

1406 SW 8th Pl, Cape Coral, FL 33991-2910

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COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA

February 20, 2025

10:00am – 12:00pm

In Person and Virtual Meeting

LOCATION: FDOT SunGuide SWIFT Center 10041 Daniels Parkway, Fort Myers, FL 33913

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/91588729954?pwd=OVerTVNQVpRZjQrY1Jab1dpMDBPUT09>

Join by phone: 1-929-205-6099

Meeting ID: 915 8872 9954

Passcode: 082520

Mission Statement:

To work together across neighboring communities to consistently protect and improve the unique and relatively unspoiled character of the physical, economic and social worlds we share...for the benefit of our future generations.

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NEXT SWFRPC MEETING: March 20, 2025

Two or more members of the Peace River Basin Management Advisory Committee and Coastal Heartland National Estuary Partnership may be in attendance and may discuss matters that could come before the Peace River Basin Management Advisory Committee and Coastal Heartland National Estuary Partnership, respectively, for consideration.

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), any person requiring special accommodations to participate in this meeting should contact the Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council 48 hours prior to the meeting by calling (844) 988-8244; if you are hearing or speech impaired call (800) 955-8770 Voice/(800) 955-8771 TDD.

SOUTHWEST FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

OFFICERS

Commissioner Bill McDaniel, Chair	Councilman Fred Burson, Vice-Chair
Councilwoman Debbi Lux, Secretary	Councilman Ron Smith, Treasurer

CHARLOTTE COUNTY

COLLIER COUNTY

Commissioner Joe Tiseo, Charlotte BCC	Commissioner Bill McDaniel, Collier BCC
Commissioner Ken Doherty, Charlotte BCC	Commissioner Rick LoCastro, Collier BCC
Councilwoman Dr. Deborah Lux, City of Punta Gorda	Councilman Bill Kramer, City of Naples
Mr. Donald McCormick, Governor Appointee (Governor Appointee Vacancy)	(City of Marco Island Vacancy) (Governor Appointee Vacancy) (Governor Appointee Vacancy)

GLADES COUNTY

HENDRY COUNTY

TBD, Glades BCC	Commissioner Emma Byrd, Hendry BCC
Commissioner Tim Stanley, Glades BCC (City of Moore Haven Vacancy) (Governor Appointee Vacancy)	(Hendry County BCC Vacancy) Vice-Mayor Michael Atkinson, City of Clewiston (City of LaBelle Vacancy) (Governor Appointee Vacancy)

LEE COUNTY

SARASOTA COUNTY

Commissioner Kevin Ruane, Lee BCC	Commissioner Ron Cutsinger, Sarasota BCC
Commissioner Brian Hamman, Lee BCC	(Sarasota BCC Vacancy)
Councilman Fred Burson, City of Fort Myers	Mayor Erik Arroyo, City of Sarasota
Mayor Dan Allers, Town of Fort Myers Beach	Councilman Ron Smith, City of Venice
Councilman Jesse Purdon, City of Bonita Springs (Governor Appointee Vacancy) (Governor Appointee Vacancy)	(Governor Appointee Vacancy) (Governor Appointee Vacancy)

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

(Vacant), FDEP	Keith Robbins, FDOT
Phil Flood, SFWMD	(Vacant) SWFWMD

STAFF

Margaret Wuerstle, Executive Director
Rebekah Harp, Deputy Director/Business Operations Manager
Asmaa Odeh, LEPC Coordinator/VISTA Program Coordinator
Jim Burch, Disaster Recovery Coordinator/Project Manager
Catherine Peralta - Vista
Julie Bankston – Vista
Sophia Mercer – Vista
Alysia Cancel - Vista



Apalachee • Central Florida
 East Central Florida • North Central Florida
 Northeast Florida • South Florida • Southwest Florida
 Tampa Bay • Treasure Coast • West Florida • Withlacoochee

104 West Jefferson Street, Tallahassee, FL 32301-1713 • 850.224.3427

Regional Planning Council Functions and Programs

March 4, 2011

- **Economic Development Districts:** Regional planning councils are designated as Economic Development Districts by the U. S. Economic Development Administration. From January 2003 to August 2010, the U. S. Economic Development Administration invested \$66 million in 60 projects in the State of Florida to create/retain 13,700 jobs and leverage \$1 billion in private capital investment. Regional planning councils provide technical support to businesses and economic developers to promote regional job creation strategies.
- **Emergency Preparedness and Statewide Regional Evacuation:** Regional planning councils have special expertise in emergency planning and were the first in the nation to prepare a Statewide Regional Evacuation Study using a uniform report format and transportation evacuation modeling program. Regional planning councils have been preparing regional evacuation plans since 1981. Products in addition to evacuation studies include Post Disaster Redevelopment Plans, Hazard Mitigation Plans, Continuity of Operations Plans and Business Disaster Planning Kits.
- **Local Emergency Planning:** Local Emergency Planning Committees are staffed by regional planning councils and provide a direct relationship between the State and local businesses. Regional planning councils provide thousands of hours of training to local first responders annually. Local businesses have developed a trusted working relationship with regional planning council staff.
- **Homeland Security:** Regional planning council staff is a source of low cost, high quality planning and training experts that support counties and State agencies when developing a training course or exercise. Regional planning councils provide cost effective training to first responders, both public and private, in the areas of Hazardous Materials, Hazardous Waste, Incident Command, Disaster Response, Pre- and Post-Disaster Planning, Continuity of Operations and Governance. Several regional planning councils house Regional Domestic Security Task Force planners.
- **Multipurpose Regional Organizations:** Regional planning councils are Florida's only multipurpose regional entities that plan for and coordinate intergovernmental solutions on multi-jurisdictional issues, support regional economic development and provide assistance to local governments.
- **Problem Solving Forum:** Issues of major importance are often the subject of regional planning council-sponsored workshops. Regional planning councils have convened regional summits and workshops on issues such as workforce housing, response to hurricanes, visioning and job creation.
- **Implementation of Community Planning:** Regional planning councils develop and maintain Strategic Regional Policy Plans to guide growth and development focusing on economic development, emergency preparedness, transportation, affordable housing and resources of regional significance. In addition, regional planning councils provide coordination and review of various programs such as Local Government Comprehensive Plans, Developments of Regional Impact and Power Plant Ten-year Siting Plans. Regional planning council reviewers have the local knowledge to conduct reviews efficiently and provide State agencies reliable local insight.

- **Local Government Assistance:** Regional planning councils are also a significant source of cost effective, high quality planning experts for communities, providing technical assistance in areas such as: grant writing, mapping, community planning, plan review, procurement, dispute resolution, economic development, marketing, statistical analysis, and information technology. Several regional planning councils provide staff for transportation planning organizations, natural resource planning and emergency preparedness planning.
- **Return on Investment:** Every dollar invested by the State through annual appropriation in regional planning councils generates 11 dollars in local, federal and private direct investment to meet regional needs.
- **Quality Communities Generate Economic Development:** Businesses and individuals choose locations based on the quality of life they offer. Regional planning councils help regions compete nationally and globally for investment and skilled personnel.
- **Multidisciplinary Viewpoint:** Regional planning councils provide a comprehensive, multidisciplinary view of issues and a forum to address regional issues cooperatively. Potential impacts on the community from development activities are vetted to achieve win-win solutions as council members represent business, government and citizen interests.
- **Coordinators and Conveners:** Regional planning councils provide a forum for regional collaboration to solve problems and reduce costly inter-jurisdictional disputes.
- **Federal Consistency Review:** Regional planning councils provide required Federal Consistency Review, ensuring access to hundreds of millions of federal infrastructure and economic development investment dollars annually.
- **Economies of Scale:** Regional planning councils provide a cost-effective source of technical assistance to local governments, small businesses and non-profits.
- **Regional Approach:** Cost savings are realized in transportation, land use and infrastructure when addressed regionally. A regional approach promotes vibrant economies while reducing unproductive competition among local communities.
- **Sustainable Communities:** Federal funding is targeted to regions that can demonstrate they have a strong framework for regional cooperation.
- **Economic Data and Analysis:** Regional planning councils are equipped with state of the art econometric software and have the ability to provide objective economic analysis on policy and investment decisions.
- **Small Quantity Hazardous Waste Generators:** The Small Quantity Generator program ensures the proper handling and disposal of hazardous waste generated at the county level. Often smaller counties cannot afford to maintain a program without imposing large fees on local businesses. Many counties have lowered or eliminated fees, because regional planning council programs realize economies of scale, provide businesses a local contact regarding compliance questions and assistance and provide training and information regarding management of hazardous waste.
- **Regional Visioning and Strategic Planning:** Regional planning councils are conveners of regional visions that link economic development, infrastructure, environment, land use and transportation into long term investment plans. Strategic planning for communities and organizations defines actions critical to successful change and resource investments.
- **Geographic Information Systems and Data Clearinghouse:** Regional planning councils are leaders in geographic information systems mapping and data support systems. Many local governments rely on regional planning councils for these services.

SOUTHWEST FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL (SWFRPC) ACRONYMS

ABM - Agency for Bay Management - Estero Bay Agency on Bay Management

ADA - Application for Development Approval

ADA - Americans with Disabilities Act

AMDA -Application for Master Development Approval

BEBR - Bureau of Economic Business and Research at the University of Florida

BLID - Binding Letter of DRI Status

BLIM - Binding Letter of Modification to a DRI with Vested Rights

BLIVR -Binding Letter of Vested Rights Status

BPCC -Bicycle/Pedestrian Coordinating Committee

CAC - Citizens Advisory Committee

CAO - City/County Administrator Officers

CDBG - Community Development Block Grant

CDC - Certified Development Corporation (a.k.a. RDC)

CEDS - Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (a.k.a. OEDP)

CHNEP - Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program

CTC - Community Transportation Coordinator

CTD - Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged

CUTR - Center for Urban Transportation Research

DEO - Department of Economic Opportunity

DEP - Department of Environmental Protection

DO - Development Order

DOPA - Designated Official Planning Agency (i.e. MPO, RPC, County, etc.)

EDA - Economic Development Administration

EDC - Economic Development Coalition

EDD - Economic Development District

EPA – Environmental Protection Agency

FAC - Florida Association of Counties

FACTS - Florida Association of CTCs

FAR - Florida Administrative Register (formerly Florida Administrative Weekly)

FCTS - Florida Coordinated Transportation System

FDC&F -Florida Department of Children and Families (a.k.a. HRS)

FDEA - Florida Department of Elder Affairs

FDLES - Florida Department of Labor and Employment Security

FDOT - Florida Department of Transportation

FHREDI - Florida Heartland Rural Economic Development Initiative

FIAM – Fiscal Impact Analysis Model

FLC - Florida League of Cities

FQD - Florida Quality Development

FRCA -Florida Regional Planning Councils Association

FTA - Florida Transit Association

IC&R - Intergovernmental Coordination and Review

IFAS - Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences at the University of Florida

JLCB - Joint Local Coordinating Boards of Glades & Hendry Counties

JPA - Joint Participation Agreement

JSA - Joint Service Area of Glades & Hendry Counties

LCB - Local Coordinating Board for the Transportation Disadvantaged

LEPC - Local Emergency Planning Committee

MOA - Memorandum of Agreement

MPO - Metropolitan Planning Organization

MPOAC - Metropolitan Planning Organization Advisory Council

MPOCAC - Metropolitan Planning Organization Citizens Advisory Committee

MPOTAC - Metropolitan Planning Organization Technical Advisory Committee

NADO – National Association of Development Organizations

NARC -National Association of Regional Councils

NOPC -Notice of Proposed Change

OEDP - Overall Economic Development Program

PDA - Preliminary Development Agreement

REMI – Regional Economic Modeling Incorporated

RFB - Request for Bids

RFI – Request for Invitation

RFP - Request for Proposals

RPC - Regional Planning Council

SHIP -State Housing Initiatives Partnership

SRPP – Strategic Regional Policy Plan

TAC - Technical Advisory Committee

TDC - Transportation Disadvantaged Commission (a.k.a. CTD)

TDPN - Transportation Disadvantaged Planners Network

TDSP - Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan

USDA - US Department of Agriculture

WMD - Water Management District (SFWMD and SWFWMD)

_____ Agenda
_____ Item

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Minutes

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Agenda

Item

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Minutes of the December 19, 2024
Council/Executive Committee
Meeting

6a

**MINUTES OF THE
SOUTHWEST FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL
December 19, 2024, MEETING**

The virtual zoom meeting of the Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council’s Executive Board was held on December 19, 2024. Collier County Commissioner and Council Chair, Mr. Bill McDaniel called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m. There was a quorum of the Executive Committee present.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Charlotte County: Mr. Don McCormick (zoom)

Collier County: Commissioner Bill McDaniel
Councilman Bill Kramer - City of Naples (zoom)

Glades County: None

Hendry County: Commissioner Michael Atkinson

Lee County: None

Sarasota County: Councilman Ron Smith – City of Venice

Ex-Officio Members: None

OTHERS PRESENT

Ms. Margaret Wuerstle - Executive Director, SWFRPC
Ms. Catherine Peralta – SWFRPC Vista

Commissioner Bill McDaniel offered a motion to allow online members to participate and vote. Councilman Ron Smith seconded the motion to allow online members to participate and vote. The motion was approved unanimously.

