The Growth Management Study Commission was created by Governor Bush on July 3rd to assess the effectiveness of Florida’s growth management system and to determine what revisions are needed to prepare Florida for the challenges it will face in the 21st century. The 23 member commission is chaired by Mel Martinez, the highly respected Chair of the Orange County Commission. Southeast Florida is fortunate to have Broward County School Board Member Judy Budnick; Delray Beach Architect Thaddeus Cohen; former West Palm Beach Mayor Nancy Graham; and University of Miami Vice President for Real Estate, Sergio Rodriguez as its representatives on the Commission.

The Governor’s Executive Order 2000-196 directs the Commission to hold at least six of its meetings in different regions of the state, accept public input, and discuss many diverse issues. The Executive Order also requires that the Commission finalize its work and submit a written report containing specific recommendations for addressing growth, including legislative recommendations, to the President of the Senate, Speaker of the House, and the Governor by February 15, 2001.

South Florida residents will have their opportunity to make their voices heard at two upcoming meetings. While the meeting details have not been finalized, the Commission is tentatively scheduled to meet in Miami on October 25 and 26. The Commission will return to South Florida for a meeting in West Palm Beach on November 30 and December 1. Don’t forget to participate in this process and make the Governor and Commission, and State Legislators aware of your viewpoint. For additional information about the work of the Commission, meeting dates and locations, summaries of past meetings and other pertinent information, please visit the Commission’s website www.floridagrowth.org or call the toll-free hotline at (877) 429-1296.
In September 1999, the Florida Department of Transportation executed a long-term lease for the joint use development of a park-and-ride site in Fort Lauderdale. The site is located at I-95 and Cypress Creek Road. The developer, Cypress Creek Park and Ride Association (Swerdlow Real Estate Investment Trust), plans to build over 700,000 square feet of commercial and hotel space on the 11 acre site. The development will have direct pedestrian connection to Tri-Rail. In addition, other amenities such as air-conditioned waiting areas, bus lanes and direct pedestrian connections between the buildings will be incorporated into the design. The project is currently in the DRI stage, with construction planned within the year.

The Department is also finalizing a Request for Proposals (RFP) for another park-and-ride site along I-95. This 17 acre site is located at the interchange of Sheridan Street and I-95 in Hollywood. The Seminole Tribe will also be affected on both sides of portions of the roadway. The SFRPC plans to organize work groups consisting of business and government representatives along several segments of the corridor and assist them in working through issues with FDOT that are specific to their respective segments. Two workshops will be held to bring all parties together so that the information gathered through the work of the segment work groups can be consolidated into a single strategy. For more information about this strategic planning effort, please contact David Dahlstrom, Eastward Ho! Project Facilitator, at 954-985-4416.

The South Florida Regional Planning Council (SFRPC) has begun work with the Florida Department of Transportation District 4 (FDOT), local governments and business and property owners along the southern portion of the State Road 7 corridor to plan for upcoming roadway improvements. The FDOT will be widening the road and developing six lanes from Orange Drive to the Broward and Miami-Dade county line. The purpose of this strategic planning effort is to help the FDOT understand the needs and desires of corridor businesses and governments while making it clear to those entities what the FDOT’s abilities and limitations are with regard to the widening project. Because of the long time periods between roadway planning and actual construction, the FDOT feels that there is an opportunity for businesses and local governments to partner with the Department and play an important role in helping to decide what the corridor will look like after the road is improved and redevelopment is underway. The affected local governments include unincorporated Broward County and the cities of Miramar, Hollywood and Davie. The Seminole Tribe will also be affected on both sides of portions of the roadway. The SFRPC plans to organize work groups consisting of business and government representatives along several segments of the corridor and assist them in working through issues with FDOT that are specific to their respective segments. Two workshops will be held to bring all parties together so that the information gathered through the work of the segment work groups can be consolidated into a single strategy. For more information about this strategic planning effort, please contact David Dahlstrom, Eastward Ho! Project Facilitator, at 954-985-4416.

The Department is also finalizing a Request for Proposals (RFP) for another park-and-ride site along I-95. This 17 acre site is located at the interchange of Sheridan Street and I-95 in Hollywood. Like the site at Cypress Creek, the Department will encourage transit friendly design and development. The site has a Tri-Rail station as well as signalized access from Sheridan Street. The RFP is planned to be released by the end of the year. For more information about these innovative public/private partnership projects, please contact Eric Thorne, Florida Department of Transportation, at 954-777-4232.
The City of West Palm Beach – Where walking is not a life threatening experience!

