



# MEMORANDUM

AGENDA ITEM #15a

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DATE: DECEMBER 7, 2009

TO: COUNCIL MEMBERS

FROM: STAFF

SUBJECT: THE SOUTH FLORIDA OUTLOOK

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At its November 2<sup>nd</sup> Council meeting, the Board requested staff prepare a proposal to scope out a new mission for regional collaboration. This mission will lead to the development of an effective communication tool/marketing instrument that can help the South Florida Region to be more competitive in attracting new businesses and accessing private sector investment and federal funding. As discussed, this tool can take the form of a report that provides a review/outlook of the regional economy, updated every six months.

Staff has developed a preliminary list of indicators for the South Florida Outlook, which will be a 2-4 page, semi-annual update on regional socioeconomic characteristics and investments. Seven (7) areas have been identified to cover the key issues for the South Florida Region:

- Population change
- The economy
- Land use and housing
- Transportation
- Water management and Everglades restoration
- Social equity, cultural and social infrastructure
- Environment and climate change

Given the length of the document, it is not meant to cover all of these areas in every update. The document will highlight the significant issues/dialogues that happened in the past six months and provide analysis of their policy implications.

It should be noted that this document will be an evolving product as the discussion of Southeast Florida 2060 continues. This major visioning process, which the Board outlined during its Strategic Planning Sessions, will identify key issues and challenges the Region will face in the next 50 years and devise public policies to ensure a better and sustainable future for South Florida.

Staff is conducting research that will be used as part of the visioning process. The research includes population and economic forecasting for the year 2060 (current long-range estimates are for 2035); land use modeling; analysis of future transportation and transit system needs; a review of major planning efforts and documents (i.e., Governor's Commission for a Sustainable South Florida; South Florida Regional Planning Council, Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council, South Florida Water Management District, Metropolitan Planning Organizations, and South Florida Regional Transit Authority Plans; etc.) for common themes and needs; and an assessment of climate change impacts.

The Board is scheduled to begin preparations for the visioning process at its January meeting. Preparatory activities will include refining the list of priority issue areas, identification of partner organizations and representatives that will participate in the visioning process, and establishing the date for the visioning.

Staff believes the South Florida Outlook will be an orderly outgrowth of the visioning process. The content, purpose, and message of South Florida Outlook will be informed by the visioning process. Once the visioning is complete, the publication of South Florida Outlook will commence. Key indicators will be identified to benchmark the progress of how the Region is doing and where the Region is going. In addition, new initiatives and activities that have significant policy implications may be documented in the regional update. The Board will be asked to help form the Report in terms of its format and focus along the way.

**Name of the Report:** The South Florida Outlook

**Geography:** the South Florida Region and its counties: Broward, Miami-Dade, Monroe; in comparison to the State of Florida and/or the United States.

**List of Indicators:**

Key Areas/Issues/Topics	Benchmarks / Indicators
Population Growth	Population growth
	Race and ethnicity
	International immigration trend
	Domestic migration trend
	Retirees, snowbirds, visitors, etc.
	Education level/labor force skill development
The Economy/Macro-economic Environment	Employment growth
	Unemployment rate
	Gross Regional Product
	Commercial real estate markets (office, industrial, retail)
	Consumer Price Index (CPI)
	Personal income
	Housing financing market (90-day mortgage delinquency rate)
	Government spending/infrastructure investment
Land Use & Housing	Land use patterns
	Land consumption
	Open space preservation
	Watershed protection
	Residential density
	Housing mix
	Lot size
	Property value
	Redevelopment potential
Transportation	Transit and road system consequences (VMT, average auto speeds, ridership)
	Commute time
	Transportation related investments (transit/railway/highway/airport/seaport)

<b>Key Areas/Issues/Topics</b>	<b>Benchmarks / Indicators</b>
<b>Water Management &amp; Everglades Restoration</b>	Water supply facilities projects/investment
	Everglades restoration
<b>Social Equity, Cultural &amp; Social Infrastructure</b>	Health insurance (uninsured rate)
	Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (Food Stamps)
	Poverty level
	Crime rate
<b>Environment &amp; Climate Change</b>	Sea level rise
	Green house gas emissions
	Energy efficiency/renewable energy/clean cities

#### Recommendation

Direct Council Staff to proceed with the South Florida Outlook.