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**Transit Oriented Design Competition Deadline is April 8,
Web-based Entry Form now available**

FORT MYERS, FLORIDA (March 31, 2010) - The Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council (SWFRPC) reminds potential entrants in the Lee County Smart Growth Transit Oriented Development competition, announced in January 2010, that the deadline for entries is April 8, 2010. A new Web-based competition entry form enables applicants to answer a few questions as well as enter their contact information, which notifies the SWFRPC via email of the applicant's intent to submit a design entry.

Applicants should access the Web site http://www.swflregionalvision.com/entry_details.html for details.

The competition will compare various transit-oriented designs for a specific site in the City of Fort Myers near Terry Park with access to potential light rail service. The purpose is to solicit creative ideas and provide information about better alternatives for the physical form of our community.

Transit-oriented developments are typically defined as higher density, mixed-use developments within walking distance – up to a half-mile – of existing or future transit stations. Transit-oriented design is about creating attractive, walkable, sustainable communities with energy-efficient housing and transportation choices that reduce reliance on car trips and increase social interactions among residents.

Competitors will submit three items: 1) a generalized site plan showing streets, blocks, and buildings, 2) a simple illustration showing the arrangement of buildings, and 3) a short narrative that describes the most important attributes of this proposal's response to the factors listed on the competition Website along with the submittal format requirements.

The competition is sponsored by Lee County in cooperation with the City of Fort Myers, Reconnecting Lee County, Florida Gulf Coast University's Center for Public and Social Policy and the Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council. Additional sponsors include Wilbur Smith Associates, Henderson-Franklin, and Morris-Depew Associates.

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