AGENDA

AGENDA ITEM #6(a)(b) MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 19, 2024, COUNCIL/EXECUTIVE MEETING MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 17, 2024, COUNCIL/EXECUTIVE MEETING

Councilman Ron Smith offered a motion to accept the September 19, 2024, meeting minutes and the October 17, 2024, meeting minutes. Commissioner Bill McDaniel seconded the motion to accept the September 19, 2024, meeting minutes and the October 17, 2024, meeting minutes. The motion was approved unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM #7(a)(b) FINANCIALS: October Financials Draft Comparison of Assessments (Current vs. Proposed)

Ms. Wuerstle explained that this is the first month of the fiscal year, and as of now, the organization is operating with a net income of slightly over \$10,000. She shared good news that they have secured an additional grant of \$282,000 for resiliency efforts. All the RPCs are participating in this project through FRCA, with each receiving \$7,000 to assist FRCA in compiling the necessary information. However, SWFRPC will also receive an additional \$175,000 on top of the \$7,000. This funding will significantly improve the organization's financial position for the year. Although the contract has not yet been finalized, it is expected to be in place by next week.

Commissioner McDaniel asked what the resiliency was for.

Ms. Wuerstle responded that what they want us to do for this Regional Resiliency Project is to collect all the resiliency plans from our region and compare them to see if and where there are any gaps. Then collaborate with surrounding municipalities and counties to ensure that we are going to be stronger in future storms. That is what the state is asking us to do.

Commissioner McDaniel asked if it is a collection of studies that have already been conducted or is it to help those that don't have them.

Ms. Wuerstle responded that it is for those that do not have them also. First, we collect and find out who has them and who doesn't have them, see if there's gaps, then help our communities prepare a plan if they don't have one.

Ms. Wuerstle responded by explaining that only one issue popped out on the financials, which was the advertising budget that shows almost \$15,000 and we only had budgeted \$1,600. However, those were the TV ads that were run through a grant for marketing the SWFL Fresh brand. In your next financial packet that will be addressed because the grant will have paid for the advertising and we will be reimbursed for that money.

Ms. Wuerstle explained that the new MOU, once it is adopted by everyone, reduces the assessments from \$.30 to \$.15.

Commissioner McDaniel requested that the revenues be segregated as only the six member counties of the RPC are obligated to pay. The updated MOU and bylaws aim to reduce the fee from \$0.30 per diem to \$0.15 and limit the number of seats per county, with the goal of reengaging the counties in the first quarter. Once the two commissioners and municipalities from each county participate, additional municipalities can be invited.

Commissioner McDaniel continued to explain that once the municipalities are invited back as a paying member, then the county's amount per diem will be reduced based on the city's contributions.

Ms. Wuerstle explained that this is already being done. The county's quarterly assessment is reduced by the city's contribution.

Commissioner Atkinson requested a copy of the new MOU and Bylaws.

Commissioner McDaniel continued to reiterate that he would like to be on each of the county agendas in the first quarter.

Ms. Wuerstle explained that it is her understanding that before we can go to the new rate of \$.15 or any changes in the new MOU and Bylaws, we need all of the counties to sign off on it. Ms. Wuerstle stated that we could use the council's help with a legal opinion in determining if this is accurate. Ms. Wuerstle continued asking for clarification and stated, since Collier County adopted the MOU, but for example, Hendry County does not, do we operate under two different MOUs and are we billing two different amounts?

Commissioner McDaniel responded that whoever pays gets to vote and who doesn't pay doesn't get to vote. Commissioner McDaniel explains to Commissioner Atkinson counties yet to adopt will remain under the existing fee structure (\$0.30) and MOU and that we do not need a legal opinion for what is already in place. Commissioner McDaniels' goal is to achieve full adoption of the new MOU and revitalize membership by the first quarter of 2025. He plans to meet with counties the counties, especially Sarasota, Lee and Charlotte first to present the new bylaws, explain benefits, and encourage participation.

Ms. Wuerstle asked if Collier County should be billed for the \$.15 now that they have adopted the new MOU and Bylaws?

Commissioner McDaniel stated that the SWFRPC should proceed with billing the \$.30 rate. However, Collier County has adopted a new fee structure of \$.15 and will only pay that amount, potentially resulting in a deficit. The current MOU specifies a rate of \$.30 per diem, while the new MOU, once adopted, will establish a rate of \$.15 per diem. Include this as a note on the billing, and if any questions arise, provide the updated Bylaws and MOU reflecting the \$.15 rate.

Councilman Ron Smith offered a motion to accept the October financials. Commissioner Bill McDaniel seconded the motion to accept the October financials. The motion was accepted unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM #8
CONSENT AGENDA: None**

**AGENDA ITEM #9
DIRECTORS REPORT**

Ms. Wuerstle reported that only four of the directors' evaluations have been received so far. She mentioned that several notices have been sent out and assured that reminders will continue to be sent. Ms. Wuerstle added that she believes the council intended to review this item at the next meeting in January, to which Commissioner McDaniel concurred.

Ms. Wuerstle reported that the packet includes a resolution regarding the US 27 rail. Both the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council and the South Florida Regional Planning Council have adopted this resolution, urging the Department of Transportation to conduct the necessary engineering studies to advance the interior rail project. She emphasized the importance of this initiative, noting that it aligns with years of work on the inland port, particularly in Hendry County, and would significantly benefit that project. Ms. Wuerstle added that they have requested our consideration in adopting this resolution.

Commissioner McDaniel inquired whether the resolution needs to be adopted today. Ms. Wuerstle responded that it could be addressed at the January meeting. Commissioner McDaniel requested that it be brought forward at that time.

Councilman Ron Smith asked if someone could provide a presentation to us at that time. Ms. Wuerstle replied that she would request the Executive Director of the Treasure Coast RPC to present and asked if it would be acceptable to present via Zoom? The council members agreed.

Ms. Wuerstle noted that a few significant developments occurred after the agenda was finalized and are not included. She shared that representatives from the Netherlands have expressed interest in collaborating with us. They have allocated funding in their budget to send engineers or other specialists to work with us. However, they have requested that we hold a virtual meeting after the first of the year to discuss the impacts of recent hurricanes, our recovery efforts, and the remaining needs. This will help them better understand our situation and determine who to send.

Ms. Wuerstle also mentioned that the Tampa Bay RPC has expressed interest in hosting the Netherlands team in their region as well. She has reached out to them, and both RPCs will coordinate a virtual meeting to present to the representatives from the Netherlands. Ms. Wuerstle emphasized the importance of including individuals from this region, particularly members of the board, in the meeting. She inquired if there is a preferred time for the meeting, suggesting it take place around the end of January or the beginning of February. Ms. Wuerstle also asked whether the members would prefer to schedule it during one of the regular meetings or hold it as a separate meeting.

Councilman Smith replied that he would prefer the meeting to be held during a regularly scheduled meeting, as the members would already be available since they have that date reserved on their calendars.

Commissioner McDaniel suggested postponing this initiative until March, noting that the legislative session is starting early this year. He explained that he, along with many others, will be traveling to Tallahassee during this time. Commissioner McDaniel also notes that he is ok with a virtual meeting anytime, not just during a regularly scheduled meeting. At that time, we will invite all of our members, those that are voting, paying, and non-paying—to participate and proceed from there.

Ms. Wuerstle asked Commissioner Atkinson if he had a preference for a date of the virtual meeting, during a regular meeting or anytime? Commissioner Atkinson stated that anytime would work. Ms. Wuerstle asked Mr. McCormick, and he stated he is good with whatever is decided.

Ms. Wuerstle shared additional news, stating that EDA, FEMA, USDA, and HUD will be holding listening sessions again to assess the impacts, recovery efforts, and outstanding needs related to Hurricanes Helene and Milton. Similar sessions were previously held for Hurricane Ian. During a meeting with EDA, it was mentioned that \$1.5 billion in funding is expected to be allocated for hurricane recovery efforts. However, it's unclear whether this funding is intended for the entire East Coast, only for Florida, or something else. Ms. Wuerstle noted uncertainty about whether the funding will even be approved, given recent news developments. The agencies plan to hold these sessions at all RPCs impacted by the hurricanes, and the tentative timeline for our region is the last two weeks of February.

Ms. Wuerstle explained that during the previous sessions, attendees were provided with forms to detail specific projects requesting funding, such as infrastructure or other recovery needs. These completed forms were submitted at the end of the workshop, and while not all projects were funded after Hurricane Ian, several were.

To maximize this opportunity, Ms. Wuerstle emphasized the importance of reaching out to communities to identify their specific hurricane-related impacts and projects. These projects need to be documented on the forms and submitted during the sessions to increase the likelihood of receiving funding, if the supplemental is approved.

Commissioner McDaniel stated that the SWFRPC is taking the lead and asked whether, aside from the availability of funding, there is a list outlining the types of projects that will be eligible for funding.

Ms. Wuerstle explained that until the NOFA (Notice of Funding Availability) is released, the specific regulations and guidelines will remain unclear. However, she noted that each federal agency typically focuses on different priorities. For example, EDA tends to fund economic development projects and small business initiatives, while FEMA has a completely different focus. After Hurricane Ian, HUD funded a food insecurity project to the SWFRPC. She added that the listening sessions would be an excellent opportunity to ask the agencies about their priorities and the types of projects they are targeting, as they often have preferred project categories, even if not explicitly stated.

Commissioner McDaniel responded that there's no point in reaching out to everyone until it's confirmed whether the funding will be made available. Once that determination is made, outreach can be conducted with members and the relevant agencies to seek specific allowances for expenditures. This would help ensure, for example, that Hendry County isn't submitting a request for a road that wasn't impacted or something similar.

Ms. Wuerstle responded affirmatively, explaining that they need to find a facility with Zoom capabilities and the ability to accommodate refreshments, such as coffee, donuts in the morning, and lunch in the afternoon. Not all venues allow this. She mentioned that they are currently considering the Charlotte Harbor Event Center and the regional library in Fort Myers, both of which have excellent facilities.

Commissioner McDaniel asked how many attendees are expected. Ms. Wuerstle estimated 60 to 80, noting that this location would be a bit too small for that number.

Commissioner McDaniel mentioned the FDOT facility, which had been suggested as a potential venue for relocating future RPC meetings near I-75. However, he noted that its security requirements and capacity of around 40 would make it unsuitable for this particular event. While he didn't receive a definitive "no" when discussing the facility, he is still working on the possibility of relocating RPC meetings there in the future.

Ms. Wuerstle explained that they will keep everyone updated on the progress, including the date to be set. She noted that they have already started compiling a list of individuals who need to be contacted and involved in these meetings, and that it would be ideal to have elected officials in attendance.

Commissioner McDaniel asked if there was any idea of when the meetings would take place. Ms. Wuerstle responded that they are looking at the last two weeks of February. She added that dates were offered in both January and February, but more time is needed to secure a venue—preferably one that can be donated—reach out to the necessary participants, ensure forms are completed, and coordinate attendance. Therefore, the last two weeks of February seem most likely.

Ms. Wuerstle explained that the meeting will be held in person with a Zoom option available. She also noted that the Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program has requested two separate meetings—one for their Policy Board and another for their management meeting—and EDA has already agreed to those. However, she emphasized that there are distinct issues in this region that necessitate a separate meeting specifically for addressing local concerns.

Ms. Wuerstle stated that she believes Charlotte Harbor’s meeting is scheduled for January 23rd. She added that once she has more details, she will send out notices. She noted that it’s a positive step to have their attention and, hopefully, the supplemental funding will be approved.

AGENDA ITEM #9(a)(b)
Executive Director’s Evaluation
Executive Directors Compensation Matrix (Informational)

Will be discussed during January’s meeting.

AGENDA ITEM #9(c)
Resolution #24-01 US 27 Rail

Tabled until next meeting.

AGENDA ITEM #9(d)
Proposed 2025 Meeting Schedule

Ms. Wuerstle reported that the only other item in the packet is the meeting schedule for next year. All meetings are set for the 3rd Thursday of each month, however if there are any conflicts, please let her know.

AGENDA ITEM #9(e)
FRCA Monthly Activity Report – October 2024 (Informational)

AGENDA ITEM #9(f)
Government Fund History (Informational)

Commissioner McDaniel asked about the government fund history item and Ms. Wuerstle responded that it was requested to include as an agenda item each month.

AGENDA ITEM #10
COMMITTEE REPORTS

There were no Committee Reports.

AGENDA ITEM #10(a)
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

There was no update given.

AGENDA ITEM #11
NEW BUSINESS

Councilman Smith inquired about a member who had recently passed away. It was confirmed that Mr. Mel Karau was the council member who had recently passed. The board discussed whether it would be appropriate to send flowers or another form of acknowledgment.

Commissioner McDaniel suggested that the SWFRPC send a signed letter honoring Mr. Karau's service, along with condolences, and make a \$50 donation to the charity specified in his announcement.

Commissioner Atkinson confirmed that Mr. Karau's service will take place in LaBelle on December 28th.

