



Recap of TBRPC Council Meeting

Talking points to assist Board Members with their reports on Council activities.

Meeting Date: February 9, 2015

❖ TBRPC Takes Bold Step Toward Medical Tourism

The Council unanimously voted to step out front and take ownership for creating a roadmap to make the Tampa Bay region a premier medical tourist destination. The Council voted to contract with an international consultant to conduct a feasibility study to determine the viability and strengths of the region as a medical tourism destination as well as determine the components that best position the Tampa Bay region to compete both nationally and internationally within the industry.

Medical Tourism is the term commonly used to describe people traveling outside their home country for medical treatment. Traditionally, international medical travel involved patients from less-developed countries traveling to a medical center in a developed country for treatment that was not available in their home country. As regions within the United States have developed specialties in medical procedures and wellness, medical tourism has become a domestic phenomenon as well.

❖ TBRPC Staff Members Betti Johnson and John Jacobsen to Retire

The Council recognized two employees for their contributions to the organization. Betti Johnson, Emergency Management Principal Planner, is retiring after 35 years of dedicated service. Betti is recognized locally, statewide and nationally for her career of contributions in the field of emergency preparedness. John Jacobsen, Accounting Manager for the TBRPC is retiring after 11 years with the Council.

❖ NADO Recognizes Broadband Project

The project received the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) 2014 Innovation Award. The award recognizes innovative approaches to regional economic and community development. *The Florida Local/Regional Broadband Planning Project* was a partnership with two other RPCs. Marshall Flynn, GIS/IT Director and Brady Smith, Principal Planner were the leads who spear-headed this project to completion.

❖ 23rd Annual Future of the Region Awards: **Registration is now open!**

The luncheon will be held Friday, March 27th, 2015 at the Hilton Carillon Park. Visit www.tbrpc.org for the Call for Entries.

All presentations, pertinent links and detailed minutes of the meeting can be found on the Council website at www.tbrpc.org. 727.570.5151