

## SOUTH FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

### Minutes

December 3, 2012

The South Florida Regional Planning Council met on this date at the Miami-Dade County's Stephen P. Clarke Government Center, 111 N.W. 1<sup>st</sup> Street, Rooms 18-3 & 18-4, Miami, Florida. Vice-Chair Paul Wallace called the meeting to order at 10:40 a.m. and welcomed Mayor Carlos Gimenez from Miami-Dade County and Mayor Kristen Jacobs from Broward County and asked them to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### I. Pledge of Allegiance and Roll Call

Councilmember Patricia Asseff  
Councilmember Margaret Bates (absent)  
Councilmember Michael Blynn  
Councilmember Esteban Bovo, Jr.  
Chair Heather Carruthers (via phone)  
Councilmember Suzanne Gunzburger  
Councilmember Manuel Marono (absent)  
Councilmember Jean Monestime  
Councilmember George Neugent  
Councilmember Jose A. Riesco (via phone)  
Councilmember Stacy Ritter  
Councilmember Joseph Scuotto (via phone)  
Councilmember Paul Wallace  
Councilmember Sandra Walters (via phone)  
Councilmember Jimmy Weekley (via phone)

The following Ex-Officio members were present:

Ms. Aileen Boucle, representing the Florida Department of Transportation, District VI  
Ms. Carole Morris, representing the South Florida Water Management District

Vice-Chair Wallace introduced Mayor Gimenez of Miami-Dade County.

Mayor Gimenez welcomed everyone to Miami-Dade County and stated that he and Mayor Jacobs had met earlier. He stated that they have pledged that Miami-Dade and Broward Counties would work closer together and include Monroe and Palm Beach Counties in future discussions. Mayors Gimenez and Jacobs shared the same observation regarding Regionalism: "there are only a couple of things you can see from outer space; one is the Great Wall of China and the other is the Dade-Broward Line." They indicated they would like to change that division between the counties.

Mayor Gimenez stated that the counties need to work together as a Region; that for some reasons, mostly political and governmental, there are divisions among Miami-Dade, Broward, Monroe and Palm Beach Counties. He believes that other parts of the state have more influence because they are united and our counties should consider themselves a Region and not as independent, separate counties, even though the counties are different. Mayor Gimenez is happy that Mayor Jacobs shares this vision, and they will be working closer together on transportation, infrastructure, water and sewer issues for the benefit of the entire Region. He welcomed and thanked everyone again.

Mayor Gimenez introduced the Mayor of Broward County, Kristen Jacobs.

Mayor Jacobs stated that it is great to be in Miami-Dade County, to move throughout the Region, and understands how much of a Region these counties are. She stated that the Climate Change Compact among Monroe, Miami-Dade, Broward and Palm Beach Counties, signed four years ago, is historical and is a pathway to other endeavors in the future. The Mayor stated that she is excited about joining Mayor Gimenez in pulling their leadership together. She stated that as a Region, the counties could have a voice in Tallahassee when items are being passed or discussed that are not a beneficial to our Region, and be able to discuss our Region's needs. She stated that the Compact proved that we can do it, our staff can work together, and, more importantly, it caught the attention of Washington and Tallahassee.

The Mayor stated that a tremendous number of resources became available by the counties working together and believes that it is time to go to the next level. She stated that it will be interesting as the Compact continues and the sustainability planning, Seven50, is conducted by one planning body, such as this organization, and marries it to the next one up the coast to say "let's look at us as a Super Region". She stated that the seven-county group effort is an important step that needs to be accomplished as a Region.

Mayor Jacobs stated that she and Mayor Gimenez thought there should be conversations with other large urban areas around the state. She stated that with Monroe County, located the furthest south and being a smaller county, can get its issues lost and benefits in joining together with the larger counties to assist in policy making and to increase recognition for our Region. She reiterated that she is happy to be here today, hopes to keep making more trips to Miami and would be happy if Mayor Gimenez would visit Broward County in the next couple of weeks as she meets with Palm Beach County's incoming Chair, Steve Abrams, to discuss how the counties can grow as a Region.

Mr. James F. Murley, Executive Director of the South Florida Regional Planning Council, presented the Mayors with a memento of a satellite view map of Florida with an abstract of the Great Wall of China being split on the border of Miami-Dade and Broward.

## **II. Approval of Council Agenda**

Councilmember Gunzburger motioned to approve the Council Agenda. Councilmember Walters seconded the motion, which carried by a unanimous vote.

## **III. Action Items**

### **A. Minutes of Previous Meeting**

Councilmember Gunzburger moved to approve the Minutes of the Previous Meeting. Councilmember Asseff seconded the motion, which carried by a unanimous vote.

