

SOUTHEAST FLORIDA REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP

To: SCI Executive Committee
From: SEFRP Staff
Date: July 27th, 2012 Meeting
Subject: Opening Summit Update

AGENDA ITEM #8

Introduction

More than 500 residents, urban planners, business and civic leaders, elected officials, government leaders, and activists attended the “Opening Summit: State of the Region” to develop “Seven50”, a 50-year blueprint to help ensure economic prosperity and the best-possible quality of life for the seven counties of Southeast Florida. About 100 additional people watched the event via a live webcast. Registration was closed early for the over-booked event in Delray Beach, Fla.

The Summit, held on June 27 2012, brought to light key challenges and opportunities that will affect Southeast Florida’s potential of becoming a mega-region and major economic driver due to its unique assets, international trade connections, transportation infrastructure, business diversity, and population growth. Summit Delegates discussed a variety of areas that they believe need attention and improvement, including mass transit, environmental stewardship, water supply, business diversity, and economic resilience. They shared visions of a more pedestrian-friendly super-region that balances the need to accommodate population growth while retaining the cultural integrity and character of local communities.

The Opening Summit included a keynote address from Neal Peirce, chairman of The Citistates Group and a widely read syndicated columnist who writes about the political and economic dynamics and emerging roles of metropolitan regions. It also included presentations from such noted thought-leaders as Victor Dover, principal with Dover Kohl & Partners Town Planning; Allison DeFoor, principal with The Fiorentino Group; Robert Burchell, director of the Center for Urban Policy at Rutgers University, and Bill Spikowski, owner of Spikowski Planning Associates. Work prepared by the Consultants for this event has been extensively requested and posted online. Jason King, project director for Dover Kohl and Partners will update the Executive Committee on this work.

At the highly interactive event, attendees participated in live keypad polls throughout the day and personally recorded videos for the planning team concerning their visions for the region. The poll results, videos and photos of the event may be viewed at www.Seven50.org.

Both Councils received generous donations for the event from the Delray Beach CRA (donated facility, audio visual equipment and general support); ONE drinks (donated beverages); and a donation by the Miami, Broward and Palm Beach Foundations to cover expenses for the Keynote Speaker. Complimentary transportation was generously provided by the SFRTA.

Action

Staff is seeking input and approval from the Executive Committee regarding location, venues and dates for the Second Summit. Different options researched will be discussed at the Executive Committee meeting.