

## TREASURE COAST REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

### MEMORANDUM

To: Council Members

AGENDA ITEM 11

From: Staff

Date: December 13, 2013 Council Meeting

Subject: Seven50 Draft Report – Update by Marcela Cambolor-Cutsaimanis, Project Director

#### Introduction

The Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council, in association with the Southeast Florida Regional Partnership and the South Florida Regional Planning Council, continue work toward completion of the Seven50 Report. Marcela Cambolor-Cutsaimanis, Seven50 Project Director, will present an update of current status, next steps, proposed implementation of key regional issues and important events where Council members and the public are encouraged to participate.

#### Background

The draft Seven50 report was released on October 11, 2013. A series of meetings and presentations have been held to seek comments and input on the draft report. A joint meeting of the South Florida and Treasure Coast Regional Planning Councils with special participation by the Southeast Florida Regional Partnership to discuss the draft report was held on October 18, 2013. Also, a meeting of the Southeast Florida Partnership Executive Committee was held on November 1, 2013. A summary of selected comments from these meetings is attached.

Special presentations of the draft report included presentations to the Business Development Board of Palm Beach County, Broward Regional Business Alliance, Enterprise Florida, Miami-Dade and Broward Planning Directors, Miami-Dade, Broward, Palm Beach, Martin and St. Lucie counties, Urban Land Institute, the Haitian American Professional Coalition, Southeast Florida Transportation Council, and the South Florida Regional Transportation Authority, among many others. The highly anticipated draft report was generally well received by all parties except St. Lucie County. The St. Lucie County Board of County Commissioners voted to accept the data in the report, but terminate St. Lucie County's participation in the Sustainable Communities Initiative Memorandum of Understanding for the Southeast Florida Region.

Extensive input was provided by partner members, members of the general public, both regional planning council boards and the Partnership's Executive Committee. In addition to the comments received at the meetings and presentations noted above, input has also been received via direct mail, e-mail, and various social media outlets. A final report incorporating input as appropriate will be released in late December 2013.

Recommendation

For informational purposes only.

Attachment

## **Summary of Selected Comments on the Draft Report From the Joint Regional Planning Council and Executive Committee Meetings**

The draft Seven50 report was released on October 11, 2013. The joint meeting of the two Regional Planning Councils was held on October 18, 2013. Given the short time frame between the release of the draft and the joint regional planning council meeting, most members had not had a chance to review all 299 pages of the report. More in-depth input was received at the Executive Committee meeting held on November 1, 2013.

A summary of selected comments received include:

- The plan talks about preserving agriculture. However, the average wage for someone in agriculture is very low. So in one section the plan indicates we should preserve basically a low wage activity, but in another section the plan says to increase the wages in the region.
- The plan indicates we need to preserve unions. However, one of the biggest problems with Amtrak and things like that, is actually unions. The concern is that unions are causing an increase in the price of products and services.
- It is important that the local leaders understand better the advantages of a form-based code. Details on this were not provided in the report.
- St. Lucie County and the City of Port St. Lucie are not given enough emphasis in the report.
- Rail would be a burden in St. Lucie County without any stops for the next 20 years.
- The Port of Fort Pierce is completely ignored by this report.
- There is a lot of concern about the volunteer status of this report.
- The report should include greater emphasis on manufacturing in the region.
- It is an unfortunate cropping of information not to consider the lack of the property values that will result in the increase in density and commercial uses in the three northern counties.
- St. Lucie County is different from adjacent counties in that it has a large unemployed minority population, which provides a real opportunity to be part of the economic solutions in the area.
- The plan's design itself makes a strong statement about the importance of the arts.
- In its state today this is an amazing resource document.
- In the growing the economy section, more emphasis needs to be put on education.
- The report needs to be shorter, but there is more information that needs to be incorporated. This can be done in the online, full version. A short, stand-alone executive summary is necessary. An even shorter output method is necessary.
- The unique character and role of each county in this regional plan needs to be outlined more strongly.
- The story needs to be told more succinctly and in a more clear manner.

- More clarity is necessary as to what are the regional issues critical to a more prosperous future and who needs to implement them.
- There should be a section on flood insurance since this could have a higher impact on our region than the recent recession.
- Report is an inclusion of ideas. A look into the future. ... We must move forward on ideas that improve quality of life.
- The preferred vision will not happen unless we change the way transportation dollars are allocated and we figure out a way to pay for operating transportation costs. This needs to be made clear. The southern counties are done building roads. The northern counties will continue to build roads. A local operating subsidy is essential to premium transit. This will require new local revenue sources. It will have a cost. The region will have to pay that cost. It will not be federal or state funding.
- It is a wonderful document. Great document. Great work. Needs to talk about overcoming disparity in the region.
- Quoting General Patton, a good plan executed today is better than a perfect plan executed at some indefinite period in the future.
- Report should include more on the manufacturing base in urban counties.
- This is a magnificent piece of work. It is important to anyone who cares about the region.
- Report needs to outline short-term, mid and long-term actions.