



seven 50
counties years

Southeast Florida Prosperity Plan

A Time To Lead

Vision & Executive Summary

January 15, 2014

Four years ago the South Florida and Treasure Coast Regional Planning Councils embarked on a far ranging project to develop a Regional Prosperity Plan for Southeast Florida.

We successfully competed for a Regional Sustainable Communities grant from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (US HUD) with the support of numerous organizations - public, private and not for profit- who voluntarily formed the Southeast Florida Regional Partnership. We formed an Executive Committee representing key interest groups to guarantee we focused on issues relevant to our region. Our grant allowed us to secure a professional consulting team, led by Dover, Kohl and Partners, that focused on expanding citizen involvement through the use of innovative outreach tools, four Summits and active use of social media. The Florida Department of Transportation and the South Florida Regional Transportation Authority also provided additional resources that enhanced the project. We express our appreciation to all who have participated and invested in completing this important phase of the project.

In a region that is over 200 miles long with seven counties and over 100 municipalities it is imperative that a long range vision be based on a reaffirmation of the importance of local control and the need to respect private property rights. Nothing in these resource documents attempt to do otherwise. We do recognize that there are national and international trends such as demographics, international trade, wireless communication, education and workforce that will impact our local communities. Our goal is to provide tools to address those trends and encourage regional collaboration on key overarching issues such as transportation, climate and environment.

Today completes a key phase in our Regional Prosperity Plan. We are providing a Regional Prosperity Plan consisting of a Executive Summary, an extensive on-line report, and established a web page and data bank that will support local and regional efforts. In the immediate future we will also end our grant obligations with US HUD. The two Regional Planning Councils will undertake actions to maintain and update regional data, continue the regional communication network and establish annual assessments and biannual summits. We will support existing regional coalitions and help new ones to form. We will maintain the Southeast Florida Regional Partnership by allowing existing organizations to choose to remain as members, while others may choose to cease participating and new groups may choose to "opt into" the ongoing implementation phase.

Together we can make Southeast Florida a better region ensuring a better life for all our current and future residents and visitors.

Regards,



James F. Murley, Executive Director
South Florida Regional Planning Council



Michael Busha, Executive Director
Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council

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BETTER REGION, BETTER LIFE: THE PREFERRED VISION

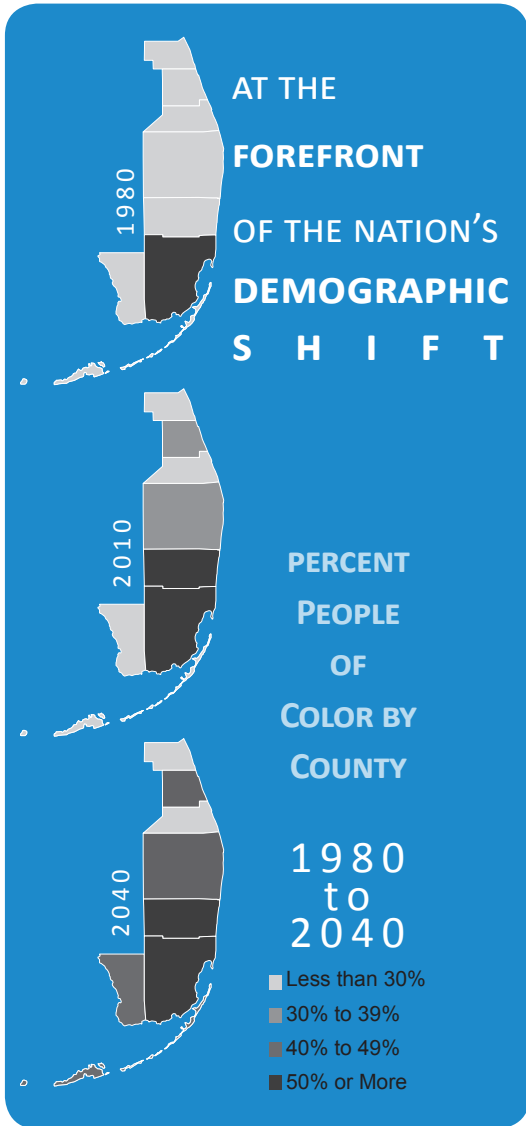
OUR COMMUNITY'S VISION FOR A QUALITATIVELY BETTER REGION

The Southeast Florida “Region in Motion” preferred vision for its future is the result of the effort of hundreds of local governments and organizations and thousands of individuals from the seven-county region (Monroe, Miami-Dade, Broward, Palm Beach, Martin, St. Lucie and Indian River), made possible by funding from the Housing and Urban Development. It builds on many important plans and efforts both current and past. It is data driven and the result of extensive research. But most importantly, it exists because of extensive public input and the strong commitment of the public, private and civic organizations that committed to this three-year process to plan for a better future for all. Our preferred vision outlines significant short-term strategies and focuses on the long-term, coordinated effort of the public and private sectors with active participation of the diverse voices in our region to achieve resilience and prosperity for generations to come.

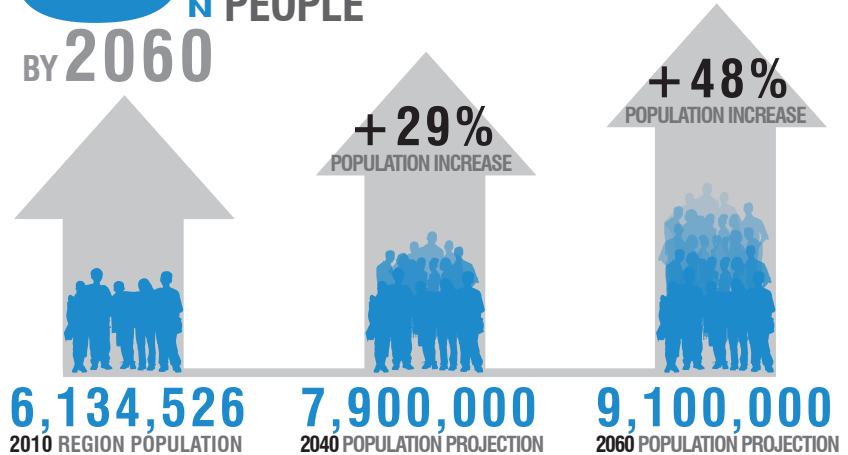
Our “Region in Motion” vision suggests a way to accommodate 3 million new residents projected by 2060 while protecting and enhancing the quality of life of those currently living in the region. The preferred vision sets the stage for a landscape where existing and future neighborhoods and communities are better connected with increased transportation options and where streets provide a balance between all users of the rights of way: cars, buses, transit, cyclists, and pedestrians. The vision strives to create or complete safe and healthy cities, towns and villages in a manner that is consistent with each community’s hopes and concerns for their future. It is an effort to ensure the kinds of places that will attract tourists, businesses and a diversity of residents alike. Our preferred vision focuses on our people, working towards providing opportunity for all. It highlights our fragile natural environment and sets a path for preparedness, resilience and competitiveness. Our “Region in Motion” is about providing the best possible quality of life to all of Southeast Florida’s residents, becoming more resilient, both economically and physically while leaving a worthy legacy for generations to come.

THE REGION TODAY

Our seven-county region is faced with a variety of challenges and opportunities. Here is information on where the region is today and a few trends and future impacts if these trends continue.