### **B. Financial Report**

Councilmember Gunzburger moved to approve III.B, Financial Report. Councilmember Neugent seconded the motion, which carried by a unanimous vote.

### **C. Intergovernmental Coordination and Review Report**

Councilmember Asseff moved to approve III.C, Intergovernmental Coordination and Review Report. Councilmember Ritter seconded the motion, which carried by a unanimous vote.

D. Consent: Comprehensive Plan Amendment Reviews - Proposed:

- City of Miami
- City of Miami Springs
- Monroe County

Adopted:

- Broward County
- Islamorada, Village of Islands
- Miami Shores Village
- City of Opa-locka
- Miami-Dade County

Mr. Murley explained that the City of Miami Springs' amendment is adopted not proposed. Councilmember Asseff moved to approve the amended Agenda Item III.D: Comprehensive Plan Amendment Reviews, Adopted and Proposed. Councilmember Gunzburger seconded the motion, which carried by a unanimous vote.

E. Regional Issues: Comprehensive Plan Amendment Reviews  
Information only

It was decided to move forward with the PowerPoint presentations: Agenda Item V.A. 1.

V. **Program Reports and Activities**

A. Council Mission - Prioritize our Infrastructure Needs

- 1) Update on Rail Passenger Service on the FEC Corridor

Mr. Murley stated that transportation is a regional issue with important actions that should be taken in collaboration with the Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO), South Florida Regional Transportation Authority (SFRTA), Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) Districts IV and VI, and the South Florida (SFRPC) and Treasure Coast (TCRPC) Regional Planning Councils. He stated that there will be three presentations today. He stated the FDOT presentation on the South Florida East Coast Corridor (SFECC) Study will be first and introduced Ms. Amie Goddeau.

Ms. Amie Goddeau, who is part of the Project Team, stated that she is giving an update on the SFECC and an overview of the coordination with the Florida East Coast Industries (FECI) All Aboard Florida, the project process, the build alternatives and the cost effective segments, the stations, and the next steps. She stated that this is timely and that the FECI and FDOT have been following each other on these presentations, and will explain the differences on these two projects for everyone to understand. She clarified that the SFECC is a commuter-based service with a high frequency of trains with stations closely placed about 3-5 miles. She stated that All Aboard Florida is an intercity-based service, similar to Amtrak, in which the train frequency is half of the commuter train frequency, the stations have large distances between stops, and is geared toward tourists and regional travelers. She stated that the biggest difference is that the commuter-based trains do not have funding at present for construction or operation maintenance; All Aboard Florida is privately-owned and may have trains operational by the beginning of 2015.

Ms. Goddeau stated that with the introduction of intercity train service there will be another set of trains on the Florida East Coast Rail Line (FEC) FECL tracks. She explained that train simulation needs to be evaluated to understand how many tracks and sidings are necessary to make all three services work together, commuter, intercity and freight. She described the benefits of both projects: the accommodations of service for intercity; commuter and freight travel; the targeted time frames for service; the regions' economic and transportation core; the existing transportation options; the project process of development, engineering and construction; the work effort of technical analysis, project and station coordination. She detailed the build alternatives, cost effective segment variations, transfer options and station refinement.

Ms. Goddeau gave updates from the various transportation agencies and coordination with All Aboard Florida. She stated that they are in the preliminary project development--the planning process, which is almost complete--and working on finalizing the costs and track infrastructure with FECL. She stated that once completed they will appear before the various boards to ask for approval to move forward into the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) phase, to ensure that the project is consistent with federal regulations. She stated that this is the most important phase of this project because it is the authorization to move forward to buy right-of-way and move into design and construction. She stated that they are working together with the three counties' MPO on a financial plan. She mentioned all the partners of the Steering Committee: three MPOs, three county transit agencies, the two regional planning councils, SFRTA, and SEFTC.

Mr. Murley thanked Ms. Goddeau and introduced Mr. Hussein Cumber, Executive Vice-President, Florida East Coast Industries (FECL).

Mr. Cumber stated that he will be providing information regarding All Aboard Florida, which will be the country's first privately owned, operated, and maintained intercity rail system. He acknowledged Mayor Gimenez and Mayor Jacobs for their help on moving this project forward. He informed those present that in 1892, Henry Flagler formed the Florida East Coast Railway to start passenger service and once again that passenger service will return. He informed everyone that the FECL has four subsidiaries: Flagler Development, a Commercial Real Estate business; All Aboard Florida, Passenger Rail; South Florida Logistics Services, a logistics provider; and Parallel Infrastructure, which manages the rights-of-way. He explained that freight service has been on the FEC since the late 1800's along with passenger service but that passenger service was discontinued in 1968.

