



TOWN OF HILLSBOROUGH

2024 Legislative, Strategic, & Capital Priorities

- ✓ Affordable and workforce housing. The town is doing what it can within our resource limitations (moving towards a two cents equivalent of property tax yield) to assist with homeless prevention and affordability but need assistance from the state to incentivize increasing the supply of affordable housing. To help meet the workforce demands of a growing regional economy, Hillsborough seeks assistance such as tax incentives, grants, subsidies, and housing trust funds to help offset the costs and make projects financially feasible to increase the supply of workforce housing.
- ✓ Water & sewer affordability and system maintenance needs. Assistance for water and sewer infrastructure upgrades and repairs, capital needs is a top priority, especially since this is a major equity issue.
 - The town has \$40 million in just wastewater collection system needs, much of which needs to be installed in the next few years.
 - As rates increase to address aging infrastructure and system reliability, these actions have a disproportionate impact on those in our community struggling the most to pay for life's essentials, such as those on fixed, and low to moderate incomes.
 - Many parts of Hillsborough's water and sewer system are over 50 years old with some closer to 100 years old. For example, the Hassell Street water tank is over 90 years old and still in service. Replacing this one tank alone will cost approximately \$3.5 million.
- ✓ Transportation and connectivity. Funding assistance with bike, pedestrian, public transportation, roadways, and integrating them to build a coordinated multi-modal system. The train station, future projects, such as Ridgewalk (north to south bike/ped connector), EV stations, and other projects in the planning stages have the opportunity to be transformative for our community.
- ✓ Environmental sustainability and meeting carbon reduction goals. In addition to meeting the town's aggressive carbon reduction goals, sustainability covers encouraging development that protects limited water and sewer availability, water quality through the stormwater management program, and guiding development through plans that help address these and other environment priorities.
- ✓ Local government pre-emption. Please keep an eye on potential legislation that would give local government authority in all areas (e.g., planning and development related). This is particularly important to Hillsborough as a local government that has our own water and sewer utility with very limited capacity.
- ✓ Statewide shortage of qualified individuals to serve as finance directors, technical accounting and finance staff, and auditing firms. The shortage of local government staff and accounting firms with resources to perform annual audits has become a crisis. Approximately 25% of local governments have found themselves on the State Treasurer's and Local Government Commission Unit Assistance List. This is often due to staff shortage and inability to get the annual audit and other key reports completed in a timely manner.