

# Port Tampa Bay

## Community Participation Plan and Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Plan

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### Introduction

Port Tampa Bay is Florida’s largest and most diverse seaport, located in Hillsborough County along the shores of Tampa Bay. As a deepwater coastal port, it plays a vital role in supporting Florida’s economy and way of life. The port handles a wide range of cargo — from construction materials and consumer goods to fuel, vehicles, and cruise ships.

Port Tampa Bay’s strategic location makes it the closest port to much of the state’s rapidly growing population and development, positioning it as a critical link in the supply chain that keeps Florida building, moving, and thriving.

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### Hillsborough County Demographics

#### Racial and Ethnic Composition (U.S. Census 2020)

As of the 2020 United States Census, Hillsborough County had approximately 1.46 million residents, characterized by significant racial and ethnic diversity reflective of the broader Tampa Bay region.

Group	Percentage of Population
White (Total)	72.6%
White (Non-Hispanic)	45.8%
Black or African American (Non-Hispanic)	18.6%
Asian	4.9%
American Indian and Alaska Native	0.6%
Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander	0.1%
Two or More Races	3.2%
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	30.4%

*Note: While White individuals constitute the largest racial group, nearly one-third of the population identifies as Hispanic or Latino (of any race). The Black or African American community also represents a significant portion, followed by growing Asian and multiracial populations.*

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## Veteran Population by Race and Ethnicity

Hillsborough County is home to approximately 82,979 veterans, representing diverse racial and ethnic backgrounds:

### Veterans by Race

Group	Estimated Number	Percentage
White (Non-Hispanic)	~60,645	73.1%
Black or African American	~12,459	15.0%
Asian	~1,267	1.5%
American Indian or Alaska Native	~514	0.6%
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	~123	0.1%
Some Other Race	~824	1.0%
Two or More Races	~2,929	3.5%

### Veterans by Ethnicity

Group	Estimated Number	Percentage
Hispanic or Latino	~4,901	5.9%
Not Hispanic or Latino	~78,078	94.1%

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## Community Commitment

Port Tampa Bay proudly serves its community and is dedicated to meaningful engagement, standing firmly against discrimination. The Port strives to foster an inclusive environment where all voices — regardless of race, color, or national origin — are heard and respected. Through public meetings, partnerships, and educational initiatives, Port Tampa Bay actively opens opportunities for community involvement.

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## Goals

- Enhance visibility and awareness of Port Tampa Bay's vital role in the Tampa Bay region.
  - Develop effective communication channels to ensure all community members are informed and empowered to express their views on relevant issues.
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## Building Strong Community Connections

Port Tampa Bay engages with the community through diverse outreach efforts that foster transparency, connection, and partnership. Through public events, educational programs, and collaborative initiatives, the Port is committed to being a responsive and trusted community partner.

As Florida's largest and most diverse port, PTB recognizes that its success is linked to the region's economic, environmental, and social well-being. To that end, the Port maintains representation on numerous local, regional, national, and international boards, committees, and advisory groups — ensuring responsiveness to local priorities.

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## Key Modalities of Community Engagement

- Hosting and participating in community forums and advisory committees.
  - Partnering with local schools, educational institutions, non-profits, and environmental organizations.
  - Sponsoring volunteer events, charitable initiatives, and programs promoting corporate visibility, transparency, and civic responsibility.
  - Serving on multi-agency boards and task forces guiding policy and planning across the Tampa Bay region.
  - Maintaining strong, two-way communication with neighborhoods, local and neighboring counties, municipalities, and stakeholders.
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## Representative Boards and Committees

Port Tampa Bay staff serve on many regional and issue-specific boards, including:

- **Channel District Community Advisory Committee:** Focuses on urban redevelopment and neighborhood planning in the Channelside area, ensuring growth reflects community interests and quality of life.
- **The Propeller Club – Port of Tampa:** Maritime professional organization fostering collaboration between industry and civic leaders. PTB partners annually to organize the Great Port Clean Up, one of the region's largest environmental volunteer events.
- **Tampa Bay Estuary Program (TBEP):** Representation on Policy, Management, technical, and community advisory boards guiding water quality improvements, habitat restoration, and nutrient load reduction efforts.
- **Agency on Bay and Coastal Management (ABCM):** Engages in intergovernmental coordination for coastal management and natural resource protection.
- **Cruise Terminal 2 Health Outreach Partnership:** Collaborates with Moffitt Cancer Center to provide community health outreach and cancer prevention education for cruise passengers and the public.

- **Greater Tampa Chamber of Commerce:** A not-for-profit business association representing a broad spectrum of members to influence Tampa Bay’s economic future.
- **Tampa Bay Economic Development Corporation:** A nonprofit focused on job creation, capital investment, and regional economic competitiveness.

