of our destination as well as pertinent capital projects.

# COMMUNITY INCLUSION

Create an environment where all members of the business community are provided appropriate information to allow them to be engaged in monitoring activity in state, county, and local government that will impact their industry.

# ENVIRONMENT

Advocate for safe environmental practices such as water conservation, recycling and waste reduction, air quality, clean energy and protection of threatened and endangered species.

CLEAN ENERGY – Support the exploration of renewable energy options to allow for clean energy alternatives.

PROTECTION OF THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES - Protect the animals and plants that are threatened with extinction.

Offshore Drilling - Oppose any change to the existing federal or state laws that would expand offshore drilling in the Gulf of Mexico.