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Media Contact:
Susan Chrzan, Tampa Hillsborough Expressway Authority
813.272.6740 ext. 130 or sue@tampa-xway.com

THEA Sponsors USF Bridge-Building Competition *Hillsborough, Pinellas Counties' middle and high school students welcome*

TAMPA, Fla. (September 28, 2011) –Tampa Hillsborough Expressway Authority (THEA) announces its sponsorship of University of South Florida (USF) College of Engineering's Bridge-Building Competition scheduled for February 18, 2012, at USF's 40th annual Engineering EXPO.

USF's Bridge-Building competition began in the 1980's as a student-run project to connect with the area's under-represented students. As a partner with USF, THEA seeks to support educational opportunities for and outreach to Hillsborough and Pinellas Counties' students through its sponsorship of this event. The Competition is open to teams of three middle or high school students who design and build model bridges from balsawood and test their load capacities.

Teachers and student teams are encouraged to attend THEA-sponsored workshops, which provide a unique opportunity to prepare for the Competition and develop lesson plans that incorporate the fields of engineering and design with math and science through bridge building. The first workshop will be on Saturday, October 22, 2011, from 9 a.m. to noon at USF College of Engineering's Kopp Building in room ENG 004. For more information about registration and questions about the Competition and/or workshop, please contact Eva Fernandez at 813.974.9503 or ecfernan@usf.edu.

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About Tampa Hillsborough Expressway Authority

Tampa Hillsborough Expressway Authority (THEA) is a user-financed public agency led by a Board of local citizens. Operating with no tax dollars, THEA develops and owns toll highways, including Lee Roy Selmon Expressway, as well as non-tolled roads, including Brandon Parkway and Meridian Avenue. All tolls collected by THEA are reinvested back into projects in Hillsborough County. For more information, please visit www.tampaxway.com.

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