

**MINUTES OF THE  
TREASURE COAST REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL  
SEPTEMBER 18, 2020**

Acting Chair Commissioner Townsend called the virtual meeting to order at 9:35 a.m. and welcomed everyone. She led the pledge of allegiance and requested roll call. Thomas Lanahan, Council's Executive Director, took roll and announced a quorum was present.

The following members and alternates were present:

Indian River County:	Commissioner O'Bryan Commissioner Adams Vice Mayor Moss Councilmember Renick Councilman Foley, Alternate
Martin County:	Commissioner Smith Commissioner Hetherington Commissioner Townsend
St. Lucie County:	Commissioner Townsend Commissioner Dzadovsky
Palm Beach County:	Commissioner Valeche Commissioner Weiss, Alternate Vice Mayor Weinroth, Alternate Commissioner Peduzzi, Alternate Vice Mayor Gottlieb, Alternate Vice Mayor Marino, Alternate Commissioner Bohlen, Alternate
Gubernatorial Appointees:	Douglas Bournique Mark Llano Reece Parrish Peter Sachs
Ex-Officios	Lois Bush, FDOT Kathy LaMartina, SFWMD Jason Andreotta, FDEP

**\* This meeting was conducted virtually through the GoToMeeting platform pursuant to Florida Governor's Executive Order 20-69, as extended, authorizing use of communications media technology to conduct meetings.**

Council Staff: Thomas J. Lanahan  
Kathryn Boer  
Phyllis Castro  
Kim DeLaney  
Liz Gulick  
Stephanie Heidt  
Sarah Kammel  
Jessica Seymour

Council Attorney: Keith Davis

### **Agenda Item 3: Agenda Approval**

Staff recommended Agenda Item 5, Palm Beach Gardens Comprehensive Plan Amendment No. 20-02ESR (Mobility Plan), be removed from the agenda because the 30-day statutory comment period for the proposed amendments had passed.

*Council Action: Vice Mayor Marino from the City of Palm Beach Gardens moved approval of the amended Agenda. Commissioner Adams from Indian River County seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.*

### **Agenda Item 4: Consent Agenda**

Items on the Consent were: 4B1, Financial Report – June 30, 2020; 4B2, Financial Report – July 31, 2020; 4B3, Minutes – July 17, 2020; 4B4, North Palm Beach Amendment No. 20-01ESR (Master Plan); 4B5, South Palm Beach Amendment No. 20-01ESR (Water Supply Plan); 4B6, St. Lucie County Amendment No. 20-01ESR (Water Supply Plan); 4B7, St. Lucie County Amendment No. 20-02ESR (TVC); 4B8, Intergovernmental Coordination and Review Log; and 4B9, Annual Update to the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Plan.

*Council Action: Vice Mayor Weinroth from Palm Beach County moved approval of the Consent Agenda. Vice Mayor Marino seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.*

Councilmember Bournique, Gubernatorial Appointee from Indian River County, asked when Council will resume in-person meetings. Mr. Lanahan indicated that in October there will be a joint meeting with the South Florida Regional Planning Council, which will be held virtually. There is no meeting scheduled for November, but Mr. Lanahan indicated that he will contact Indian River State College to determine if the regular meeting location is available for December and if it will be safe to hold an in-person meeting.

### **Agenda Item 6 – Presentation on Manufacturing in Florida – Kevin Carr, Chief Executive Officer of FloridaMakes**

Kevin Carr, Chief Executive Officer of FloridaMakes, provided an overview of manufacturing activities in the state. He noted that Ball State University recently released an industry health report that shows Florida falls short in comparison to other states in terms of wages paid to manufacturing

workers. He noted that pre-COVID the state was 12<sup>th</sup> in the nation in terms of manufacturing employment. There was a decline of manufacturing in April, but we began to see recovery in May and June. Mr. Carr noted that in March, prior to the Coronavirus Pandemic, to reach the Florida Chamber Foundation's goal of being 5<sup>th</sup> in the nation, there would need to be an increase of 214,071 jobs in the manufacturing sector.

Mr. Carr noted that over recent years manufacturing employment in Florida has been substantially growing, which he contributes to the space and electronics sectors. He noted that one measure of competitiveness in manufacturing is the value of the manufactured good per manufacturing employee in the state. On this measure, he noted that Florida ranks 30<sup>th</sup> in the nation. He stated this is a much more significant statistic, because if you have a lot of employees, and what you are producing does not have a high value, then you are not producing high-paying jobs. He stated that productivity can be improved using the current workforce through up-skilling employees and upgrading technology. He noted that FloridaMakes is part of a new national network called the Manufacturing Extension Partnership, which focuses on improving small and medium sized manufacturing, productivity, and technological performance.

