



MEMORANDUM

AGENDA ITEM #III.I

DATE: JUNE 6, 2011

TO: COUNCIL MEMBERS

FROM: STAFF

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

Introduction

The regional planning process is 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 *Strategic Regional Policy Plan for South Florida (SRPP)* at least once every five years or concurrently with the Region's local government EAR Schedule for Comprehensive Plans. The EAR assesses the successes or failures of the plan, addresses changes to the State Comprehensive Plan, and can result in amendments, revisions, or updates as needed.

This Memorandum contains the required EAR of the *SRPP* per SFRPC's 2010-2011 contract with the Florida Department of Community Affairs (DCA). If approved, the EAR will be submitted to the Executive Office of the Governor, with copies to DCA.

Beginning in January of 2011, Council staff began an internal review of the *SRPP* (adopted in June 2004) and presented the proposed EAR process to the Council at its April 4, 2011 meeting. At that time, the Council approved the following structure of the EAR, summarized herein:

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

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:

1. Education and Workforce Development;
2. Wages and Affordability;
3. Human Health, Safety and Welfare;
4. Infrastructure;
5. Schools;
6. Housing;
7. Potable Water, Wastewater and Stormwater;
8. Transportation;
9. Energy;
10. Green Infrastructure;
11. Development and Redevelopment;
12. Rural and Agricultural Lands;
13. Historic Preservation;
14. Natural Resources;
15. The Everglades;
16. Marine and Coastal Resources;
17. Economic Expansion and Diversification;
18. Emergency Planning;
19. Coastal High Hazard Areas;
20. Connecting People, Places, and Opportunities;
21. Coordinated Planning and Regional Cooperation; and
22. Cultural Competence.

SRPP Goal Assessment

Council staff assessed the 22 Goals listed above by measuring the regional Indicators with the best available data against the 2004 Baseline data to determine the progress of each Goal. In summary:

- Five (5) Targets have been met (Goals 5, Schools; 7, Potable Water, Wastewater and Stormwater; 10, Green Infrastructure; 15, Everglades; and 17, Economic Expansion and Diversification).
- Eleven (11) Targets have not been met (Goals 1, Education and Workforce; 2, Wages and Affordability; 3, Health, Safety and Welfare; 4, Infrastructure; 6, Housing; 8, Transportation; 9, Energy; 11, Development and Redevelopment; 12, Rural and Agricultural Lands; 13, Historic Preservation; and 18, Emergency Planning).
- One (1) Target is to be determined as best available data has not been published to date (Goal 16, Marine and Coastal Resources).
- Five (5) Targets were determined that the progress from the baseline Indicator could not be measured (Goals 14, Natural Resources; 19, Coastal High Hazard Areas; 20, Connecting People, Places and Opportunities; 21, Coordinated Planning and Cooperation; and 22, Cultural Competence).

Please see Table 1 (attached) for further details.

The Goal Assessment was presented to the Council at its May 2, 2011 meeting. The Council members provided input to staff, emphasizing that the focus of the Council for the future should be placed on regional leadership and cooperation (Goals 20, Connecting People, Places and Opportunities; and 21, Coordinated Planning and Cooperation).

Partner Evaluation of Regional Priority Issues

Our partners were asked to participate in an online survey through www.surveymonkey.com to solicit input to help Council staff determine 1) the purpose and frequency of use of the *SRPP* by our regional partners, 2) the level of priority (High, Moderate, Low, No Longer an Issue, or Unknown) of the existing priority issues in the current *SRPP*, and 3) what, if any, issues have surfaced since 2004 or are forecast to emerge that are not currently captured in the *SRPP*.

In response to the level of priority of the existing issues in the *SRPP*, almost all the Goals are still considered to be a High Priority for the Region. The Goals of Schools (5), the Coastal High Hazard Area (19), and Cultural Competence (22) were identified as a Moderate Priority for the Region. The Goal of Historic Preservation (13) tied as both a High and Moderate Priority.

The survey respondents identified the following as issues that have surfaced since the adoption of the 2004 *SRPP*:

- Climate change and Sea Level Rise;
- Homelessness;
- The need for a 21st Century governance modal and investment strategy to the movement of freight and goods;
- Diversification of the economic engine;
- Educating the public on meaningful civic participation in regional issues;
- Preparing the Region as an international center of trade;
- Improving the Region's appeal to live, work, and play;
- Emphasis on regional passenger and commuter rail service;
- Addressing the Regional housing crisis;
- The significant changes to the Growth Management Act since 2004, including the removal of state mandates and deregulation of Developments of Regional Impact; and
- Demographic changes reflected in the U.S. 2010 Census and its implications for the Region.

