To meet the long-term water needs of this area, Tampa Bay Water is building a new South Hillsborough Pipeline that will carry up to 65 million gallons per day of additional drinking water to the fast-growing southern Hillsborough service area.

South Hillsborough Pipeline

Southern Hillsborough County is experiencing unprecedented population growth that is driving the demand for additional drinking water. By 2045, the number of homes in the Boyette area is expected to grow by one-third, the number in Wimauma is expected to more than double, and the number in the Balm area is expected to nearly triple.

Tampa Bay Water is building the new South Hillsborough Pipeline to meet this need. The new pipeline will carry up to 65 million gallons per day (mgd) of additional drinking water to the southern Hillsborough service area.

This new pipeline will be approximately 25 miles long and will range in diameter from 36 inches to 72 inches. It will start at the Tampa Bay Regional Surface Water Treatment Plant in Brandon, connect to Hillsborough County’s Lithia Water Treatment Plant and end at the County’s new connection point at Balm Riverview and Balm roads.

Engineering consultants studied and evaluated potential routes using evaluation criteria including the length of the pipeline, cost, public inconvenience, safety, major road or waterway crossings, soil considerations, environmental impacts, long-range planning and more. They have identified three top routes for consideration. In August, these routes will be ranked and presented to Tampa Bay Water’s board of directors. Staff will request approval to proceed with design and property acquisition of the top-ranked route.

Schedule
- Public input on potential routes: Summer 2022
- Board selection of top-ranked route: Aug. 15, 2022
- Final design complete: Mid-2024
- Property acquisition complete: Late 2024
- Construction bidding: Late 2024
- Construction complete: Early 2028

Project Funding
Tampa Bay Water estimates the total cost is just over $300 million. Tampa Bay Water has received $4.5 million in co-funding from the Southwest Florida Water Management District for preliminary design and will apply for additional funds in fiscal year 2023 and beyond.

Hillsborough County will pay for its portion of the pipeline, which is estimated to cost $66 million.
Tell Us Your Thoughts
Provide input on top pipeline routes. Please take our survey by July 8 at TampaBayWater.org/SHP. Your input will help inform Tampa Bay Water’s board of directors as they select a route in August 2022.

For More Information
Tampa Bay Water provides wholesale water to the public utility systems of Hillsborough, Pasco and Pinellas counties, as well as the cities of New Port Richey, St. Petersburg and Tampa. Visit TampaBayWater.org/SHP for information and project updates. You may also opt in to receive notices by sending an email to projectinfo@tampabaywater.org or by calling (813) 486-0361.