The City of West Palm Beach is experiencing a tremendous resurgence in its downtown and neighborhoods. While the City has many programs that are contributing to this success, the traffic calming program is one of the most visible. Traffic calming in West Palm Beach is not only achieving the typical objectives such as reducing motor vehicle speeds and cut-through problems, it is also altering driver behavior, generating private investment, increasing quality of life, and increasing property values.

Since 1996, the City’s traffic calming program has implemented more than half a dozen areawide neighborhood traffic calming projects. There are many more traffic calming projects in the various stages of planning and design, but like most municipalities, West Palm Beach is struggling to keep up with the demand. Prior to 1996, traffic calming contributed greatly to the rebirth of Clematis and Narcissus Streets in the downtown, and is now playing a key role on Rosemary Avenue connecting Clematis Street with the large mixed-use redevelopment project called CityPlace.

The program is also influencing the future of U.S. 1 throughout the City. As part of the Transportation Efficiency Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21), West Palm Beach received an $11.25 million grant for traffic calming on U.S. 1. In the downtown, the funds will be used for raised intersections, wider sidewalks, protected on-street parking, and lane reductions. Outside of the downtown, the funds will provide intersection narrowings on cross streets, raised intersections at schools, and a mid-street sculpture plaza area next to the Norton Art Gallery. All of these efforts will positively contribute to the economic vitality of the business community and the quality of life of the City’s residents. For more information on the City of West Palm Beach Traffic Calming Program, contact the Transportation Planning Division at (561) 659-8031.

How do you turn $175,000 into over $1,300,000? Eastward Ho! Community Investment Grants Show the Way!

This year’s Eastward Ho! Community Investment Grant Program has been tremendously successful and should serve as a statewide model for demonstrating how a little bit of money, combined with imagination, flexibility and a dash of technical assistance is the right formula for developing innovative community-based responses to issues of local, regional, and statewide concern.

The Department of Community Affairs provided $175,000 in project seed money to be used to support community-based revitalization efforts in the urban corridor. Grants could be no larger than $20,000 and communities were required to match the state’s investment 3:1.

Over 50 grant proposals were received and reflected projects as diverse as the Eastward Ho! communities themselves. Twelve projects were ultimately selected and state resources were leveraged by an amazing 10:1 ratio. Project recipients included Homestead, Goulds CDC, Beach CDC, Ojus (Miami-Dade County), North Miami, North Miami Beach, Haitian American Foundation, Dania Beach, Pearl City (Boca Raton), Delray Beach CDC, San Castle Neighborhood (Palm Beach County), and Martin/St. Lucie Counties.
One of the most important aspects of the program is its ability to be flexible and meet local needs. All projects were considered and selected on their level of community involvement, local government commitment, project partners, intergovernmental coordination, and applicability to regional goals of infill development and redevelopment. Projects ranged from community design charrettes, historic surveys, economic development studies, transportation and land use studies, to streetscape designs. These projects will positively impact the quality of life for residents of these urban communities for years to come. For more information about the Community Investment Grant Program or any of these projects, please contact David Dahlstrom, Eastward Ho! Project Facilitator, at (954) 985-4416.

Community Leadership & Capacity Building Demonstration Projects

The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation awarded a grant to the South Florida Regional Planning Council (SFRPC) to develop and conduct a series of demonstration community leadership and capacity building training workshops for communities that lie within the Eastward Ho! Corridor. The scope of the training program was to develop an agenda addressing issues such as citizen participation, consensus building, building trust, policymaking, and program facilitation and implementation. The goal of these workshops was to develop and enhance the skills community leaders need to be more effective leaders within their communities and in the local political process.

The first series of five community leadership and capacity building training workshops were conducted at Saint Thomas University in Miami during the months of June, July, and August. The training workshops targeted current community leaders in the City of Opa-locka and unincorporated North Miami-Dade County. The workshops were a success and well attended by representatives from the Opa-locka Front Porch Initiative, Community Councils 2, 3, and 4, and a number of other community action groups. Ms. Sheryl Dickey of Dickey Consulting Services, Inc. who also conducted the workshops will provide the community trainee group with pro-bono services for the next six months in an effort to guide them in their future endeavors.

In addition, the SFRPC hosted a two-day Project Implementation through Community Leadership Building workshop session targeted at Community Investment Grant and Charrette recipients. The goal of the workshops was to enhance both the recipients and community’s leadership capacity to accomplish those tasks needed for project implementation within their communities. The workshops took place at the Fred Lippman Multi-Purpose Center in downtown Hollywood and the South Florida Regional Planning Council office on September 21 and 22, 2000. For more information about community leadership and capacity building training for your community, contact Carlos Gonzalez of Council staff, carlosg@sfrpc.com, at 954-985-4416.