Mr. Cumber stated that there have been discussions on bringing back passenger service along the corridor and in March 2012 All Aboard Florida was introduced with four stops: Miami, Fort Lauderdale, West Palm Beach and Orlando. He stated that the travel time should be within a three-hour range between downtown Miami and Orlando with speeds up to 125 mph with frequent, regularly scheduled round trips. Mr. Cumber explained the premium amenities, such as Wi-Fi, quality meal service, locations and connections to existing and future transportation networks. He announced that there is a Request for Proposals (RFP) that FDOT publicized looking for interested parties that want to lease some of the right-of-way (ROW) on SR 528. In order to connect the state's largest city, Miami, with the most visited city, Orlando, in the U.S.

Mr. Cumber explained that in Miami there are nine acres that comprised the original passenger rail station and will become the Miami Grand Central Station, which will offer office, retail and residential spaces. He stated that they are looking at sites north or south of Broward Boulevard for a station in Fort Lauderdale. He explained the future Wave Streetcar Project designed by the Downtown Development Authority of Fort Lauderdale and that the SFRTA has been instrumental in moving this project forward. In West Palm Beach, they are trying to connect into the existing point of centers, existing destinations, infrastructure and future infrastructure. He stated that the Greater Orlando Airport Authority has been in

cooperation regarding the future South Terminal along with a people mover, garage, and ground transportation system. He explained that the new South Terminal will double the size of the airport and have SunRail, Automated People Mover and All Aboard Florida located there. He stated that they have had meetings with the MPOs, Regional Planning Councils, environmental groups, cities and Counties and have finalized various studies on ridership, engineering and environmental issues to understand the initial capital expenditures. He stated that they have hired key staff members, selected a master planner and environmental engineering firms. He stated that the next steps are to determine the final route alignment and construction cost, station locations, rolling stock provider and operator to begin station and rail infrastructure construction. He stated that this is a tremendous product that will provide a spark to the economy in South Florida.

Mr. Murley introduced Joe Quinty, representing the South Florida Regional Transportation Authority (SFRTA).

Mr. Quinty stated that the SFRTA believes they have come a long way and that the Council is one of the earliest advocates for passenger rail, including passenger rail on the FEC Corridor. He stated that the SFRTA has been working with FDOT on technical coordination regarding the local commuter rail over the past year. He stated that from an economic development perspective the ongoing operating and maintenance funding will be hard to achieve, not the capital. He stated that the three MPOs in South Florida and the two Regional Planning Councils have taken the lead in coordinating all the agencies to have one common goal. He stated that Mr. Murley, Isabel Cosio Carballo, the RPC staff and the Sustainable Communities Initiative have brought the parties together to attend a recent retreat in Minneapolis. He stated that good things are coming together filled with a lot of synergy, and we have all been waiting a long time.

Mayor Gimenez stated that Miami-Dade County is extremely encouraged and looks forward to working with the FECI on its project and expand to commuter rail. He stated that it is great that we can coordinate with the FECI and when we get Tri-Rail on that corridor he believes the ridership numbers will grow tremendously. He believes a tie to downtown Fort Lauderdale and further north into Palm Beach is important for the entire Region and looks forward to this project. He stated that the people are excited about the Grand Central Station in Miami, and the development opportunities that will come with it. He explained that there are exciting things happening in Miami-Dade County as we speak: cranes are going back up, there is more residential in the downtown, a lot good commercial development and there is a project south of Miami called *City Side* under construction. He stated that there is a need to make sure that we connect productivity with the entire Region, which will be good for all the counties.

Mayor Jacobs stated that there are 182 Resolutions of support for passenger rail on the FEC. She stated that there is no shortage of enthusiasm across all elected bodies and other organizations that want to see the commuter train; they want to see an alternative to the car. Her question is "how are we going to pay for it?" She stated that this is where the discussions of this group and the three counties need to become involved because the reality of the cost will be known soon. She stated at the retreat in Minneapolis, with Florida's transit agencies, the conversation kept coming back to the dollar; who will pay for it, and how many revenue sources are available? She stated that the need is to focus on how to finance it, not whether it is a good idea because it is a good idea. She stated that coming together in finding revenue sources throughout the three counties will make this project feasible.

Vice-Chair Wallace stated that the SFRPC is one of the first groups to encourage rail transit and service on the east coast corridor and wants to continue to support and offer our services as a forum for exchanges that need to be made between all the counties. He announced that the SFRPC is always here and available.

Councilmember Gunzburger stated that she was enthusiastic about this but believes there is another problem other than financing. She stated that the public hospitals are west of the FEC Corridor and stated that it would be very helpful, especially since 30 more round trip trains and the 14 from All Aboard Florida and freight trains, to have plans for overpasses. Councilmember Asseff agreed stating that there are traffic jams on the east to west corridors, such as in the City of Hollywood. She would like the timing of the commuter trains improved, since there is already traffic not including emergency vehicles. She suggested that the cities be included in these conversations.