Mr. Carr indicated he serves as the chair of a manufacturing and supply chain working group under the Restore Economic Strength through Employment and Tourism (RESET) task force, which is led by the Associated Industries of Florida. This group identified issues that have resulted from the Coronavirus Pandemic and put together a list of recommendations for the manufacturing and supply chain industry sectors. Issues identified included: Florida's manufacturing economy is weak and is highly dependent on importing its high-value manufactured goods; Florida's manufacturers proved to be a stabilizing element of the economy throughout the crisis; Florida's manufacturers proved to be highly resilient and agile throughout the crisis; Variation in local ordinances – essential business, safety protocols – were subject to varied interpretation; Florida's most expensive exports are empty containers; and Florida's government has an outdated and overall lack of appreciation for the essential role a strong manufacturing sector has in contributing to a resilient, secure, and thriving economy and in the standard of living of its citizenry. Recommendations are to: Establish a Manufacturing & Supply Chain Caucus in the Florida Legislature; Invest in training and jobs programs; Establish a Florida supplier tax credit initiative; Strengthen the resilience of Florida's manufacturing sector through advancements in research, technology, and education; and Strengthen economic development initiatives that promote the development, retention, and expansion of Florida's 21<sup>st</sup> century manufacturing economy.

Commissioner Weiss from Palm Beach County asked how much of the Florida manufacturing employment is south of Orlando. Mr. Carr indicated he did not immediately know the exact percentage but offered to send a county-by-county employment report. He noted that manufacturing employment is approximately 4% in the state, but in rural areas, where the economies are highly dependent on manufacturing, it can be as much as 16%.

Councilmember Bournique stated that in 1992 Congressman Tom Lewis was the center of attention because he galvanized the entire Florida delegation against the North American Free Trade Agreement. He said that he did a masterful job getting every Florida representative to oppose the agreement, because of its massive impact on Florida's companies: agricultural and manufacturing. He stated that he believes Council should oppose free trade agreements and encourage eating

locally grown foods and buying American. Mr. Carr stated that this is a subject that has competing opinions. He indicated that a lot of the small companies would agree with the local sentiment, however there are a lot of multi-national businesses that would not. Mr. Carr stated that one of the things that needs to be stressed, not only at the state but national level as well, is the importance of privately-owned small and medium sized American manufacturing companies. Vice Mayor Moss from the City of Vero Beach suggested this would be a good topic for the joint meeting in October. Mr. Lanahan noted that would be a good topic for the joint meeting and possibly a joint resolution. He stated that he is interested in the county-by-county report because it would be helpful to be able to do regional comparisons among the different regional planning council regions.

Councilmember Llano, Gubernatorial Appointee from Palm Beach County, asked if there is someone from the Small Business Administration or Procurement Technical Assistance Center (PTAC) represented on Council. He noted that he has worked with the government for 15 years through contracts as an aerospace and defense distributor. He stated he could recommend someone to speak to Council at a future meeting on the manufacturing opportunities in the state.

Mr. Lanahan thanked Mr. Carr for his presentation.

#### **Agenda Item 7 – Presentation on SEFTC 2045 Regional Transportation Plan – Kim DeLaney, Director of Strategic Development and Policy, TCRPC**

Kim DeLaney, Council’s Director of Strategic Development and Policy, provided a presentation on the Southeast Florida Transportation Council (SEFTC) 2045 Regional Transportation Plan, which was adopted in August. SEFTC is comprised of Palm Beach, Broward, and Miami-Dade transportation planning organizations to specifically address and coordinate regional transportation issues on behalf of the residents of this large and complex region. One of SEFTC’s most important responsibilities is developing and implementing a Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) in coordination with other regional and local plans. The Plan is updated every five years to adapt to population and other changes affecting the region and serves as a foundation for what are considered interlocking policies which are critical for effective and functional transportation systems. Dr. DeLaney noted that the four main policy areas of the plan that: support infrastructure as a long-term mobility objective; focus on complementary land uses; create flexibility for expending revenue resources; and identify the need for new revenue resources.