The survey respondents identified the following as issues that are on the horizon and should be incorporated into future amendment to the plan:

- Climate change and Sea Level Rise;
- Potential changes in relationships with the Caribbean nations, specifically Cuba;
- Paying for the true cost of potable water; and
- Continued changes to Growth Management Legislation and how the Council will be prepared to respond and assist Local Governments in the region.

Conclusion

With this EAR, Council staff has developed preliminary information that informs the Council about the progress that has been made in the Region regarding the priority issues. Information was also gathered about how the *SRPP* is used by our regional partners. Section 186.507(1), Florida Statutes, outlines the minimum components for a Strategic Regional Policy Plan. The Section states:

[the] strategic regional policy plan shall contain regional goals and policies that shall address affordable housing, economic development, emergency preparedness, natural resources of regional significance, and regional transportation, and that may address any other subject which relates to the particular needs and circumstances of the comprehensive planning district as determined by the regional planning council. Regional plans shall identify and address significant regional resources and facilities. Regional plans shall be consistent with the state comprehensive plan.

The Council, through the Southeast Florida Partnership, is in the nascent stage of preparing the Regional Vision and Blueprint for Economic Prosperity. The planning horizon for the Vision is 2060. In addition, the Council is participating in the Florida Chambers Six Pillars Project. It is anticipated that both of these efforts will provide the foundation for a new, singular policy document for Southeast Florida. The Council will be asked to provide guidance and input throughout each process and, at the conclusion, consider for adoption a new policy plan.

Recommendation

Approve the Evaluation and Appraisal Report of the *Strategic Regional Policy Plan for South Florida (SRPP)* and transmit to the Office of the Governor, with copies to the Florida Department of Community Affairs.

SRPP Goal Assessment

Goal	Indicator	Target	2004 Baseline	2010 Status
<p>1</p> <p><i>Education & Workforce Development</i></p> <p>Invest in the youth and workforce of the Region by providing quality education, workforce training, and targeted job creation.</p>	<p>Percentage of South Florida's residents with at least a high school diploma.</p>	<p>Increase the share of South Florida's residents that have at least a high school diploma to the national average by 2010.</p>	<p>Only 74.2% of South Florida's residents had at least a high school diploma in 2000, well below the 80.4% national average.</p>	<p>As of 2009, 81.3% of South Florida residents had at least a high school diploma, still below the 85.3% national average. Target has not been met.</p>
<p>2</p> <p><i>Wages and Affordability</i></p> <p>Increase employment opportunities and support the creation of jobs with better pay and benefits for the Region's workforce.</p>	<p>Average regional poverty rates.</p>	<p>Decrease average regional poverty rates to no more than the national average by 2010.</p>	<p>The average regional poverty rate in 1999 was 15.2% as compared to the national average of 12.4%.</p>	<p>As of 2009, the average regional poverty rate was 15.6% as compared to the national average of 14.3%. The regional poverty rates are still higher than the national average, but only by 1.3%, compared to 2.8% in 1999. Target has not been met.</p>
<p>3</p> <p><i>Human Health, Safety & Welfare</i></p> <p>Promote the health, safety, and welfare of South Florida's residents.</p>	<p>Health insurance coverage.</p>	<p>Decrease the percentage of South Floridians under the age of 65 without health insurance to no more than the state average by 2010.</p>	<p>As of 1999, 20.7% of South Floridians under the age of 65 were uninsured as compared to the state average of 16.8%.</p>	<p>As of 2009, 30.9% of South Floridians under the age of 65 were uninsured as compared to the state average of 24.9%. The percentage of uninsured seniors rose by 48.3% in the Region and 48.2% in the state. Target has not been met.</p>

