**🚌 Protect Countywide Transit for ALL Hillsborough Residents**

**🚨 What’s Happening?**

Florida Rep. **Michael Owen (District 60)** plans to propose legislation that would **dissolve the Hillsborough Area Regional Transit Authority (HART)** and replace it with a Tampa-only Transit Authority — funded solely by Tampa residents and serving only the City of Tampa.

Championed by Hillsborough County Commissioner Josh Wostal, this proposal would cut transit service for more than 1 million residents in unincorporated Hillsborough County.

**🧭 Who’s at Risk?**

Communities across the county could lose vital transit access:

* **Northwest:** Carrollwood, Keystone, Lutz, Cheval
* **Southshore:** Riverview, Apollo Beach, Ruskin, Gibsonton
* **East:** Brandon, Valrico, Seffner, Mango, Thonotosassa
* **West:** Westchase, Town 'n' Country, Citrus Park, Egypt Lake-Leto

**👥 Who Will Be Impacted?**

* **Essential Workers**: healthcare, hospitality, service industry, and more
* **Students**: commuting to colleges, high schools, training programs and extracurricular activities
* **Seniors & Riders with Disabilities**: who depend on paratransit and bus service for vital services

**📊 By the Numbers**

* **44% of HART riders** start their trips **outside Tampa**
* **15 out of 33 bus routes** serve areas **outside city limits**
* **More than 50% of paratransit trips** happen **outside of Tampa**
* **Tampa Population**: ~400,000 vs. **Hillsborough County**: 1.5+ million

**⚠️ What This Means**

If the County opts out of funding its own service:

* Bus routes and paratransit could be **cut or eliminated**
* Riders outside Tampa may be **left without transportation**
* Transit equity and access will **decline sharply**

**✅ Take Action NOW**

📞 **Call your State Representative**
📝 **Write to your County Commissioner**
📣 **Spread the word to your neighbors and community groups**

➡️ Let them know: **Transit should serve everyone, not just Tampa.**