



MEMORANDUM

AGENDA ITEM #III.I

DATE: APRIL 4, 2011

TO: COUNCIL MEMBERS

FROM: STAFF

SUBJECT: THE EVALUATION AND APPRAISAL REPORT OF THE *STRATEGIC REGIONAL POLICY PLAN FOR SOUTH FLORIDA*

This Memorandum provides an overview of the required Evaluation and Appraisal of the *Strategic Regional Policy Plan for South Florida (SRPP)*. The overview is presented in three sections: the Role of Florida's Regional Planning Councils and Strategic Regional Policy Plans, the Evaluation and Appraisal Report of *SRPP*, and the SFRPC 2011 Proposed *SRPP* EAR Process.

The Role of Florida's Regional Planning Councils and Strategic Regional Policy Plans

Regional Planning Councils are Florida's only multipurpose regional entity that is in a position to plan for and coordinate intergovernmental solutions to growth-related problems on greater-than-local issues.

Pursuant to Chapter 186, Florida Statutes (F.S.), and Rule 27E-5, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.), a Regional Planning Council (RPC) is charged with adopting a *Strategic Regional Policy Plan (SRPP)*: a long-range guide for physical, economic, and social development which identifies regional Goals and Policies.

The *SRPP* is the basis for review of resources and facilities found in local government Comprehensive Plans, Developments of Regional Impacts, federally assisted projects and other regional comment functions. Most importantly, the Goals and Policies establish public policy for the resolution of disputes over regional problems, needs, and opportunities.

SRPPs are required to address the Strategic Regional Subject Areas of affordable housing, economic development, emergency preparedness, Natural Resources of Regional Significance, regional transportation, and any other subject which relate to the particular needs and circumstances of the Region. The document must identify regional resources and facilities and be consistent with the State Comprehensive Plan.

The required format is to include:

- Executive Summary;
- Vision Statement;
- Descriptions of the Strategic Regional Subject Areas detailing current trends, forecasting conditions and opportunities, identifying adopted Goals and Policies, and providing measures by which progress can be assessed;
- Coordination Outline detailing how a RPC handles dispute resolution, public participation, and related regional planning and coordination activities; and
- Glossary.

The Evaluation and Appraisal Report of the Strategic Regional Policy Plan for South Florida (SRPP)

The regional planning process is supposed to be a continuous and ongoing effort; therefore, the South Florida Regional Planning Council (SFRPC) is required to prepare an Evaluation and Appraisal Report (EAR) of its *SRPP* at least once every five years or concurrently with the Region's local government EAR Schedule for Comprehensive Plans. The EAR shall assess the successes or failures of the plan, address changes to the State Comprehensive Plan, and result in amendments, revisions, or updates as needed. The EAR may include recommendations to amend the State Comprehensive Plan and related Florida Statutes.

The EAR is to be submitted to the Executive Office of the Governor (Office) per the schedule set by said Office. The Office has not set the current EAR schedule for the state RPCs; however, the SFRPC 2010-2011 contract with the Florida Department of Community Affairs (DCA) requires the Council to submit an EAR to the Office by June 30, 2011.

The SFRPC 2004 SRPP

The 2004 *SRPP* is the policy document that currently guides all of the Council's activities in the Region (Broward, Miami-Dade, and Monroe County). The *SRPP* is:

[A] plan for our entire Region, not just the South Florida Regional Planning Council. While it is a guide for local governments in the development and implementation of their comprehensive plans, it also provides a framework for non-governmental organizations seeking to enhance their activities within the Region. As such, the goals and targets in the document are expressed in the imperative to underscore the Council's intention to work with all of our regional partners to implement the plan. [*SRPP*, Executive Summary]

The vision states "By the year 2025, Southeast Florida's investment in its People, Places and Future has helped our Region to mature into one of the greatest places in the world to live, work, play, and prosper." Supporting values are Sustainability (investing in people, places and the future), Connectivity (providing linkages between people, places, and opportunities), and Responsibility (conducting business for the benefit of the Region) and are reflected in the document's Goals and Policies.

Twenty-two Goals reflect the priority issues, or Strategic Regional Subject Areas, of the Region over a 20-year time horizon. Each Goal has Indicators, Baselines, and Targets to help determine progress, identify opportunities for improvement and collaboration, and recognize regional success. The Strategic Regional Subject Areas are:

- Education and Workforce Development;
- Wages and Affordability;
- Human Health, Safety and Welfare;
- Infrastructure;
- Schools;
- Housing;
- Potable Water, Wastewater and Stormwater;
- Transportation;
- Energy;
- Green Infrastructure;
- Development and Redevelopment;
- Rural and Agricultural Lands;
- Historic Preservation;
- Natural Resources;
- The Everglades;
- Marine and Coastal Resources;

- Economic Expansion and Diversification;
- Emergency Planning;
- Coastal High Hazard Areas;
- Connecting People, Places, and Opportunities;
- Coordinated Planning and Regional Cooperation; and
- Cultural Competence.

The SFRPC 2011 Proposed SRPP EAR Process

Council staff will begin the process of evaluating the *SRPP* by measuring its regional Indicators with the best available data against the 2004 Baseline data to determine the progress of each Goal. A review and update of the introductory “Our Region” section of the *SRPP* will coincide with the Goal analysis in order to identify today’s trends, issues, and opportunities.

Staff will compile, analyze and present the findings at the May 2, 2011 Council meeting and request the input of Councilmembers as to what Goals should be a priority, strengthened, eliminated, or if additional Goals need to be incorporated for future revisions to the *SRPP*. A summary of the Goal analysis and input by the Councilmembers will then be compiled and circulated to our regional partners for further input. Staff will review and analyze the input received from our regional partners.

Staff will also analyze changes to the State Comprehensive Plan and Growth Management Legislation since the adoption of the 2004 *SRPP* to determine further areas of revision, if needed. The structure of the EAR document will include summaries of the following:

- SFRPC EAR process;
- Current Trends and Issues Update from 2004 to 2011;
- Assessment of Goals;
- Council and regional partner input and outcomes; and
- Recommendations to enhance *SRPP* and, as necessary, the strategy for amending the plan.

It should be noted that the EAR will provide the Council an opportunity to assess the *SRPP* as well as weave the Report’s findings into the Southeast Florida’s Regional Vision and Blueprint for Economic Prosperity (which will be developed as part of the Sustainable Communities Initiative) and the Florida Chamber Foundation’s Six Pillars Program.

The EAR will be presented to the Council as an action item at its June 6, 2011 meeting and, if approved, transmitted to the Executive Office of the Governor, with copies to the Florida Department of Community Affairs.

Recommendation

Approve the EAR Review Process and timeline.