Councilman Ron Smith offered a motion to send a \$50 donation, letter and acknowledgment in memory of Council member Mr. Mel Karau. Commissioner Bill McDaniel seconded the motion to send a \$50 donation, letter and acknowledgment in memory of Council member Mr. Mel Karau. The motion was accepted unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM #12
STATE AGENCIES COMMENTS/REPORTS

None.

**AGENDA ITEM #13
COUNCIL MEMBERS' COMMENTS**

Mr. Don McCormick reminded the board that he has been serving as the RPC representative for the CHNEP Coastal & Heartland National Estuary Partnership for approximately 12 years. He expressed that it is time to appoint a new representative and requested that it be added to the agenda for discussion at next month's meeting. Ms. Wuerstle confirmed that it has been noted for next month.

Councilman Smith shared that Venice has hired a coastal engineering firm to study potential improvements to mitigate flooding from stormwater. He noted that flooding in the Venice area was severe after the last two storms. During their initial presentation to the public, the firm mentioned they would be consulting with experts from the Netherlands, which he found interesting. The firm is now working on the project, which is expected to take six months, and Councilman Smith expressed his eagerness to review the data once it becomes available. He also assured that he would keep them informed.

Ms. Wuerstle asked if he would like her to reach out to them to involve them in the webinar. Councilman Smith agreed and would greatly appreciate it.

**AGENDA ITEM #14
ADJOURN**

The meeting adjourned at 10:41 a.m.

Councilwoman Debi Lux, Secretary

The meeting was duly advertised in the December 6, 2024, issue of the FLORIDA ADMINISTRATIVE REGISTER, Volume 50, Number 237.

Agenda

Item

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Minutes of the January 16, 2025
Council/Executive Committee
Meeting

6b

**MINUTES OF THE
SOUTHWEST FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL
JANUARY 16, 2025, MEETING**

The virtual zoom meeting of the Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council’s Executive Board was held on January 16, 2025. Collier County Commissioner and Council Chair, Mr. Bill McDaniel called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. There was a quorum of the Executive Committee present.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Charlotte County: Mr. Don McCormick (zoom)

Collier County: Commissioner Bill McDaniel

Glades County: Commissioner Tim Stanley

Hendry County: None

Lee County: Councilman Fred Burson – City of Fort Myers

Sarasota County: Councilman Ron Smith – City of Venice

Ex-Officio Members: None

OTHERS PRESENT

Derek Felder – President of the Unite Lehigh, Inc.
Tom Lanahan – Executive Director, TCRPC
Ms. Margaret Wuerstle - Executive Director, SWFRPC
Ms. Rebekah Harp – Deputy Director/Business Operations Manager, SWFRPC
Ms. Catherine Peralta – SWFRPC Vista
Ms. Asmaa Odeh – Project Director, SWFRPC (zoom)
Mr. Jim Burch - Disaster Recovery Coordinator/Project Manager, SWFRPC

Commissioner Bill McDaniel offered a motion to allow online members to participate and vote. Councilman Ron Smith seconded the motion to allow online members to participate and vote. The motion was approved unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Derek Felder introduced himself as the President of Unite Lehigh, Inc. He explained that they are working toward incorporating Lehigh Acres, which requires the completion of a feasibility study. He inquired if this is something the RPC could assist with. Additionally, the Southwest Florida Business Alliance is working on an Urban 3 study that analyzes revenue streams for various areas within Lee County, as well as land zoning information for Lee County.

Commissioner McDaniel stated that he would like to ensure Mr. Felder has his contact information. He mentioned that Collier County has gathered some relevant data and offered to share whatever information they have. Collier County has engaged a company called Metro Forecasting Models to develop a tool known as the Collier Interactive Growth Model (CIGN).

Commissioner McDaniel described CIGN as an impressive planning tool that uses data-driven population estimates to assist staff in making zoning and growth decisions. He emphasized the importance of accurate population estimates, explaining that plans based on incorrect data—whether for wildlife populations or human populations—are bound to fail. He noted that the growth model evaluates factors such as infrastructure, services, employment, entertainment, and traffic impacts to ensure sustainable planning across the county. He recommended reaching out to David Farmer for more information about the growth model and promised to share his contact details. Commissioner McDaniel thanked Mr. Felder for attending the meeting and encouraged him to submit a formal request outlining how the council could assist with his efforts. He assured Mr. Felder that the council would place the request on the agenda for further discussion to determine how they might support his initiative.

AGENDA

AGENDA ITEM #6(a)

MINUTES: None

Commissioner McDaniel asked, "Why don't we have any minutes?"

Ms. Wuerstle explained, "Because they were quite lengthy, we want to ensure they are done correctly. With the holidays and everything else happening, we weren't able to complete them in time. However, they will be included in the next agenda."

AGENDA ITEM #7(a)
FINANCIALS: November Financials

Ms. Wuerstle explained that the financials were typical for this time of year. Currently, there is an unaudited negative net income of approximately \$32,000, but as reimbursements from grants are collected, those numbers will fluctuate throughout the year. Since November is only the second month of the first quarter, everything is on track. She added, "This is very typical for this time of year. She asked Rebekah if there was anything she missed or need to address. Rebekah confirmed there was nothing further to note. Ms. Wuerstle emphasized that nothing alarming stood out, and while there is a deficit, it is normal for this point in the fiscal year. She also mentioned there is still some additional income expected to come in.

Commissioner McDaniel asked if the organization is still on track for the projected 16 to 18-month lifespan, considering the burn rate of current expenditures compared to revenues. He noted that there were fluctuations last year and inquired if the timeline remains accurate.

Ms. Wuerstle confirmed that we are still on track to make it through this fiscal year.

Commissioner McDaniel then asked when the fiscal year begins and ends.

Ms. Wuerstle explained that the fiscal year begins on October 1st and ends on September 30th. We're on track to get through this year. However, the city of Fort Myers has notified us that they will no longer pay their dues, which is a setback. Fortunately, we received an unexpected grant from DEP that will not only offset this loss but also provide a bit of additional funding.

Commissioner McDaniel explained, "So we're still on track financially to make it through to the end of the fiscal year in September, which aligns with what we've discussed previously. I've also been making progress in my communications with our colleagues. I've scheduled meetings for next week, February, and beyond, as we continue to work on the reorganizational aspects of our efforts."

Ms. Wuerstle asked if there was anything she could provide, such as the PowerPoint presentation used for Venice and other communities, and whether that would be helpful.

Commissioner McDaniel responded, "When I'm ready, yes. I'll review what you have and tailor it to fit what I'm looking to present. I'll reach out when the time comes. For now, I've been distributing the draft MOU, draft bylaws, and other documents that have already been accepted by Collier County and the City of Naples. I'm sharing those with the commissioners to keep things moving forward."

Councilman Smith requested clarification regarding page 24 of the Government Fund Activity, noting that it lists all years except for 2024. He asked if the information had been cut off.

Ms. Harp explained that the report comes from the accountant who conducts the annual audit. She clarified that 2024 is not included yet, but once the current audit is completed, it will be added.

Ms. Wuerstle inquired about the audit's timeline, asking when it was scheduled.

Ms. Harp replied that the process has already started, with the auditor requesting preliminary information.

Councilman Smith recalled that at the last meeting, they had discussed some unofficial numbers for 2024 but noted that final figures should not be included until they are audited and approved. Ms. Harp confirmed that only figures that are audited are included.

Commissioner Bill McDaniel offered a motion to accept the November Financials. Councilman Ron Smith seconded the motion to accept the November Financials. The motion was approved unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM #7(b)

FINANCIALS:

Draft Comparison of Assessments (Current vs. Proposed) (*Informational*)

Ms. Wuerstle explained that the draft comparison of assessments item is informational. It was requested to be included on the agenda each month.

Commissioner McDaniel clarified that the designation of assets outlined is essentially the per capita fee and the proposed assessments, which represent the revenue streams we'll be relying on if the counties participate. The only adjustment he suggested would be to reflect how this new organization will operate. It will include only the six counties: Sarasota, Lee, Hendry, Glades, Collier, and Charlotte. These counties will be the primary responsible entities. Then it could be refined further to focus solely on those six counties, then designate the individual cities within them. Eventually, municipalities within these counties can opt to participate and pay their fees if they choose. But our primary revenue sources will strictly be the counties."

Ms. Wuerstle responded that we will structure the chart by counties first and then list the cities or municipalities that choose to participate underneath.

Councilman Fred Burson arrived, and Commissioner McDaniel mentioned that the issue was brought up that the City of Fort Myers had decided to discontinue their contribution. Councilman Burson explained that after the city conducted an investigation, they discovered they were one of the only cities making payments. As a result, the council voted to suspend their contributions. He noted that, despite informing his council of his role as Vice Chair, they still chose to suspend the payments.

Commissioner McDaniel reiterated his main objective, emphasizing that the organization must include membership from the six counties. He noted that the draft bylaws were structured to allow a municipality from each county to join the new organization. As regular meetings resume and the organization demonstrates its value, municipalities will have the option to join. If a municipality opts in, their contribution would offset the county's proportional share. For example, under the new MOU, if Lee County's contribution is \$105,000 and Fort Myers contributes \$15,000, Lee County's share would be reduced by that amount. Additionally, payments have been divided into quarterly installments to streamline accounting.

Commissioner McDaniel stated that the goal is to persevere until a governing board is established and all counties are committed to supporting the RPC. "We'll continue to do our best in the meantime," he added. He noted that before Councilman Burson arrived, Ms. Wuerstle confirmed that, based on current revenue and expense estimates, the organization is financially able to operate through September of this year, potentially longer depending on circumstances. Commissioner McDaniel emphasized his plan to wrap up meetings with all the counties in the first quarter. He is actively working to schedule these discussions with county boards to encourage their return to the organization. "If I'm successful, that's great. If not, we'll move to Plan B," he concluded.

AGENDA ITEM #7(c)
FINANCIALS:
Government Fund History (*Informational*)

Ms. Wuerstle explained that the government fund history item is informational and that this is the one that was requested to be included on the agenda each month.

AGENDA ITEM #8(a)
CONSENT AGENDA: Appointment to the
Coastal & Heartland National Estuary Partnership (CHNEP)

Commissioner McDaniel asked what is the CHNEP?

Ms. Wuerstle explained that it stands for the Coastal & Heartland National Estuary Partnership. She noted that the organization had previously been called the Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program but underwent a name change.

Ms. Wuerstle continued to explain that Don McCormick has represented the board on our behalf for many years but has requested that someone else be appointed to take his place.

Councilman Burson stated that he currently serves on the board as a representative of the City of Fort Myers. Ms. Wuerstle then asked if it would be possible for him to represent both the city and the RPC.

Councilman Burson responded that he doesn't mind, but it may be best to appoint a different representative. He continued to explain that the CHNEP expanded its boundaries, now extending all the way from Kissimmee to the Caloosahatchee Estuary and down south.

Commissioner McDaniel accepted Don McCormick's resignation from the CHNEP and mentioned that the search for a new appointee would continue in the meantime. He asked if Councilman Burson would be willing to represent the RPC until a replacement is found. Councilman Burson responded that he would be happy to represent both.

Don McCormick mentioned that there is a meeting this Thursday at the North County Regional Center in Charlotte County, just off of 41 and he will send the details and thanked Fred for stepping up.

Councilman Ron Smith offered a motion to approve the consent agenda. Commissioner Bill McDaniel seconded the motion to approve the consent agenda. The motion was approved unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM #9 DIRECTORS REPORT

Margaret requested that item 9c is moved up for a presentation.

AGENDA ITEM #9(c) Resolution #24-01 US 27 Rail

Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council's Executive Director, Tom Lanahan explained that This resolution urges FDOT to advance the planning of an alternative freight rail corridor through the central part of the state, connecting the Port of Miami or western Miami area to the Orlando region. Currently, port traffic from Port Miami, Port Everglades, and the Port of Palm Beach moves along a constrained corridor on the East Coast. This proposed route would provide an alternative by redirecting long freight trains away from downtown areas along the coast and instead routing them through the central state.

The corridor would extend from the west side of Miami along US 27 to the southern part of Lake Okeechobee, linking with the South Central Florida Express, also known as the Sugar Railroad. From there, it could follow two potential paths—one along the east side of the lake, reconnecting with the Florida East Coast Railway, and the other along the west side, linking with the CSX line in Sebring.

Of particular relevance to this area, the route would pass through the Airglades Intermodal Logistics Center in the southwest corner of Lake Okeechobee, opening opportunities for new rail customers and enhancing freight handling capabilities at Airglades. This project would also strengthen the state's transportation resiliency, as all major freight routes in the southeast—

including I-95, the Turnpike, FEC Railway, and CSX Railway—currently operate within a narrow coastal corridor.

This resolution calls on FDOT to continue advancing this long-studied concept toward implementation, recognizing that the time is right to move forward.

Councilman Burson asked if the land for this proposed rail system had been acquired?

Mr. Lanahan responded that the proposed route is designed to primarily follow existing right-of-way, minimizing the need for land acquisition. It would run along U.S. 27 within FDOT-owned right-of-way and then transition into the South Central Florida Express corridor, utilizing its existing infrastructure.

