



Recap of TBRPC Council Meeting

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

Meeting Date: February 8, 2016

❖ Autonomous Vehicle Technology

"Autonomous" inter-connected vehicles are a rapidly emerging technology. Most vehicle manufacturers are forecasted to have some type of autonomous technology equipped vehicles in the showroom by 2020. Mr. Tim Schock, TBRPC Gubernatorial Appointee, provided an intro into the technology of autonomous vehicles. Dr. Steve Polzin, USF Center for Transportation Research, discussed research being conducted by CUTR (Center for Urban Transportation Research). Mr. Bob Frey, Tampa Hillsborough Expressway Authority (THEA), provided an update on the Selmon Expressway demonstration project.

❖ El Nino Update

El Niño is a well-known climate event that has been shown to have an effect on normal weather patterns around the globe. Occurring about every 3 -7 years, these abnormal El Niño-induced weather patterns may have significant effects on the local weather we experience in and around the Tampa Bay region. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Climate Prediction Center indicates that a strong El Niño is currently ongoing, and El Niño conditions are expected to continue for the next several months. Staff provided a summary of information about El Niño from the National Weather Service, and presented an update on El Niño's expected impacts on temperature, rainfall, and severe storm frequency in west central Florida for the rest of the winter and into the spring season.

❖ USFSP-Practical Applications for Sustainability

The National Council for Science and the Environment (NCSE) recently held its 16th Annual Conference entitled "*The Food, Energy, Water Nexus*" in Washington D. C. This nationally and internationally recognized group was so impressed with the work students were doing on sustainability at the University of South Florida St. Petersburg Campus (USFSP) that the organization extended scholarships to five students and one adjunct professor from the USF Office of Sustainability (Tampa Campus) to present their work and attend the conference. The group presented on *Practical Applications of Sustainability at the University of South Florida St. Petersburg* and provided a brief overview of their presentation.

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