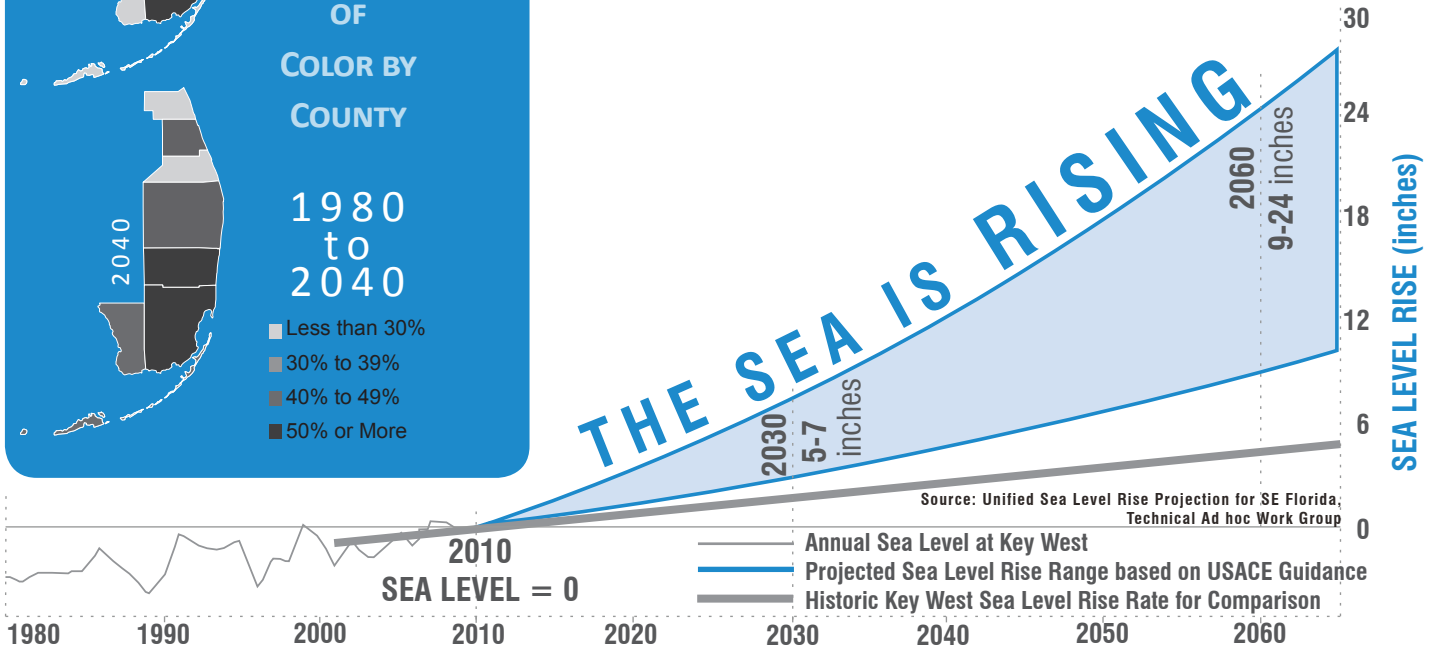


3 MILLION MORE PEOPLE BY 2060



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: THE SEVEN50 DIFFERENCE

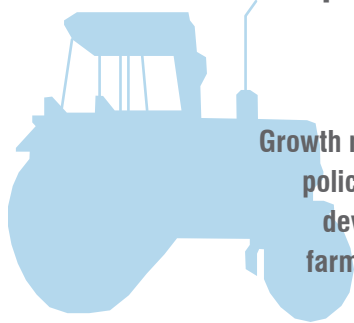
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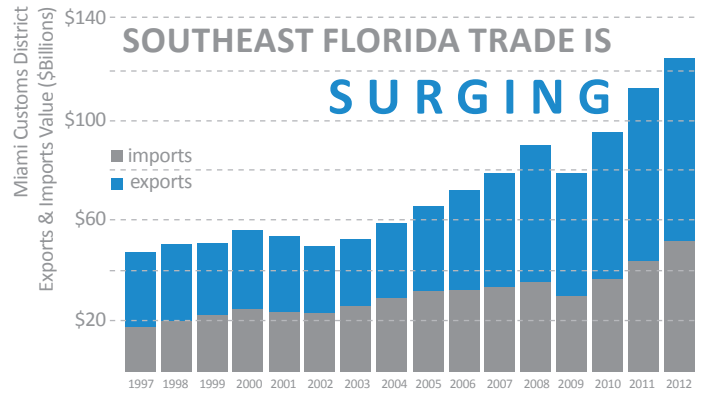
FUTURE TREND:

250+ SQUARE MILES

of additional farmland developed



Growth management policies hold, but development in farmlands is still significant

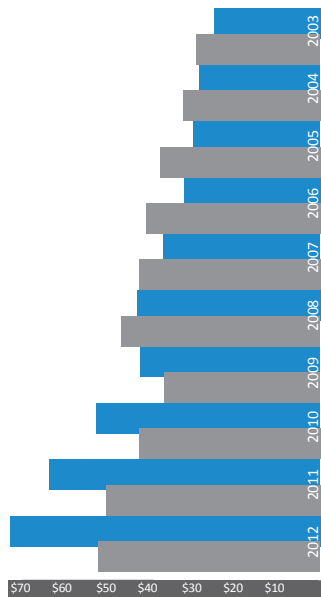


Southeast Florida **NATIONAL LEADER** in Trade & Tourism

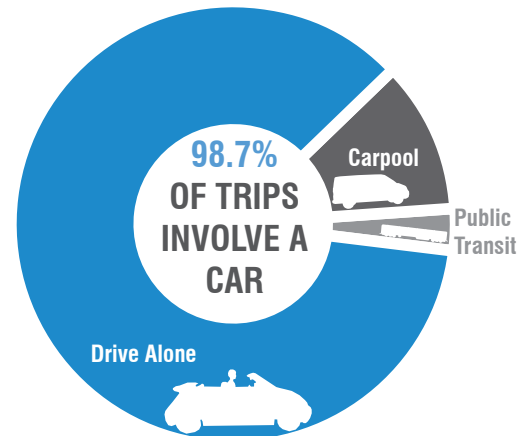
1st INTERNATIONAL AIR CARGO TONNAGE & HOME PORT CRUISE PASSENGERS



3rd international visitors
5th air passengers
6th waterborne containers
8th value of exports



AIR & SEA CARGO TRADE **GROWING**



Air - Total Trade
 Ports - Total Trade

Source: Fair Housing and Equity Assessment (FHEA)

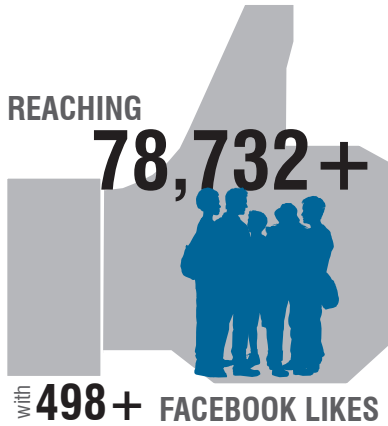
However, aging infrastructure, unbalanced mobility, increasing congestion, increasing housing costs, economic pressures on agricultural lands, environmental challenges and the impacts of sea level rise add to the pressure of relatively limited diversity of industries, lower-than average educational attainment for the middle class, and growing income gaps.

Admirable ongoing efforts are underway to address these issues of regional concern, yet a surge of larger-scale efforts is necessary seek to tackle larger scale, more broad or complex ones such as transportation, environmental issues and climate resilience. Many multi-jurisdictional alliances have resulted in significant progress and have become nationally recognized efforts. But we still face a generally disconnected region. Many initiatives are duplicated, contradictory, uncoordinated, competing against each other, or simply made harder by the impossibility of sharing resources and strengths, or even by a lack of understanding a common goal. We are faced with important questions that need to be answered if we are to guarantee a high quality of life for generations to come:

- Can our region accommodate and sustain the projected increase in population?
- How do we diversify our economy so that in addition to the jobs in tourism, construction/real estate, and agriculture we attract the knowledge-based jobs of the future and the right kind of investment and talent the ensures high-paying, secure employment?
- How do we prepare our workforce for the knowledge-based jobs of the future?
- How do we preserve the unique character and aspirations of each community in light of the projected growth?
- How do we become more resilient to the natural disasters our region is prone to?
- How do we become more globally competitive as a region, increasing exports and local manufacturing opportunities?
- How do we keep the region moving and avoid high commute times and increased congestion?
- How do we build upon our diversity?
- How do we move towards an environment that ensures access to opportunity to all?

