



MEMORANDUM

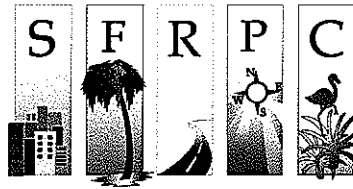
AGENDA ITEM #11

DATE: NOVEMBER 8, 2010
TO: COUNCIL MEMBERS
FROM: STAFF
SUBJECT: HIGHLIGHTS OF COUNCIL ACTIVITIES

Attached are brief descriptions of activities in which the Council has been involved since the October 4, 2010 Council Meeting.

Recommendation

Information only.



Highlights of Council Activities November 2010

South Florida Regional Planning Council Revolving Loan Fund Marketing Update

The South Florida Regional Planning Council Revolving Loan Programs (SFRPC-RLF, SFRPC-RLF II and RESCUE-RLF) are designed to meet the needs of businesses in our Region that are not entirely served by conventional lenders. Funds are available to all small and medium-size businesses within Miami-Dade, Broward and Monroe Counties as well as designated communities within Miami-Dade County. The Revolving Loan Program also provides technical assistance to new and existing borrowers that will assist them with the growth of their business.

Council staff presented the Revolving Loan Program and the Miami-Dade Renovation for Energy Efficiency Loan (REEL) Program at several workshops during the month of October including attending the Broward Minority Builders Green Jobs and Fair on October 14, 2010. Council staff also presented the REEL and RLF Programs at Bank of America and Service Corps of Retired Executives (SCORE) Small Business Forum.

The next Loan Administration Board meeting is scheduled for November 29, 2010.

For more information regarding the RLF visit our website at www.sfrpc.com/rlf.htm or, please contact Cheryl Cook or Joyce Hall at (954) 985-4416 or email at rlf@sfrpc.com.

Miami-Dade County Office of Sustainability Targeted Energy Efficiency Revolving Loan Fund (REEL)

Council staff is continuing to develop the marketing materials for the Miami-Dade Renovation for Energy Efficiency Loan program (REEL). The REEL provides loans to businesses in Miami-Dade County to make improvements that will reduce their energy usage. An email blast was developed and sent to more than 2000 businesses in Miami-Dade County.

For more information, please contact Cheryl Cook, Bob Cambric, or Rachel Kalin of Council staff at (954) 985-4416 or email at rlf@sfrpc.com. Visit our web site at www.sfrpc.com/reel.htm.

City of Fort Lauderdale Smart Watts Revolving Loan Fund

Council staff will be working with the City of Fort Lauderdale Energy Manager and other staff to develop, manage and implement a revolving loan fund as part of the City's "Smart Watts" financial incentive program. The Smart Watts Program will provide loans to homeowners for energy-efficiency improvements.

An Interlocal Agreement has been executed between the City and the South Florida Regional Planning Council. Council staff is in the process of developing the Smart Watts Revolving Loan Fund Plan.

For more information, please contact Cheryl Cook, Bob Cambric, Rachel Kalin or Joyce Hall of Council staff at (954) 985-4416 or email at rlf@sfrpc.com.

Regional Domestic Security Task Force Activities

The Southeast Regional Domestic Security Task Force (SERDSTF) is one of Florida's seven Regions funded by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to help prevent or respond to terrorism events in the State. The SERDSTF, which is Region 7, includes Monroe, Miami-Dade, Broward and Palm Beach Counties.

Council staff is assisting the Florida Division of Emergency Management to coordinate training exercises in the Region. Under discussion is an all-hazards regional tabletop exercise that would include all disciplines (i.e. law enforcement, fire/rescue, intelligence, aviation, maritime, etc.). In a tabletop exercise, existing plans and policies are exercised and tested via facilitated discussion. No actual equipment or field personnel deployment is required.

For additional information, contact Manny Cela (celam@sfrpc.com) of Council staff.

South Florida Local Emergency Planning Committee Activities

The State of Florida is divided into 11 Local Emergency Planning Committee Districts whose broad duties include preparing regional hazardous materials emergency plans, perform outreach functions to increase awareness and understanding of hazardous substances and provide free training to public sector hazardous material response employees. Since 1988, the Council has served as staff to the South Florida LEPC District 11 (SoFlaLEPC), which encompasses Miami-Dade, Broward and Monroe Counties. For more information on the SoFlaLEPC and its activities in the Region, please visit its website at <http://www.sfrpc.com/lepc.htm>.

The South Florida LEPC is starting the process of deciding which training courses will be offered next year. Training Subcommittee members will be meeting this month to discuss training needs within their departments and jurisdictions. Additionally, area training coordinators and other interested parties will be polled for additional training needs. The information will be presented to the full Committee at its December 1, 2010 meeting for approval.

