

**HILLSBOROUGH TRANSIT AUTHORITY
POLICY MANUAL**

900: FINANCIAL AND BUDGETING POLICIES AND PROCESSES

910: FISCAL SUSTAINABILITY

910.10 FISCAL SUSTAINABILITY

(1) Definition

Fiscal sustainability is achieved when service and infrastructure levels and standards are delivered according to a long-range plan without the need to reduce services, delay construction, or increase rates on an emergency or unplanned basis. It emphasizes long-range financial planning that shifts the attention to strategic goals of the agency and away from a one-year budget perspective. Continuing revenue sources will be used to support continuing operating needs, and one-time or highly volatile revenue sources will support specific non-recurring projects.

(2) HART's Plan for Fiscal Sustainability

HART is committed to developing and following financial policies that will allow it to achieve its strategic goals and support its Transit Development Plan (TDP). In order to achieve these goals and fulfill its commitment to its Charter members, HART relies on just a few major sources of continuing revenue to support its ongoing operations and capital programs which include property taxes, fare revenues and grants.

In order to achieve fiscal sustainability, HART is emphasizing long-range planning to position itself to maintain current service levels, addition of new service and routes, and to sustain its capital improvement program.

To ensure HART's financial sustainability, the following financial principles are incorporated into the annual budget, and will continue to be in future planning:

- (a) HART will develop budgets that are transparent and clearly specify all sources of revenue and related uses;
- (b) HART will lay out a five-year strategic plan for operations, capital and revenue, that discloses major assumptions regarding financial trends;
- (c) Continuing operations will be supported by continuing revenue. Any increases in operating and ongoing expenses will be limited to the amount of increases in continuing revenue; one-time revenue sources will be directed to special needs only; and
- (d) Capital proposals will be evaluated to determine that HART has the resources to operate and maintain the related projects for the long term.

HART Clerk: _____