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

103,509,585+ TRACKABLE MEDIA IMPRESSIONS



A PROCESS
THAT REACHED
MORE THAN

1 MILLION



Source: ROAR Media



Public events such as summits, roadshows, workshops, and executive committee meetings allowed a wide range of people throughout the region to participate and weigh in on the future of the Southeast Florida region.



PREFERRED SCENARIO

The Online Scenario Modeler gave the region the ability to explore and vote on their preferred future scenario. In four months of voting mid-June through mid-October of 2013 the site was visited by over 100 people a week. Thousands got a chance to comment and weigh in on the scenarios throughout the scenario modeling process.

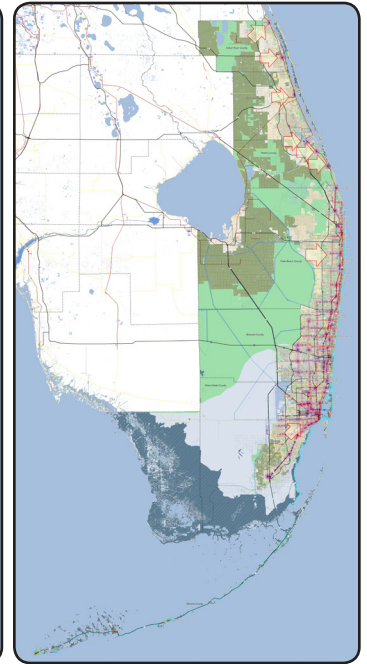
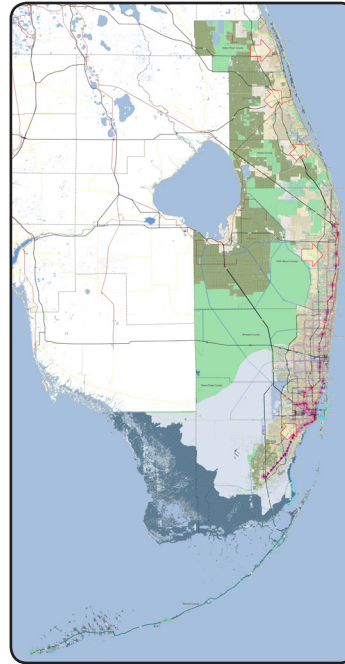
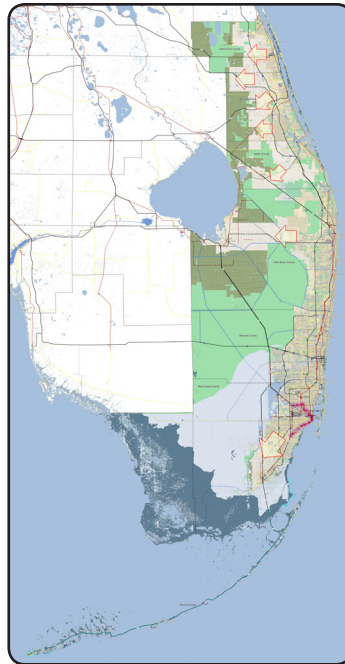
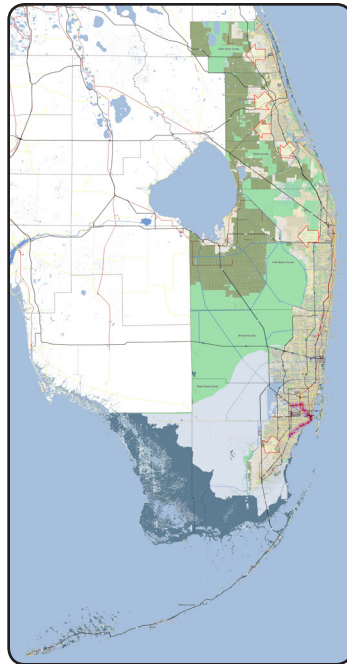


TREND: STAY THE COURSE

SUBURBAN EXPANSION

STRATEGIC UPGRADES

REGION IN MOTION



4%

19%

4%

73%

PREFERRED SCENARIO: REGION IN MOTION

A significant percentage of the roughly 3 million new residents by 2060 are accommodated in walkable, transit oriented development centers along existing rail lines such as the FEC and CSX lines which extend from south of Miami to Sebastian and beyond. Neighborhoods and communities are better connected to rail transit by streetcar or bus. Public streets are upgraded to provide a balance between all users of the rights of way: cars, buses, transit, cyclists, and pedestrians. Diverse transportation options keep the growing region in motion.

At the new walkable centers a range of building types and densities are developed to avoid monotonous places with one building type and an overwhelming scale. A diversity of housing also allows a variety of people in different stages of their lives and different incomes to live together, generating more complete, stable, and active communities. The region begins to attract more young, highly paid, information-economy workers who seek walkable urban environments.

Climate change adaptation becomes a high priority and not just along the coast. Sea's rise effect on regional drainage becomes a priority. Numerous areas along the coast are protected against some effects of sea level rise with increased investments including stormwater system enhancement, back-flow preventers, increased natural and constructed coastal defences, and other investments. Current Everglades restoration projects are completed and regional and state cooperation bolster the efforts to help mitigate the effects of saltwater intrusion into the water supply for additional years. The individual, unique character of each community and our region's diversity is enhanced and celebrated.

Region in Motion Metric Summary

Transit Investment:

High transit investment: North/South Major Transit Oriented Developments (TODs) along FEC line and CSX line (heavy rail/premium transit), East/West Minor TODs along inter-county transit lines (streetcars, bus rapid transit).

Percentage of Trips By Transportation Option (Mode Share):

Car (60%), Transit (20%), Bike (10%), Walk (10%)

Distance To Transit:

75% of households will live within walking distance (1 mile) of transit.

Distance To Schools: 75% of households will live within walking distance (1 mile) of a public school.

Distance To Parks:

90% of households will live within walking distance (1 mile) of a park.

Vehicle Emissions/Pollution:

7.4 million vehicular trips contribute to air pollution yet fossil fuel emissions are *reduced* by 40% of today.

Transportation Costs:

Total percent of Household Income Spent on Transportation Costs: 10%

Housing Costs:

Total percent of Household Income Spent on Housing Costs: 33%

Health/Obesity Rates:

The rate of obesity is 17%, less than many regions around the US and in Florida. Transportation choices & walkable areas help avoid the rate increase.

Artists in the Workplace:

An increase in artistic employment from 1.5% to 3.34%, establishing Southeast Florida as a creative enclave comparable to New York, Portland, and Boston.

Creative Class In The Workforce:

The creative class makes up 35% of the total working population, bringing the region average up to the top 50 of the US. Other regions within the top 50 include Washington D.C., Atlanta, New York, Los Angeles, and Chicago.

Migration:

More people will choose to live in the southern counties than is currently projected under the trend scenario due to multimodal transportation and redevelopment investments in the southern counties of Miami-Dade, Broward and Palm Beach.

Farmland

190 square miles of farmland protected over the trend scenario. The majority of the farmland protected is in the northern counties of St. Lucie, Martin, and Indian River.

New Roads & Infrastructure to Build & Maintain:

7.3 billion in public investment is saved on new roads and utilities over the trend scenario.

THE REGION TOMORROW

According to the “Region in Motion” Scenario, described in more detail in the “Preferred Scenario” portion of this Executive Summary report, our region will seek to accomplish the following over what the “Trend” scenario would result in.

over **200** ^{SQ} MILES
of farmland
SAVED



COMPARED TO
THE CURRENT
TREND WE
WILL HAVE...

