

RCI Committee Draft Goals and Objectives for First Coast Vision
The Goals: What we will be in 2060
The Objectives: How we will get there
The Implementation Plans
The Definitions
1/31/11

Text in Blue indicates a link on the webpage

Text in red indicates a defined term

A green asterisk indicates that an implementation plan will be required.

THE DRAFT FIRST COAST VISION GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Section: THE GOALS FOR PEOPLE

Statement A. Our communities are planned for people.

Goal A1: Northeast Florida has high quality housing stock that is designed to create lasting communities. Factors which have brought us to this reality include:

- Homes are constructed with high-quality materials that are durable and low-maintenance.
- Homes are designed in accordance with “green” principles focusing on water and energy conservation and reduction in waste, which in turn reduces maintenance costs and makes housing more affordable in the long term.

Goal A2: Communities are designed to be walkable and to contain a mix of uses, so that residents have mobility options within their neighborhoods and can easily choose safe and healthy ways to get around.

Goal A3: Northeast Florida’s housing stock serves all of its diverse residents.

- Communities are designed to allow residents to age in place and be active throughout the lifespan.
- Development regulations ensure that multi-generational housing options are available.

Goal A4: Northeast Florida contains a range of housing options for its residents.

- The region recognizes that home-ownership is not a viable option for all of its residents, whether for lifestyle or economic reasons, and includes a mix of rental housing and owner-occupied housing.
- The region also recognizes that detached single-family homes are not best for all of its residents, and ensures that a mix of single-family and multi-family options is available through local regulatory processes.

Goal A5: The region ensures that very low income persons have quality housing while avoiding concentrations of poverty. Except in the case of senior and special needs housing, Northeast Florida will move away from public housing based on housing in publically-owned structures to a regional voucher program for citizens that require assistance based on income. The region will create a regional housing assistance mechanism to implement the transition. *

Goal A6: Significant developments in the region present an opportunity to address many of the housing goals of First Coast Vision by design. As significant developments have the potential to impact the region, and regional requirements have the potential to impact the economics of development, the region will create an advisory committee of stakeholders that includes housing advocates, planners, landowners and developers by 2012 to establish housing review methodology by 2013 for impact assessment, minimum standards and review criteria. *

[How we will get there \(Click here\)](#)

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Statement B: People are safe in Northeast Florida.

Goal B1: Northeast Florida is a safe region whose citizens feel safe in their neighborhoods. This perception of safety translates into vibrant communities with residents who interact with each other and spend time outdoors engaged in a variety of recreational pursuits.

Goal B2: Northeast Florida has housing stock that is safe and free from environmental hazards that can be detrimental to health.

Goal B3: Northeast Florida has a safe transportation network that gives pedestrians and bicyclists equal priority with motor vehicles. Roadways are designed to minimize conflicts between motor vehicles and bicycles or pedestrians, therefore resulting in safe travels regardless of transportation mode.

Goal B4: The region is prepared to respond to and recover from the impacts of all hazards. The region defines "all hazards" as the complete list of hazards as identified in all Local Mitigation Strategies in the region.

Goal B5: The region decreases risk to hospital patients, special needs and vulnerable populations due to emergencies.

Goal B6: The region coordinates plans between all levels of government to ensure adequate and timely shelter capacity within the region for those residing in the hurricane evacuation areas.

Goal B7: The region plans for and supports domestic security initiatives in the Northeast Florida region.

Goal B8: The population of the region is educated about their vulnerability and their best options in the event of an emergency, and communication methods are efficient and effective.

[How we will get there \(Click here\)](#)

Statement C: All of the people in Northeast Florida have access to jobs and can build wealth as the region prospers.

Goal C1: Northeast Florida has a robust economy that serves the needs of its residents with jobs that pay well and provide a full range of benefits. This economic well-being translates into a population with positive emotional and physical outcomes that result in increased productivity.

