



## **UNTI NEWS**

### *USF Bicycle Crash Study*

The UNTI has begun a study to examine the frequency and cause of bicycle v. automobile crashes on the Tampa campus of the University of South Florida. The results of the study could provide USF officials with strategies to reduce bicycle crashes with automobiles on campus through the intersection and bicycle facilities improvements.

### *St. Petersburg to Temple Terrace Vanpool Needs Riders*

The UNTI is seeking riders for a vanpool which travels from St. Petersburg to Temple Terrace. Three riders are needed to complete this eight-passenger van. The work hours are from 7am to 4pm. For more information, contact either the UNTI at 974-9799 or Bay Area Commuter Services at 282-8200.

### *UNTI's Next Board Meeting*

The next UNTI Board Meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 1 at 8am at the Center for Urban Transportation Research. All UNTI Board Meetings are open to the public.

## **What is the UNTI?**

The University North Transportation Initiative (UNTI) is a public-private partnership that provides a forum to address the transportation needs of the University North area.

The University North is the name given to a major destination area in Hillsborough County. It contains a high concentration of employment and commercial activity where traffic congestion occurs. University North is the area generally bounded by Busch Blvd. to the south, I-75 to the east, 22nd Street to the west and Bruce B. Downs Blvd. to the north.

The UNTI's main goals are to:

- Reduce traffic congestion,
- Reduce the need for parking, and
- Promote public transit and the use of alternative modes of transportation.

If you are interested in joining the UNTI, attending one of our meetings, or learning about the services we offer, please contact the UNTI at (813) 974-9799.

You can visit our new website at:  
***www.commuterservices.com***



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**University North Transportation Initiative**  
*A Public-Private Partnership*

## **Transportation Information Service**

*This newsletter was created to inform, update, and educate members of the University North Transportation Initiative and the public on local mobility issues, projects, and developments.*

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## *Olympic Transportation*

**Florida 2012** is leading the City of Tampa's bid to be the U.S. Candidate City for the XXX Olympiad. Mr. Ed Turanchik, President and CEO of Florida 2012, spoke to the UNTI Board in early January. His presentation underscored the importance of ongoing transportation investment in securing the Olympic bid. He emphasized Tampa's unique partnership with the communities of St. Petersburg, Clearwater, and Orlando, highlighting Central Florida as a proven international tourism destination.

Discussing the many recent and planned improvements to Tampa's transportation infrastructure, Turanchik emphasized our connections to the world. The Tampa International Airport has received acclaim as one of the best airports around the globe; the Port of Tampa with the new Garrison Seaport is Florida's largest port and one of the nation's busiest; our interstate and intrastate highway networks continue to streamline travel around the region. Furthermore, Turanchik believes that construction of a light rail system will remain essential to moving the number of people attracted to our community by the Games.

According to Ed Turanchik, "The greatest challenge in bringing the Olympics to Tampa will be in providing an efficient and effective transportation system." Among the many goals for bringing the Olympics to Central Florida is the desire to reduce the commute time from downtown Tampa to downtown Orlando to a mere 57 minutes. The final bid for the Olympics is due to the committee on December 15, 2000. For more information, please contact Florida 2012 at:

**813/221-GAME.**

## *I-75/Bruce B. Downs Flyover Update*

Hillsborough County's long range transportation planning board has taken steps to accelerate the construction schedule for an improved interchange at Bruce B. Down Blvd. and I-75.

The Hillsborough County MPO has decided that the required environmental study will now be conducted concurrently with the design phase of the \$16 million flyover project.

The plan calls for a \$14.9 million flyover ramp that would allow southbound Bruce B. Downs motorists to travel from the boulevard, over the interchange, and directly onto I-75 southbound without stopping. A separate \$1 million ramp would be built for northbound travelers from I-75 onto Bruce B. Downs.

The improvements are intended to reduce the long backups that occur on southbound Bruce B. Downs during the morning rush hour as residents of New Tampa and Pasco County commute to Tampa and Brandon.

Furthermore, the flyover would eliminate the need for the existing dual left-turn lanes from Bruce B. Downs onto southbound I-75. Freeing up that space beneath the I-75 overpass is perceived as necessary to accommodate the long-range plans to widen Bruce B. Downs Boulevard to six lanes.

City Councilman Shawn Harrison commented that the flyover project now could be completed "in five years instead of seven years, which still is not soon enough, but is absolutely as quickly as we can go."

## *Study to Recommend Improvements to Busch Boulevard*

Consultants for Hillsborough County are underway developing recommendations for improvements to the Busch Boulevard Corridor, as part of the Metropolitan Planning Organization's Congestion Management System (CMS). Consultants are analyzing the condition of the corridor from Florida Avenue to 56th Street, in order to determine transportation system performance.

Their recommendations will identify strategies to alleviate congestion and enhance the mobility of both persons and goods. The transportation systems management (TSM) strategies that might be recommended will be those designed to improve the efficiency of the system through operational improvements, such as:

- Coordination of transit services with pedestrian, bicycle and automobile travel;
- Construction of bus-stop amenities, such as passenger shelters and seating;
- Modifications to existing bus routes and frequencies to better serve transit users;
- Sidewalk improvements;
- New directional signs and facilities for park and ride lots;
- Signal timing improvements
- Access management and careful governance of curb-cuts and median-openings.

The study will culminate with recommendations to the MPO by the end of February. Stay tuned to future TIS Updates for more information on how and when these recommendations will be carried out.