+65%

HOUSEHOLDS
WITHIN
1 MILE OF
TRANSIT,
SCHOOLS,
PARKS



+20%

MULTI-
FAMILY
HOMES



+15%

REGIONAL
MIGRATION
TOWARD
URBAN
COUNTIES



+8%

CREATIVE
CLASS IN
WORKFORCE



3x more

INVESTMENT
IN CLIMATE RESILIENCE



+1.54%
ARTISTS
IN
WORKPLACE



\$2.3 BILLION
\$ SAVED
ON NEW ROADS



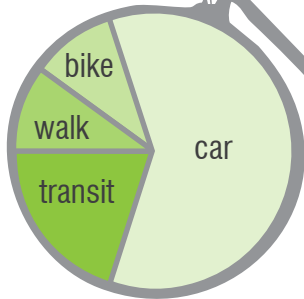
HEALTH/
OBESITY
RATE
-11.5%

SPENT ON
HOUSING +
TRANSPORTATION
-17%
per
household

LESS
EMISSIONS/
POLLUTION
with
2.2 MILLION
LESS
TRIPS
-60%

+38%

INCREASE IN
TRANSIT USE,
BIKING,
WALKING



\$7.3
BILLION

\$ SAVED
on infrastructure cost
transportation,
water, sewer, utilities

2 REGIONAL PROSPERITY PLAN

REGIONAL PRIORITIES

After two years of deliberation, consensus was reached on priorities that impact the livability of the region as a whole. These priorities constitute a common objective so that everyone, whether from the private, public or civic realm, can support and understand their benefit to the overall region. They are the type of endeavours that can only be accomplished if we join forces and address as a common goal. There are 44 priorities grouped into six different categories, which in turn constitute six distinct regional goals.

GROWING THE ECONOMY

1 Strengthen Southeast Florida's role as a global hub for trade, visitors, talent & investment

2 Create & expand strong regional innovation clusters

3 Develop & retain a highly skilled, diverse, globally fluent workforce

4 Promote an entrepreneurial culture that fosters new business opportunities

5 Plan for the impact of climate change & sea level rise on private & public investment in the form of rising insurance rates & costs of new resilient infrastructure

6 Enhance Southeast Florida's quality of life to attract & retain a diverse mix of families, workers, visitors, retirees & businesses

7 Develop & maintain globally competitive infrastructure & economic development sites that support the region's economic vision

8 Improve coordination & collaboration to help Southeast Florida compete globally as a leading region

9 Position Southeast Florida to attract national & international events

THE LIVABLE REGION

1 Integrate land use & transportation planning to provide more transportation choices & increase opportunities

2 Enhance physical infrastructure to increase economic competitiveness & growth

3 Provide more housing & workplace choices in response to emerging trends

4 Integrate land use & transportation planning; plan more transit-oriented development areas to support transit

5 Improve coordination & collaboration among all levels of government & the private sector

6 Protect & enhance the unique character of all communities & ensure protection of private property rights

7 Explore sustainable transportation funding with alternative ways to finance improved mobility

8 Leverage our natural assets to connect the region

CELEBRATING ARTS & CULTURE

- 1 Embrace great design as a core Seven50 planning principle & policy
- 2 Connect with local arts & culture to create communities with a distinctive sense of place
- 3 Invest strategically in the creative arts
- 4 Recognize that culture is a significant driver for economic competitiveness & quality of life

- 5 Add the “A”(rts) to STEM to produce the competitive workforce of tomorrow
- 6 Develop regional cultural assets according to a hub & spoke strategy
- 7 Empower the region’s arts leadership to implement the arts objective of the Seven50 plan
- 8 Promote sustainable development that emphasizes the region’s natural, historic, & cultural assets & preserves sense of place

VALUING THE ENVIRONMENT

- 1 Ensure the future supply & quality of water to meet the region’s economic, environmental & quality of life goals
- 2 Redevelopment opportunities should be prioritized over new development
- 3 Enhance independence, quality, access & security of the region’s food supply
- 4 Ensure that development in coastal areas is resilient & sustainable

- 5 Mitigate damage & assure proper freshwater flows to the St. Lucie & Lake Worth estuaries, Indian River Lagoon, Lake Okeechobee, the Everglades & Florida Bay
- 6 Ensure future growth & development decisions strengthen agricultural opportunities & meet natural resource & ecosystem restoration goals
- 7 Support Everglades restoration

CLIMATE & ENERGY RESILIENCE

- 1 Ensure water supply: identify & prioritize at-risk natural resources & infrastructure & minimize saltwater intrusion
- 2 Engage & educate the public to create new policy regarding climate change issues
- 3 Utilize adaptive planning for natural systems
- 4 Infrastructure, utilities, transportation choices & the built environment should reflect goals for conservation, energy efficiency & sustainable infrastructure

- 5 Value & enhance agricultural assets
- 6 Ensure a sustainable, consistent, independent & cost effective energy supply & delivery system throughout the region
- 7 Prioritize storm preparedness, risk reduction & emergency management
- 8 Focus on the region’s barrier islands: they host unique destinations & also provide frontline barriers for the mainland

INCLUSIVE REGIONAL LEADERSHIP

- 1 Continue the discussion on creating regional leadership organizations focused on resolving major regional issues
- 2 Regional leadership organizations should be politically independent

- 3 Regional leadership organizations should advocate with one voice for the region
- 4 Establish regional coalitions to address regional issues.

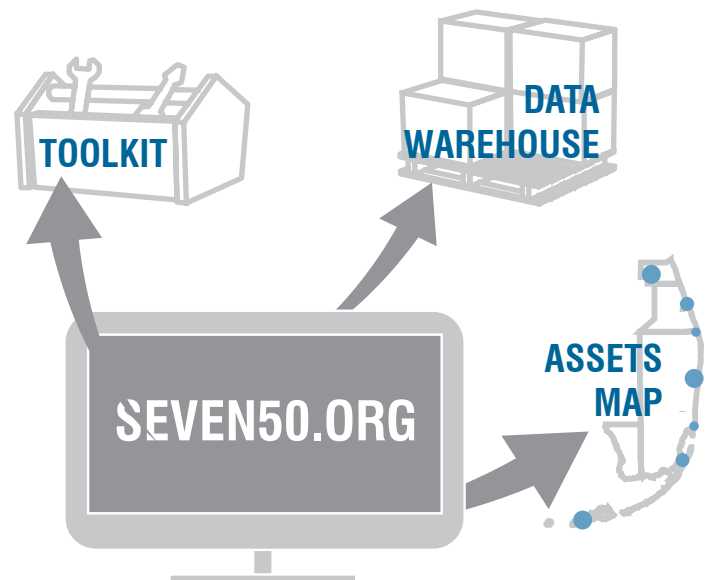
THE SOUTHEAST FLORIDA REGIONAL TOOLKIT

IT'S ABOUT OUR QUALITY OF LIFE

With population anticipated to increase from 6.2 million to 9.3 million over the next 50 years, our region chose to join forces and create strategic alliances and coalitions to embrace the future as a “Competitive Region.” One where its constituents can choose to discuss the future together, investing time and energy to explore the consequences of different decisions before committing to them.

As mega regions emerge at the national scale, their goal is to become stronger, more efficient, and as a result, out-compete others. Up-and-coming global mega regions join the already established ones in the contest for prosperity. In an era of limited financial resources, tremendous technological advances, rapidly changing trends and not fully known extents of future climate impacts, it becomes evident that many of the challenges and opportunities that the Southeast Florida Region faces will require a unified vision and collective action to accomplish. Others will be the local government’s responsibility and choice. The Seven50 toolkit catalogs and categorizes initiatives and actions that, at different scales, further the long-term, resilient and competitive regional vision. It is up to each local government to decide which, if any of these ideas, are appropriate to their own character and hopes for the future.

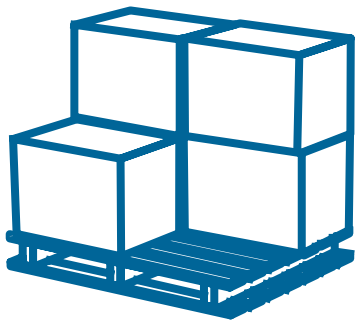
The tools are available online at the interactive Seven50 report site, the online regional assets map and the regional data warehouse.