Goal C2: Northeast Florida leaders recognize that transportation efficiency and costs are an important element in housing affordability. A regional transit system provides affordable transportation options for the region's residents, while an emphasis on mixed-use communities

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with a balance of housing and job-generating land uses reduces the need for long commutes and provides for neighborhood supporting services.

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Statement D: Our region is healthy, because our people have a healthy lifestyle and have access to quality health services.

Goal D1: Northeast Florida ranks as one of the nation's healthiest regions.

- Healthy habits are part of the region's culture, beginning at birth.
- Well designed communities promote active lifestyles and have reduced the number of "food deserts" in the region.
- Public-private partnerships have resulted in a regional network of community gardens and farmers' markets that provide healthy food and jobs, while also preserving agricultural lands.
- As a result of this culture of health, Northeast Florida boasts low obesity rates and reductions in poor health outcomes associated with obesity.

Goal D2: Physical activity is a key component for reduction of chronic disease and poor health outcomes.

- Reduced commute times and automobile dependence provides additional opportunities for residents to engage in physical activity.
- Northeast Florida has reduced automobile dependence through community design that encourages walking and bicycles as transportation modes.
- Mixed-use communities that integrate residential and employment-generating land uses reduce the need to travel great distances for work.
- The Region also has a true multi-modal transportation network that further reduces commute times.

Goal D3: Northeast Florida residents have good access to quality health care and health-supportive services, including mental health services, regardless of location or socioeconomic status.

- A regional multi-modal transportation network ensures physical access to services, while a robust network of social services ensures meaningful access.

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Section: THE GOALS FOR ECONOMIC VITALITY

Statement A: Our education system is world class and works for all of our residents.

Goal A1: Northeast Florida maintains a first-tier education system with a curriculum that is oriented towards both current and future industry needs and lifelong learning.

[How we will get there \(Click here\)](#)

Statement B: We develop to maximize our infrastructure in planned and connected centers.

Goal B1: Northeast Florida capitalizes on its deep water ports, airports and rail / roadway connections to the nation through the continued improvement and expansion of infrastructure, including centralized systems for water, sewer, fiber optics (high speed internet), electric and natural gas distribution.

Goal B2: A **Regional Atlas** is a series of images, lists and maps that identifies environmentally sensitive lands, built and planned major roadways, commercial and industrial lands, military bases, residential lands, and other land uses. Local governments use the **Regional Atlas** as a guide to coordinate planning efforts, prioritize public expenditures and facilitate economic development. *

Goal B3: Job centers are dispersed throughout the Region, ensuring that each person has an opportunity for employment within proximity to where they live. Through its **multi-modal transportation framework**, the region recognizes and encourages the link between transportation, access to employment, and economic development.

[How we will get there \(Click here\)](#)

Statement C: We support business.

Goal C1: Northeast Florida is one of the most conducive regions in the country for small business and entrepreneurial development, and provides the services and facilities necessary for their success. Through ready access to small business development and to start-up capital, entrepreneurs have a means to realize their ideas.

Goal C2: The health care sector has grown as a key component of Northeast Florida's economic base. In addition to hospitals, clinics, doctor's offices and other health sector facilities that serve Northeast Florida residents, the Region has attracted and retained nationally

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recognized research hospitals and medical technology industries as a result of its first-tier colleges and universities and positive business climate.

Goal C3: Government regulations and public policy are conducive to and supportive of a vibrant, diverse and competitive business environment.

Goal C4: Northeast Florida is home to many large businesses, and is one of the most attractive regions for Fortune 500 company headquarters.

[How we will get there \(Click here\)](#)

Statement D: We think, plan and act outside our borders.

Goal D1: Partnerships that extend beyond our region make the region competitive on both a national and international level.

[How we will get there \(Click here\)](#)

Section: THE GOALS FOR RESOURCES FOR THE LONG TERM

Statement A: We link land use with resources and mobility.

Goal A1: Government leaders are consistent in their policy to guide public and private land use toward a regional land use pattern that has created a healthy job to housing ratio in mixed use growth centers, has enhanced the efficiency of our transportation system, and maintained air quality.