The only areas requiring land acquisition would likely be on the western edge of Miami and in the Belle Glade area, south of town, where the route would connect to the Sugar Railroad. To avoid running directly through the center of Belle Glade, the plan is to route the rail around the outskirts. While some additional land may need to be acquired in certain areas, the majority of the corridor is already under public or railroad ownership.

The second question from Councilman Burson was about estimates for the condemnation requisites for those lands that aren't part of it yet?

Mr. Lanahan requested clarification regarding whether the question pertained to time or dollar, to which the chair clarified it was in terms of dollar.

Mr. Lanahan explained that from a cost perspective, the specifics would be determined by FDOT during the engineering phase, when they assess the exact amount of land that would need to be acquired. Therefore, at this stage, there are no definitive figures. Mr. Lanahan further explained that he believed the initial planning study included an estimated dollar figure for right-of-way acquisition, but he is unsure of the specific breakdown of that amount.

Commissioner McDaniel requested a map of the designed route and what needs to be acquired.

Mr. Lanahan explained that the plan involves following US-27 from the west side of Miami to Belle Glade on the southern side of the lake, which is the only section that aligns with US-27. From there, the route shifts to an existing railroad right-of-way, circling the west side of the lake before heading inland. He acknowledged the concern, recognizing the portion of US-27 in the region and the presence of driveways and businesses. However, he clarified that the segment in question primarily runs through remote areas in the far western parts of Miami-Dade, Broward, and Palm Beach counties, making its impact on local properties less significant than it may seem.

Councilman Smith asked if this is the route that was once envisioned for the bullet train that was put into the Constitution and taken out of the Constitution?

Mr. Lanahan replied that he didn't believe so, thinking it was an East-West route, and asked whether it was also going to Miami.

Mr. Smith responded, recalling that it was from Orlando to Tampa.

Mr. Lanahan confirmed that it would follow the I-4 right-of-way, noting that as Brightline extends to Tampa, discussions have centered around utilizing that same corridor.

Commissioner Bill McDaniel offered a motion to approve the Resolution #24-01 US 27 Rail. Councilman Fred Burson seconded the motion to approve the Resolution #24-01 US 27 Rail. The motion was approved unanimously.

Don McCormick mentioned that Jim Burch from Cape Coral had briefly posted a question regarding hazardous materials and related concerns. He noted that addressing this topic at this stage of the discussion might be premature but wanted to acknowledge that the question was raised.

Commissioner McDaniel agreed with Don, stating that the question was premature. He emphasized that the priority should be determining whether the rail will be built or even considered before discussing what might be transported on it.

AGENDA ITEM #9(a)(b)
Executive Director's Evaluation
Executive Directors Compensation Matrix (Informational)

Ms. Wuerstle stated that the request to complete the director's evaluation form was sent out three times, but only five responses were received.

Commissioner McDaniel responded that Margaret's contract expired in February 2018. If she is comfortable continuing under the existing contract terms until the council is restructured, then they will proceed accordingly. He emphasized that major executive decisions should be postponed until a fully functioning council is in place, since there is a continuing struggle to gather enough members for an executive board quorum.

He also addressed Fred directly, expressing that he does not want him to leave the council simply because the city has decided to stop funding its participation.

Councilman Burson stated that he has all intent to continue attending.

Commissioner McDaniel responded that he was glad to hear that, emphasizing that as a member of the executive committee, his participation is essential for conducting formal business and meeting requirements. He added that the city's decision to stop paying does not change the importance of his involvement.

Councilman Burson stated that if the council's viability is restored and other members resume their paid participation, the city would reconsider its financial contribution.

Commissioner McDaniel responded that as it stands right now Collier County is in, and the City of Naples is in. There are a few that he is getting positive indications from Sarasota, Lee, and Hendry right now. So he is moving quickly, and he plans to meet with officials in Glades next week as well.

Commissioner McDaniel responded that if Margaret is fine with it, they will leave the matter as is until the group reconvenes. Ms. Wuerstle agreed, stating that she was okay with that.

AGENDA ITEM #9(d) **Hurricane Economic Recovery & Resiliency Project Work Sheet**

Ms. Wuerstle explained that the federal agencies, specifically the EDA, has requested all RPCs affected by Hurricanes Helene and Milton to schedule a listening session or workshop, similar to the one held for Hurricane Ian. Several federal agencies, including FEMA, EDA, USDA, and HUD, will be present to discuss available resources, the recently approved supplemental funding, and to engage in roundtable discussions about regional needs and potential projects for funding. They are particularly seeking large, transformative projects.

The meeting is scheduled for February 19th from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Charlotte Harbor Event Center. The agenda has not yet been sent out, as it was just approved yesterday. The event is being co-sponsored with CHNEP, which helped secure the venue free of charge, providing significant cost savings.

Ms. Wuerstle continued to explain that Project Summary sheets are available in the meeting packet and on the table. Attendees are encouraged to fill out a sheet for each project they wish to propose. These will be reviewed and discussed, and while no final funding decisions will be made at the meeting, agencies will take note of priority projects. Areas of particular interest include flooding, infrastructure, resiliency, housing, and cultural and natural resources

Commissioner McDaniel inquired whether this information had already been sent to the municipalities or RPC members. Ms. Wuerstle clarified that it had not yet been distributed, as the agenda was only approved the day before, but assured that it would be sent out to all of them. She emphasized the importance of having elected officials in attendance and encouraged everyone to urge their staff and officials to participate and advocate for their projects.

Ms. Wuerstle continued explaining that while the supplemental funding amounts to billions of dollars, not all of it will be allocated to Florida. Other states, including South Carolina, North Carolina, and areas affected by wildfires in California, will also receive portions of the funds. However, she stressed the importance of submitting local projects to ensure the region secures its fair share of the funding.

Commissioner McDaniel asked who was organizing the event.

Ms. Wuerstle replied that it was being coordinated by federal agencies in partnership with the Regional Planning Councils.

Commissioner McDaniel asked which federal agencies? Ms. Wuerstle responded FEMA, EDA, HUD, USDA.

Councilman Burson asked if the information should be sent to city management for them to complete. He added that while he didn't mind submitting it himself, it would be more beneficial for city management, who are already working with FEMA, to handle it as well.

Ms. Wuerstle responded that we will send it to all the elected officials in the counties and all the cities as they specifically stated they wanted it sent to all the elected officials.

Ms. Wuerstle reminded all members of the meeting details: February 19th, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Charlotte Harbor Event Center.

Ms. Wuerstle continued, stating that the information will be sent to city and county managers, economic development directors, and planning directors.

Commissioner McDaniel stressed the need to send the information out to county and city managers as soon as possible for further distribution. He acknowledged that many counties are already heavily involved with those organizations in submitting grant fund requests, so it might seem redundant. However, he assured that they would make sure the information reaches the managers.

Ms. Wuerstle explained that the meeting is scheduled and approved, with the agencies set to attend. She emphasized the importance of ensuring everyone is aware of the event and has copies of the project summary forms to take back with them so that they are not surprised or it gets lost in emails.

AGENDA ITEM #10 COMMITTEE REPORTS

AGENDA ITEM #10(a) EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

There was no update given.

AGENDA ITEM #11 NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner McDaniel said, "Speaking of reconvening as a group, I believe I saw my friend Wayne Gaither on the phone. I spoke with him yesterday, and I'm not sure if it was you, Margaret, or my assistant, Christina, who sent Wayne our 2025 meeting schedule. We've decided to move our meeting location to the DOT building. Wayne is fine with all the dates on the 2025 schedule except for one. He didn't specify which one, but he has a conflict with that date. Margaret, if you could please reach out to Wayne and coordinate the relocation of our meetings to the DOT building, and get that information sent out to all of our members as soon as possible. The building is located near I-75, so we'll make sure to get all the details together. We had discussed this before, and when I initially contacted the department, they hesitated because of the building's enhanced security. However, once they realized who I was working with, they agreed to cooperate. Wayne actually called me yesterday, thinking our meeting was today, but I had to correct him. We don't need to make a formal motion on this, but I would like our February 20th meeting to be held at the DOT building. Margaret, please quickly coordinate with Wayne to find out which meeting date in 2025 conflicts with the room availability. We also need to inform the South Florida Water Management District that we won't be using their facility anymore and that we'll be moving our meetings to the department building."

**AGENDA ITEM #12
STATE AGENCIES COMMENTS/REPORTS**

No State Agency's reports given.

**AGENDA ITEM #13
COUNCIL MEMBERS' COMMENTS**

No comments given.

**AGENDA ITEM #14
ADJOURN**

The meeting adjourned at 10:49 a.m.

Councilwoman Debi Lux, Secretary

The meeting was duly advertised in the January 3, 2025, issue of the FLORIDA ADMINISTRATIVE REGISTER, Volume 51, Number 02.

Agenda

Item

7

7

Financials

7

_____ Agenda
_____ Item

7a

7a

December Financials

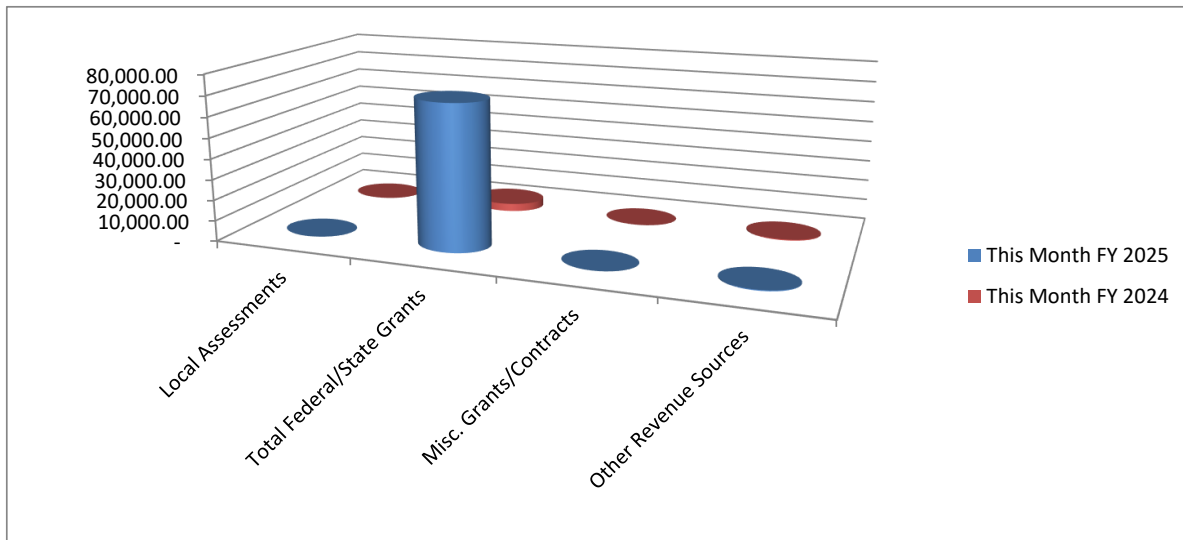
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2024 - 2025 Workplan & Budget Financial Snapshot Dec-24

Revenues

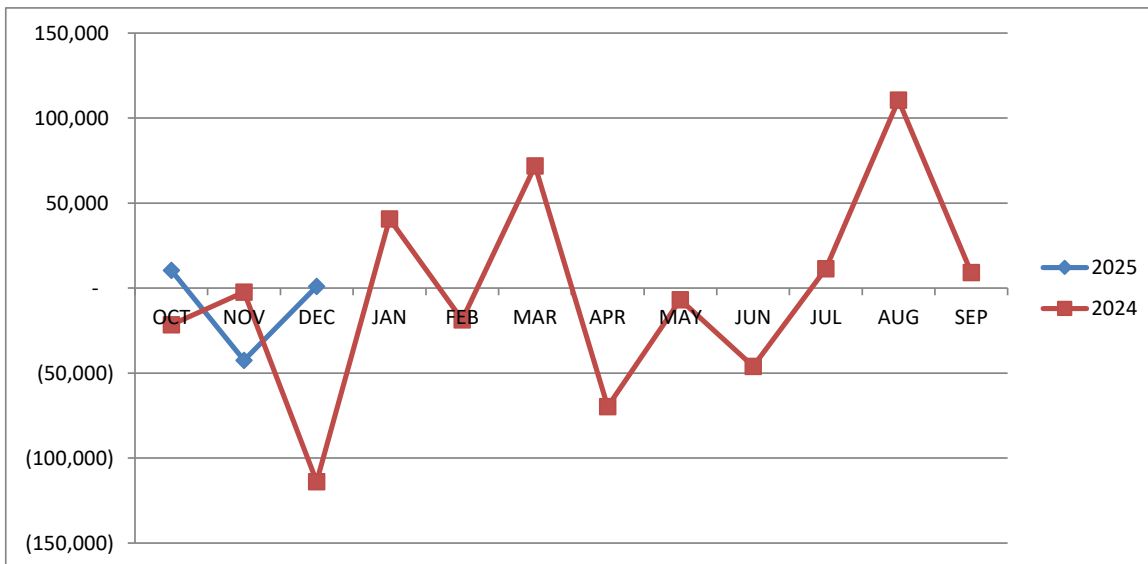
- Local Assessments
- Total Federal/State Grants
- Misc. Grants/Contracts
- Other Revenue Sources

