



## CONSENSUS CENTER

***“Facilitating Consensus Solutions, Supporting Collaborative Action.”***

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### **STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS PLANNING WITH THE SOUTH FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL**

The Center, based at Florida State University based at Florida State University in Tallahassee and University of Central Florida in Orlando, provides consensus building and collaboration services and neutral technical assistance to a wide range of agencies and private and non-governmental organizations engaged in collaboration on public issues throughout Florida and the United States. We help to design and implement strategic planning initiatives and collaboration on transportation, water resources, emergency management, environmental, energy and other issues. The Center has a long history of service in the Southeast Florida region, including work in each of the counties on environmental and planning issues, on transportation planning and project issues with FDOT districts, MPOs and RPCs, on freight and port issues, on Everglades restoration issues and on regional visioning efforts.

The Center proposes working with Council members and staff to develop a strategic directions planning approach tailored to the current and future needs of the South Florida Regional Planning Council. The core of the proposed process is the Council's identification of key strategic issues facing the SFRPC, and its development of agreed-upon ways to address them. The Center will focus on facilitating discussions that help members understand each other's perspectives on these issues and that lead to strategies enjoying the broadest possible member support. The Center will work with staff and Council members to ensure that discussions of issues and direction are at a level of detail useful to the RPC, and that members have the information they need to reach informed conclusions.

#### **Tasks and Deliverables**

The approach includes the following tasks, related timelines and deliverables.

##### ***Task 1: Development of the Starting Point for Strategic Directions Discussions***

Through a combination of a review of relevant documents, interviews with staff and Council members, and online surveys of members the Center will seek to document the member perspectives on the opportunities, challenges and issues facing the Council, as well as Council member and staff expectations for the strategic directions planning process.

##### ***a. Initial Council Discussion of Proposed Strategic Planning Process -- February 4***

The Consensus Center will present a strategic planning concept proposal for Council consideration and refinement as needed.

***b. Initial Interviews and Assessment -- February 4-20***

The Center will also conduct a review of relevant SFRPC documents and seek to interview Commissioners and staff to explore the following questions:

- What is your understanding of the SFRPC's current mission and role in the region?
- What are the trends, opportunities and challenges that face the South Florida Region and the SFRPC in the short term and longer term?
- What role(s) might the SFRPC play independently and along with other regional partners in addressing those challenges and opportunities?

***c. Delivery of Interview Results Summary -- February 25***

The Center will provide a report summarizing (without attribution) the input received in the interviews. The summary will serve as a starting point for the discussion on March 4.

***Task 2 Initial Strategic Directions Council Workshop -- March 4 (4 hours)***

Using the Interview Results Summary as a starting point, the Consensus Center will facilitate workshop discussions among Council members to:

- Develop a shared vision of success and an understanding of the future role of the RPC, short-term and long-term, and of its value to the region;
- Begin to explore possible RPC strategic directions and actions relative to the challenges and opportunities identified in the interviews.
- Agree on next steps.

Discussions will be designed to provide the basis for more detailed action planning following the legislative session. The Center will prepare a discussion summary documenting key points made and conclusions reached by Council members during the discussion.

***Task 3 Follow-Up Activity -- April/May/June***

Based on Council guidance at the March 4 meeting, one or more of the follow-ups activities below may be undertaken:

- A survey of Council members to assess reactions to conclusions reached on March 4, and to solicit additional input on potential actions going forward.
- A discussion at the April or May Council meeting to review the survey results and refine the conclusions of March 4 as appropriate. This discussion would also be designed to strengthen the basis for more detailed action planning following the results of the legislative session. The Center will prepare a discussion summary documenting key points made and conclusions reached by Council members during the discussion.

***Task 4: Summary Report***

The Consensus Center will prepare a report that outlines the Commission's planning steps and conclusions and provides a framework for future action.