



# MEMORANDUM

AGENDA ITEM #10

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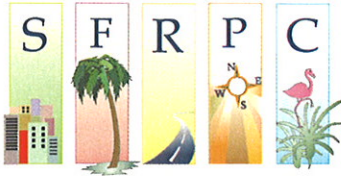
DATE: FEBRUARY 4, 2008  
TO: COUNCIL MEMBERS  
FROM: STAFF  
SUBJECT: HIGHLIGHTS OF COUNCIL ACTIVITIES

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Attached are brief descriptions of activities in which the Council has been involved since January 7, 2008 Council meeting.

Recommendation

Information only.



## Highlights of Council Activities

February 2008

### 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.

In continuing the marketing efforts for the Revolving Loan Funds, staff held the next Technical Assistance Consortium meeting on Friday, January 25, 2008. The South Florida Regional Planning Council's Service Providers' Consortium ("Consortium") has been convened to be the one-stop channel for Businesses in Dade, Broward, and Monroe Counties. The members discussed the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the terms of agreement for cooperation and consultation with regard to the implementation of the Consortium. South Florida Regional Planning Council was chosen as the agency to staff the consortium. Staff also presented the RLF program to the Broward Alliance Minority Business Committee members on January 16, 2008.

The next Loan Administration Board meeting is scheduled for February 25, 2008.

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

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### Eastward Ho! Brownfields Partnership

Staff continues to work with local governments in Miami-Dade, Broward and Palm Beach Counties on brownfields redevelopment efforts. Staff gave a presentation on brownfields redevelopment to the planners in Broward County at the January 18, 2008 Broward County Comprehensive Plan/Evaluation and Appraisal Workshop. The next meeting of the Eastward Ho! Brownfields Partnership is scheduled for January 23, 2008. For additional information on brownfields, please see the Council's website at <http://www.sfrpc.com/brwnflds.htm> or contact Terry Manning ([terryman@sfrpc.com](mailto:terryman@sfrpc.com)) of Council staff.

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### Local Government Comprehensive Plan Review

In 2007, staff reviewed 1 new proposed plan, 49 proposed plan amendments, 36 adopted plan amendments, 1 proposed Evaluation and Appraisal Report (EAR), and 19 adopted EARs. In 2008, staff will continue to assist in local government planning activities in the region. Activities will include providing technical assistance to the 11 local governments in the region that have not yet adopted EARs and providing technical assistance to all local governments with plan amendments. Technical assistance efforts will focus on assisting local governments on how to address requirements for EAR-based comprehensive plan amendments, Public Educational Facilities Elements, Water Supply/10 Year Water Supply Plan Amendments and updates to Capital Improvements Elements. Over the next few months, the technical assistance section of the Council's website for Local Government Comprehensive Planning will be expanded to provide resources to assist in implementing the provisions of the 2005 Growth Management Legislation, EAR-based amendments, and comprehensive plans in general; please see the website at <http://www.sfrpc.com/lgcpr.htm>. For additional information, please contact Terry Manning ([terryman@sfrpc.com](mailto:terryman@sfrpc.com)) of Council staff.

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## Information about DRI Projects is available online

Council staff continuously updates the Council's website to provide information about Development of Regional Impact (DRI) projects throughout the region:

- Applications for new DRIs (including The Commons, Beacon Countyline, Lauderhill City Center and others) are posted at <http://www.sfrpc.com/dri/adasonline.htm>.
- A database listing development orders for Developments of Regional Impact (DRIs) in Broward, Miami-Dade and Monroe counties, is available at <http://www.sfrpc.com/dri/database.htm>. This database was developed by Council staff in cooperation with Florida Department of Transportation Districts IV and VI. Each project has a record for the original development order and additional records for subsequent amendments, including substantial deviations and notices of proposed change (NOPCs).
- Links to applicable Florida Statutes and Rules that govern the DRI process, including recent legislative changes, are listed at <http://www.sfrpc.com/dri/guide.htm>

For general information about DRIs please visit <http://www.sfrpc.com/dri.htm> or contact Jo Sesodia, AICP, Principal Planner, at [jsesodia@sfrpc.com](mailto:jsesodia@sfrpc.com).

