

NEFRC

Highlights

Monthly Report of the Northeast Florida Regional Council

November 2009

Reality Check First Coast Receives Award for Public Participation from First Coast Chapter of Florida Planning and Zoning Association

On Friday, November 13th the First Coast Chapter of the Florida Planning and Zoning Association (FPZA) held its annual Awards Dinner and Installation of Officers. The event was well attended by a diverse group of public and private land use planners and attorneys, as well as by elected and appointed local government officials. The event was held in downtown Jacksonville at the Jacksonville Museum of Contemporary Art. Ed Lehman was the master of ceremonies for the awards portion of the event.

Awards were given out in the following categories:

- Outstanding Public Development
- Outstanding Public Study
- Outstanding Transportation Study
- Design Excellence Award, Green Design
- Public Redevelopment
- Master Planning of Land Areas
- Public Participation

In recognition as one of the largest planning exercises undertaken in the State of Florida, Reality Check First Coast (RCFC) was the recipient of the Public Participation award. The Northeast Florida Regional Council accepted the award on behalf of its partner in this project, the North Florida District of the Urban Land Institute and all of those who volunteered their time and energy to make RCFC a success.

Following the awards portion of the event was the installation of officers. Sworn in as part of the 2010 Board of Directors for the First Coast Chapter of the Florida Planning and Zoning Association are two staff members of the Northeast Florida Regional Council: Guy Parola and Ed Lehman.

For additional information on the FPZA awards, please contact Guy Parola at gparola@nefrc.org or 279-0885 x135.

2009 Regional Leadership Awards

Applications are being accepted through December 11, 2009, for the Northeast Florida Regional Council's Regional Awards. Applications are available on our website at www.nefrc.org in the following categories:

- The Harry Waldron Regional Leadership Award
- The Regional Quality of Life Award
- The Regional Award for Excellence in Transportation
- The Regional Award for Excellence in Public Safety
- The Regional Award for Excellence in Economic Development and Tourism
- The Regional Award for Excellence in Environmental Stewardship
- The Regional Award for Excellence in Affordable Housing
- The Regional Award for Excellence in Education
- The Regional Award for Excellence in Planning and Growth Management

Please contact Jennifer Hewett-Apperson at 279-0885 x104 or jhewettapperson@nefrc.org for additional information on the Regional Awards Program.

County Checks Wrap Up

During the month of November, NEFRC staff held the final three County Checks in Nassau County, St. Johns County and Putnam County. These exercises allowed participants to play Reality Check First Coast at the county level in order to add the county perspective needed to create and implement a regional vision. Attendance at County Checks was strong and included a diverse mixture of elected officials, planning and zoning board members, residents, business owners, land owners and developers.

County Check results are now posted online at www.realitycheckfirstcoast.com, and online polling is open so that interested persons may provide input on their preferred growth patterns through an online survey. The results of all seven County Checks will be posted on January 5, 2010.

For additional information on County Checks, please contact Ameera Sayeed at 279-0885 x151, or asayeed@nefrc.org.

CEO Speaks to WJCT's First Coast Connect about Reality Check First Coast

On November 25, 2009, Council CEO Brian Teeple spoke with WJCT's Melissa Ross about Reality Check First Coast on the daily radio call-in show, First Coast Connect. He provided an overview of the visioning exercise and answered questions from callers. Callers' questions covered topics including technological alternatives for commuting, connecting greenways, bike paths and sidewalks, improving transit and overcoming a lack of political will on planning issues. Teeple noted that the bottom line is that there is still time to make the right choices in Northeast Florida and we as citizens should take advantage of that opportunity. Teeple further noted that there will be additional opportunities for First Coast residents to participate through Generation Check on January 30, 2010, and through Region First 2060 and the Regional Community Institute. Thank you to WJCT and Melissa Ross for their continued commitment to keeping First Coast residents informed!

For more information about this segment, please contact Brian Teeple at bteeple@nefrc.org, or 904-279-0880.

Getting Your Money's Worth

Each year, District IV of the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) is responsible for implementing the Hazardous Materials Emergency Planning (HMEP) grant funds for Training courses and initiatives. The HMEP funds are provided through the U.S. Department of Transportation to help provide training assistance to firefighters, law enforcement officers, emergency medical technicians, and other first responders in the prevention, preparedness, mitigation, and response to hazardous materials incidents that may occur in their jurisdictions. This previous year saw a sharp increase in trained personnel and training hours provided by the LEPC District IV. A total of 279 people received hazardous material related training to increase their awareness, operational experience, or technical expertise. A variety of courses were offered or sponsored by the LEPC with 3,288 training hours were accrued between October, 2008 and September, 2009; that's over 137 days straight, or nearly four and a half months.

Due to the current economy, departments and agencies across the country are feeling the effects and operational budgets do not have the ability to afford the cost of instruction or traveling to a training event. Training is critical for personnel in the first responder field, and without it, operational and safety concerns can suffer. The HMEP funds are specifically designed to continue the education of the response profession and help to supplement their departments training budgets. The LEPC is already looking at the training it plans to provide during the upcoming year for your local area responders.

For additional information on the LEPC, please contact Jason Taylor at jtaylor@nefrc.org or 279-0885 x136.

2010 Regional Leadership Series

Applications are being accepted through December 15, 2009, for the 2010 Regional Leadership Series.

The Northeast Florida Regional Leadership Academy (RLA) is a program of the Northeast Florida Regional Council (NEFRC) that nurtures and cultivates a commitment to Regionalism. The Academy educates Regional Leaders and invests in the future of our communities through a mission to make Northeast Florida a better place to live and work.

The 2010 Regional Leadership Series will kick off on January 13, 2010, and consists of seven (7) classes that will occur once each month through July 2010. Tuition is \$25 per class in the series and includes lunch. All classes will begin at 10:00 am will end at 3:00 pm, with the exception of "Tools for Regional Leadership", which will end at 4:00 pm. The schedule for the 2010 Regional Leadership series is as follows:

1. January 13, 2010: "Tools for Regional Leadership"
2. February 17, 2010: "Managing Crisis in the Region"
3. March 10, 2010: "Recreation and Mobility"
4. April 14, 2010: "Housing and Human Services"
5. May 19, 2010: "Economic Development and Local Government Finance"
6. June 16, 2010: "Natural Resources"
7. July 14, 2010: "The Housing, Land Use and Transportation Continuum – Bringing it all together and how to move forward"

In order to become a graduate of the Class of 2010 of the Northeast Florida Regional Leadership Academy, you must: fill out and submit an application by December 15, 2009; attend the mandatory "Tools for Regional Leadership" Program; and attain eighteen (18) credits that may be completed over a two-year period.

Applications for the 2010 Regional Leadership Series and Academy may be downloaded at <http://www.nefrc.com/RLSGraduate.html>. For additional information on the Regional Leadership Series and Academy, please contact Jennifer Hewett-Apperson at 279-0885 x104 or jhewettapperson@nefrc.org, or visit our website at <http://www.nefrc.com>.