Treasure Coast Communities Embrace Smart Growth

The Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council and Florida Sustainable Communities Network recently sponsored the successful conference “Smart Growth II – New Urbanism: The Universal Operating System for Smart Growth.” Over 100 participants from around the state came to meet and hear national and local experts discuss the hidden costs of growth, and to learn how to plan, build, and market smart growth and new urban communities.

It’s not surprising that the conference was so well attended. From Palm Beach to St. Lucie County, communities up and down the Eastward Ho! corridor are embracing smart growth concepts and making revitalized urban communities a reality. It’s impossible to capture all of the exciting things that are happening in one article, but here are some highlights. Martin County recently adopted its Port Salerno Community Redevelopment Plan that will help revitalize this historic fishing village and surrounding neighborhoods. The County is also leveraging ongoing revitalization efforts and taking advantage of opportunities to direct public investment into the community. The City of Fort Pierce continues to lead by example in the redevelopment of the Fort Pierce Waterfront. The City of Port

City of Fort Pierce
St. Lucie is currently in the process of creating a Community Redevelopment Agency and Tax Increment Financing District for properties located along US1 and is exploring opportunities to develop an 84 acre mixed-use, urban infill project. The City of Delray Beach has multiple mixed-use, residential, commercial, and retail projects in the works. The much awaited CityPlace in downtown West Palm Beach is nearing completion and will be opening soon. And there is so much more! For more information about Eastward Ho! activities and opportunities in Palm Beach, Martin, and St. Lucie Counties, contact Joan Barlow, Eastward Ho! Project Facilitator, at 561-221-4060.

City of Fort Lauderdale Community Area Planning Initiative

The City of Fort Lauderdale has recently launched the Community Area Planning Initiative (CAP), which gives the public an opportunity to work with City staff to develop goals and help improve their community’s quality of life. This exciting new proactive planning endeavor also helps the City Commission and City Administration manage and direct a Community’s future through resource allocation.

To address the unique issues and growing diversity facing parts of Fort Lauderdale, the City was divided into five individual planning areas that will be analyzed sequentially over a five-year period, one planning area per year. For each study area, local stakeholders work with City departments to formulate and prioritize goals and implementation strategies. Hence, the CAP will forge consensus building between policy-makers and the public, providing the community with an opportunity to participate, contribute, and influence policy decisions that directly affect their community.

In June, more than 160 citizens attended the CAP workshops to discuss issues affecting the Central Area and generate goals for the future of their community. Among the recurring themes that were identified: Improving Public Safety / Police Presence, Enhancing Code Enforcement, Encouraging Traffic Calming Techniques, Encouraging Development / Redevelopment, Improving Information Dissemination, and Promoting Pedestrian Friendly Communities. In August, more than 350 people turned out to examine all of the goals and objectives and to vote on those they felt were the most important for the City to address at this time.

“The CAP process provides citizens with a unique opportunity to take an active role in developing goals and initiatives to enhance their community,” said Floyd T. Johnson, Fort Lauderdale City Manager. “We invite and encourage everyone to help shape the future direction of our City by participating in the upcoming CAP events.” For additional information about the CAP Initiative, contact the City of Fort Lauderdale Office of Community and Comprehensive Planning at (954) 762-8964 or visit City’s web site at: http://ci.ftlaud.fl.us/cap/.
Over the last year the Eastward Ho! Brownfields Partnership (The Partnership) activities have focused on combining federal and state programs with local efforts to address the redevelopment and reuse of actual or perceived environmentally contaminated urban infill sites. Significant accomplishments include:

- Miami-Dade County and the Cities of Opa-Locka, Miami, Miramar, Pompano Beach, Miami Beach and Lauderdale Lakes have designated 18 sites and areas, totaling 66,100 acres, under the Florida Brownfields Program. This accounts for 71% of the acreage designated in Florida as brownfields.

- Vice President Gore announced on May 18, 2000, that the City of Opa-Locka had been designated as a National Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilot and awarded a grant in the amount of $250,000. A symposium titled, Lenders Symposium On Brownfields & Other Environmentally Impaired Properties, Creative Financing: Pathways To A Stronger Deal, was held May 3, 2000 in Fort Lauderdale and May 4, 2000 in Miami. The target audience for the symposium was the banking and financial community.

- During the week of June 26, 2000, a modified Phase I assessment and environmental inventory was conducted for a portion of the Model City (Liberty City) area of Miami-Dade County. The area consisted of 263 parcels of land comprising approximately 110 acres. The assessment was completed by a team of interested residents and business people from the area working with representatives of EPA (South Florida Office), Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Miami-Dade County Department of Environmental Resources Management, Miami-Dade County Community Action Agency, Florida Memorial College, the City of Opa-Locka Brownfields Task Force, students from Florida International University, Miami/Miami-Dade County Weed and Seed Program, and staff from other local and regional agencies.