Dr. DeLaney noted that the role of the RTP’s technical committee and Council staff during the cost feasibility development stage was to ensure compatibility and consistency across the individual transportation planning agencies’ cost-feasible plans and model them to determine the collective system’s performance. She noted that investment decisions are embedded in the RTP, with the long-term investment focus being transit. She noted that there still needs to be expansion of the roadway network, but by diversifying the options that are available to the traveling public a much more balanced and functional system is created.

Mr. Lanahan noted that this plan has been in the works for quite a while, with the Broward Metropolitan Planning Organization being the lead agency in coordination with the Palm Beach Transportation Planning Agency (TPA) and Miami-Dade Transportation Planning Organization. He indicated that this will be brought back to a future Council meeting to consider the adoption of a

resolution of support for the policy recommendations contained in the plan. He stated coordinated planning by the multiple transportation planning agencies is a good idea because trips and mobility do not stop at the county lines and multi-agency collaboration allows for more efficient investments and better leveraging of resources.

Vice Mayor Marino noted that she is the Palm Beach TPA's representative on SEFTC. She indicated that it is very important to plan for the future of mobility corridors. She noted that Council staff was instrumental in planning the Transit Oriented Development site in the City of Palm Beach Gardens. She stated that one of the things that still needs to be done is changing the land use patterns around the location to be more urban. She said that if we want to more connected as a region, then we need to figure out a way to be more mobile and be near transit, which means making investments in transit, which not everyone is comfortable with at the moment. Mr. Lanahan agreed that one of the key elements in the plan is the emphasis of the connection between land use and transportation.

Commissioner Valeche from Palm Beach County noted that Tri-Rail is in the process of crafting a request for proposal to develop transit-oriented development around four of their stations. He stated he is curious to see if there will be interest from multiple developers, or if there will be one that would like to do the planning at all four locations. Dr. DeLaney noted that the identification of the four stations was part of the technical assistance that Council staff provides to Tri-Rail (SFRTA). She noted that the region has seen a lot of investment in residential, which means there is a chance to unlock some publicly owned lands and turn them into productive sites that are conveniently connected directly to high capacity transit.

### **Agenda Item 8: Announcements**

Mr. Lanahan noted that on October 16<sup>th</sup> there will be a virtual joint meeting with the South Florida Regional Planning Council. Items on the anticipated agenda will be focused on water issues (i.e. water supply, coral reefs, sewer conversions) and the connectedness of manufacturing across the seven-county region.

Commissioner Dzadovsky from St. Lucie County stated that he would like to have a presentation on Biosolids management. He stated that it is going to take every county in the state collectively focusing on how to manage our waste material, especially with the projected increase in population. He suggested that the presentation should focus on the technology that is being developed to address this issue.

Mr. Lanahan indicated that Council's financial position is good as we near the end of the fiscal year. He noted that for the coming year additional contracts have been secured since the adoption of that budget in July.

Mr. Lanahan indicated that contained in the Communication Package there is a construction update for the Brightline project. He noted that Dr. DeLaney has been providing technical assistance to affected communities related to Quiet Zones.

Mr. Lanahan announced that the American Planning Association Florida Chapter will be hosting a virtual training session for planning officials on Fridays throughout the month of October.

**Agenda Item 9: Chairman’s Comments**

None.

**Agenda Item 10: Council Member Update**

Commissioner O'Bryan from Indian River County stated that the Indian River County Board of Commissioners extended their mask ordinance for another two months. The ordinance requires masks be worn by employees of businesses that have contact with the public, any member of the public entering a county building or facility, and individuals using public transit. He noted the ordinance went into effect July 16<sup>th</sup> and since then, they have seen a reduction in COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations. He noted that in Sebastian there was a recall vote and three of the Councilmembers have been replaced.

Vice Mayor Moss stated that she has been elected to the Indian River Board of County Commissioners and will be sworn in on November 17<sup>th</sup>. She indicated she is looking forward to working with Commissioners O'Bryan and Adams.

Vice Mayor Marino stated that she will be moving from the City Council in Palm Beach Gardens to the Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners. She stated she hopes to be working with Council in the future in this new position.

**Agenda Item 11: Public Comment**

None.

**Agenda Item 12: Staff Comment**

None.

**Agenda Item 13: Adjournment**

Commissioner O’Bryan made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

There being no further business, Acting Chair Commissioner Townsend adjourned the virtual meeting at 11:07 a.m. This signature is to attest that the undersigned is the Secretary or a designated nominee of the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council, and that the information provided herein is the true and correct Minutes of the September 18, 2020 meeting of the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council.

---

Date

---

Signature