

MEMORANDUM

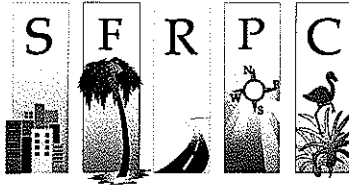
AGENDA ITEM #11

DATE: APRIL 6, 2009
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 March 2, 2009 Council meeting.

Recommendation

Information only.



Highlights of Council Activities

April 2009

South Florida Regional Planning Council Revolving Loan Fund Marketing Update

The South Florida Regional Planning Council Revolving Loan Programs (SFRPC-RLF, SFRPC-RLF II, RLF III 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.

During the month of March, Council staff presented the RLF program to the Broward Alliance "Access to Capital" workshop, the Coral Springs "Business Assist Financial Expo", and the NFL Emerging Business workshop on "Preparing Businesses to do Business with the Superbowl". Council staff also presented the RLF program to the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce "Small Business Summit", the Southeast Florida Chamber of Commerce Business Expo, and the City of Hollywood Business Advisory Council meeting.

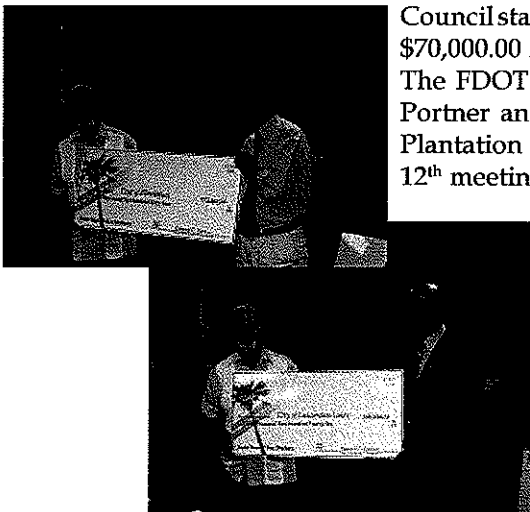
The next Loan Administration Board meeting is scheduled for April 20, 2009.

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.

Florida East Coast Railway (FEC) Station Planning

Staff participated in the monthly Station Planning Working Group meeting. The meeting focused on schedule service planning, station area planning, noise/vibration sampling, corridor coalition, public involvement activities, DCA coordination, and travel demand model work, within the corridor of the FEC. For additional information, please contact or Larry Allen (lallen@sfrpc.com) or Karen Hamilton (Khamilton@sfrpc.com) of Council staff or go to <http://www.sfecstudy.com>.

State Road 7 Collaborative Awards Bus Shelter Grants to Lauderdale Lakes and Plantation



Council staff provided checks to the Cities of Plantation and Lauderdale Lakes totaling over \$70,000.00 for the construction of bus shelters along the State Road 7/U.S. 441 Corridor. The FDOT Enhancement grant money was presented by Collaborative Chair, Edward Portner and accepted by Redevelopment Administrator, Carlos Gonzales on behalf of Plantation and by Deputy Vice Mayor David Shomers of Lauderdale Lakes at the March 12th meeting of the State Road 7/U.S. 441 Collaborative Steering Committee, held at the Miami Gardens Council Chambers. Deputy Vice Mayor Shomers praised the Collaborative for their efforts and was proud to be involved with the corridor revitalization, accepting the position of Vice-Chair of the Collaborative. For more information on the State Road 7/U.S. 441 Collaborative, visit <http://www.sfrpc.com/sr7.htm> or contact Brian Traylor BTraylor@sfrpc.com of Council staff.

Clean Cities Coalition

The Clean Cities Coalition held its monthly meeting on March 13, 2009. The topic of discussion focused around the upcoming grant opportunities that may be available through the Stimulus Program. Staff attended the Energy Independence Days March 1, 2009 thru March 4, 2009 in Washington DC. This effort provided guidance on the Stimulus Grant Funding as well as workshops from various federal agencies on opportunities for energy initiatives. The Energy Independence Days culminated with the 15th Anniversary Awards Ceremony for the Clean Cities Programs.

Staff continues to work with private businesses and public agencies in the development of grant application using funding made available through the Stimulus grants. We would remind cities that there are \$300 million available for projects for alternative fuels, vehicles and infrastructure. Florida Gold Coast Clean Cities Coalition is one of 90 coalitions in the country. For additional information, please contact Larry Allen (lallen@sfrpc.com) or Karen Hamilton (Khamilton@sfrpc.com) of Council staff or go to <http://www.afdc.energy.gov/cleancities/progs/solicitations.php>

Clean Cities Grant Opportunities

The Florida Gold Coast Clean Cities Coalition has identified two funding opportunities. The intent is to apply for these grants as a region to increase the South Florida Region's chances of selection.

The first grant is through the U.S. Department of Energy. Applications will be accepted for the Alternative Fuel and Advanced Technology Vehicles Pilot Grant Program. Eligible projects include:

- Cost-shared projects that expand the use of alternative fueled vehicles and advanced technology vehicles.
- The installation of acquisition of infrastructure necessary to directly support an alternative fueled vehicle or advanced technology.
- Limited expenses associated with operation and maintenance of vehicles, infrastructure and other associated equipment acquired through the program are also allowable.

