

NEFRC Highlights

Monthly Report of the Northeast Florida Regional Council

December 2008

Northeast Florida Regional Leadership Series kicks off a new spin on educating Regional leaders

Now, more than ever, the momentum of Regional Visioning is at an all-time high! For months staff at the Regional Council has been discussing the planning stages of one of the most exciting Regional Visioning exercises Northeast Florida has ever seen: Reality Check First Coast (RCFC). The exercise is designed to raise awareness of projected levels of Region-wide growth and to lay the foundation for the development of a concrete list of next steps to meet the Region's future job, housing, transportation, infrastructure and recreation needs.



The Northeast Florida Regional Leadership Academy (RLA) is a program of the Northeast Florida Regional Council (NEFRC) that also nurtures and cultivates this

same 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.

However, the economy has impacted programs like the RLA. Through communication with numerous potential participants, it has become clear that – they acknowledge the immense benefits of the program - the cost of tuition of the traditional RLA prevents some from being able to participate at this time.

Because the Regional Council feels passionately that tough economic times do not diminish the vital importance of developing Regional Leaders, the Academy has been restructured in order to conduct a program which provides similar benefits of the RLA and at the same time make it cost effective for people to participate. Therefore, a new spin on the Leadership Academy has been put into place: The Northeast Florida Regional Leadership Series.

The Leadership Series begins with two days of programming, held at the Northeast Florida Regional Council on January 14-15, 2009.

For more information or to register to participate in the Leadership Series, please contact Mike Hadden at (904) 279-0880 x 104 or visit the Web site at www.nefrla.com.

Reality Check First Coast gaining momentum for May 2009 event

As part of Reality Check First Coast the Analysis subcommittee was tasked with producing a model of existing conditions for jobs and population. A model of the existing conditions was created using the LEGO® bricks on a base map which measures 52X70 inches. This model was presented at the Coordinating Committee's meeting, in December, and received favorable comments. The model was also tabulated electronically to produce a 3D rendering of the existing conditions for jobs and population with the Region.

In order to compile the population and employment data sets the Analysis subcommittee acquired the Transportation Models within the Region into a spreadsheet which was then input into a format compatible with GIS. Revisions and updates were made to the data sets to represent the existing conditions for the year 2007 and 2008. The local knowledge and expertise of the committee members were invaluable in ensuring the reasonableness. The data sets were input into a GIS interface and translated in to a 3D rendering of the Region. The red bricks and yellow bricks represented in the 3D rendering depict jobs and population respectively.



For more information, please contact Ameera Sayeed at (904) 279-0880 x 151.

Century Commission meeting addresses Regional topics of concern

Staff from the Northeast Florida Regional Council was in attendance at the December 15, 2008, meeting of the Century Commission for a Sustainable Florida which was held in St. Petersburg, Florida.

The meeting addressed proposed Annual Report topics of concern to the whole state of Florida, but those which are of special interest to Northeast Florida as well. Topics of discussion included water: conservation, alternative supply storage and Regional solutions; Legislative Term Limits; a Critical Lands and Waters Identification Project; Regional Visioning which included a look at the Strategic Regional Policy Plan; and a view of the Environment and how buildings and communities affect it.

For more information, please contact Mario Taylor at (904) 279-0880.



Critical Infrastructure Threat Assessment & Mitigation Program Update

As part of the Critical Infrastructure Threat Assessment and Mitigation (CITAM) Program which is part of the Northeast Florida Regional Council's (NEFRC) Emergency Preparedness Program (EPP) area, a number of achievements were recently accomplished by Council staffers. All 4 Threat Assessors, plus the NEFRC Coordinator and Regional Domestic Security Task Force (RDSTF) Regional Planner, successfully completed the 5-day Critical Infrastructure Protection Training Program (CIPTP) course at the Port of Jacksonville, which was held December 8 – 9, 2008. Taught by Federal Law Enforcement Training Center master instructors, completion of this highly specialized technical curriculum means that the CITAMS Assessment Team now has Department of Homeland Security accreditation and certification in the protection of our Region's critical assets.

The Final Acceptance check list for vendor software (Site Profiler) has been completed. This puts the EPP area at

an important milestone in its year-long journey with Site Profiler, and its latest (and perhaps final) Version 4.4. The system performs smoothly and seamlessly; our customer experience with Digital Sandbox has been outstanding.

The first "solo" field assessment of a facility by a CITMAS assessor was performed at the Putnam County Emergency Operations Center in Palatka on December 16, 2008. This event also marked the first time that Council staff was issued a standard Federal Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) field kit for use in the program. Staff received custody of seven dedicated FDLE Field Kits which were used in the "Baker County Blitz." The initial Meet-n-Greet for the "Baker County Blitz" was held December 30, 2009. The "Blitz" is a coordinated simultaneous team assessment of Baker County critical sites, took place in Macclenny. This sets the stage for additional assessments of critical sites throughout the Region.

For more information, please contact Steve McMikle at (904) 279-0880 x 149.

Regional Council is represented at Legislative Leadership Forum

With the goal of organizing the Central Florida Legislative Delegation to support a nine-county regional public policy agenda, the Central Florida Legislative Leadership Forum was held on Friday, December 12, 2008, from 8:30 to 11:00 a.m. at the University of Central Florida Alumni Center.

Hosted by former Florida Speaker of the House, John Thrasher, with Senator Mike Haridopolos and Representative Dean Cannon, discussions centered around Regional Perspectives on Growth Management including the work of myregion.org and the Regional Congress of Leaders regarding the development of a regional water policy, Transportation with a primary focus on regional corridors and commuter rail, and Economic Development including a report on the Space Industry and the economic impact of the shuttle retirement on Central Florida's economy.

Legislators representing the counties of Brevard, Indian River, Lake, Orange Osceola, Polk, St. Lucie, Seminole, and Volusia will share their respective priorities and challenges as well as their aspirations for the Central Florida Region. Staff from the Northeast Florida Regional Council was also present to represent the Region and gain helpful insight for our own Legislative priority determination.

For more information, please contact Mario Taylor at (904) 279-0880.