Emerge Tampa Bay to host transportation panel with local policy makers

*UNFILTERED Town Hall to provide an open forum for young professionals to hear and be heard about transportation issues in Tampa.*

Tampa, Fla. (June 18, 2014) – Multi-modal transportation on the agenda – High-speed ferry gets funds – HART board to restructure – Detours on I-275 abound – Crackdown on ridesharing. Recently, local headlines have been abuzz with transit. As the momentum builds, Emerge Tampa Bay is hosting its third town hall, UNFILTERED, to help young professionals decipher the headlines and advance the local transportation agenda.

The town hall will be held on Wednesday, June 25, at the University of Tampa’s Vaughn Center, the presenting sponsor of the event. In addition to covering the latest developments on the local transportation agenda, the event will give attendees a platform to ban together, pose dynamic questions, civically engage and effect change.

“Our intent with UNFILTERED is to foster a meaningful conversation that really hits on the complexities of our transportation issues,” said Emerge Tampa Bay Chair Brian Seel. “I think our young professionals need answers to their tough questions so that they can channel their voices into action.”

UNFILTERED will bring young professionals and community members together for an evening focused on asking state and local leaders tough questions about the future of the area, including short and long-term planning around many contentious issues. During the event, attendees will also be given the opportunity to address concerns, provide feedback and help improve the Tampa Bay region for all who live, work and play here.

This year Adam Smith, an award-winning Political Editor for the Tampa Bay Times, will moderate the open forum discussion. Town Hall panelists include Hillsborough County Commissioner Kevin Beckner, Pinellas County Commissioner Ken Welch and HART Interim Chief Executive Officer, Katharine Eagan.

UNFILTERED is not the only policy-driven event Emerge has planned for 2014. The organization has a public policy committee, speaker series, workshops and civic projects lined up for young professionals to allow them to be a voice in the community on issues surrounding transportation, urbanization and entrepreneurship. The community can stay up to date with opportunities for young professionals by
joining the discussion on Twitter @EmergeTampaBay and by using #EmergeYP.

Registration is $25 for Greater Tampa Chamber of Commerce and Emerge Tampa Bay Members, $30 for non-members, and $35 at the door. Registration includes appetizers and drinks. Those interested, may register at Events.TampaChamber.com.

About Emerge Tampa Bay
Emerge Tampa Bay is the premier young professionals organization in Tampa. A program of the Greater Tampa Chamber of Commerce, it is designed for emerging leaders, ages 21-35. In an effort to enhance the greater Tampa area, Emerge strives to support, cultivate and attract young professionals by providing access to business resources, educational opportunities and community partnerships. Visit www.emergetampabay.org for more information, or contact the Emerge Tampa Bay Program Manager Catlin Layton at (813) 276-9448 or clayton@tampachamber.com.

About the Greater Tampa Chamber of Commerce
The Greater Tampa Chamber of Commerce is committed to serving our members and enhancing our community by building business success. The Chamber provides a greater return on investment and involvement by providing innovative leadership, inside access, influential advocacy and increased opportunities.

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