There are two sets of deadlines for this grant. Round 1 is due on May 29, 2009 and Round 2 is due on September 30, 2009.

The second funding opportunity is through the Southeast Diesel Collaborative (SEDC). Projects addressing environmental strategies to improve air quality and public health by reducing emissions from existing diesel engines in the Southeast will be accepted. Two sets of funding opportunities will be made available in FY 2009.

The first is tied to the Federal Stimulus Bill. A mid-March publication date is anticipated. Applications will be due 30 days from the publication date. Selections will be finalized in April and grants will be awarded in May. This funding cycle will emphasize projects that will create and retain a significant number of jobs and are regional or multi-state in nature.

The second grant will be available through the renewal of Diesel Emission Reduction Act (DERA) funds. An RFP will be published late August/early September. Proposals will be due in late November/early December. Awards will be made in late March/early April 2010.

For additional information about these grant opportunities contact Larry Allen (lallen@sfrpc.com) or Karen D. Hamilton (khamilton@sfrpc.com), of Council staff.

Miami-Dade Planners Technical Committee

Council staff attended the March 6, 2009 Miami-Dade Planners Technical Committee (PTC) meeting, at Miami-Dade County Water and Sewer Department (MDWASD). MDWASD staff gave a brief overview of the Department's water conservation, alternative water supplies and water reclamation, and water allocation projects. On January 1, 2009 Miami-Dade County's Water Use Efficiency Ordinance became effective. Outdoor water use efficiencies are being addressed by Miami-Dade County through proposed amendments to current Landscape Irrigation Ordinance. This ordinance establishes minimum landscape standards for the County. Some of the alternative water supply initiatives include Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands Rehydration, Upper Floridian Blending, High Level Disinfection, Water Reclamation Plants and the Hialeah Floridian Aquifer Reverse Osmosis Water Treatment Plant.

Miami-Dade County Public School Staff Working Group members gave updates on school concurrency. Eighteen cities have adopted concurrency elements and 102 applications have been entered into the automated system. Both the County and the School Board received letters from DCA about the status of the Interlocal Agreement; a joint response will be sent. Jim Jackson, Barbara Powell, and Jim Golden of the South Florida Water Management District were in attendance to discuss water supply plan concerns. Miami-Dade County Planning and Zoning is conducting a Municipal inventory of Affordable Housing and Workforce Housing Sites, as required by 166.0451 (F.S.). An update of the Miami-Dade MPO emergency stimulus funding was given. Council staff gave a legislative briefing on Senate Bill 360 and other bills with similar intent and provided some guidance on HB 697 (2008 Legislative Session) requirements. Council staff will participate in the PTC's HB 697 working group to identify measurable strategies and outcomes.

The next PTC meeting will be held April 3, 2009, at the City of Miami Downtown Development Authority offices. 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 about the PTC and upcoming meetings, 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.

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 coordinated a Public Information Officer (PIO) Workshop on March 5, 2009 at the Broward County Emergency Operations Center in Plantation. This workshop was one of three held around the State (Tallahassee and Orlando) sponsored by the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) and Florida Department of Health (FDOH). The Broward workshop brought together 45 PIOs from throughout the Region for a series of presentations and a facilitated activity to familiarize participants with the State PIO Guidelines, Protocols and Organizations.

Council staff is assisting the South Florida Urban Area Security Initiative (SFUASI - Miami and Fort Lauderdale) to collect and prioritize training and exercise needs for the Region. The Improvement Planning Conference took place March 19, 2009 at the Public Safety Institute in Davie. The information obtained at this conference and a subsequent meeting in April, will be made available to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the Florida Division of Emergency Management (FDEM).

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

Local Emergency Planning Committee Activities

The State of Florida is divided into 11 Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) Districts whose broad duties include preparing regional hazardous materials emergency plans, performing outreach functions to increase awareness and understanding of hazardous substances, and providing low-cost 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 LEPC and its activities in the Region, please visit its website at www.sfrpc.com/lepc.htm.

The SoFlaLEPC held a regularly scheduled quarterly meeting on March 4, 2009 at the SFRPC office in Hollywood. Two members were presented Certificates of Appreciation for their support and hard work on behalf of the SoFlaLEPC during the past year: William Wagner, Islamorada and Marathon Fire Chief and Gary Koen, Director of Manufacturing, Sentry Industries. The meeting concluded with a presentation by the Florida Gas Transmission Company on their natural gas pipeline network, safety features and plans for expansion.

SoFlaLEPC staff also attended a United States Coast Guard (USCG) Area Contingency Plan Quarterly Meeting at the Broward County EOC on March 3, 2009.

Information on upcoming training classes is available at www.sfrpc.com/lepc/training.htm. Meeting dates and agendas for upcoming meetings as well as minutes from previous meetings are always available from www.sfrpc.com/lepc/meetings.htm.