Goal	Indicator	Target	2004 Baseline	2010 Status
<p>4</p> <p><i>Infrastructure</i></p> <p>Enhance the economic and environmental sustainability of the Region by ensuring the adequacy of its public facilities and services.</p>	Number of residents connected to central water and wastewater facilities.	Increase the number of connections to central water and wastewater facilities by 287,000 by 2010; 436,000 by 2015.	As of 2003, there were approximately 1,033,872 connections within the Region.	As of February 2011, there were 1,251,602, an increase of 217,730. Target has not been met.
<p>5</p> <p><i>Schools</i></p> <p>Overcome school overcrowding in the Region.</p>	Number of student stations in relation to enrollment.	Systematically reduce the gap between enrollment and student stations by 12,000 student stations per year to reach a total reduction of 72,000 by 2010.	A deficit of 72,000 student stations existed within the Region as of the 2003/2004 20th day enrollment reports.	Fall 2010 student enrollment for the Region was 612,236 and the total permanent student stations that exist in the Region is 649,544, this represents a surplus of 37,308 student stations. Target has been met.
<p>6</p> <p><i>Housing</i></p> <p>Ensure the availability and equitable distribution of adequate, affordable housing for very low, low, and moderate-income households within the Region.</p>	Region's housing cost burden	Reduce the percentage of households with a cost burden in our Region to less than 30% by 2010.	As of 2003, 34% of households within our Region had a housing cost burden.	As of 2009, 55% of households within our Region had a housing cost burden, a 21% increase in the proportion of households that are cost-burdened. Target has not been met.

Goal	Indicator	Target	2004 Baseline	2010 Status
<p><i>Potable Water, Wastewater & Stormwater</i></p> <p>Protect, conserve, and enhance the Region's water resources.</p> <p>7</p>	<p>Incorporation of ultra-conserving water saving devices and techniques in new development and redevelopment.</p>	<p>Increase in total water savings by 73 MGD by 2010; 107 MGD by 2015.</p>	<p>Projected 2010 baseline without additional water conservation is nearly 1,262 Million Gallons Per Day (MGD) annually; projected 2015 baseline without additional water conservation is 1,360 MGD annually.</p>	<p>According to the SFWMD and DEP, the public water supply as finished water for Broward, Miami-Dade, and Monroe Counties was 10 percent less, or 70 million gallons per day less, in 2010 than in 2005. The first target has approximately been met.</p>
<p><i>Transportation</i></p> <p>Enhance the Region's mobility, efficiency, safety, quality of life, and economic health through improvements to road, port, and public transportation infrastructure.</p> <p>8</p>	<p>Persons driving alone.</p>	<p>Decrease the percentage of drivers driving alone by 5% by 2010.</p>	<p>In 2000, 80% of the drivers in Broward County drove alone, 74% drove alone in Miami-Dade County and 67% drove alone in Monroe County.</p>	<p>In 2009, 79.3% of drivers in Broward drove alone, 76.6% in Miami-Dade County, and 61.4% in Monroe County, representing a slight increase in persons driving alone in the Region. Target has not been met.</p>
<p><i>Energy</i></p> <p>Develop clean, sustainable, and energy-efficient power generation and transportation systems.</p> <p>9</p>	<p>Percentage of alternative fuel vehicles within the overall transportation network in the Clean Cities region (Martin, Palm Beach, Broward, Miami-Dade, and Monroe Counties).</p>	<p>Increase the number of vehicles powered by alternative fuels among all modes by 20% by 2010.</p>	<p>In 2002, 0.3% of all vehicles in the Clean Cities region were powered by alternative fuels.</p>	<p>In 2008, approximately 0.2% of all vehicles in the Clean Cities Region were powered by alternative fuels. Target has not been met.</p>