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## 2008 FAPA Conference

The Florida chapter of the American Planning Association (FAPA) will hold its 2008 conference at the Intercontinental Hotel in Miami in September. The theme of the conference will be "Sustainability – Just Plan It". The conference will be presented in 6 tracks:

- Environment - How does the built environment impact our ecosystem? Can we do a better job? What have planners done to improve our built environment and to encourage sustainability?
- Society - Are we doing enough to preserve our culture? Are we creating nurturing environments for our communities? How are we doing with affordable housing? Crime prevention? Education? Health?
- Economy and Transportation - What are the economic benefits to sustainable design? What is transportation's role? What redevelopment challenges are we facing and how does that affect the economy?
- Sustainable Initiatives - What are other communities doing to employ environment, society, economic development? What can be learned from past sustainable planning efforts?
- Professional Development - What tools do we have as planners to promote sustainability? What are our ethical responsibilities?
- Hot Topics – Sustainable planning topic of your choice.

Council staff is participating in the planning for the conference and will be taking an active part in September. There is much work to be done and staff will provide updates throughout the year. For more information contact Robert Daniels ([bobd@sfrpc.com](mailto:bobd@sfrpc.com)) of Council staff or visit the FAPA website at <http://www.floridaplanning.org>.

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## Margate Signature Bus Shelter Design

The City of Margate Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) approved the conceptual designs that Council Staff presented for a custom bus shelter that will be constructed on State Road 7 in Margate. The shelter pictured below is the product of a grant that the CRA received for transportation enhancements through the State Road 7 Collaborative for improvements along the corridor. The shelter will also incorporate the solar powered real-time signs that Broward County Transit (BCT) uses to inform riders of headway times. Together with BCT and the City of Margate Transportation Department, Council Staff is also identifying locations and funding sources for future shelters throughout the city. For more information about the design contact Brian Traylor of council staff [BTraylor@sfrpc.com](mailto:BTraylor@sfrpc.com), or visit the Margate CRA website: [www.margatecra.org](http://www.margatecra.org).



Margate Bus Shelter Conceptual Design

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## The South Florida Regional Business Alliance Travels to Tallahassee

On January 23 - 24, 2008, the South Florida Regional Business Alliance (RBA) will join the Tampa Bay Partnership in Tallahassee for a discussion of regional issues and urban priorities shared by the two regions. They will discuss opportunities for collaboration with each other and other urban regions in the development of a shared urban agenda. During their time in Tallahassee, the RBA will also meet with high level state elected officials and department heads to update them on the key issues that have been identified by the RBA as critical to the region's future prosperity, quality of life, and sustainability.

The RBA has identified regional transportation, affordable and workforce housing, education and workforce development, insurance, taxation and budget reform, and regional leadership and governance among the most pressing issues facing Southeast Florida. In 2003, the RBA spearheaded the effort to create the South Florida Regional Transportation Authority (SFRTA) because it recognized that the regional nature of the transportation demand in South Florida requires that efforts be focused on regional solutions. The RBA, in partnership with many of the Region's private sector leaders and elected and appointed officials, continues to support the creation of a dedicated funding source for the SFRTA by the Florida Legislature. For more information please contact Isabel Cosio Carballo, [isabelc@sfrpc.com](mailto:isabelc@sfrpc.com), of Council staff.

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## 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.

As part of the Council's Regional Domestic Security Program, staff works with local law enforcement agencies each year to plan and design exercises. For 2008, Region 7 will host both a Table Top Exercise and a Drill. Staff responsibilities include coordination, exercise logistics, registration and preparation of final reports.

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

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## 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, perform outreach functions to increase awareness and understanding of hazardous substances and provide low-cost training to public sector hazardous material response employees. Since 1988, the Council has served as staff to the District XI LEPC, 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](http://www.sfrpc.com/lepc.htm).

Planning for the LEPC biannual exercises started with the first meeting of the Exercise Subcommittee on January 29, 2008 at the Council offices. This year, District 11 is scheduled to hold both a Table Top Exercise and a Drill. Additional details concerning the exercises and meeting schedules can be found at [www.sfrpc.com/lepc/meetings.htm](http://www.sfrpc.com/lepc/meetings.htm).

The Florida Division of Emergency Management (FDEM) has declared January 20-26, 2008 to be Hazardous Materials Awareness Week. FDEM, through its State Emergency Response Commission (SERC) and local LEPCs promotes this annual event to help educate the public on the importance of local hazardous materials prevention and emergency response programs. For additional information, please visit [www.sfrpc.com/lepc/hazmatweek08.htm](http://www.sfrpc.com/lepc/hazmatweek08.htm).