Monthly Revenues



Notes: Local Assessments billed at the beginning of each quarter: October, January, April and July
 State/Federal Grants billed quarterly: LEPC, HMEP
 Federal Grants billed Semi Annually: Economic Development
 Misc. Grants/Contracts billed by deliverable: Interagency PO'S
 Other(DRI) billed /recorded monthly as cost reimbursement

Monthly Net Income (Loss)



YTD: Net Income \$984 Unaudited

SWFRPC

Detail of Reserve

As of December 31, 2024

Cash and Cash Equivalents:

Petty Cash	\$	200
FineMark Operating Funds		42,858
<i>Total Cash and Cash Equivalents</i>	\$	43,058

Investments:

FineMark Money Market	\$	51,298
Local government Surplus Trust Fund Investment Pool (Fund A)		94,666
<i>Total Investments</i>	\$	145,964

Total Reserves	\$	189,022
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**SWFRPC INCOME STATEMENT
COMPARED WITH BUDGET
FOR THE ONE MONTH ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2024**

	Current Month	Year to Date A	FY 24-25 Approved Budget B	% Of Budget Year to Date	Budget Remaining
REVENUES					
LOCAL ASSESSMENTS					
COLLIER COUNTY	-	28,513	0	0%	\$ -
GLADES COUNTY	-	944	3,777	25%	\$ 2,833
CITY OF NAPLES	-	1,448	5,792	0%	\$ 1,446
CITY OF FORT MYERS	-	7,328	29,313	25%	\$ 21,985
TOWN OF FORT MYERS BEACH INC	-	244	977	25%	\$ 733
CITY VENICE (*10/17/24 Not Participating)	-	-	8,338	0%	\$ -
TOTAL LOCAL ASSESSMENTS	\$ -	\$ 38,478	\$ 48,197	80%	\$ 26,996
FEDERAL / STATE GRANTS					
DEM - LEPC 23/24	-	-	-	0%	\$ -
DEM - LEPC 24/25	-	-	90,000	N/A	\$ 90,000
DEM - HMEP 22/25	-	-	30,724	0%	\$ 30,724
DEM - Lee/Collier Hazard Analysis 24/25	-	-	9,462	0%	\$ 9,462
EDA - CEDS Planning 23-25	9,689	9,689	100,000	10%	\$ 90,311
EDA - Disaster Recovery Coordinator Ian	52,406	52,406	71,084	100%	\$ -
FDEP - Marco Island Vulnerability	-	-	9,000	0%	\$ 9,000
EPA - Brownfields	-	-	191,410	0%	\$ 191,410
USDA - Regional Food Systems - USDA	-	82,112	209,448	39%	\$ 127,336
Vista Supervisor	8,017	8,017	19,637	41%	\$ 11,620
Promise Zone	-	-	-	N/A	\$ -
TOTAL FEDERAL / STATE GRANTS	\$ 70,112	\$ 152,224	\$ 730,765	21%	\$ 559,864
MISC. GRANTS / CONTRACTS/CONTRACTUAL					
CHNEP Calendar 2025	-	-	5,000	N/A	\$ -
FHRO	-	-	8,000	0%	\$ 8,000
TOTAL MISC. GRANTS/CONTRACTS	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 8,000	0%	\$ 8,000
DRIS/NOPCS/MONITORING					
DRI MONITORING FEES	-	-	-	N/A	\$ -
DRIS/NOPCS INCOME	-	1,875	21,000	N/A	\$ 19,125
TOTAL	\$ -	\$ 1,875	\$ 21,000		\$ 19,125
Program Development (Unsecured Grants/Contract)					
*Program Development (Unsecured)	-	-	-	100%	\$ -
TOTAL PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-	\$ -
OTHER REVENUE SOURCES					
Misc. Income	-	-	400	0%	\$ 400
INTEREST INCOME - Money Market	9	26	800	3%	\$ 774

	Current Month	Year to Date A	FY 24-25 Approved Budget B	% Of Budget Year to Date	Budget Remaining
Fund A Investment Income	376	1,152	800	144%	\$ (352)
TOTAL OTHER REVENUE SOURCES	\$ 385	\$ 1,178	\$ 2,000	59%	\$ 822
<i>Fund Balance</i>	\$ -	\$ -			
TOTAL REVENUES	\$ 70,497	\$ 193,755	\$ 809,962	24%	\$ 614,807

EXPENSES

PERSONNEL EXPENSES					
SALARIES EXPENSE	\$ 36,796	\$ 75,670	\$ 280,758	27%	\$ 205,088
FICA EXPENSE	2,798	5,745	23,339	25%	\$ 17,594
RETIREMENT EXPENSE	6,035	13,209	84,346	16%	\$ 71,137
HEALTH INSURANCE EXPENSE	3,875	10,312	38,520	27%	\$ 28,208
WORKERS COMP. EXPENSE	104	104	1,011	10%	\$ 907
UNEMPLOYMENT COMP. EXPENSE	-	-	-	N/A	-
TOTAL PERSONNEL EXPENSES	\$ 49,608	\$ 105,040	\$ 427,974	25%	\$ 322,934

OPERATIONAL EXPENSES					
CONSULTANTS	\$ -	\$ 2,425	\$ 12,625	19%	\$ 10,201
GRANT/CONSULTING EXPENSE	9,160	59,360	376,824	16%	\$ 317,464
AUDIT SERVICES EXPENSE	-	1,000	30,000	3%	\$ 29,000
TRAVEL EXPENSE	75	75	23,000	0%	\$ 22,925
TELEPHONE EXPENSE	2	3	-	#DIV/0!	\$ (3)
POSTAGE / SHIPPING EXPENSE	-	-	-	N/A	\$ -
INSURANCE EXPENSE	5,765	6,006	7,044	85%	\$ 1,038
PRINTING/REPRODUCTION EXPENSE	580	580	1,000	58%	\$ 421
ADVERTISING/LEGAL NOTICES EXP	-	14,984	1,600	937%	\$ (13,384)
OTHER MISC. EXPENSE	-	-	500	0%	\$ 500
BANK SERVICE CHARGES	184	383	800	N/A	\$ 417
OFFICE SUPPLIES EXPENSE	367	550	1,000	55%	\$ 450
COMPUTER RELATED EXPENSE	809	2,258	21,947	10%	\$ 19,689
DUES AND MEMBERSHIP	-	-	2,699	0%	\$ 2,699
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT	-	-	-	N/A	\$ -
MEETINGS/EVENTS EXPENSE	-	108	2,000	5%	\$ 1,892
CAPITAL OUTLAY - OPERATIONS	-	-	-	N/A	\$ -
UNCOLLECTABLE RECEIVABLES	-	-	-	N/A	\$ -
FUND BALANCE			\$ 453,577		
OPERATIONAL EXP.	\$ 16,941	\$ 87,730	\$ 934,616	9%	\$ 393,309

	Current Month	Year to Date A	FY 24-25 Approved Budget B	% Of Budget Year to Date	Budget Remaining
TOTAL OPERATIONAL EXP.			\$ 934,616		
TOTAL CASH OUTLAY	\$ 66,549	\$ 192,771	\$ 1,362,590		\$ 716,242
NET INCOME (LOSS)	<u>\$ 3,948</u>	<u>\$ 984</u>			

SWFRPC
Balance Sheet
December 31, 2024

ASSETS

Current Assets		
Cash - Florida Prime	\$	94,666.46
Cash - FineMark Oper.		42,858.27
Cash - FineMark MM		51,297.59
Petty Cash		200.00
Accounts Receivable		109,957.30
Transfer of Funds		30.00
		<hr/>
Total Current Assets		299,009.62
Property and Equipment		
Property, Furniture & Equip		43,026.31
Accumulated Depreciation		(43,025.31)
		<hr/>
Total Property and Equipment		1.00
Other Assets		
Amount t.b.p. for L.T.L.-Leave		41,305.44
FSA Deposit		0.29
Amt t.b.p. for L.T.Debt-OPEB		1,681.00
		<hr/>
Total Other Assets		42,986.73
		<hr/>
Total Assets	\$	<u><u>341,997.35</u></u>

LIABILITIES AND CAPITAL

Current Liabilities		
Accounts Payable	\$	4,159.66
Deferred_Palmer_Ranch_5362		13,125.00
FICA Taxes Payable		1,216.41
Federal W/H Tax Payable		(2,576.20)
United way Payable		322.00
Deferred Compensation Payable		(25.00)
FSA Payable		(376.48)
LEPC Contingency Fund		305.25
		<hr/>
Total Current Liabilities		16,150.64
Long-Term Liabilities		
Accrued Annual Leave		41,305.44
Long Term Debt - OPEB		1,681.00
		<hr/>
Total Long-Term Liabilities		42,986.44
		<hr/>
Total Liabilities		59,137.08
Capital		
Fund Balance-Unassigned		(231,544.02)
Fund Balance-Assigned		514,000.00
Net Income		404.29
		<hr/>
Total Capital		282,860.27
		<hr/>
Total Liabilities & Capital	\$	<u><u>341,997.35</u></u>

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7b

7b

Draft Comparison of Assessments
(Current vs Proposed)
(Informational)

7b

Assessment Comparison

Per Capita: Current (\$.30) Proposed (\$.15)

County

MEMBER	POPULATION 2023 (BEBR Estimates)	CURRENT ASSESSMENT .30/Capita		PROPOSED ASSESSMENT .15/Capita	
			Quarterly Assessment		Quarterly Assessment
Charlotte County	204,126	\$ 61,237.80	\$ 15,309.45	\$ 30,618.90	\$ 2,296.42
Collier County	399,480	\$ 119,844.00	\$ 29,961.00	\$ 59,922.00	\$ 4,494.15
Glades County	12,591	\$ 3,777.30	\$ 944.33	\$ 1,888.65	\$ 141.65
Hendry County	40,895	\$ 12,268.50	\$ 3,067.13	\$ 6,134.25	\$ 460.07
Lee County	800,989	\$ 240,296.70	\$ 60,074.18	\$ 120,148.35	\$ 9,011.13
Sarasota County	464,223	\$ 139,266.90	\$ 34,816.73	\$ 69,633.45	\$ 5,222.51
Total Assessments	1,922,304	\$ 576,691	\$ 144,172.80	\$ 288,346	\$ 21,625.92

Municipalities

MEMBER	POPULATION 2023 (BEBR Estimates)	CURRENT ASSESSMENT .30/Capita		PROPOSED ASSESSMENT .15/Capita	
			Quarterly Assessment		Quarterly Assessment
Punta Gorda	20,410	\$ 6,123.00	\$ 1,530.75	\$ 3,061.50	\$ 229.61
Everglades	376	\$ 112.80	\$ 28.20	\$ 56.40	\$ 4.23
Marco Island	16,198	\$ 4,859.40	\$ 1,214.85	\$ 2,429.70	\$ 182.23
Naples	19,306	\$ 5,791.80	\$ 1,447.95	\$ 2,895.90	\$ 217.19
Moore Haven	1,529	\$ 458.70	\$ 114.68	\$ 229.35	\$ 17.20
Clewiston	7,278	\$ 2,183.40	\$ 545.85	\$ 1,091.70	\$ 81.88
Labelle	5,083	\$ 1,524.90	\$ 381.23	\$ 762.45	\$ 57.18
Bonita Springs	54,868	\$ 16,460.40	\$ 4,115.10	\$ 8,230.20	\$ 617.27
Cape Coral	213,301	\$ 63,990.30	\$ 15,997.58	\$ 31,995.15	\$ 2,399.64
Estero	37,507	\$ 11,252.10	\$ 2,813.03	\$ 5,626.05	\$ 421.95
Fort Myers	97,711	\$ 29,313.30	\$ 7,328.33	\$ 14,656.65	\$ 1,099.25
Fort Myers Beach	3,255	\$ 976.50	\$ 244.13	\$ 488.25	\$ 36.62
Sanibel	5,946	\$ 1,783.80	\$ 445.95	\$ 891.90	\$ 66.89
Longboat Key	4,776	\$ 1,432.80	\$ 358.20	\$ 716.40	\$ 53.73
North Port	86,552	\$ 25,965.60	\$ 6,491.40	\$ 12,982.80	\$ 973.71
Sarasota	57,005	\$ 17,101.50	\$ 4,275.38	\$ 8,550.75	\$ 641.31
Venice	27,793	\$ 8,337.90	\$ 2,084.48	\$ 4,168.95	\$ 312.67
Total Assessments	658,894	\$ 197,668	\$ 36,207.60	\$ 98,834	\$ 5,431.14