For information on upcoming training courses, please visit our training webpage located at <http://www.sfrpc.com/lepc/training.htm>.

Information on upcoming meeting dates, agendas for upcoming meetings and minutes from previous meetings is always available from <http://www.sfrpc.com/lepc/meetings.htm>.

For additional information, contact the SoFlaLEPC Coordinator Manny Cela (celam@sfrpc.com).

Miami-Dade Planners Technical Committee

Council Staff attended the October 1, 2010 Planners Technical Committee (PTC) meeting, which was held at the Miami Downtown Development Authority (DDA). DDA staff gave an update of the Downtown Master Plan and related projects slated for Downtown. There was a discussion about the Interlocal Agreement (ILA) amendments and the progress the Miami-Dade County Schools Staff Working Group's Subcommittee on Charter Schools has made developing school concurrency mitigation criteria.

Two members of the Consortium for a Healthier Miami-Dade's Health and Built Environment committee presented results from a Consortium's study. The results showed many residents did not walk, bike and regularly engage in physical activity because they found the built environment did not allow them to do so safely and conveniently. This sedentary lifestyle has resulted in higher incidents of obesity (especially in children). The presentation offered planning and policy solutions like "Safe Routes to School" and "Complete Streets" to provide greater pedestrian accessibility throughout the county. Council staff gave a brief overview of results from the South Florida Regional Vision 2060 Study. Council staff also apprised members of Council activities including the Sustainable Communities Initiative and the Council's Brownfield Program and the Environmental Protection Agency's Brownfields Grants. Updates were given on local Gold Coast APA activities and the state American Planning Association Conference.

The PTC is comprised of planners from local governments and private industry in Miami-Dade County. The PTC generally meets on the first Friday of each month. Council staff provides support for the PTC. For more information, please visit the Local Government Planners' Meetings Section of the Council's website at www.sfrpc.com.ptc.htm or contact Karen D. Hamilton (khamilton@sfrpc.com) of Council staff.

The Consortium for a Healthier Miami-Dade

Council staff belongs to two of the Consortium's Committees: Health Promotion and Disease Prevention and Health and the Built Environment. Staff attended the respective Committee meetings in September to discuss how past planning practices have made it difficult for South Florida residents to be active and access healthy food sources. Staff also described the Legacy Green Initiatives efforts to promote community empowerment and economic and community development through its culinary arts and community garden training in low-income communities. Council staff is also involved in the Health and Built Environment's Nutrition and Built Environment Working Group. The Working Group will develop nutrition and food related policies within the Committee's work plan.

The Consortium is an initiative of the Miami-Dade County Health Department and was established in 2003, to respond to increasing rates of chronic diseases in the County. The Consortium is comprised of approximately 125 members representing non-profits, educators, businesses and governmental organizations. Please contact Karen D. Hamilton (khamilton@sfrpc.com) or Rachel M. Kalin (rkalin@sfrpc.com) of Council staff for additional information about this project.

South Florida East Coast Corridor Transit Analysis Study

Council staff continues to be involved in the South Florida East Coast Corridor (SFECC) Transit Analysis Study Station Area Planning Group Meetings. The SFECC Station Area Planning Group brings together planners on a monthly basis from the three-county area (Miami-Dade, Broward and Palm Beach) to make recommendations about station locations, amenities and design guidelines. A total of 52 stations were proposed along the 85-mile corridor. Five main station types have been proposed: City Center, Town Center, Regional Park-and-Ride, Local Park-and-Ride and Neighborhood Station. The station type would be determined by land use patterns and local government needs. The group continues to develop model policy language for local development regulations and comprehensive plan text and map amendments for the municipalities along the FEC Railway. Four modally-specific transit alternatives are being considered by the Broward, Miami-Dade, and Palm Beach Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO) as their locally preferred alternative: Low Cost/Transportation System Management, Bus Rapid Transit, Push/Pull technology Integrated Rail and Diesel Multiple Unit Integrated Rail. Please contact Karen D. Hamilton (khamilton@sfrpc.com) of Council staff for additional information about this project.

Miami-Dade County Public Schools Staff Working Group Meeting

Council staff attended the Office of School Facilities Staff Working Group Meeting on October 21, 2010. There was a review and discussion of School Concurrency Management System (CMS). The CMS is a fully automated, real time, GIS/web-based computer system. The program assigned classroom seats on a first come, first served basis. As of October 19, 2010, 546 applications have been processed, 15,257 residential units have been reviewed and 5,053 student seats have been reserved for up to six one-year terms.

