

# **NEFRC**

**November Monthly  
LEGISLATIVE POLICY  
COMMITTEE  
Information**

**NOVEMBER MEETING  
CANCELLED  
NEXT MEETING  
December 4, 2008**


**Northeast Florida Regional Council  
6850 Belfort Oaks Place  
Jacksonville, FL 32216**



*Bringing Communities Together*

Baker • Clay • Duval • Flagler • Nassau • Putnam • St. Johns

## MEMORANDUM

Date: October 29, 2008  
To: NEFRC Legislative Policy Committee  
From: Mario Taylor, Deputy CEO & Chief Operations Officer   
Re: November 6, 2008, Committee Meeting

=====  
The **Legislative Policy Committee** meeting scheduled for **Thursday, November 6, 2008**, has been **CANCELLED**.

The November monthly information that would have been presented within the meeting is attached for your review.

**Northeast Florida Regional Council**

**LEGISLATIVE  
POLICY COMMITTEE**

**November Monthly Information Packet**

**TAB**

- 1. September 4, 2008, Meeting's Minutes ..... 1
- 2. 2009 Legislative Priorities Solicitation Request Update ..... 2
  - a. *Flagler County 2009 Legislative Priorities* ..... 3
  - b. *Nassau County 2009 Legislative Priorities* ..... 4
- 3. Next Meeting Date and Location:           **Thursday, December 4, 2008**

Northeast Florida Regional Council  
6850 Belfort Oaks Place  
Jacksonville, Florida 32216

# Tab 1



# NORTHEAST FLORIDA REGIONAL COUNCIL

Legislative Policy Committee

October 2, 2008

## MINUTES

A meeting of the NEFRC Legislative Policy Committee was held on Thursday, **October 2, 2008**, at 11:55 a.m., at the Northeast Florida Regional Council, 6850 Belfort Oaks Place, Jacksonville, FL 32216. **President Boyle** called the meeting to order with the following members present representing a quorum:

Art Graham  
Chip Laibl  
Mike Boyle

Jon Netts  
Cyndi Stevenson

Jim O'Connell  
Larry Williams

Excused: Michael Griffis, Harold Rutledge, Karen Stern

Staff: Brian Teeple, Mario Taylor, Mike Hadden, Margo Moehring and Angela Giles

### \*Approval of Minutes

**Commissioner Laibl moved approval of the minutes of the September 4, 2008, meeting; seconded by Councilman Graham; motion unanimously carried.**

### 2009 Legislative Priorities Solicitation Request Update

Mr. Taylor informed the Committee members that, as directed, another solicitation request for Legislative Priorities had gone out via email. The email and original solicitation request is included in the binder for members review. The Council has received Clay County priorities since the last meeting, which are included for the members review. Discussion followed regarding items for Regional Legislative Priorities.

### 2008 Legislative Mandated Building Code Standards & Land Use Requirements

Mr. Teeple spoke to the members about House Bill 697, and pointed out the Growth Management items contained within it, including energy conservation, greenhouse gasses and discouragement of urban sprawl. Discussion followed.

### Regional Issues & Events Update

Mr. Taylor stated that this was a standing agenda item, and that he has nothing new to report at this time. Mr. Teeple stated that he has spoken with the Secretary of the Department of Community Affairs (DCA), Mr. Tom Pelham, and that it is unlikely that the DCA will have much of a legislative agenda this year. DCA is under "Sunset Review" at this time. Discussion followed.

**President Boyle** stated that this Committee would "meet as necessary" rather than meet every month. At this time, due to the upcoming legislation, the Committee should meet in November and December.

### Next Meeting Date and Location

The next meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, November 6, 2008**, immediately following the Board Meeting, at the Northeast Florida Regional Council, 6850 Belfort Oaks Place, Jacksonville, FL 32216.

### Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 12:25 pm.


# **Tab 2**



*Bringing Communities Together*

Baker • Clay • Duval • Flagler • Nassau • Putnam • St. Johns

## MEMORANDUM

**Date:** October 29, 2008  
**To:** NEFRC Legislative Committee Members  
**From:** Mario L. Taylor, Deputy Chief Executive Officer   
**Re:** Legislative Priorities Solicitations

---

Please review the attached Legislative Priorities from Flagler and Nassau counties.

At this time, the Council has only received 2009 Legislative Priorities from Baker, Clay, Flagler and Nassau Counties. No information has been received from Duval, Putnam or St. Johns counties.

Please review the Priorities you have received, and begin to develop a Regional Priorities list for consideration at the next Committee meeting.

Please feel free to call me at (904) 279-0880, or email me at [mtaylor@nefrc.org](mailto:mtaylor@nefrc.org) if you have any questions.

# Tab 3

# Flagler County 2009 Legislative Priorities

## State Transportation Funding

**Background:** As northeast Florida continues to grow, FDOT remains a key element in keeping county infrastructure abreast of the continued growth. Therefore, planning and oversight to coordinate the funding and the time schedule for projects is essential to ensure orderly growth and proper expenditure of state funding.

