

NEFRC

Highlights

Monthly Report of the Northeast Florida Regional Council

November 2011

NEFRC Welcomes New Member

The Jacksonville City Council has made a Municipal appointment to represent Duval County on the Northeast Florida Regional Council's Board of Directors. The new member is the Honorable Stan Totman, Mayor of the Town of Baldwin. The Council welcomes his service.



*The Honorable Stan Totman,
Mayor of Baldwin*

The First Coast Consortium

The First Coast Consortium Executive Committee met on November 17, 2011 at NEFRC. This group was originally formed to go for funding through the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development's Sustainable Communities Regional Planning grant. While the Consortium's grant application was not funded in 2010 or 2011, the Consortium has decided that Northeast Florida can benefit from regional collaboration regardless of funding. They are launching their efforts at the December 14, 2011 Annual Social of the Regional Community Institute. The Consortium currently has almost 50 members and new members are welcomed. For more information about First Coast Consortium, contact Margo Moehring at 904-279-0885 x161.

USDOT Funding in Support of Regional Mobility

On Wednesday, November 9, NEFRC staff were in attendance as U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood announced the award to the Jacksonville Transportation Authority of \$1.9 million for the One-Call/One click transportation Center. The grant recognizes that transportation needs of our veterans and military families will change from one trip to the next, and transportation provision is not a one size fits all. The Northeast Florida One-Call/One Click Transportation Research Center, will be an entry where veterans and other patrons will be able to obtain immediate transportation information through a single call or single visit to a web page. While the grant is awarded to JTA, this is truly a regional effort as these services will be available to all in users in the region and is not limited to those in Duval County. For more information contact Ed Lehman at 904-279-0885 x130.



*U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood
address audience.*



*Representatives from
Baker, Clay, Putnam, St.
Johns Counties as well as
JTA and the NEFRC pose
with Jacksonville Mayor
Alvin Brown.*

Council to Assist Department of Economic Opportunity

Council staff was invited to attend a meeting to begin to develop Florida's Five-Year Strategic Plan, the Florida Economic Development Plan (FEDP). Council staff joined leaders from around the state on November 29, 2011 to help set a new course for Florida. The NEFRC, in conjunction with the other ten Regional Planning Councils, has been working with the Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) over the past several months to align our Comprehensive Economic Development Plans (see related article) with DEO's efforts. Target date for completion of the FEDP is the Spring of 2012. For more information contact Brian Teeple at 904-279-0880.

NEFRC to Participate in Statewide Energy Resiliency Study

The Northeast Florida Regional Council, in cooperation with the State's ten other Regional Planning Councils, will undertake an energy resiliency study. This study, lead by the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council, will include detailed data analysis (including econometric modeling), stakeholder involvement through summits, strategy development to enhance energy security and independence and statewide coordination of implementation activities. The project will be completed in 18 months. For more information contact Brian Teeple at 904-279-0880

Council Provides Training to the Town of Interlachen

In a joint workshop of the Town Council and the Planning Commission, Council staff provided training on Government in the Sunshine, Public Records, Code of Ethics and Robert's Rules of Order. The NEFRC workshop which lasted about two hours generated many good questions and lively dialogue. Any of NEFRC member local governments who wish similar training should contact Brian Teeple at 904-279-0880

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy to be Updated

The Northeast Florida Regional Council (NEFRC) was designated as an Economic Development District by the U.S. Economic Development Administration in late 2010. As part of that designation, the NEFRC created a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). Over the past several months the NEFRC, along with the other ten Regional Planning Councils in Florida, has been working with the Florida Chamber Foundation, Enterprise Florida, Inc. and the Department of Economic Opportunity to more closely and align our economic development policies and strategies. The Regional Planning Councils are now undertaking an effort to update all eleven CEDS simultaneously utilizing common data sets and an organizational framework consistent with the Florida Chamber Foundation's "Six Pillars". Structural changes to the CEDS will be accomplished in the Spring 2012 with a complete overhaul scheduled to be completed by September 2102. For more information contact Brian Teeple at 904-279-0880

Operation Omega

Council staff designed, coordinated and conducted a Florida Division of Emergency Management, Florida National Guard, and Region 3 Interoperable Communications Exercise, Operation Omega, at Camp Blanding on November 18, 2011. There were 147 people in attendance from various agencies throughout Region 3 which includes counties in Northeast East & North Central Florida.



The exercise tested the National Guard communication system, Regional Emergency Response Network (RERN), by providing support to civilian emergency response operations. The National Guard is an entity who would respond to a disaster at the request of the Florida Division of Emergency Management, which made it important to familiarize civilian emergency response authorities with the capabilities of the RERN.

The exercise tested the National Guard communication system, Regional Emergency Response Network (RERN), by providing support to civilian

The scenario of the exercise centered on terrorist attacks at Naval Air Station Jacksonville and Naval Station Mayport and an 'off target' incident at the exercise location. This situation provided the National Guard the opportunity to use the RERN in an environment interfacing with a wide variety of emergency responders, including: fire, law enforcement, urban search and rescue, hazardous materials, emergency medical services and special weapons and tactics teams. The exercise took place over four hours and occurred twice – shift one began at 8:30 am and shift two at 1:15 pm. This allowed for improvement and the ability to learn from the previous iteration, to make the afternoon exercise more effective. The exercise was well received by the participants and helped to identify areas of improvement, which will be put in the After Action Report. For more information contact Traci Hochhalter at 904-279-0885 x 155

