

RESOLUTION R-09-270

**A RESOLUTION BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF
MANATEE COUNTY, FLORIDA, REQUESTING LEGISLATION AUTHORIZING NON-CHARTER
COUNTIES THAT ARE PART OF A REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY (SUCH AS TBARTA)
TO LEVY THE UP TO ONE PERCENT TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM SURTAX AUTHORIZED BY
SECTION 212.055(1), FLORIDA STATUTES.**

WHEREAS, in 2007, the Florida Legislature created the Tampa Bay Area Regional Transportation Authority (TBARTA), consisting of Citrus, Hernando, Hillsborough, Manatee, Pinellas, Manatee and Sarasota counties, for the purpose of improving mobility and expanding multimodal transportation options for passengers and freight throughout the seven-county Tampa Bay region; and

WHEREAS, three of the TBARTA member governments, Hillsborough, Pinellas, and Sarasota counties, are charter counties which are presently authorized to levy an additional transportation system surtax, up to one percent, pursuant to Section 212.055(1), Florida Statutes, subject to approval by a majority vote of the electorate of the county, to fund the planned TBARTA facilities and other transportation projects in these counties; and

WHEREAS, four of the TBARTA member governments, Pasco, Citrus, Hernando and Manatee counties, are non-charter counties, which are presently not authorized to levy the additional transportation system surtax, even though these counties are part of the same regional transportation authority as Hillsborough, Pinellas and Sarasota Counties; and

WHEREAS, the residents of the non-charter TBARTA counties should have the same right to vote for a funding source for the planned TBARTA facilities as the residents of charter TBARTA counties; and

WHEREAS, Manatee County's primary local sources of revenue to fund transportation and transit facilities, including impact fees, gas tax, sales tax and proportionate share revenues, are not available or insufficient to fully fund the required local match portion of the planned TBARTA facilities in Manatee County and the required local supporting transit network, particularly for operation and maintenance of these facilities; and

WHEREAS, in 2008, the Florida Legislature adopted HB 697, which requires local governments to amend their Comprehensive Plans to incorporate land use and transportation strategies to (1) reduce greenhouse gas emissions, (2) reduce urban sprawl, and (3) create energy efficient land use patterns; and

WHEREAS, the funding of TBARTA's planned transit facilities and the local supporting transit network in Manatee County is critical to: (1) improving economic competitiveness and job creation for Manatee County, Manatee County's planned urban service areas, and the entire Tampa Bay region, (2) complying with the mandates of HB 697, (3) implementing Manatee County's Strategic Plan, (4) providing greater access to employment, education, medical and social services, (5) reducing traffic congestion, travel times and the overall consumption of gasoline, (6) reducing greenhouse gas emissions and other air pollutants from vehicles, (7) reducing the percentage of average household income spent on transportation, and (8) improving the overall quality of life of Manatee County's residents by offering a transportation option that is safe, sustainable, affordable and efficient.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Manatee County, Florida, do hereby requests that the Manatee County Legislative Delegation introduce, and the Florida Legislature adopt, legislation to allow non-charter counties that are part of a regional transportation authority (such as TBARTA) to levy the up to one percent transportation system surtax authorized by Section 212.055(1), Florida Statutes, if approved by majority vote of the electorate of the county seeking to levy the surtax.

Adopted with a quorum present and voting this 1st day of December 2009.



**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
MANATEE COUNTY, FLORIDA**

Dr. Gwendolyn Y. Brown

Dr. Gwendolyn Y. Brown, Chairman

ATTEST:
Susan K. Romine

Dr.