- Work continued on the Eastward Ho! Brownfields Partnership’s GIS Workgroup “Conceptual Plan,” to build a regional GIS system. The Web pages can be found at www.sfrpc.com/brnwflds.htm. Broward County has also developed a brownfields web page, which can be found at www.co.broward.fl.us/edi01100.htm.

For additional information regarding the work of the Partnership, please contact Terry Manning, Partnership Coordinator, or Mark Mimick, Federal Programs Manager, at (954) 985-4416, or by e-mail at terryman@sfrpc.com and mmimick@sfrpc.com.
The South Florida Regional Planning Council (SFRPC) will be hosting a one-day Summit on Housing for the South Florida region. This summit, tentatively scheduled for Winter 2001, will serve as a kick-off for the creation of a Regional Housing Strategy to be developed by Council staff in coordination and partnership with leaders from the public, private, and non-profit sectors. While “affordable housing” is high on the priority list for discussion at the Summit, Council staff is developing a program that will approach the issue from a broader perspective, i.e., the issue of the affordability of living in South Florida, and include an in-depth discussion of the geographic distribution of affordably priced housing, regional transportation, jobs and wages, and the economy.

For more information about the upcoming Summit on Housing, please contact Gloria Putiak of Council staff, gloriap@sfrpc.com, at 954-985-4416.

Broward County Explores Expanding Mass Transit to Address Increasing Traffic Congestion

During the months between May and August this year, Council staff participated in a Task Force on Redesigning the Transportation Concurrency Management System sponsored by the Broward County Department of Planning and Environmental Protection (DPEP). An important consideration of the Task Force is to improve the existing somewhat piecemeal regulatory approach to transportation concurrency management through the creation of stronger linkages to subarea and countywide planning. Approved by the Broward County Commission at its August 29, 2000 meeting, Task Force recommendations include the implementation of both short and long-term approaches to redesigning the County’s Transportation Concurrency Management System. The short-term approach, to be implemented within one year, will allow for an interim system in which road widening is only one option on a menu of ways congestion can be alleviated. In addition to road work and mass transit, developers would also be able to help build transit facilities, park-and-ride lots, bike facilities and pedestrian walkways. A detailed report to the Commission in early 2001 will outline options for replacing the current focus on roadway widening to an increased emphasis on mass transit in the years to come. For additional information, please contact Ping Chang pchang@sfrpc.com of Council staff at 954-985-4416.
Looking for Community Indicators in all the wrong places? Try these sites!

http://sustainable.state.fl.us/fdi/fscc/resource/index.html
www.livablecommunities.gov

Model Ordinances: Minnesota Planning recently published a package of model ordinances that offer tools to communities to help make choices for their future. The guide includes model ordinances addressing: citizen participation, growth management, managing community resources, neighborhood design, infrastructure, resource-efficient buildings, and economic development. Visit www.mnplan.state.mn.us/SDI/ordinances.html for more information.

Eastward Ho! Contact List

Isabel Cosio Carballo
Eastward Ho! Regional Coordinator
3440 Hollywood Boulevard, Suite 140
Hollywood, Florida 33021
email: isabelc@sfrpc.com

Eastward Ho! Project Facilitators

David Dahlstrom (Miami-Dade & Broward counties)
South Florida Regional Planning Council
3440 Hollywood Boulevard, Suite 140
Hollywood, Florida 33021
email: davidd@sfrpc.com

Joan Barlow (Palm Beach, Martin & St. Lucie counties)
Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council
301 East Ocean Boulevard, Suite 300
Stuart, Florida 34994
email: admin@tcrpc.org

Eastward Ho! Brownfields Partnership Coordinator

Terry Manning (Miami-Dade, Broward, & Palm Beach counties)
South Florida Regional Planning Council
3440 Hollywood Boulevard, Suite 140
Hollywood, Florida 33021
email: terryman@sfrpc.com
Southeast Florida's population will continue to expand dramatically through at least the year 2025. The region is forecast to grow by more than 2.5 million residents; a number greater than the population of Miami-Dade County. Current growth policies have accommodated population increases by developing lands next to the Florida Everglades, lands which are needed for Everglades restoration and future regional water supply. Supporters of Eastward Ho! seek to improve regional quality of life and support Everglades restoration through the revitalization of the region's existing urban communities. Strategies include involving community residents more fully in decisions impacting their communities, the creation of pedestrian friendly communities, and increased employment, housing, and transportation opportunities.