TOOLKIT, DATA WAREHOUSE & REGIONAL ASSETS MAP ARE AVAILABLE ON THE WEBSITE

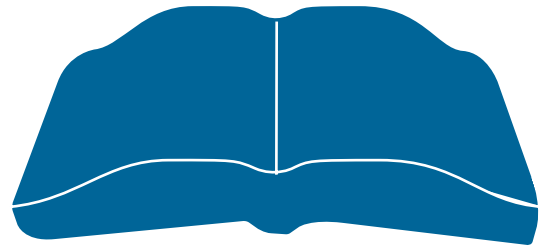
REGIONAL DATA

Access to data about our region and a simple platform to visualize and download the **data** is an increasingly **important** driver of **economic prosperity** and social progress. Seven50 was developed following the premise that easy access to relevant and updated data enables citizens and local governments to chart their own prosperous futures. The region's resources and ability to access and produce data are unparalleled. Unique platforms to house and communicate data have been developed. Sharing and collaborating with the upkeep of relevant information, statistics, facts, trends and measures is our joint responsibility.



REGIONAL DATA WAREHOUSE

This seven-county Data Warehouse has resulted from a three-year effort to collect and consolidate data sets from a variety of sources. It serves as one-stop shop for data needs of the public and private sector. It is Google-based, giving users the capability of customizing, mapping and analyzing data sets and to turn the raw data into useful information. Detailed economic development siting and mapping of demographic, land use, transportation, and housing trends affecting the public and private sector are some of the important capabilities the Data Warehouse offers. The Data Warehouse provides a nice supplement to FP&L's Powering Florida data base--an economic development planning tool--and other more proprietary, limited access data bases it has developed for economic development purposes. The Data Warehouse is available to all users at no charge. Maintaining and updating the Data Warehouse will require the assistance of the public and private sector. The regional planning councils need to take the lead in finding a sustainable source of revenue to maintain the system.



SOUTHEAST FLORIDA KNOWLEDGE CENTER

Private and public sector agencies are continuously creating, updating and implementing plans and visions with varying scopes and extent. In an effort to coordinate information, optimize our resources and facilitate access to data, the South Florida and Treasure Coast Regional Planning Councils have created a Seven50 Website and Seven50 report site. The Councils will seek to work with others in the region to develop an interactive and innovative Knowledge Center where the region's partners can access, maintain, update and expand trends and relevant regional data, publish progress indicators, maintain and update a regional calendar, link to projects that are consistent in intent with the "Region in Motion" vision for Southeast Florida, and serve as a center for information on future coalitions.

3 REGIONAL INITIATIVES

COALITIONS FOR THE FUTURE

Building new strategies, transforming business models and adopting new ways of collaboration are critical to a more prosperous southeast Florida in the future. Common Regional Priorities have been identified. A Preferred Vision has been outlined. But the reality is that much of this vision will not be possible and our regional priorities will not effectively affect positive change unless we tackle a few, yet significant regional issues. In a region as large, diverse and complex as ours, no one organization or individual can do this alone. We need special coalitions of individuals and/or organizations. These coalitions should include representatives of nearly every segment of the community, depending upon the breadth of the issue. These individuals must share the common interest and agree to work together, understand, advocate, lead and address these core regional issues.

Seven50 strives to support existing and help launch new coalitions as well as establish a system by which interested or affected parties may join, participate or even lead these coalitions. The South Florida and Treasure Coast Regional Planning Councils commit to jointly support these coalitions for the future.

- Everglades & Waterways
- Balanced Mobility
- Climate Preparedness & Resilience
- Education & Workforce
- Economic Competitiveness
- Economic Opportunity

CLIMATE ACTION PLAN



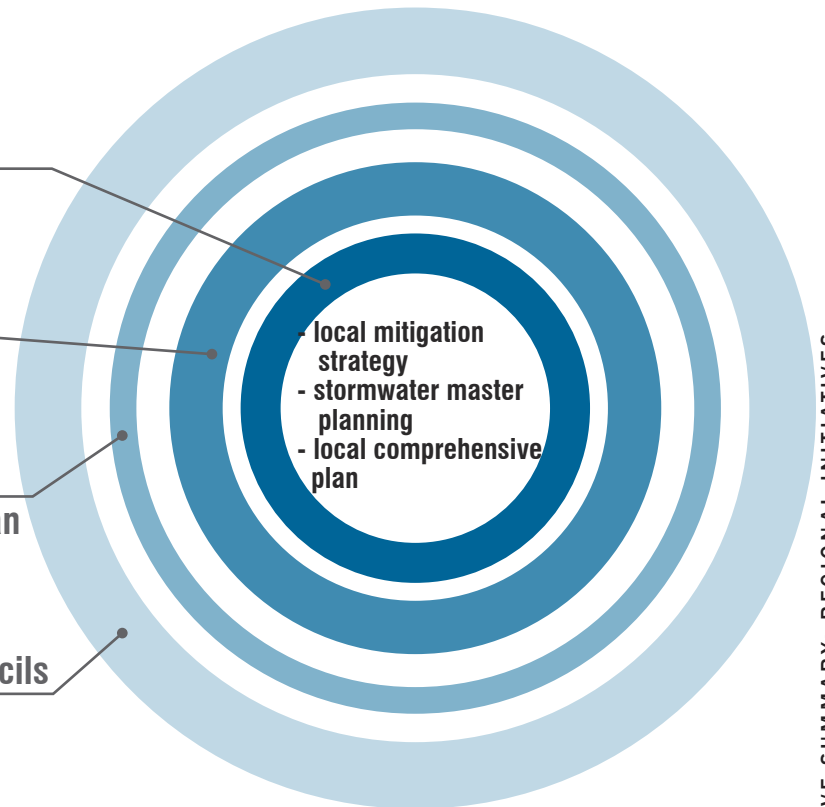
7 Goal Areas
137 Initiatives



4 Counties
Regional Climate Action Plan



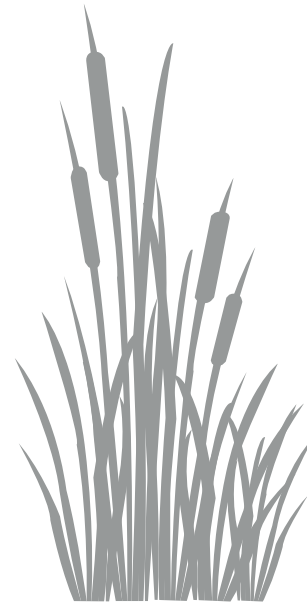
2 Regional Planning Councils
7 Livability Principles



LOCAL & REGIONAL ALIGNMENT OF PLANNING WORKING TOGETHER ON CLIMATE INITIATIVES

EVERGLADES & WATERWAYS

Water is a common feature, resource and concern throughout the seven counties. Our region's relationship with water presents tremendous advantages and equally large challenges. The Seven50 vision and many of the goals suggested will not be achieved if the effort to modify the region's "plumbing system" is not successful. Our natural systems will not be pristine unless we stop polluting them. Our drinking water supply needs to be shielded from the impacts of sea level rise. We need to find a balance between home affordability and probable flooding.