Mayor Jacobs stated that time delays will not result from passenger rail, rather the intermodal container facility that is being built at Broward County's Port. She explained that they will be about 17 trains a day, 3 miles long, double stacked and they are heavy and slow; they are going to be the problem. The Mayor clarified that the commuter rail is going to pass through the intersection rapidly. She stated that the freight will be the next level of discussion and can it be moved to CSX; she noted that this will be the next conversation.

Vice-Chair Wallace thanked everyone for the updated reports and Mayor Gimenez and Mayor Jacobs for their participation.

#### F. Proposed Meeting Locations – 2013

Discussion ensued regarding the Council Meetings: travel to three Counties, the changes in locations within the counties, cost and convenience of parking, Councilmember participation regarding location changes, and the conferencing system. Mr. Murley stated that the conferencing system and its cost will be further explored.

Councilmember Ritter stated she approves of meeting in the three counties and other Councilmembers agreed.

Councilmember Gunzburger motioned that the Council continue rotation among the three Counties and the Miami-Dade County meetings be held at the Beacon Council. Councilmember Ritter seconded the motion, which carried by a unanimous vote.

#### IV. Discussion Items

##### A. Executive Committee Report

- 1) Update on Repurposing the Institute for Community Collaboration

Vice-Chair Wallace stated that Councilmembers were present and to move forward to the next item.

##### B. Executive Director's Report

Mr. Murley stated that the Nominating Committee is comprised of Councilmembers Gunzburger, Walters and Blynn.

Mr. Murley stated that the Florida Regional Planning Council Association (FRCA) Executive Directors met last week in Tallahassee and that the monthly summary of updated actions is at the Councilmembers seats.

Mr. Murley stated that Finance Director, Mary Lou Johnston has left and we have under contract, from the firm of International Finance Group, Ed McGann to help us with our day-to-day finances and work with staff during this time period. He explained that there will not be an advertisement for a Finance Director at this time.

Mr. Murley stated that there will be a Seven50 Summit in Miami at the Miami-Dade College in January 2013.

Mr. Murley stated that the Florida Regional Planning Council Policy Board meeting will be held in early January and he would like the Council to act today on the roles of the current delegation. He stated that Councilmember Asseff will become the President of the FRCA and suggested that Councilmembers Carruthers, Asseff and Blynn be authorized to continue to represent the SFRPC.

Councilmember Gunzburger motioned to approve the motion. Councilmember Ritter seconded the motion, which carried by a unanimous vote.

Mr. Murley announced that this would be the last week for Ex-Officio Member Carol Morris from the South Florida Water Management District. Ms. Morris will be replaced by Rob Braun. He wished her well on her future endeavors.

C. Legal Counsel Report

Mr. David Tolces, Legal Counsel, stated that the Loan Reports are included in the packet for review.

V. Program Reports and Activities

A. Council Mission - Prioritize our Infrastructure Needs

1) Update on Rail Passenger Service on the FEC Corridor  
Previously viewed.

B. Revolving Loan Fund Reports

Councilmember Ritter questioned why some of the borrowers do not have an assessed value for their business. Ms. Cheryl Cook explained that the assessed value was mortgage property used as collateral for a loan, not on the particular business.

1) SFRPC Revolving Loan Funds Status Report  
Information only

2) Hurricane Wilma Bridge Loan Status Report  
Information only

3) Smart Watts Home Energy Retrofit Loan Fund Status Report  
Information only

C. DRI Status Report  
Information only

D. Evaluation and Appraisal Report (EAR) Status Report  
Information only

E. Budget Performance Report  
Report will be at the January 2013 meeting.

F. Seven50: Southeast Florida Prosperity Plan  
Information only

## VI. Announcements and Attachments

Councilmember Gunzburger announced that on January 24, 2013, there will be a Seven50 Summit at the Wolfson Center of Miami-Dade College.

Mr. Murley stated that Executive Committee has agreed to authorize staff to have a half day leave for the Mondays before the Holidays. He stated that he recognizes the hard work of Council staff.

- A. Correspondence and Attendance Form
- B. Upcoming Meetings
  - 1) January 7th, 10:30 a.m. (Murray E. Nelson Government Center, Key Largo)
  - 2) February 4th, 10:30 a.m. (Council Office, Hollywood)
  - 3) March 4th, 10:30 a.m. (Miami-Dade County)
  - 4) April 1st, 10:30 a.m. (Council Office, Hollywood)

## VII. Councilmember Comments

## VIII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

This signature is to attest that the undersigned is the Secretary of the SOUTH FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL, and that the information provided herein is the true and correct minutes for the December 3, 2012 meetings of the SOUTH FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL adopted the 7<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2013.

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George Neugent, Secretary

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Date