Goal	Indicator	Target	2004 Baseline	2010 Status
<p><i>Green Infrastructure</i></p> <p>Increase awareness of the Region's green infrastructure, its significance to the Region's economy, and the public's role in access and use that is compatible with long-term sustainability.</p> <p>10</p>	<p>Extent of greenways within the Region both designated and acquired through the Florida Greenways and Trails program.</p>	<p>Increase lands designated under the Florida Greenways and Trails program by 1.5% per year within the Region. Increase lands acquired within the Region through this program by 30 acres by 2010.</p>	<p>As of 2003, 78,123 acres were designated within the Region. As of early 2004, 6.57 acres were acquired through the Florida Greenways and Trails Program.</p>	<p>The baseline data that reports 78,123 acres could not be accounted for; however, the Florida Greenways and Trails Program has approximately acquired an additional 116 acres for the construction of the Florida Keys Overseas Heritage Trail. Target has been met.</p>
<p><i>Development & Redevelopment</i></p> <p>Encourage and support the implementation of development proposals that conserve the Region's natural resources, rural and agricultural lands, green infrastructure and: utilize existing and planned infrastructure in urban areas, enhance the utilization of regional transportation systems, incorporate mixed-land use developments, recycle existing developed sites and provide for the preservation of historic sites.</p> <p>11</p>	<p>Brownfield redevelopment projects.</p>	<p>Complete ten brownfield rehabilitation and redevelopment projects within the Region through the Florida Brownfields Program by 2010.</p>	<p>As of 2003, 25 sites have been designated for the Florida Brownfields Program; two (2) have been completed.</p>	<p>As of December 2010, 11 additional sites have been designated as Brownfield Sites through the Florida Brownfields Program for a total of 36 sites. Three (3) additional rehabilitations have been completed, which represents 50% of the rehabilitation target. Target has not been met.</p>
<p><i>Rural & Agricultural Lands</i></p> <p>Encourage the retention of the Region's rural lands and agricultural economy.</p> <p>12</p>	<p>Net farm income within the Region.</p>	<p>Maintain or increase net farm income within the Region.</p>	<p>In 2001, agriculture produced \$20 million in net farm income in Broward County and \$133 million in Miami-Dade County.</p>	<p>In 2009, agriculture produced -\$2,187,000 in net farm income in Broward County and \$21,156,000 in Miami-Dade County. Target has not been met.</p>

Goal	Indicator	Target	2004 Baseline	2010 Status
<p><i>Historic Preservation</i></p> <p>Preserve, restore, and rehabilitate South Florida's historic structures, landmarks, districts, neighborhoods and archaeological sites.</p> <p>13</p>	<p>Number of historic sites within the Region listed on the National Register of Historic Places.</p>	<p>Increase the number of historic sites within the Region listed on the National Register of Historic Places by 25% by 2010.</p>	<p>As of 2002, there were 225 historic sites within the Region listed on the National Register of Historic Places.</p>	<p>As of 2010, there were 270 historic sites within the Region listed on the National Register of Historic Places. This represents an increase of approximately 16.7 percent, a 8.3% shortfall of the original target. Target has not been met.</p>
<p><i>Natural Resources</i></p> <p>Preserve, protect, and restore Natural Resources of Regional Significance.</p> <p>14</p>	<p>Conservation and restoration land acreage acquired within the Region.</p>	<p>Increase the acreage acquired for Save Our Rivers projects within the Region by 15,000 acres by 2010.</p>	<p>As of 2000, 118,091 acres had been acquired by various entities for Save Our Rivers projects within South Florida.</p>	<p>According to the SFWMD, land acquisition numbers change from one year to another, minimizing the ability to make comparisons between annual updates. Progress from the baseline cannot be measured.</p>
<p><i>The Everglades</i></p> <p>Restore and protect the ecological values and functions of the Everglades Ecosystem by increasing habitat area and regional water storage, and restoring water quality.</p> <p>15</p>	<p>Acreage acquired within the Region for the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP).</p>	<p>Increase the acreage acquired for CERP within the Region to 60% by 2010; 85% by 2015.</p>	<p>As of 2003, approximately 36,658 acres have been acquired for CERP within the Region, reflecting 46% of the total acreage required.</p>	<p>As of December 2010 60,123 acres have been acquired in the Region for CERP, reflecting 60% of the total acreage required. The first target has been met.</p>

Goal	Indicator	Target	2004 Baseline	2010 Status
<p><i>Marine & Coastal Resources</i></p> <p>Enhance and preserve natural system values of South Florida's shorelines, estuaries, benthic communities, fisheries, and associated habitats, including but not limited to, Florida Bay, Biscayne Bay, tropical hardwood hammocks, and the coral reef tract.</p> <p>16</p>	<p>Number of beach advisories issued within the Region on an annual basis.</p>	<p>Decrease beach advisories within the Region by 25% by 2010.</p>	<p>Since the initiation of a statewide coastal water quality monitoring program in August 2000, there have been 230 beach advisories issued within the Region.</p>	<p>Staff is awaiting data from the Florida Department of Health. To be determined.</p>
<p><i>Economic Expansion & Diversification</i></p> <p>Maintain a competitive, diversified, and sustainable regional economy.</p> <p>17</p>	<p>Annual average earnings per job for each county within the Region.</p>	<p>Increase average weekly wages on an annual basis to narrow the gap between South Florida Counties and the nation.</p>	<p>In the year 2001, annual average earnings per job lagged behind the national average in all 3 counties: by 7.6% in Broward, 3.8% in Miami-Dade, and 27.3% in Monroe.</p>	<p>In 2009, annual earnings per job in Miami-Dade county improved and rose 2% more than the national average; while Broward County narrowed the gap to just 2% below the national average, as well as Monroe County to 13% below the national average. Target has been met.</p>