*Port Tampa Bay staff share capital project updates through the organizations and associations they participate in.*

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## **Environmental & Educational Leadership**

Port Tampa Bay leads and supports sustainability initiatives including:

- Investments in green infrastructure, such as electric cranes and stormwater improvements.
- Coordination of habitat restoration and invasive species removal.
- Environmental education for local youth through tours and hands-on programs.

Port staff also serve on advisory groups covering transportation, trade, real estate, environmental sustainability, workforce development, maritime industry, education, and community advocacy — ensuring diverse perspectives inform Port decisions.

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## **Focused Outreach & Agency Coordination: New Berth 301 Project**

Port Tampa Bay prioritizes transparency and public involvement in major infrastructure projects like New Berth 301, employing a comprehensive outreach and agency coordination strategy.

### **Public Engagement & Media Outreach**

Regional media coverage includes WTSP, WFLA, Bay News 9, Tampa Bay Times, and The Tampa Bay 100. On August 23, 2022, U.S. Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg announced a federal grant award supporting the project.

Targeted outreach maximizes supplier diversity through community papers, individual emails, DemandStar e-Procurement, and bilingual Spanish/English efforts. The project site is located within a historically disadvantaged community with a 42% Hispanic population and 8.6% veteran population.

### **Public and Agency Involvement Outcomes**

Previous community concerns about recreational boating access were heard and addressed. Public comments are invited at monthly commission meetings. No outstanding issues remain.

## **Historic & Tribal Resource Consultation**

Section 106 consultation under the National Historic Preservation Act was initiated. The Florida Department of State's Division of Historic Resources confirmed no expected impacts to known cultural resources. A special condition for inadvertent discoveries will be included in final design.

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## **Other Community Engagement Modalities**

The Port's Capital Master Plan program included extensive public engagement with over 60 group and one-on-one meetings with users, customers, stakeholders, and agencies.

A project webcam will provide real-time construction updates on the Port's website, enhancing transparency and public engagement.

Small Business and Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) initiatives maximize supplier diversity through multiple outreach channels, including local newspapers and DemandStar.

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## **Outreach to Minority and Underserved Populations**

Port Tampa Bay is dedicated to engaging minority and underserved communities, including those with Limited English Proficiency (LEP). Sources to identify these populations include U.S. Census data, government reports, and community-based information.

### **Inclusive Outreach Methods:**

- Regular updates on the Port website, including meeting notices, project updates, and opportunities for public input.
- Board meeting agendas posted in advance, with opportunities for public comment.
- Project-specific outreach with public notices, fact sheets, social media announcements, and email notifications, prioritizing meetings with public participation.

All input from minority and underserved populations is given equal consideration, and staff respond promptly to inquiries via email, mail, phone, or in person.

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## Limited English Proficiency (LEP)

### Linguistic Diversity in Hillsborough County

Approximately 69.7% of residents speak only English at home, while 30.3% speak a language other than English. Spanish is the predominant non-English language (22.8%), followed by other Indo-European languages (3.9%), Asian and Pacific Island languages (2.3%), and others including Arabic and Haitian Creole (1.3%).

### Identification of LEP Populations

Using U.S. Census data, government reports, and other relevant sources.

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### Vital Documents for Translation

Documents eligible for translation, based on need and impact, include:

- Right-of-way or land acquisition notices affecting relocations or disproportionately impacting specific groups.
- Public notices on infrastructure projects subject to regulatory review and public comment.
- Environmental cleanup and restoration plans involving multi-agency review.
- Planning documents influencing land use and potentially impacting specific community segments.

Port Tampa Bay commits to exceeding legal requirements and ensuring accountability in capital investment decisions to enhance community prosperity.

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### Language Assistance Measures

To comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act, Tampa Port Authority offers language assistance through:

- **Bilingual Staff:** Available to assist LEP individuals via phone and in person.
  - **Translation Services:** Vital documents such as the Title VI Notice, Complaint Forms, and Procedures are available in Spanish upon request.
  - **Tools:** Use of translation technology and professional interpreters as needed.
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## **Interaction with LEP Persons**

Port staff have limited direct public contact; most public engagement occurs through tenants like cruise lines that maintain their own language services.

LEP contacts primarily arise during public meetings, community outreach, and project engagement.

The Port remains committed to providing meaningful access for LEP individuals during all public-facing activities.

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## **Importance and Cost of LEP Services**

Port Tampa Bay deploys bilingual staff, translated materials, interpretation support, and coordinates with contractors to ensure effective LEP service delivery. Resources are allocated based on frequency of contact, service nature, and community needs.

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## **Port Redwing and Community Outreach**

Located in southern Hillsborough County with a small but growing population, Port Tampa Bay will collaborate with tenants — major regional employers — to enhance outreach, distribute project information, and foster communication channels.