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

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## State Road 7 Collaborative Receives Bus Shelter Grant

The State Road 7/U.S. 441 Collaborative has been awarded \$500,000 from the Florida Department of Transportation Enhancement Grant Program to construct bus shelters along the corridor during fiscal year 2008. The grant will be used to construct bus shelters in the City of Lauderdale Lakes and City of Lauderhill. For more information about the State Road 7 Master Plan please contact David Dahlstrom of council staff at [davidd@sfrpc.com](mailto:davidd@sfrpc.com) or visit [www.sfrpc.com/sr7.htm](http://www.sfrpc.com/sr7.htm).

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## State Road 7 Collaborative Named to Transportation Working Groups

At a joint meeting of the Broward and Palm Beach County Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) held on January 11, 2008, the State Road 7/U.S. 441 Collaborative has been named as a stakeholder in upcoming Working Group meetings of the MPOs to facilitate discussion of the north University Drive extension and proposed Project Development & Environmental (PD & E) Study for transit improvements for State Road 7. The Working Group will also include representation from the South Florida and Treasure Coast Regional Planning Councils, the Florida Department of Transportation and affected local governments. The Southeast Florida Transportation Committee (SEFTC) met on January 14, 2008 and named the State Road 7/U.S. 441 Collaborative as a stakeholder in the SEFTC Transportation Summit Working Group. For more information about the State Road 7 Master Plan please contact David Dahlstrom of council staff at [davidd@sfrpc.com](mailto:davidd@sfrpc.com) or visit [www.sfrpc.com/sr7.htm](http://www.sfrpc.com/sr7.htm).

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## Transportation Transit and Land Use Planning

Staff has completed all deliverables for the South Florida Regional Transit Authority (SFRTA) contract. Some of the products delivered to SFRTA include detailed analyses and maps depicting land use, zoning, property values, and home ownership, land characteristics for properties within a half mile of a Tri-Rail Station. In addition, staff compiled a manual of Transit Related Policies in Broward and Miami-Dade Counties. <http://www.sfrta.fl.gov/stations.html>. Contact Larry Allen of Council staff at [lallen@sfrpc.com](mailto:lallen@sfrpc.com) for additional information.

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## Clean Cities Coalition - Alternative Fuels

Staff participated in a meeting regarding an upcoming Alternative Fuels Survey to be conducted on all government fleets within Palm Beach, Broward, Miami-Dade and Monroe Counties. Clean Cities Annual Reporting. Staff is required to submit its yearly coalition metrics through the Clean Cities Annual Reporting database. Information gleaned from coordinators allows the U.S. Department of Energy to track progress made toward the program's petroleum displacement goal. [http://www1.eere.energy.gov/cleancities/toolbox/annual\\_reporting.html](http://www1.eere.energy.gov/cleancities/toolbox/annual_reporting.html) Contact Larry Allen of Council staff at [lallen@sfrpc.com](mailto:lallen@sfrpc.com) for additional information.

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## **Water Resources Advisory Commission (WRAC)**

The Water Resources Advisory Commission is an advisory body to the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) Governing Board and to the South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force. Made up of broad range of business, agricultural, environmental, tribal, governmental and public interests, the Commission is a forum for improving public participation and decision-making on water resource issues in south and central Florida. Council staff has been appointed to serve on the WRAC.

The January 2, 2008 WRAC meeting, held in West Palm Beach at the SFWMD headquarters, began with updates on general regional water conditions and Lake Okeechobee ecology with an emphasis on the current and projected drought conditions in the region. The WRAC members recommended that the SFWMD governing board approve passing the Lake Okeechobee Watershed Construction Project, Phase II Technical plan. Other topics on the agenda included the development of a statewide Environmental Resource Permit Rule, and the Rural Land Stewardship Program.

The WRAC is holding an Issues Workshop on the Miami-Dade County Canal Drawdown on Friday, January 25, 2008. The next WRAC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 7, 2008 at the SFWMD headquarters located at 3301 Gun Club Road in West Palm Beach. For additional information, please visit [www.sfwmd.gov/gover/wrac/mtgdate.html](http://www.sfwmd.gov/gover/wrac/mtgdate.html) or contact Rachel Kalin, [rkalin@sfrpc.com](mailto:rkalin@sfrpc.com) of Council staff.

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