

- FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE-

TBX Toll Lane Town Hall Meeting

Urban Core Coalition holds Educational Forum

Tampa, Fla., July 27, 2015 – Sunshine Citizens, a non-partisan grassroots Tampa Bay area advocacy group representing thousands of citizens fighting for smarter growth and transit solutions, has joined together with several neighborhood and urban design groups to sponsor and host an educational forum on the FDOT's proposed addition of variable rate toll lanes to Tampa's interstate highways. The town hall meeting is another action in a series of such activities by the group concerning the Tampa Bay Express project (TBX).

The meeting will be held Tuesday, July 28, at the American Legion Post #111 in Old Seminole Heights (6918 N Florida Ave, Tampa, FL 33604). Doors open at 6:30 p.m., and the meeting runs 7:00-9:00 p.m.

As part of their ongoing outreach and efforts to educate Tampa Bay area residents about the negative impacts of the TBX project, the group has partnered with the Old Seminole Heights Neighborhood Association, Tampa Heights Junior Civic Association, Heights Collective, and Urban Charrette to present more information about the controversial highway project.

The TBX Toll Lane Town Hall Meeting is the first education forum regarding the Tampa Bay Express (TBX) plan that gives a comprehensive and realistic perspective of the impact of TBX on the culture, economy, quality of life, and future growth of the Tampa Region.

Attendees will have an opportunity to review displays and project information, ask questions and discuss concerns the groups have with the TBX project. The group will provide a formal presentation that will cover an overview of the TBX plan, community impact, and a question and answer session with a panel of experts.

“We are thrilled to a part of this coalition of community leading organizations, and to have the opportunity to present the public with more information, facts and greater insight into just what the TBX plan entails and the impact it will have on the historic urban core of Tampa,” said Chris Vela, president of Sunshine Citizens. “We believe there is a lot of information that the community needs to hear more about. The project is being implemented without a referendum or ballot item, so the people cannot vote on TBX. This is the means we have to educate the public and help them understand how they can take action concerning this very expensive and extensive highway widening project that directly impacts their community.”

Representatives from Sunshine Citizens will be available to members of the media to discuss the forum and provide comment, immediately following the event.

About the StopTBX Action

Launched following the June 12 Tampa Bay Area Regional Transportation Authority (TBARTA) board meeting, the StopTBX Action has successfully and rapidly grown. Drawing interest, support and media attention from all over the Tampa Bay area, the action is the first of many steps a concerned group of residents has launched. The action is in direct response to and opposition of the FDOT's Tampa Bay Express project, which will drastically widen I-275, decimate the Tampa urban core and substantially harm efforts for true multi modal transportation and economic growth in Tampa Bay.

Online: www.StopTBX.com

About Sunshine Citizens

Sunshine Citizens is a non-partisan, grassroots advocacy group focused on smarter growth and transit solutions. We are actively building coalitions of like-minded groups, citizens and local leaders in Tampa Bay who share our vision for better choices, smarter growth and positive economic development for our area.

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