- The region enjoys a healthy lifestyle with connections to regional recreation facilities, parks and green space, opportunities to access a high-quality education, housing in proximity to major employment centers, access to affordable housing and communities that are safe, walkable and pedestrian friendly.

Goal A2: The region has an efficient regional transportation network and incorporates coordination of land uses and transportation efforts to support the higher density areas of the region which are oriented towards transit.

- Land use and transportation policies incentivize development types that allow for mobility choices.
- Transit is affordable and provides service that is safe, reliable and convenient to all people at all stages of life.
- The First Coast has one of the highest per capita transit ridership numbers in the State of Florida and has steadily reduced car and fossil fuel dependency.

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- Because of the placement of the mixture of jobs and people, commute times are some of the lowest in the State.

Goal A3: Physical activity is a key component for reduction of chronic disease and poor health outcomes.

- Parks are located within a walkable distance of most of our residents, and we consider this goal as we locate new parks and new residential development.
- Reduced commute times and automobile dependence provides additional opportunities for residents to engage in physical activity.
- Northeast Florida has reduced automobile dependence through community design that encourages walking and bicycles as transportation modes.
- Mixed-use communities that integrate residential and employment-generating land uses reduce the need to travel great distances for work.
- The Region also has a true multi-modal transportation network that further reduces commute times.

[How we will get there \(Click here\)](#)

Statement B: We conserve water.

Goal B1: The region maximizes water conservation by domestic, agricultural, industrial, and commercial users. Residents of the region understand water conservation issues through education programs.

[How we will get there \(Click here\)](#)

Statement C: We protect water quality.

Goal C1: Northeast Florida maintains good surface water and drinking water quality.

- All water bodies meet water quality standards.
- The integrity of eco-systems is considered as valuable to the region as economic growth, and best practices, technologies and tools to balance these priorities are used by all communities in the region.
- Innovations in stormwater treatment and overall reductions in stormwater runoff have resulted in improved quality for all of the region's waterways.
- Water conservation measures, including the elimination of potable water as an irrigation source and "Florida Friendly" landscaping requirements, have reduced demand on the Floridan aquifer and reduced nutrient pollution in waterways.

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Statement D: We identify and protect green infrastructure.

Goal D1: The Regional **Green Infrastructure** is an interconnected system of natural and built infrastructure undeveloped lands and incorporates natural resource areas, recreational lands, and working lands. The region has largely preserved the Regional **Green Infrastructure** identified in First Coast Vision and has been consistent with the spirit of **green infrastructure** by incorporating commercially viable forest land, cropland, natural resources, recreational facilities, parks and green spaces. *

Goal D2: Northeast Florida has an extensive, connected system of publicly accessible natural lands that includes greenways and trails and other recreational opportunities that promote physical activity Exercise is routine in the region, and its impact is felt in the trend towards improving health of our residents, including reducing rates of chronic diseases.

[How we will get there \(Click here\)](#)

Statement E: We protect air quality.

Goal E1: Northeast Florida maintains good air quality by keeping carbon emissions low as a result of improvements to the transportation network and more efficient energy use by consumers of energy.

- A regional transit system, transit-oriented development and more compact development patterns, including redevelopment along transit corridors, have resulted in reduced vehicle miles traveled and reduced the regional carbon footprint.

[How we will get there \(Click here\)](#)

Statement F: We build for resiliency and identify and protect vulnerable parts of the region.

Goal F1: The built environment in the region is as resilient as possible, and we analyze and implement protection for vulnerable areas using regional **vulnerability maps**. *

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Statement G: We will determine the impact of climate change on Northeast Florida, and if we are vulnerable, we will plan, mitigate and adapt.