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

Energy Efficiency & Conservation Block Grants

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (stimulus bill) appropriated \$3.2 billion for the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) Program for fiscal year 2009. The EECBG Program was originally authorized in the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007, but had not been previously funded. The Program provides federal grants to units of local government, Indian tribes, states, and consortia of local governments to reduce energy use and fossil fuel emissions, and for improvements in energy efficiency. The EECBG Program is administered by the Office Weatherization and Intergovernmental Program in the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy of the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE). As part of the Council's ongoing commitment to the efforts in the areas of energy conservation and climate change, staff will be working with partner agencies and local governments to utilize this funding opportunity. Council staff will be working with eligible local governments to access funding and apply for potential funding to support the efforts and coordination work necessary at a regional level to ensure consistent and effective implementation of energy reduction strategies throughout South Florida. For more information on the EECBG program, visit the Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Information Center <http://www1.eere.energy.gov/informationcenter/> or contact Brian Traylor (BTTraylor@sfrpc.com) of Council staff.

Intergovernmental coordination and communication a priority for Broward and Miami-Dade Climate Change Task Forces

The Miami-Dade Climate Change Advisory Task Force (CCATF) and Broward County Climate Change Task Force (CCTF) have established subcommittees focused on the development of opportunities to improve coordination and the exchange of information with public and private entities on issues related to climate change in South Florida.

On March 16th, the Broward County Climate Change Task Force Intergovernmental Affairs and Communications Subcommittee (IGAC) held its second subcommittee meeting to develop and discuss ideas on how best to collect, analyze, and share information about climate change and its projected impacts on Broward County and the region as a whole with Task Force members, local governments, and members of the public. There is an expressed desire to coordinate subcommittee efforts, where possible, with similar efforts undertaken by the CCATF Intergovernmental Affairs Subcommittee (IGA) in Miami-Dade and the Business Development Board in Palm Beach. There was agreement that it will be important to develop recommendations that will help coordinate policy development, adoption, and implementation of adaptation and mitigation measures amongst various levels of government.

The Miami-Dade CCATF IGA met on March 18th and received an update on the work of the Broward County CCTF IGAC subcommittee. Subcommittee members were briefed on the status of a Miami-Dade municipal climate change survey that was developed by the IGA to enhance communication on climate change and energy issues, identify opportunities for technical assistance, and improve coordination of local regional, state and federal efforts. Survey results are expected in early April. Here too, there is agreement that it will benefit each individual county, as well as the region as a whole, if there is communication and collaboration among the county-based climate change task forces and the newly created Green Energy Cluster at the Business Development Board in Palm Beach County.

The Broward County and Miami-Dade intergovernmental affairs and coordination subcommittees are chaired by Carolyn Dekle, Executive Director of the Council. For additional information about the work of the subcommittees, please contact Isabel Cosio Carballo (isabelc@sfrpc.com) of Council staff.

South Florida Regional Business Alliance meets with key legislators in Tallahassee to discuss regional priorities

Members of the South Florida Regional Business Alliance (RBA) met with key state legislators during their Annual Business Fly-In to Tallahassee on February 3 - 4, 2009. This year South Florida's business leaders were joined by special guests Dr. Marta Perez, Vice Chair, Miami-Dade Public Schools Board; Maureen Dinnen, Chair of the Broward County School Board; Jim Notter, Superintendent, Broward County Schools; Alberto Carvalho, Miami-Dade Public Schools Superintendent; and Joseph Giulietti, Executive Director of the South Florida Regional Transportation Authority. Stuart Rogel, President and CEO of the Tampa Bay Partnership, and members of his staff, also joined RBA members for legislative visits in a show of cross regional unity.

During their brief visit, the RBA met with many key elected leaders including Senate President Jeff Atwater; Senate Majority Leader Alex Diaz de la Portilla; Senate Pre-K 12 Appropriations Chair Steven Wise; Full Appropriations Council Chairs Representatives David Rivera and Marcelo Llorente, Pre-K 12 Appropriations Chair Representative Anitere Flores, Senate

Rules Chair Alex Villalobos, House Majority Leader Adam Hasner, House Finance and Tax Chair Ellyn Bogdanoff, Senator Dan Gelber, Senator Ted Deutch, Senator Nan Rich, Senator Eleanor Sobel, and Senator Dave Aronberg, and Governor Crist. In their meetings the RBA members underscored the continued importance of funding for education, affordable and workforce housing, and the need for a dedicated funding source for the South Florida Regional Transportation Authority.

Council staff provides administrative and staff support to the South Florida Regional Business Alliance. For more information about the RBA, please contact Isabel Cosio Carballo (isabelc@sfrpc.com) of Council staff.

South Florida Regional Planning Council testified at the Economic Development Administration Reauthorization Hearing in Washington, DC

South Florida Regional Planning Council's Executive Director testified before the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings and Emergency Management in Washington, DC on March 10, 2009. The testimony focused on the reauthorization of the Economic Development Administration (EDA) and its work with the Council as well as EDA devolving control of Revolving Loan Funds to the local level, reduction of local match rates for distressed areas, and strengthening EDA partnerships with the Economic Development Districts.

The testimony can be viewed at the following link <http://transportation.house.gov/hearings/hearingDetail.aspx?NewsID=845>

For more information, please contact Isabel Cosio Carballo (isabelc@sfrpc.com) of Council staff.