_____ Agenda
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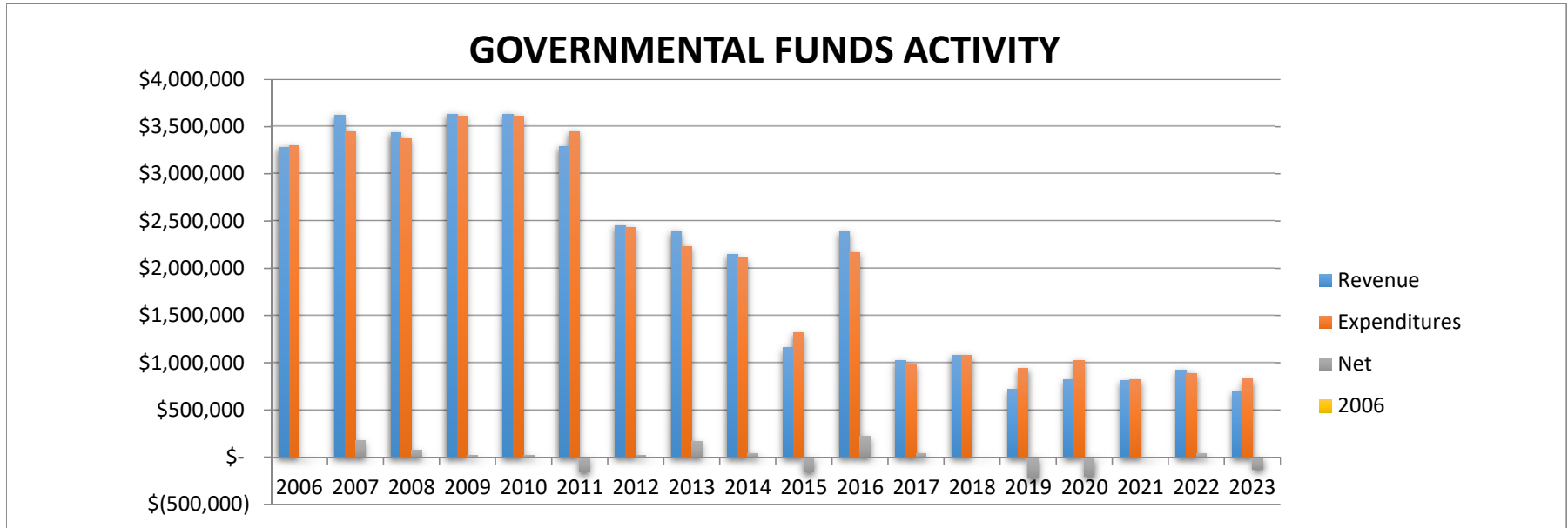
7c

7c

Government Fund Activity
(Informational)

7c

SOUTHWEST FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL
GRAPH - COMPARATIVE SUMMARY OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND
CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE (FUND BASIS STATEMENTS) - ALL FUNDS
Fiscal Years Ended September 30, 2006 - September 30, 2023



Fiscal Yr	Revenue	Expenditures	Net
2006	\$ 3,282,874	\$ 3,293,955	\$ (11,081)
2007	3,620,972	3,448,094	172,878
2008	3,439,973	3,367,828	72,145
2009	3,631,561	3,613,833	17,728
2010	3,633,853	3,609,479	24,374
2011	3,288,138	3,448,360	(160,222)
2012	2,453,411	2,430,302	23,109 ***
2013	2,397,441	2,231,934	165,507
2014	2,145,900	2,105,488	40,412
2015	1,157,034	1,317,493	(160,459) *
2016	2,388,620	2,165,278	223,342 ****
2017	1,025,345	984,746	40,599
2018	1,080,206	1,078,114	2,092
2019	719,149	942,205	(223,056)
2020	821,515	1,024,052	(202,537)
2021	812,304	821,590	(9,286)
2022	923,912	889,926	33,986
2023	701,645	827,221	(125,576)

* NEP departed 10/1/14
 **** includes sale of building
 *** MPO departed

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Consent Agenda

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Directors Report

9



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT: February 20, 2025

Mission Statement:

To work together across neighboring communities to consistently protect and improve the unique and relatively unspoiled character of the physical, economic and social worlds we share...for the benefit of our future generations.

1. Management / Operations

a. **UPDATE: ECONOMIC RECOVERY AND RESILIENCY LISTENING SESSION - PROJECT EXPLORATION WORKSHOP**

- February 19, 2025 9:00a.m. to 3:30p.m.
- **Charlotte Harbor Event and Conference Center, 75 Taylor Street**
- **Punta Gorda, FL 33950**
- Project Summary Forms

2. Resource Development and Capacity Building

- Promise Zone Grants (as of December 11, 2024)

Awarded: \$5,306,160.25

Pending: \$1,262,667

Denied: \$26,540,098.50

Underdevelopment:

3. Second Quarter : January – March 2025

a. Recovery and Resiliency Projects

- Awarded \$239,700 RRDG Grant submitted to FHERO for Economic Development
- Pending NOAA grant for \$500,000 to reinforce the docks for the Shrimp Industry
- Pending NOAA Grant for \$500,000 to market the shrimp industry
- **Awarded \$282,000 FDEP Resiliency Florida Grant for SWFL Resilience Collaborative Project**
- Next RPC Meeting March 20, 2025

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9a

Update on February 19th EDA
Listening Session

9a

Agenda

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US 27 Rail Corridor Map &
Presentation

9b



LEGEND

- Class I Railroad
- Class II Railroad
- Class III Railroad
- Interstate
- US Highway
- State Route

- Railroads:**
- AGR Alabama & Gulf Coast Railway
 - AN AN Railway
 - BAYL Bay Line Railroad
 - CSXT CSX Transportation
 - FCEN Florida Central Railroad
 - FMID Florida Midland Railroad
 - FNOR Florida Northern Railroad
 - FEC Florida East Coast Railway
 - FWCR Florida West Coast Railway
 - GFRR Georgia & Florida Railnet
 - NS Norfolk Southern Railway
 - SGLR Seminole Gulf Railway
 - SCXF South Central Florida Express
 - SFRC South Florida Rail Corridor

20 0 20 40 Miles

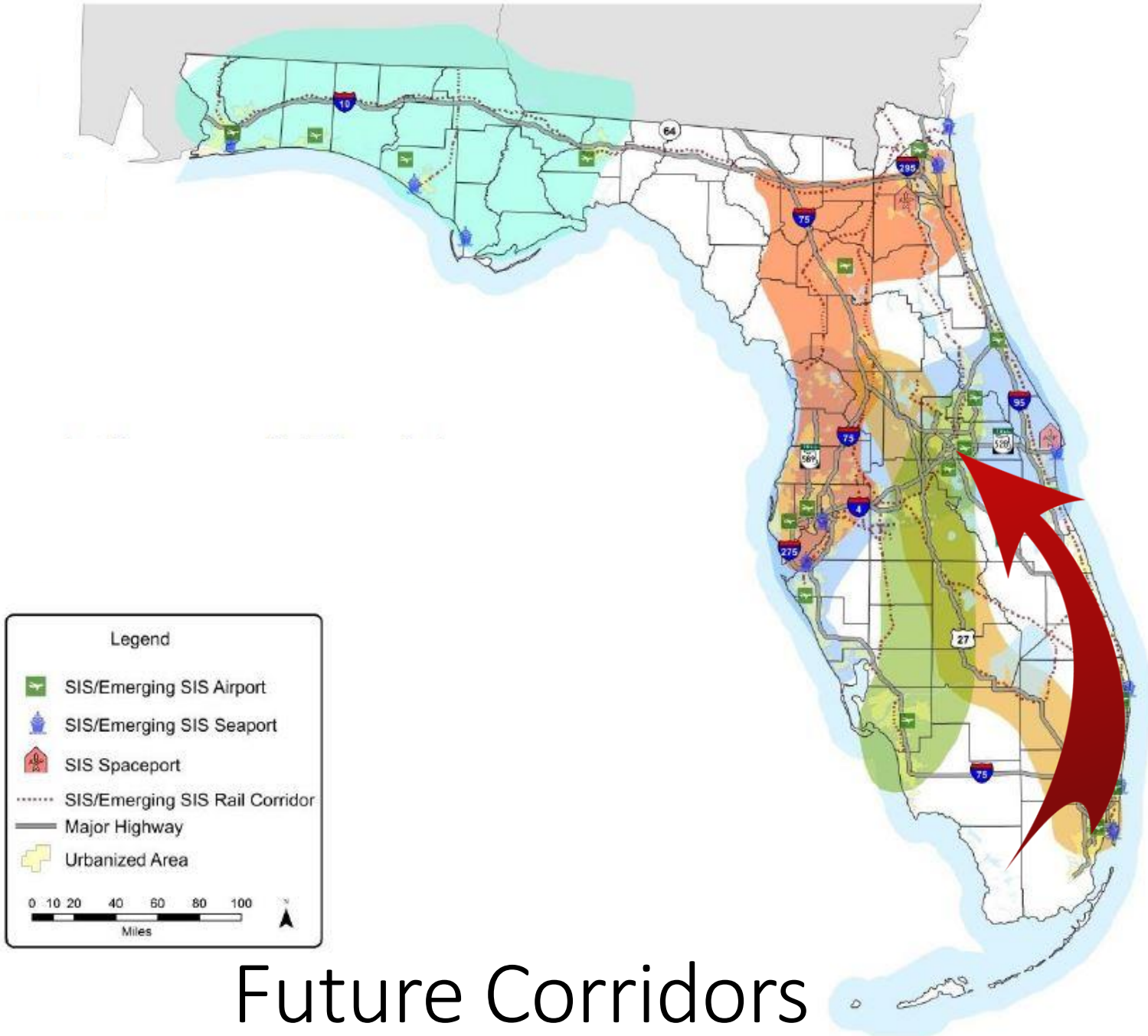


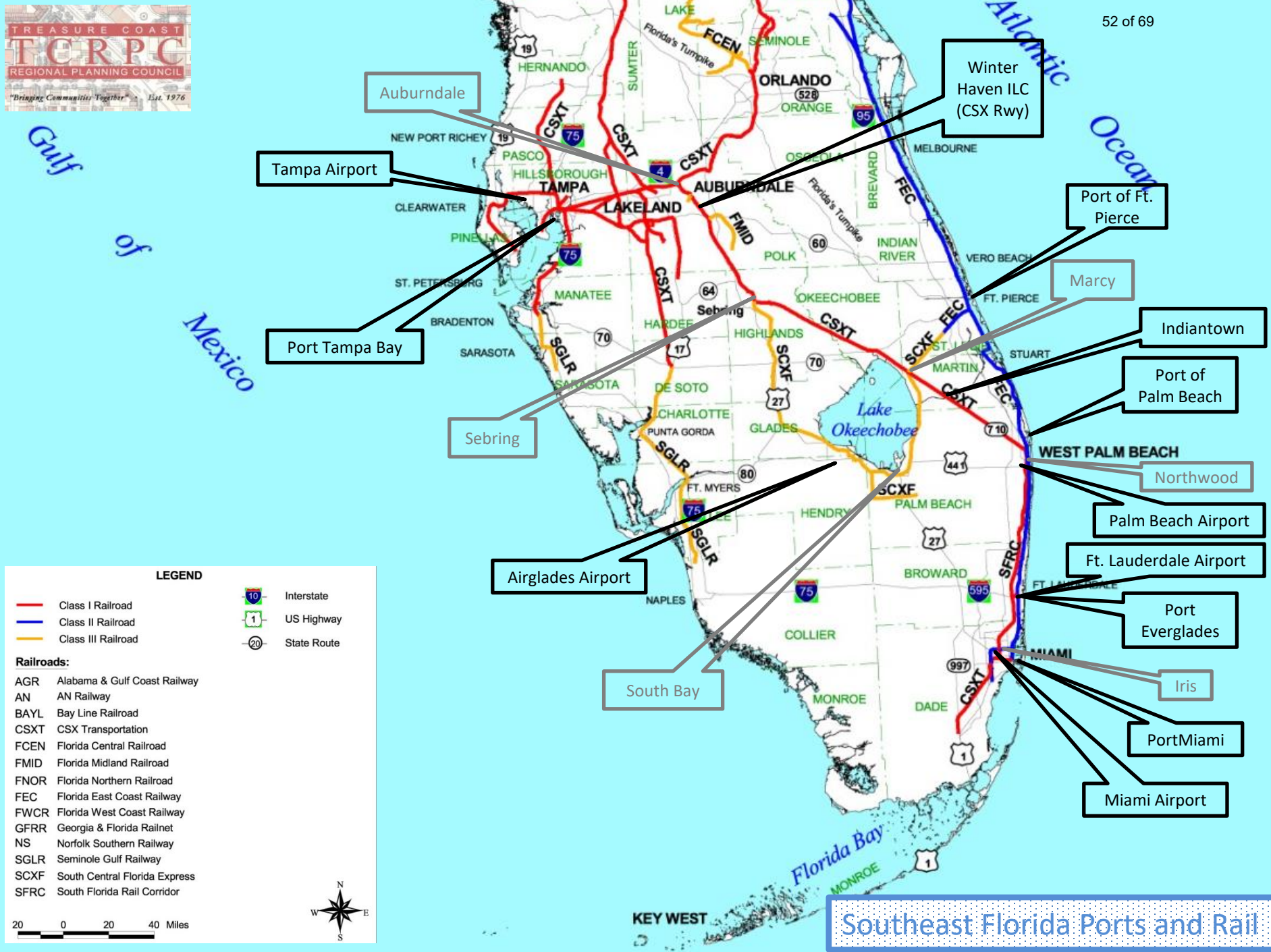
US 27 and Beyond: Potential New Freight Rail Route