Goal G1: We will determine the impact of climate change on Northeast Florida. We will determine which of our assets (people and built environment) are vulnerable, establish a plan so that we know what actions to take to address the impacts of climate change, if any, and mitigate the impacts whenever we can. If we identify impacts, we will take climate change adaptation into account in all planning, design, and infrastructure investment decisions made in the region. *

Goal G2: The region has reached a balance by mitigating for the effects of climate change on sea level rise that have been observed as well as planning for adaptation to future effects.

- This has been achieved by utilizing efficient and climate-friendly fuels and technologies including alternative energy sources for power generation, industry and transportation.
- The region has used its forest resources to create clean sources of energy, and is planning on using more carbon-free sources in the future.
- It has also achieved balance by creating a synergy between the region's need for food, and preserving agriculture sufficient to allow the region to supply many of its needs locally.
- The region maintains ecosystem services to preserve clean air, water, and habitat for wildlife populations, and to provide flood control.

Goal G3: This region maintains viable, orderly, and resilient communities as possible under the conditions generated by climate change.

Goal G4: Northeast Florida does its full part to maintain a **familiar climate**.

[How we will get there \(Click here\)](#)

Statement H: We are prepared for all hazards.

Goal H1: The region is prepared to deal with hazardous materials incidents.

Goal H2: We ensure that evacuation routes are identified and clearly designated and are at the capacity and quality needed to safely carry the expected number of evacuating vehicles within acceptable clearance times, and that we plan for safe re-entry.

Goal H3: The region completes emergency-related, post-disaster redevelopment and economic recovery as quickly as possible while mitigating future risk.

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Statement I: We provide mobility choices to our residents and businesses.

Goal I1: The region has created and implemented an efficient **Multi-modal Transportation Framework** to move people and goods, and supported over time the infrastructure investments needed to make it work. The plan maintains an environment that includes mobility options to move goods and people to support business and industry. The region includes centers of population and jobs that are well-connected limit commute times for most residents and provide opportunities for all residents of the region to work if they choose. *

Goal I2: The regional transportation network supports the wide range of lifestyle choices available to First Coast residents.

- Dense, transit-oriented communities are spread throughout the region in locations that are supported by residents.
- A mixture of interesting residents live in these centers, which offer a diversity of jobs, schools, homes, civic, cultural and faith-based uses, recreation, services and amenities.
- Their densities allow for the most choices available to residents of the region in what to do close to home and how to travel.

[*How we will get there \(Click here\)*](#)

Statement J: We fund mobility and maintain capacity.

Goal J1: The local governments and stakeholders of the region coordinate funding efforts to maximize efficiencies that allow for mobility choices for residents of the region. This includes collaboration on maintenance and operation of a regional transportation system that serves the suburban and urban parts of the region, with ways to connect for rural residents. Transportation funding in the region is reliable, equitable, efficient and affordable.

Goal J2: The region has a safe, efficient, well funded and well maintained regional road network that meets the requirements of population and economic growth and meets the challenges of transition away from fossil fuels to alternative energy. The road network is designed and maintained to be complementary to the regional transit network, and to all modes of transport and travel, including safe walking and biking.

[*How we will get there \(Click here\)*](#)

Statement K: We provide medical and general mobility to all our residents, including the transportation disadvantaged.

Goal K1: The region provides affordable mobility options other than the private car for all of our residents that do not own a car.

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Goal K2: Northeast Florida residents have good access to quality health care and health-supportive services, including mental health services, regardless of location or socioeconomic status. A regional multi-modal transportation network ensures physical access to services, while a robust network of social services ensures meaningful access.

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Statement L: We embrace technology.

Goal L1: If technology can help us to improve quality of life in the region, we embrace it.

- Peak hour and peak period transportation deficiencies may be alleviated through technology.
- Transportation planning decisions are always made in the context of changing technology and the regional multi-modal framework is flexible to benefit from the opportunities provided by technology.
- **Intelligent Transportation Systems** (ITS) are included in the framework.
- The regional framework is cost effective and has reduced congestion levels along roadways that can no longer accommodate additional lanes because of various constraints.
- The region maintains travel times and the implementation of the **incident management systems** have minimized impacts on business operation and worker commute times.