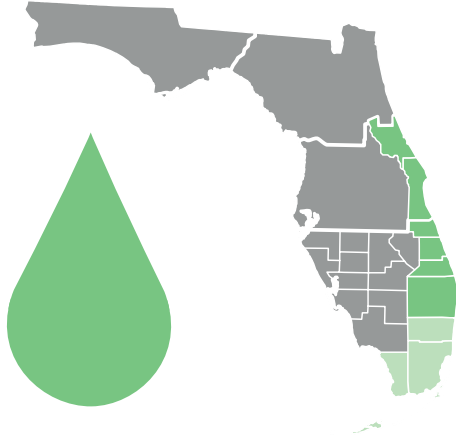


EVERGLADES RESTORATION

There is existing regional leadership in place for the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) lead by the South Florida Water Management District and the US Army Corps of Engineers. The US Congress has also set up the South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force to provide coordination among levels of government and native America tribes. The Water Resources Advisory Commission provides an ongoing venue for other stakeholders to provide comment and the Everglades Foundation and the Everglades Coalition actively support funding requests to the state and federal governments. Today, the larger Everglades ecosystem has evolved into special planning and implementation programs for the Northern, Western and Central Everglades. In reality the Seven50 area encompasses the Eastern Everglades and we need to stay focused on the long and short term priorities such as protecting the Indian River Lagoon and Biscayne Bay.

Short-Term Priority:

- Secure state and federal funding for the next five mile elevated highway extension for US 41, Tamiami Trail.



PROTECTING OUR WATERWAYS

Regional coalition needed. Six-county Indian River Lagoon coalition should expand to include nine (Miami-Dade, Monroe, Broward), and then all 16 counties and private sector participation. Leadership should be provided by all regional planning councils, leagues of cities, and South Florida Water Management District. There are also many navigable waterways in the region that need to be maintained for recreational uses and their water quality enhanced.

Short-Term Priority:

- Support the Indian River Lagoon Collaborative efforts to secure funding for upgrading treatment of sewage flowing into the Indian River Lagoon.



COASTAL PRIVATE SEPTIC TO PUBLIC SEWER

Leakage from coastal septic sewage systems has been suggested as a contributing factor to the current poor health of the Indian River Lagoon and St. Lucie River Estuary. Within the counties of Indian River, Martin and St. Lucie, there are about 120,000 private septic systems. Brevard, Volusia, and Palm Beach counties share this same issue. Many local and state political leaders in the region have expressed some desire to eventually get septic system users on public sewer systems. The cost of switching from septic tanks to public sewer systems may be prohibitive for individual counties and property owners. But, combining their political influence, the counties and cities together may have more opportunities to get the funding help necessary to at least begin replacing the most troublesome septic tanks. The recently established six-county Indian River Lagoon Counties Collaborative is in a good position to take a leadership role in this task.

Short-Term Priority:

- Assist in preparing funding applications to federal and state agencies.

BALANCED MOBILITY

Without premium transit and funding for operating transportation costs, much of the Seven50 vision and goals will not be achievable. Building and maintaining a world-class multi-modal transportation system for the region will not be possible if this initiative is not successful. At the same time it is important to understand that the different counties in the region play different roles when it comes to transit. The more urban counties cannot continue on the current, predominately road-building path. The less populated counties need to balance their current transportation options and work on a more balanced mobility system for their future.

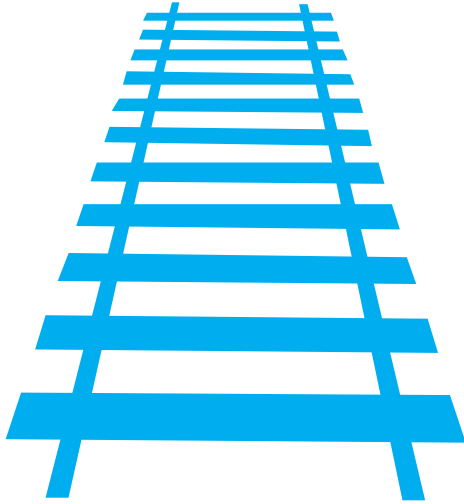


SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORTATION FUNDING

Regional coalition needed. This region needs to invest in premium transit and that this will not happen unless there is new funding for operating subsidy. Premium transit is so critical that without this there are no options for any alternative other than the “Stay the Course” or “Suburban Expansion” scenarios for the future. Seven counties and the private sector should work together to implement an alternative road usage assessment system to replace or supplement the old gas tax system. Join with other groups around the state to get this done by legislation. Push at the federal level to keep a greater share of monies collected for transportation improvements due to our size and position as an outsized global trade and logistics hub. The region needs to work together identify and advocate for funding tools at the local, state and federal levels that will provide sustainable transportation funding.

Short-Term Priority:

- Organize a Corridor Coalition to reach consensus and build support for a feasible, implementable funding plan for premium transit.



COMMUTER RAIL EXPANSION/TOD SUPPORT

Regional coalition and private sector partnership needed. The Florida Department of Transportation, South Florida Regional Transportation Authority, MPOs, TPOs, and regional planning councils are working together to expand the Tri-Rail commuter rail service onto the FEC Rail Corridor in Miami-Dade, Broward, and Palm Beach counties. Local government, public agency, and private sector leadership is needed to determine station locations, financing alternatives, and integration with the multi-modal transportation network.

Short-Term Priority:

- Work with local governments to finalize station locations and develop Transit Oriented Development (TOD) plans that will attract public and private funding.



REGIONAL CORRIDORS

In addition to the growing use of regional rail corridors for freight and passenger service there is a need to organize stakeholders around key roads that connect the counties within the region and to other regions. Existing corridor alliances exist for US441/SR 7 and other can be created as needed. There are also key road corridors that connect Southeast Florida to Southwest (SR 41) and Central Florida (US 27).

Short-Term Priority:

- Initiate a corridor study for US 27, working with the Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council and the Central Florida Regional Planning Council, as part of FDOT Future Corridors program.

CLIMATE PREPAREDNESS & RESILIENCE

Southeast Florida Preparedness and Resilience Initiative is a combination of the existing work of the Southeast Florida Climate Compact, the Energy Resilience work of the two regional planning councils through the Florida Regional Councils Association (FRCA), and the ongoing work the Regional Planning Councils do for Florida Division of Emergency Management such as storm surge mapping, and a focus on making our coastal communities, especially those located on the barrier islands, more resilient to future storms and sea level rise.



CLIMATE COMPACT/ SEA LEVEL RISE MITIGATION

Public infrastructure retrofits, their costs, and policy changes necessitated by sea level rise impacts are as difficult to quantify as accurately predicting exactly how high sea level will rise in the future. At the same time some counties in the region are already investing in retrofit and mitigation work. The Climate Compact is a four-county resource for addressing the issue of sea level rise. By expanding this resource to the seven-county region, there should be some advantages gained by all in sharing ideas about ways to plan for sea level rise and obtaining state and federal financial assistance for implementing mitigation and adaptation measures. This coalition would grow stronger through the participation of the county commissions of Martin, St. Lucie and Indian River counties.

Short-Term Priority:

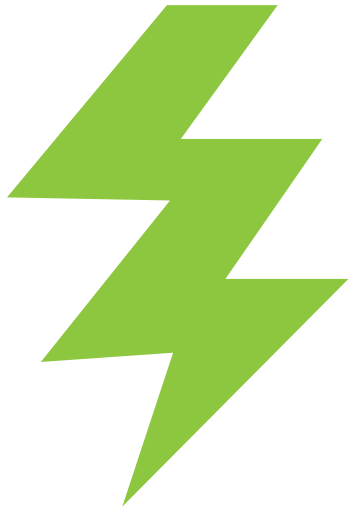
- Integrate regional Adaptation Action Area guidance into local climate action plans.

BIGGERT-WATERS FLOOD INSURANCE REFORM ACT OF 2012

Southeast Florida, including the Florida Keys, pays more federal flood insurance premiums than any other region in the US. The Biggert-Waters Act will significantly harm the economy of our region as a vast number of homes and businesses are required to have flood insurance. The Act seeks to reduce subsidies for flood insurance policies and increase premiums until they are “actuarially sound.” A bipartisan deal has been struck to delay implementation for approximately four years until a study has been completed and for implementation to take effect. Our region not only needs the delay in implementation, but we also need to keep federal flood insurance.