US 27 MULTIMODAL CORRIDOR



TREASURE COAST REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL
SOUTH FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL
JOINT MEETING – OCTOBER 12, 2018

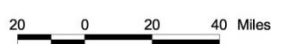




LEGEND

- Class I Railroad
- Class II Railroad
- Class III Railroad
- Interstate
- US Highway
- State Route

- Railroads:**
- AGR Alabama & Gulf Coast Railway
 - AN AN Railway
 - BAYL Bay Line Railroad
 - CSXT CSX Transportation
 - FCEN Florida Central Railroad
 - FMID Florida Midland Railroad
 - FNOR Florida Northern Railroad
 - FEC Florida East Coast Railway
 - FWCR Florida West Coast Railway
 - GFRR Georgia & Florida Railnet
 - NS Norfolk Southern Railway
 - SGLR Seminole Gulf Railway
 - SCXF South Central Florida Express
 - SFRC South Florida Rail Corridor



Southeast Florida Ports and Rail



FDOT Studies to Date

- 2004 US 27 Action Plan
- 2008 US 27 Multimodal Corridor Needs Assessment
- 2010 US 27 Rail Corridor Study Feasibility Assessment
- 2012 Interregional Transportation Infrastructure Needs Study
- 2012-2013 US 27 Multimodal Planning And Conceptual Engineering (PACE) Study
- 2013 US 27 Transportation Alternatives Study
- 2018 US 27 Existing Conditions Study (underway)



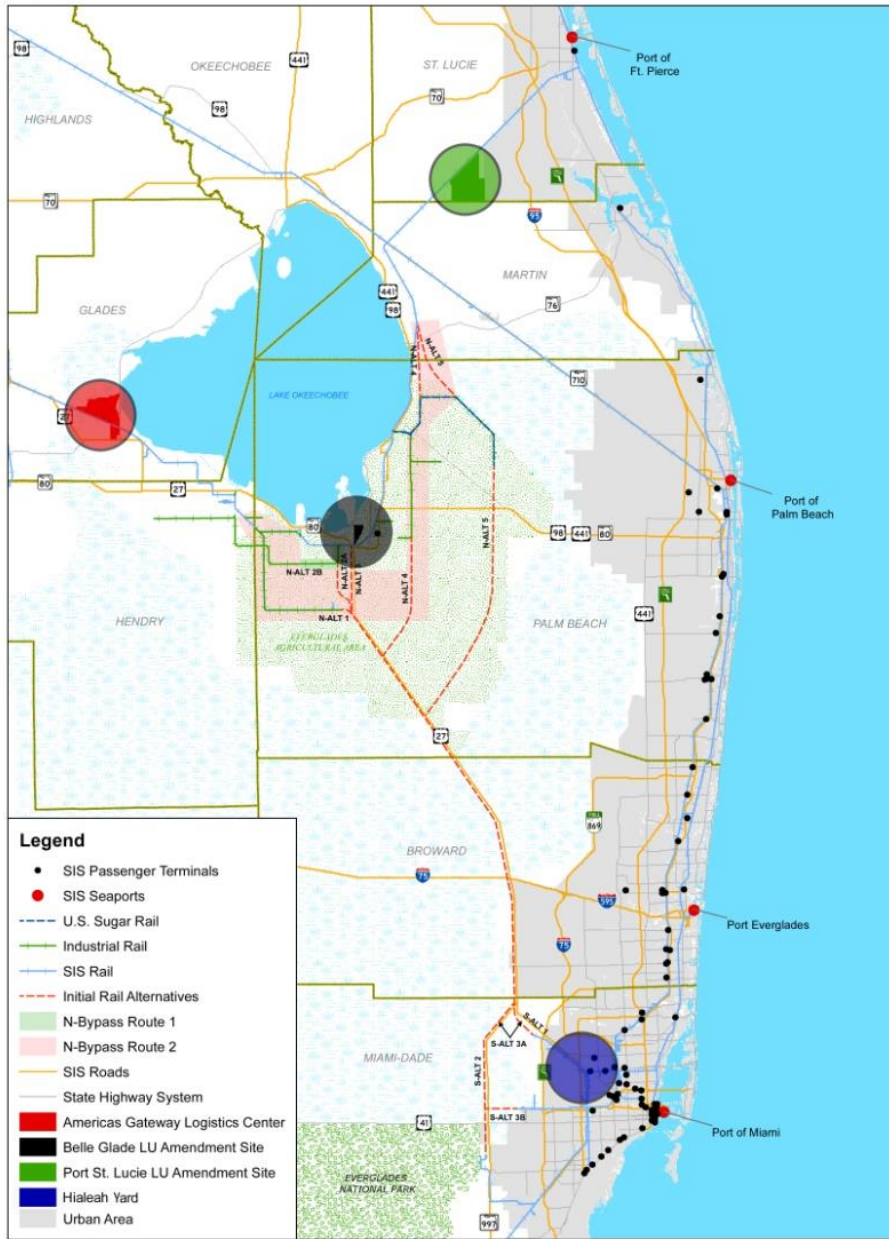
US 27 Multimodal PACE Study Goal

- Investigate Feasibility of Developing a Multimodal US 27 Corridor

Primary Study Objectives

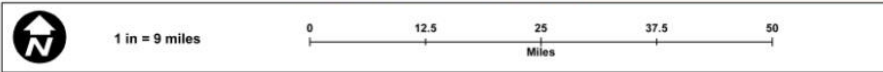
- Feasibility of Potential Rail By-Pass
- Identify Conceptual Engineering Alternatives for US 27 Highway Corridor with and without Rail
- Preliminary Environmental Evaluation
- Plan for US 27 based on Travel Demand and SIS Standards





Legend

- SIS Passenger Terminals
- SIS Seaports
- - - U.S. Sugar Rail
- - - Industrial Rail
- - - SIS Rail
- - - Initial Rail Alternatives
- - - N-Bypass Route 1
- - - N-Bypass Route 2
- - - SIS Roads
- - - State Highway System
- Americas Gateway Logistics Center
- Belle Glade LU Amendment Site
- Port St. Lucie LU Amendment Site
- Hialeah Yard
- Urban Area

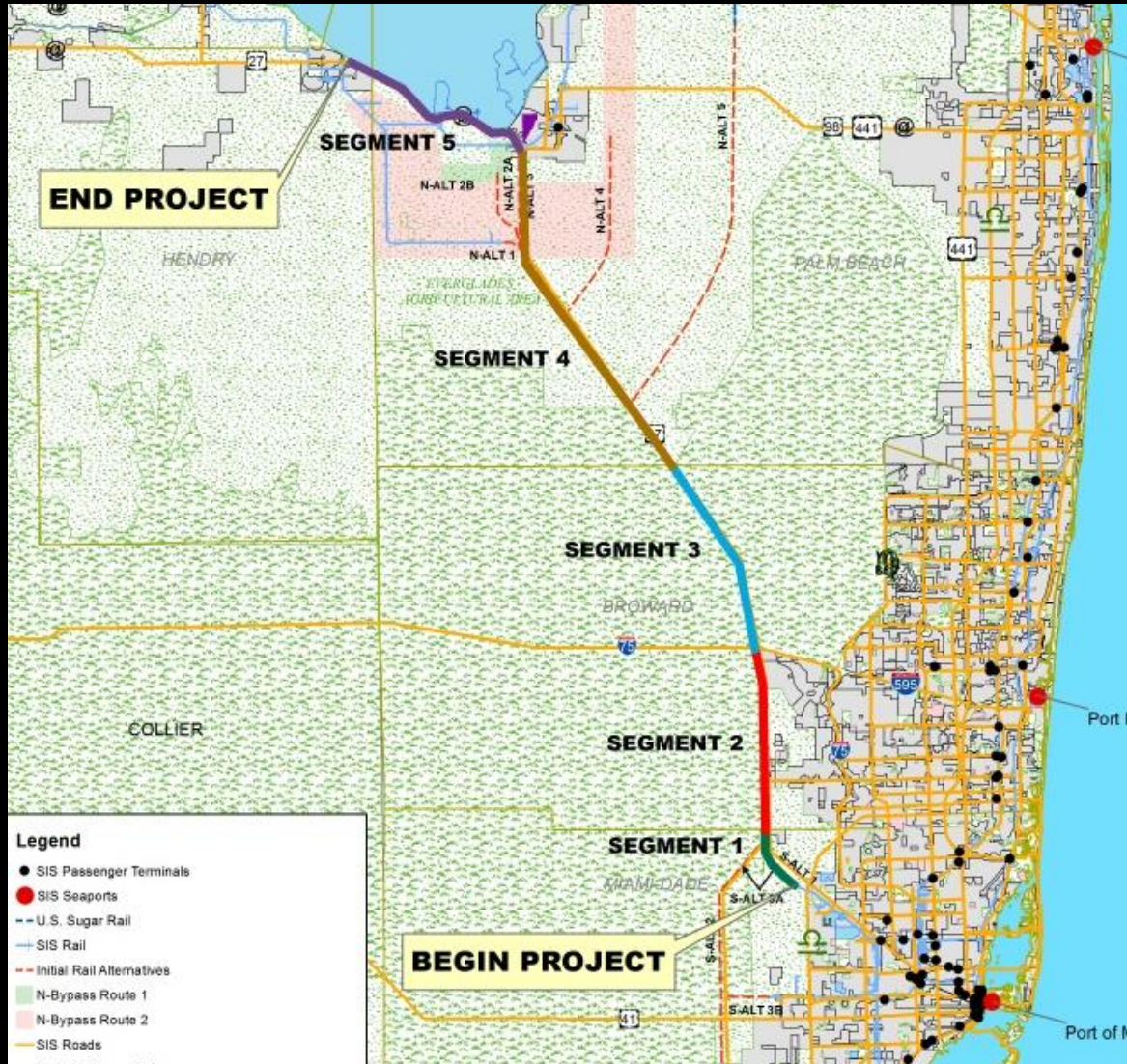


US 27 Corridor

- 72-Mile Strategic Intermodal System (SIS) Corridor
- Everglades Agricultural Area
- Rural Area of Critical Economic Concern (RACEC)
- Four Lane Divided Highway
- 100' to 481' Right of Way
- Speed Limit: 30 mph – 65 mph
- Connects to Turnpike, I-75, SR 80
- 1 Interchange, 8 Signalized Intersections, 26 Unsignalized Intersections, Multiple Driveways
- 2010 Level of Service was B
- 7,100 AADT - 33,000 AADT; 20% - 42% Trucks

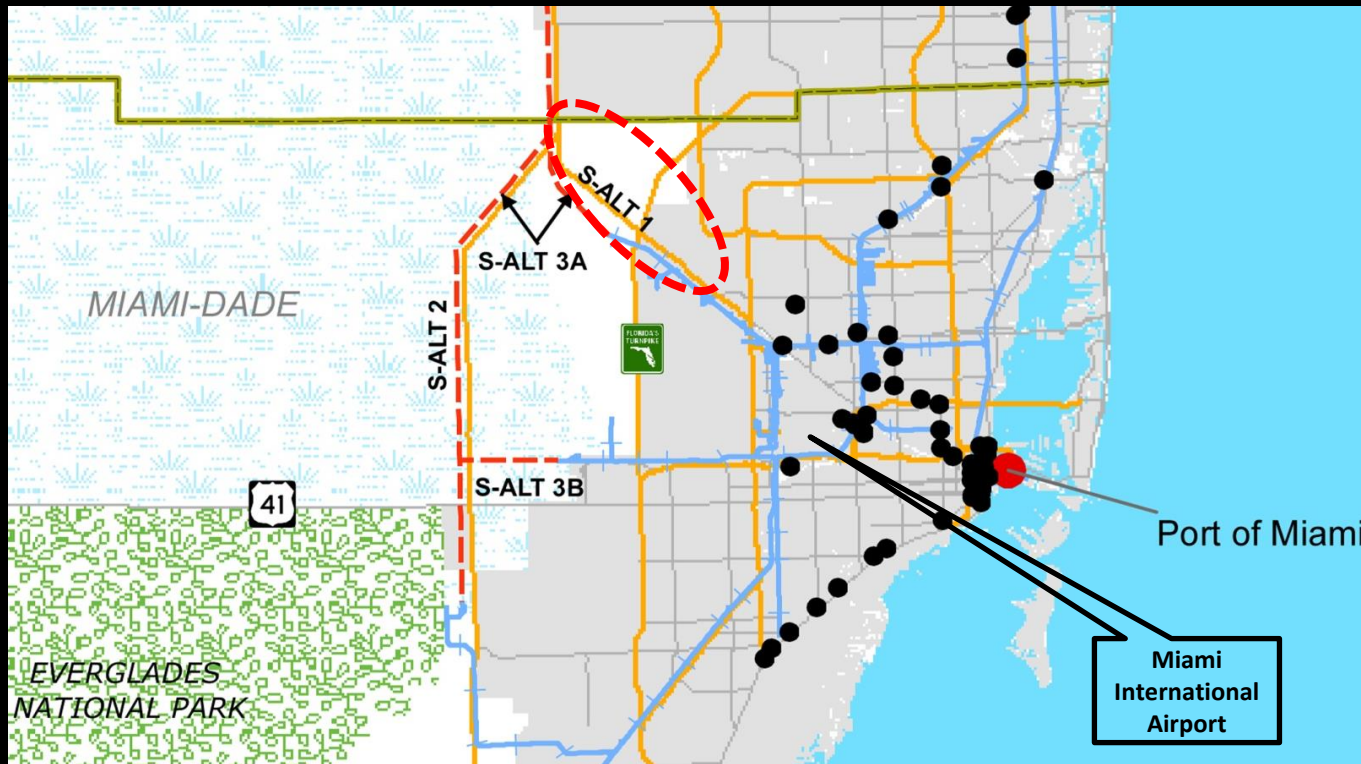
Multimodal Alternative

- Add lanes same as “Highway Only” Alternative
- Reconstruct and shift highway within ROW
- Construct single mainline track with five 2-mile siding tracks within ROW