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The Implementation Plans:

Regional Housing Assistance Mechanism to transition to an all voucher system

Housing review methodology for significant developments

Regional Atlas

Regional Green Infrastructure Plan

Vulnerability Maps

Determine climate change impact, and, if indicated, mitigation and adaptation plans

Multi-modal transportation framework for the region

First Coast Vision Definitions:

Best Management Practices: State of the art practices, often shared by entities trying to achieve similar goals.

Carbon sinks: Anything that absorbs more carbon than it releases.

Coastal High Hazard Area (CHHA): The Coastal High Hazard Area is Storm Surge Area 1 as defined in Florida Statutes. Limitations apply in this area to ensure that residents and vulnerable populations are protected.

Comprehensive Emergency Management Plans: These are the master operations documents and framework through which emergencies and disasters are handled by the State of Florida and its counties.

Critical Land and Waters Identification Project (CLIP): is a database that combines many databases into one, in order to allow for a regional or state level review of the environmental value of the lands and waters of Florida.

Dashboard of Data: An electronic format available on the internet that allows data to be accessed from several sources and used in multiple ways.

Entitled: A site that is governmentally approved for its proposed use except for building permits.

Familiar Climate: The climate that we have come to expect in Northeast Florida, based on prior years.

Food Deserts: Areas that lack access to affordable fruits, vegetables, whole grains, low fat milk, and other foods that make up the full range of a healthy diet.

Green: Environmentally friendly.

Green Infrastructure: The assets of the region that support natural ecosystems. This includes natural areas, areas that perform dual functions (flood plains that are farmed and used for recreation, for example) and the built environment that is designed to support ecosystems (pervious parking lots and sidewalks, rain gardens, or constructed wetlands, for example).

Greenprint: The map identifying regional green infrastructure.

Land Development Codes: Local regulations related to the development of land.

Local Emergency Planning Committee: These committees bring together related agencies in Florida regions to address safety issues related to hazardous materials.

Incident Management Systems: Generally, the operational framework used to respond to emergencies by agencies.

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Intelligent Transportation Systems: Systems that add data and communications technology to transportation infrastructure and vehicles to improve the efficiency or safety of transportation.

Multi-modal Transportation Framework: A framework for transportation improvements and investments that considers all modes of transport and the connections between them. The framework will take into account all planning efforts in the region, transportation priorities, natural resource priorities and neighborhood context. It is designed to be an implementation mechanism to achieve a sustainable region, frequently reviewed but not abandoned until its goals are met.

Mutual Aid Agreements: Agreements signed by jurisdictions that agree on when and how they will support each other in the event of an emergency.

NPDES: The National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System regulates point sources that discharge pollutants into US waters.

Regional Atlas: A series of images, lists and maps that identifies environmentally sensitive lands, built and planned major roadways, commercial and industrial lands, military bases, residential lands, and other land uses. It includes at a minimum, the Greenprint, the multi-modal transportation framework, and the vulnerability maps.

Regional Domestic Security Task Forces: Teams of local representatives who prepare for, prevent and respond to terrorist events.

Shovel-ready: A site that is governmentally approved for its proposed use, including building permits.

Significant Development: Development that reaches the threshold of Developments of Regional Impact, as they were defined by Section 380 of the Florida Statutes in 2010.

Sustainable: Consisting of a balance of the goals for economic vitality, resources for the long term, and the people who live and work in the region.

Transit Oriented Development: Mixed use areas designed to maximize access to public transportation and encourage ridership.

Universal Design: Design that produces building, products and environments that are accessible to both the able-bodied and the physically-challenged.

Vulnerability Maps: Maps that indicate the physical characteristics of the land, the physical, socio-economic and language characteristics of the people and the characteristics of buildings and the built environment that make parts of the region vulnerable to emergencies and disasters.

Walk Scores: Assessment from the website walkscore.com of the walkability of an address or neighborhood.