Short-Term Priority:

- Work with Congressional delegation to obtain delay in the significant increases in the flood insurance rates.



SEVEN-COUNTY ENERGY CONSERVATION INITIATIVE

In 2011, St. Lucie County helped establish a Solar and Energy Loan Fund (SELF). It is a federally designated 501(c)(3) and a certified Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) able to serve the region. Its purpose is to help homeowners and businesses identify solutions to their rising energy costs and then provide favorable financing to make recommended energy saving improvements. This model program has spread from St. Lucie County to include a lending territory of Brevard, Indian River, and Martin counties. SELF is in discussions with the cities of West Palm Beach and Orlando for program expansion. In a relatively short time SELF has completed 848 energy audits and has a \$2 million dollar loan portfolio. The program is making it possible for home and business owners to make much-needed energy conservation improvements, saving money, creating local jobs and promoting clean energy alternatives and energy independence.

Short-Term Priority:

- The regional planning councils should seek funding for SELF and for other energy conservation and alternative fuel activities.



BEACH RENOURISHMENT & INLET MAINTENANCE

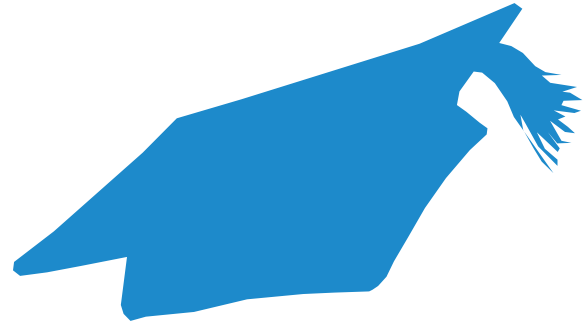
All seven counties of the region are in the beach renourishment and/or inlet maintenance business. All have a need for high quality sand and funding to periodically replenish their beaches and keep their inlets navigable. All should be interested in a sustainable source of sand and funding for beach renourishment and inlet dredging. Sea level rise may increase the need for such renourishment and maintenance activity. Currently, the US Army Corps of Engineers and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection are taking a regional approach to this issue, looking at sand deposits from Miami to Fort Pierce, including those in state and federal waters which lie beyond three nautical miles offshore and are in the process of deciding how to distribute this resource regionally. Rather than have the state and federal government decide for the region, the seven counties should be given the opportunity to devise their own regional strategy for utilizing these sand resources. This will require leadership from the county commissions to begin meeting together and discussing this issue. Some counties need sand, some need a sustainable source of funding to maintain their inlets, some need both. Either way, there is a solution that can be negotiated among the seven counties where each could benefit equally.

Short-Term Priority:

- A single long-term regional permit for inlet maintenance and beach renourishment within the seven county area.

EDUCATION & WORKFORCE

An educated and skilled workforce is essential if we want to achieve of a strong and economically competitive region. Our workforce affects the prosperity of our businesses and the ability to preserve our quality of life for generations to come. We have to provide our current workforce with the tools to satisfy current and short term market's demands. At the same time we need to prepare our children for the jobs of the future. We do not know what skills many of those jobs will require, or which technology we will be using to conduct business or even socialize in the future. What we do know is that a society of literate and skilled citizens has the highest chance at success and has the ability to reduce poverty and social injustice by providing everyone resources and opportunities for social mobility and social inclusion.



REGIONAL WORKFORCE ALIGNMENT INITIATIVE

The bringing together of the academic community with the career/job marketplace is an initiative to make the region globally competitive. A regional research initiative to identify current and future talent requirements to fill workforce gaps should be a priority for the seven-county region. The initiative should showcase how we can build a stronger workforce to meet the needs of an ever-changing marketplace. Jobs, employees and employers are not confined by county boundaries. A vision and plan for this must be shared and developed by the academic and career community in the region. This is a monumental task, but one that our local high schools, through specialized academics; that our local college and universities, through additional degree programs and partnerships with businesses; should be willing to undertake. Economic Development office's, workforce organizations and school district, college and university leadership, partnered with private sector business leaders could form a coalition to continuously be working on developing and aligning the region's future employee pool with the needs of the job marketplace.

Short-Term Priority:

- Evaluate the recent proposal by the Brooking Institute for the designation of Innovation Districts and then identify possible locations within the seven county region.



SOUTHEAST FLORIDA INNOVATION ALLIANCE

LIFE SCIENCE SOUTH FLORIDA:

Expand this regional coalition to become a seven-county public/private leadership consortium to grow this important industry cluster. A huge public and private investment has already been made to get the cluster established and diversify our economy. This coalition has a good opportunity to organize, create and push a legislative agenda to capture increased research funding, targeted workforce and job training, increased STEM initiatives, sustainable public-education funding, attracting and increasing venture capital and philanthropy, etc. It has also been suggested that STEM become STEAM to include the arts which will help to attract potential employees.

AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY & RESEARCH SUPPORT:

A regional coalition and private sector partnership is needed. Agriculture, and the countryside it occupies is not only a key industry cluster for the state and region, it also is critical for the environmental services, native land and endangered species protection, and for the food security it provides the state and nation. It is Florida's original heritage and cultural institution and a direct link to our future quality of life. Maintaining agriculture as a viable industry in Florida will require funding and legislative initiatives for assistance with everything from disease/pest research, farm-to-market mobility, branding, and fair trade practices. The agricultural industry should be able to count on the region's public and private leadership for help and support when needed.

Short-Term Priority:

- Support the upcoming eMerge Americas International Conferences in Miami.

ECONOMIC COMPETITIVENESS

Understanding the key factors, unique advantages and complex challenges determining our future prosperity and economic growth is the first step. Coordinating our resources and jointly committing to working towards the same goal comes next and represents our best opportunity to succeed. A strong and vibrant private sector is key to our prosperity, to securing a leading position in this fast-changing global economy, to addressing employment challenges and to creating a sufficient number of jobs to absorb the region's growing young workforce. The public sector's role is to improve Southeast Florida's economic policies and remove obstacles in order to facilitate investment and progress in each community's terms. Improving education, focusing on innovation and investing in our regions human capital is the path towards a strong and resilient economy of the future.

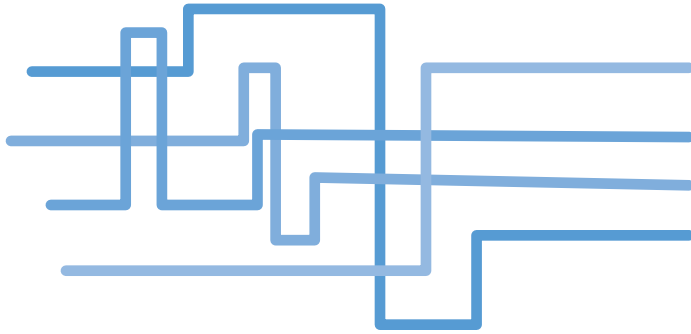


REGIONAL FREIGHT & INTERMODAL INVESTMENT COALITION

Broward MPO has taken the lead in developing the “Cargo 2040” freight plan through Southeast Florida Transportation Council for the three southern counties. This effort is intended to recommend actions that improve the movement of goods within Broward, Miami-Dade and Palm Beach counties. It will be overseen by a 21-member “Regional Transit Technical Advisory Committee Freight Subcommittee” with membership from the 3 southern MPOs, FDOT (Central Office plus District 4 and District 6), the airports and seaports, economic councils, Miami-Dade Expressway Authority, Florida Turnpike Enterprise, railroads (CSX and FEC), and freight business representatives. The movement of freight and goods impacts the entire region as it must continue north through Martin, St. Lucie and Indian River counties via their network of highways, railroads, and waterways.

Short-Term Priority:

- Invite a freight representative from Martin, St. Lucie, and Indian River counties to join the Regional Transit Technical Advisory Freight Subcommittee.