Southern Connection Options

To Ft. Lauderdale



- 1 FEC Connection on South Side of US 27
- 2 CSX Connections Along Krome Avenue
- S-ALT 1 FEC Connection, Most Direct Route, Least Cost, Least Environmental Impact, Least Cost, Right-of-Way Is Needed

To Homestead



Northern Connection Options

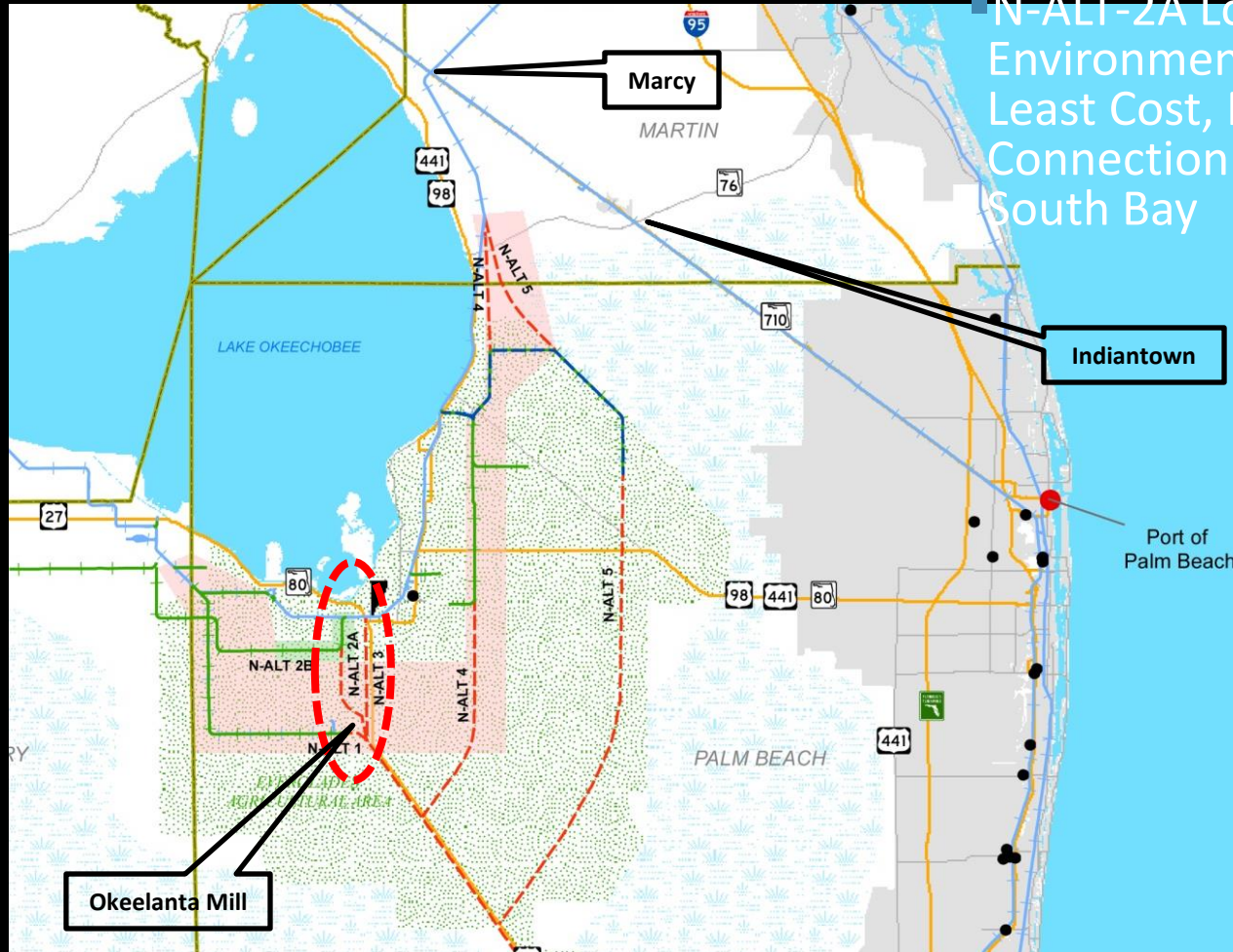
To Sebring & Orlando

To Fort Pierce

- 5 Potential Connections to existing tracks for South Central Florida Express or Florida East Coast Railway

- N-ALT-2A Lowest Environmental Impacts, Least Cost, Most Direct Connection Avoiding South Bay

To Sebring & Orlando



Okeelanta Mill

Marcy

Indiantown

Port of Palm Beach

PALM BEACH

Conclusions

- US 27 must be widened to accommodate future ILC traffic;
- Potential rail demand estimated at 15 to 22 trains per day;
- No engineering or environmental fatal flaws identified for widening US 27 & adding rail;
- Adding a railroad determined to be physically feasible.

Project Conclusions and Costs


Highway Only Alternative

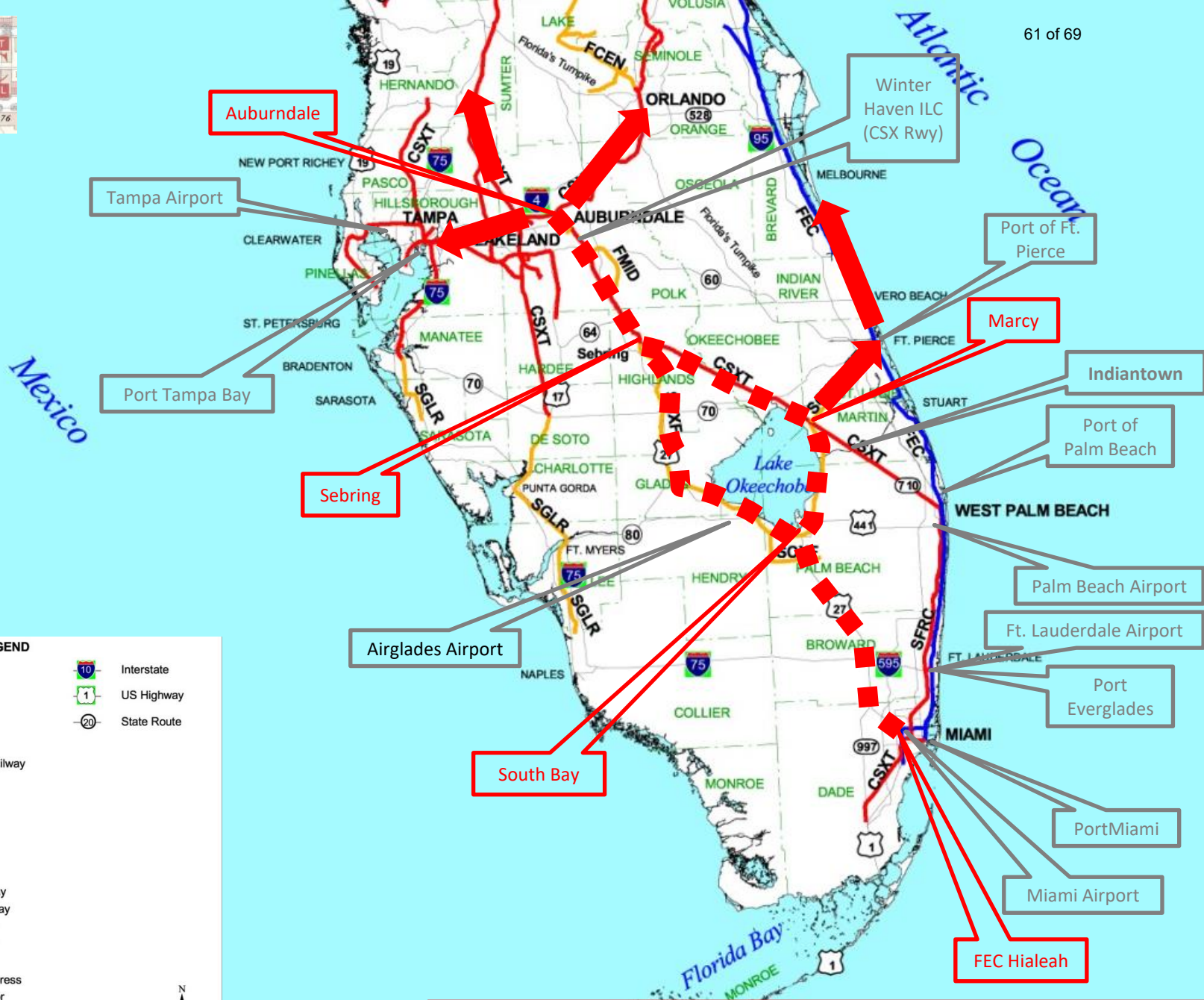
- 321 Mainline lane miles of highway widening & resurfacing
- 11 new or widened bridges
- 15 intersection improvements
- 2 interchanges & 3 u-turn improvements
- Construction Cost: \$600.1M
- ROW Cost: \$42.5M
- Design & CEI Cost: \$120.0M
- **Total Cost: \$762.7M**

Multimodal Alternative

- 386 Mainline lane miles of highway widening & reconstruction
- 23 new or widened bridges
- 20 intersection improvements
- 2 interchanges & 3 u-turn improvements
- 75 track-miles of rail
- 10 rail bridges
- Construction Cost: \$965.6M
- ROW Cost: \$87.4M
- Design & CEI Cost: \$193.1M
- **Total Cost: \$1.25B (\$487M more)**
- **\$17 M per Mile (\$6.7M per mile more)**

Benefits of Moving Forward

- 
- Reducing freight traffic through the population centers of the coast between Ft. Pierce and Miami (80% freight diversion from FEC)
 - Eliminating need for new grade separations along coastal FEC
 - Freeing up capacity on the FEC for commuter passenger trains
 - Diverting truck traffic from I-95, Turnpike, and U.S. 27
 - Providing new transportation without triggering new sprawl
 - Supporting economic development and job creation for the distressed communities along the south and east and west sides of Lake Okeechobee
 - Providing transportation capacity to support further port growth



Auburndale

Winter Haven ILC (CSX Rwy)

Tampa Airport

Port of Ft. Pierce

Port Tampa Bay

Marcy

Sebring

Indiantown

Port of Palm Beach

Airglades Airport

Palm Beach Airport

Ft. Lauderdale Airport

South Bay

Port Everglades

PortMiami

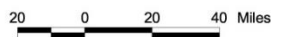
Miami Airport

FEC Hialeah

LEGEND

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 - GFRR Georgia & Florida Railnet
 - NS Norfolk Southern Railway
 - SGLR Seminole Gulf Railway
 - SCXF South Central Florida Express
 - SFRC South Florida Rail Corridor



US 27 and Beyond: Potential New Freight Rail Route

Recent Activities

- February 28, 2017 meeting at Port of Palm Beach with:
FEC Railway, Port of Palm Beach, Staff of Congressman Brian Mast,
Palm Beach MPO, Martin County, TCRPC Staff
- April 21, 2017 Presentation to Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council
- June 12, 2017 meeting at SFRPC with:
FEC Railway, Port Everglades, FDOT, Broward MPO, Miami-Dade TPO,
TCRPC, SFRPC and CFRPC Staff, Congressional Staff for Deutch, Mast, and Wilson
Senatorial Staff for Rubio, County Commissioners from Broward and Palm Beach
- Treasure Coast Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Cmtee.
- MPOAC Freight Committee and Governing Board (July 19, 2017)
- Palm Beach County BDB Logistics Task Force (September 6, 2017)
- Miami-Dade TPO Freight Technical Advisory Committee (Oct. 11, 2017)
- Participation in District 1 US 27 Working Group
- Participation in Discussions with FDOT Central Office
- Joint Meeting of the SFRPC and TCRPC (Oct. 20, 2017)
- Martin County Board of County Commissioners (Oct. 24, 2017)
- SEFTC Regional Trans. Technical Advisory Committee (Dec. 13, 2017)
- Seeking prioritization of the project and initiation of PD&E Study

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

THOMAS J. LANAHAN

DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**TREASURE COAST
REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL
(TCRPC)**

(772) 221-4060

TLANAHAN@TCRPC.ORG



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Committee Reports

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Executive Committee

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New Business

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State Agency Comments/
Reports

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Council Member Comments

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Adjourn

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