Miami-Dade County and 20 municipalities have fully adopted concurrency. Miami-Dade County, Hialeah, and Hialeah Gardens have adopted the revised ILA. The original ILA has been adopted by 25 out of 27 non-exempt municipalities. Seven optional amendments and a required 2/3 voting amendment were developed to provide consistency between the two agreements for the 25 municipalities that adopted the original ILA. Local governments may adopt all or some of the seven amendments. The amendments offered for adoption include:

1. Capacity Methodology and Formula for Availability
2. Level of Service Standard
3. Concurrency Services Areas
4. Student Generation Multipliers
5. Proportionate Share Mitigation
6. Updates to Public School Concurrency
7. Taking and Vested Rights

Local governments must also decide whether to modify the current voting requirement, which requires unanimous consent of all parties to amendments, to a favorable vote from the School Board, the County, and 2/3 of the cities. The decision to switch to a 2/3 vote must be unanimous. The Staff Working Group's Subcommittee continues to develop school concurrency mitigation criteria for charter schools. The School Site Planning and Construction Committee's Annual Planning Forum will be held in the beginning of 2011. Contact Karen D. Hamilton (khamilton@sfrpc.com) of Council Staff for additional information.

Southeast Florida Celebrates Groundbreaking Regional Victory

Southeast Florida celebrated with a virtual “high five” upon learning on October 14th that the Southeast Florida Regional Partnership (Partnership) had been awarded a highly competitive Sustainable Communities Planning Grant by an interagency federal partnership of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the U.S. Department of Transportation. The national grant awarded by the U.S. HUD under this new program will support metropolitan and multi-jurisdictional planning efforts that support the integration of housing, land use, economic development, transportation infrastructure planning and investment.

The celebration continued the following day as Atlanta-based U.S. HUD Southeast Regional Administrator Edward Jennings flew into South Florida to present the symbolic \$4.25 million Sustainable Communities grant check to Broward County Commissioner Suzanne Gunzburger, Vice-Chair of South Florida Regional Planning Council. She accepted the award on behalf of the Partnership before an enthusiastic crowd of more than 60 Partnership members.

This grant program was quite competitive. “A multidisciplinary review team, drawn from eight federal agencies and from partners in philanthropy reviewed 225 eligible grants,” said Shelley Poticha, director of the U.S. HUD Office of Sustainable Housing and Communities in an email to grant awardees. U.S. HUD is funding 45 regions with consortia supporting innovative regional planning and development in 27 different states. Southeast Florida’s award is among the top four in the nation for applicants competing for a Category 1 planning grant, and one of only two Sustainable Community Grants in Florida.

Spearheaded by the South Florida and Treasure Coast Regional Planning Councils, the Partnership is a broad-based group of stakeholders representing the diverse population, interests and geography of the seven-county region from Monroe through Indian River Counties. Over the last seven months, 200 public, private, civic and nonprofit organizations have joined together to develop and support a regional application for the planning funds that will be used to develop consensus around regional priorities and implement a joint vision and 2060 Southeast Florida Regional Plan for Sustainable Development. In addition, Florida’s U.S. Senators and Southeast Florida’s congressional and state legislative delegation members worked together in a bipartisan effort to support the Partnership’s application.

Everyone is welcome to join the Partnership. For more information about how to join and support the work of the Partnership, please visit www.sfrpc.com and click on the Partnership logo, or contact Isabel Cosio Carballo (isabelc@sfrpc.com) at 954.985.4416.

State Road A1A Scenic Highway Activities in Broward County

Broward County’s coastal corridor, State Road A1A, achieved designation as a Florida Scenic Highway in July 2009 after many years of coordinated effort among involved residents, coastal cities, Florida Department of Transportation, and the Broward Metropolitan Planning Organization. Over the past year, this grassroot endeavor has strengthened even further as the local Scenic Highway Corridor Advisory Group (CAG) and Corridor Management Entity (CME) embark on implementing its goals, objectives, and strategies.

The South Florida Regional Planning Council has become an active participant, assisting in the preparation of the first Annual Report that will be submitted to the Florida Scenic Highway Committee by November 1, 2010. Future plans include making application for National Scenic Byways Program designation.

Broward’s 28 miles of the State Road A1A scenic highway corridor extends from north to south through nine municipalities: Deerfield Beach, Hillsboro Beach, Pompano Beach, Lauderdale-By-The-Sea, Sea Ranch Lakes, Fort Lauderdale, Dania Beach, Hollywood, and Hallandale Beach.

For more information about goals and activities for this scenic corridor, please contact Christine Heshmati of Council staff at (945) 985-4416 or email at cheshmati@sfrpc.com.