GLOBALLY COMPETITIVE FIBER OPTIC NETWORK

A globally competitive, fiber optic network that provides free or very low-cost opportunities to local governments, colleges and universities and our research and hospitals has been at the center of Seven50. This type of competitive connectivity is not an option, it is imperative in order to compete in this technological era. A coalition is necessary to realize and increase current work to accomplish this initiative in the seven-county region. Ultimately a seven-county public and private investment pool will be needed to accomplish this mission.

Short-Term Priority:

- Support a regional coalition to secure commitments and funding for a seven county regional fiber optic network.

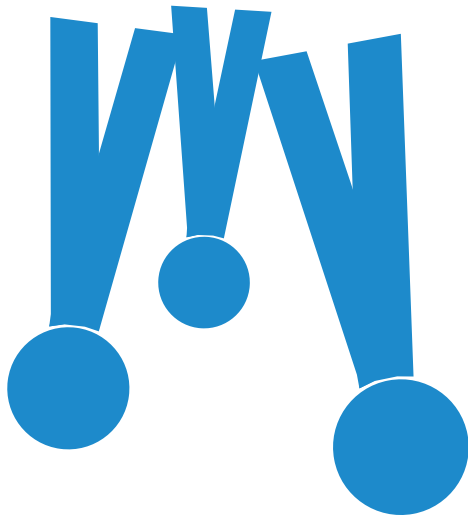


SOUTHEAST FLORIDA GLOBAL GATEWAY ALLIANCE

Southeast Florida is strategically positioned as a global gateway for business and commerce. As we focus on diversifying our region's economy, we have the opportunity to intensify what could become one of the strongest drivers of our economy over the coming decades: international commerce, global trade and logistics activities. In order to do this successfully, we need to address the challenges, among others, of increasing local manufacturing and exports, increasing port and airport capacity and competitiveness, and balancing the impacts of transporting goods and people. Significant efforts such as the Cargo 2040 Southeast Florida Regional Freight plan and Florida Chamber's Trade and Logistics Plan 2.0 are essential to strengthen Southeast Florida's presence as a global trade hub are underway.

Short-Term Priority:

- Create an Alliance to support implementation of Trade and Logistics Plan 2.0 in Southeast Florida.

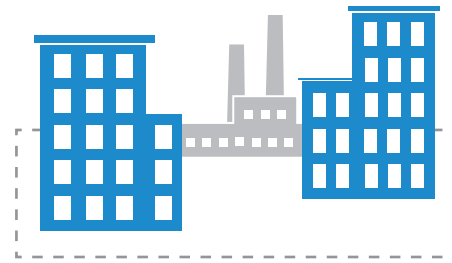


SEVEN-COUNTY INTERNATIONAL GAMES COALITION

Whether it's the Summer Olympics or the soccer World Cup, securing a bid for the region to host these kinds of international events requires long-term regional planning and cooperation among the private and public sector. The economic benefit to the region as the host should be evaluated. If there is interest in working towards this goal, a regional coalition of organizers and supporters from all seven-counties should be convened. The regional planning councils, tourist development boards and others can organize such a long-range planning effort. Assistance can also be provided by Enterprise Florida through their Sports Industry Development Division and the Florida Sports Foundation. This effort should provide the region some additional incentive to develop a world class transportation system that can provide the necessary transportation options between some of the existing and potential venue locations situated throughout the region.

Short-Term Priority:

- Poll the region on the kind of events it would like to see. Where is their excitement and possible consensus?

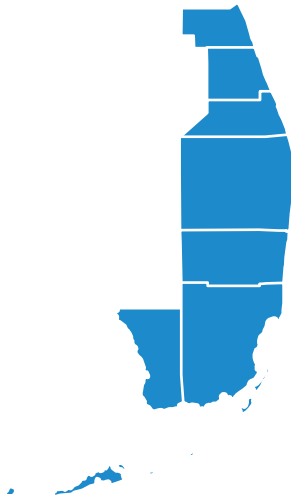


SEVEN-COUNTY BROWNFIELDS ASSESSMENT

Coalition needed to push establishment of a seven-county assessment of all brownfields in the region. Brownfields represent a significant, but currently under-capitalized land resource and tax base. In order to unlock the potential of brownfields for economic development sites and redevelopment, they must be identified and cleaned up. A regional proposal for their identification, assessment, and cleanup could be developed in cooperation with the private sector and affected local governments. This would help move the region to the front of the line in securing state and federal funding assistance to clean these sites up and render them usable for development. The regional planning councils have active brownfields assistance programs and could provide leadership for this effort.

Short-Term Priority:

- Work with the development community to introduce representatives to brownfield sites. Some sites are on the waterfront, other sites unlock vast tracts of possible acreage. Many sites have advantages that outweigh their disadvantages.



“READY OR NOT HERE IT COMES” COALITION

The leaders of the seven-county commissions as well as the region’s largest cities must have the kind of relationship that will allow them to quickly gravitate together in case of unanticipated events of regional impact. For example, the eight counties of the Big Bend Region after the BP oil spill working together to shape federal policy and implement \$5-20 Billion RESTORE ACT. In order to cultivate and maintain this kind of relationship, annual or biennial summits should be organized to bring these groups together over an agenda of common interest and action items. The regional planning councils, in cooperation with the private sector and universities, and perhaps the Florida Association of Counties and Florida League of Cities could provide the leadership needed to arrange these regional summits.

Short-Term Priority:

- Plan the first coalition event using Seven50 networks to keep the momentum that Seven50 has generated going.

ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

Our region ranks 17th in diversity out of 150 in the nation. Projections show that we will continue to diversify in the decades to come. This presents both challenges and opportunities. Our population is highly entrepreneurial and brings a unique advantage to address the needs that arise from participating in a global market. At the same time, we face challenges of integration, a shrinking middle class, and many areas of segregated poverty with disproportionately limited access to opportunity.



SOUTHEAST FLORIDA OPPORTUNITY ALLIANCE

Given the diversity of the region, improving competitiveness will require a continued focus on education and innovation, and at the same time an environment that provides the tools for all residents in Southeast Florida to prosper, have access to affordable housing and jobs, an increased educational attainment and a chance at leadership and participation in the decision-making process. A coalition is needed to support and further the efforts initiated by Seven50 and the Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity, efforts like the Six Pillars and the Regional Planning Councils Economic Development Strategies and the work by numerous civic and public organizations throughout the region that are devoted to investing and enhancing our human capital. Providing assistance and a friendly environment for businesses is essential.

Short-Term Priority:

- Support creation of an Opportunity Alliance to further the work done by Seven50.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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City of Belle Glade	Girl's Club	Seminole Improvement District
City of Boynton Beach	Hollywood Council of Civic Associations	South Florida Water Management District
City of Coral Gables	ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability	Southeast Florida State Legislative Delegation
City of Florida City	Indian River Citrus League	Southeast Florida Utilities Council
City of Greenacres	Indian River County Chamber of Commerce	St. John's Water Management District
City of Hialeah	Indian River Economic Development Council	The Miami Foundation
City of Lauderhill	Latin Chamber (Broward County)	Treasure Coast Council of Governments
City of Miami Gardens	Marine Industries Association of South Florida	Treasure Coast Regional League of Cities
City of Miami Springs	Martin Soil and Water Conservation District	Tropical Audubon Society
City of North Miami	Miami-Dade Climate Change Advisory Task Force	United States Congressional Delegation for Southeast Florida
City of Pembroke Pines	Miami Dade College Earth Ethics Institute	United States Senator Bill Nelson - Florida
Clean Water Fund	Miami-Dade County Public Schools	United States Senator George Le Mieux
Cultural Council of Indian River County	Miami-Dade League of Cities	Urban Environmental League
Department of Children and Families, Circuit 17	Museum of Discovery and Science (Fort Lauderdale)	Urban Land Institute – National
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Economic Council of Palm Beach County	Northern Palm Beach Chamber of Commerce	Village of Islamorada
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Southeast Florida Regional Partnership



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