Goal	Indicator	Target	2004 Baseline	2010 Status
<p><i>Emergency Planning</i></p> <p>Ensure regional coordination, preparation, and response to emergencies.</p>	<p>Shelter accommodation for vulnerable population choosing to use public shelter.</p>	<p>By 2010, provide shelter to support 100% of the vulnerable population choosing to use public shelter within the Region.</p>	<p>As of 2003, 92% of the vulnerable population choosing to use public shelter within the Region would be accommodated in the event of an emergency.</p>	<p>According to the 2010 Statewide Emergency Shelter Plan, the South Florida Region has a surplus of 38,393 shelter spaces. This surplus includes the deficit of 19,700 shelter spaces in Monroe County. During a Category 3 or stronger event, all residents of Monroe County must evacuate out of the county. Monroe County has an interlocal agreement whereby Miami-Dade County provides shelter space for Monroe County evacuees. Target has been met.</p>
<p><i>Coastal High Hazard Areas</i></p> <p>Direct future development away from areas most vulnerable to storm surges.</p>	<p>Evacuation clearance times.</p>	<p>Evacuation clearance time as described in the South Florida Regional Hurricane Evacuation Study is maintained or reduced on each evacuation route by 2010.</p>	<p>Evacuation clearance times are route specific; therefore, a single baseline is not available for the Region.</p>	<p>Since the 2010 Statewide Regional Evacuation Study Program, Regional Clearance Times (in hours) for baseline scenarios have been established at the following Storm Levels: A - 26.0, B - 27.5, C - 32.0, D - 32.0, and E - 39.5. Progress from baseline cannot be measured.</p>

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Goal	Indicator	Target	2004 Baseline	2010 Status
<p><i>Connecting People, Places & Opportunities</i></p> <p>Achieve long-term efficient and sustainable development patterns that protect natural resources and connect diverse housing, transportation, education, and employment opportunities.</p>	<p>Ratio of vehicle miles traveled to growth in population.</p>	<p>Decrease the ratio of vehicle miles traveled to growth in population on an annual basis.</p>	<p>From 1982 to 1999, the region's population increased 42% while the average number of miles driven by each driver increased 62%.</p>	<p>In 2009, the regional population was 2,706,954 and 97,499,548 Average Daily Vehicle Miles Traveled within the Region; however, target outcomes cannot be assessed since source of the original baseline conditions cannot be validated. Progress from the baseline cannot be measured.</p>
<p><i>Coordinated Planning and Regional Cooperation</i></p> <p>Assume a leadership role to enhance regional cooperation, multi-jurisdictional coordination, and multi-issue regional planning to ensure the balancing of competing needs and long-term sustainability of our natural, developed, and human resources.</p>	<p>Regional infrastructure financing mechanisms.</p>	<p>Implement regional wastewater and potable water infrastructure financing mechanisms that support a regional development strategy.</p>	<p>As of 2003, four entities provided regional financing for infrastructure improvements within South Florida.</p>	<p>The four funding entities are SFWMD, South Florida Regional Transit Authority, Economic Development Administration, and Eastward Ho! The baseline indicator was incomplete. There are numerous federal, state, local, and private sector funding mechanisms for infrastructure. Progress from the baseline cannot be measured.</p>

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Goal	Indicator	Target	2004 Baseline	2010 Status
<p><i>Cultural Competence</i></p> <p>Create a regional environment that is aware of and sensitive to cultural diversity and that provides opportunities for all to become successful regional citizens.</p> <p>22</p>	<p>Regional index of gender and race/ethnic balance of elected and appointed boards in South Florida.</p>	<p>Increase the regional index of balance for both gender and race/ethnicity.</p>	<p>2003 Gender Index = 2.04; 2003 Race/Ethnicity Index = 1.72.</p>	<p>Progress from the baseline cannot be measured.</p>