**Requested Action:** Restore funding from the state gas tax and other sources for all aspects of transportation and have FDOT to continue to provide 2.5% matching funds for FAA airport projects.

**Effect:** Coordinated funding efforts will ensure the best use of state tax dollars to optimize regional transportation initiatives.

### **Specific Flagler County Projects:**

- Public Transportation Study for future fixed route service
- Matanzas Woods I-95 Interchange Design
- Bridge Replacement and Widening on County Road 305
- Flagler County Airport General Aviation Terminal construction and associated land acquisition

## Funding for the Water Sustainability Trust Fund

**Background:** The Water Sustainability Trust Fund allows local governments to successfully partner with the water management districts and the State in seeking alternative water supplies. Historic droughts and continued growth have combined to increase water demands. As governments are encouraged to explore alternative options for water supply such as desalination, funding is more critical than ever.

**Requested Action:** Restore funding for the state's Water Sustainability Trust Fund to assist the Coquina Coast Desalination Project as a means of providing a safe and adequate water supply for the region in the future.

**Effect:** Provides a sustainable future source of potable drinking water for the region without minimizing the use of scarce surface water resources, including the St. Johns River system.

## State Funding for Medicaid

**Background:** State Medicaid funding is essential to the continued operation of local health departments. County Health Departments are the backbone of a system of medical assistance to the poor, working poor and low income residents in each county. Keeping Medicaid funding at a consistent level is imperative to provide basic health needs to children and adults across the state. Medicaid funding also supports emergency and non-emergency ambulance transportation.

**Requested Action:** Oppose legislation that would further decrease Medicaid funding for County Health Departments or local emergency service providers.

**Effect:** Maintains an optimum regional County Health Department network that is able to handle the flow of patients in need of medical attention as well as local emergency response providers.

## State Housing Initiative Program (SHIP) Funds

**Background:** The State Housing Initiative Program (SHIP) is in jeopardy due to the downturn in the economy. Mortgage foreclosures and unemployment rates have risen to record numbers across the state. Likewise, a reduction in home sales has resulted in less revenue from document stamps (on home sales) that funds the SHIP program. Additionally, the state legislature has placed a cap on the amount of funds that can be used for housing programs.

**Requested Action:** Remove the cap on SHIP funding to allow revenue collected for the program to be used for their intended purpose and not as a funding source for other state programs.

**Effect:** Restoration of SHIP fund amounts will provide assistance to more individuals receiving housing assistance and meet the intended purpose for which the money was collected.

# Tab 4



**NASSAU COUNTY**  
**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**  
 P.O. Box 1010  
 Fernandina Beach, Florida 32035-1010

Jim B. Higginbotham  
 Michael H. Boyle  
 Tom Branan  
 Barry Holloway  
 Marianne Marshall


Dist. No. 1 Fernandina Beach  
 Dist. No. 2 Amelia Island  
 Dist. No. 3 Yulee  
 Dist. No. 4 Hilliard/Bryceville  
 Dist. No. 5 Callahan

JOHN A. CRAWFORD  
 Ex-Officio Clerk

DAVID A. HALLMAN  
 County Attorney

EDWARD L. SEALOVER  
 County Coordinator

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Board of County Commissioners  
**FROM:** Edward L. Sealover, County Coordinator   
**SUBJECT:** Expansion Item, September 22 meeting  
**DATE:** September 22, 2008

\*\*\*\*\*  
 NEFRC has requested your 2009 Legislative Priorities. Attached is last year's version. Three (3) departments made recommendations.

**Growth Management** proposed amending Sec. 163.3180, F.S. to substitute a mobility fee for the existing transportation concurrency system. It would be based on new p.m. peak hour trips, and it would be in addition to the generally applicable transportation fee, if it is imposed. There would be a limit on its use for capital projects that expand capacity on the directly accessed facility. "Pipelining" of improvements would be permitted. Lastly, any portion of the fee directed to FDOT should have the same limitations.

**Engineering Services** made seven (7) suggestions:

1. FDOT reimburse local governments for the construction they advance not in the FDOT five (5) year work plan.
2. Continue and increase (10 %) SCOP and SCRAP funding.
3. Automated (video) enforcement for red lights.
4. Additional funding for constructing roads that are failing concurrency LOS.
5. Revise the backlogged authority in SB360 to enable utilization of a use fee.
6. Encourage DCA to rewrite the concurrency rules.
7. FDOT fund widening of SR200/A1A to six (6) lanes.

**Administrative Services** recommends opposing any new unfunded mandates, including increasing the state administrative percentage applied to revenues shared with the county, continuation of variance grants such as the Small County Consolidated Grant and Emergency Preparedness as well as State Funding for local road construction.

(904) 491-7380 or (866)-474-1446

*An Affirmative Action / Equal Opportunity Employer*