

NEFRC Highlights

Monthly Report of the Northeast Florida Regional Council

January 2012

Regional Leadership Academy Class of 2012 Kicks Off

The Northeast Florida Regional Council (NEFRC) welcomed the Regional Leadership Academy (RLA) Class of 2012 on January 11, 2012. The candidates include a diversity of professions and represent most counties in the region. Representatives of Regional entities are also included. They spent their first day getting to know each other and the Region. They worked together as teams on an "equity in policy" exercise, and then learned about Transportation Disadvantaged populations and programs in the Region, in preparation for their field exercise next month, which will include riding along with a Transportation Disadvantaged provider as they serve clients. Please help us welcome the RLA Class of 2012. For more information, contact Ed Lehman at 904-279-0885, x130.



Innovate Northeast Florida Moving Forward

The economic development strategy project, Innovate Northeast Florida, is moving forward. The project, a joint effort between the Northeast Florida Regional Council and JAXUSA Partnership, is funded by the U.S. Economic Development Administration and WorkSource. The Competitive Assessment Report is completed and posted to the project's website at www.innovatenortheastflorida.com.

In a related effort, a contest called JAX Boldest was developed to find and celebrate the innovative and creative items that are hiding throughout our Region. As part of the Innovate Northeast Florida project, JAX Boldest will help find, share and showcase the bold people, projects, companies and non-profits in our region. The contest accepts entries through March 31, 2012 and voting through April 7, 2012. The winners will be announced at the Innovate Northeast Florida project roll-out later in April. To submit an idea or to vote for your favorite, please go to www.jaxboldest.com. For more information, contact Brian Teeple at 904-279-0880.

Mayport Ferry Assistance Offered

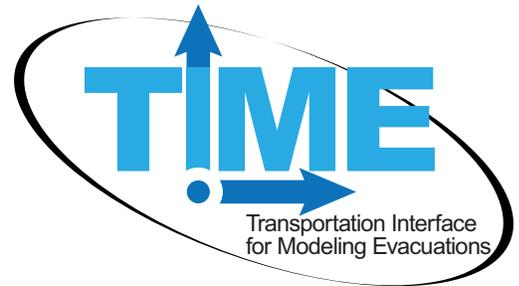
Northeast Florida Regional Council staff attended a coordination meeting held in Tallahassee on January 24, 2012 by Representative Janet Adkins regarding the future of the Mayport Ferry. Recently staff of the Jacksonville Port Authority indicated that a recommendation would be made to their Board to cease funding for operation of the ferry. At the Tallahassee meeting NEFRC CEO, Brian Teeple, noted the Council's past support of the ferry as a Regional transportation facility and offered the "good offices" of the Council to the stakeholders in this issue to facilitate a resolution. At its February 3, 2012 meeting the Council will consider proposed Resolution 201-4 "Support for Developing a Funding Solution for the Operation of the Mayport Ferry". Additionally, NEFRC Immediate Past President, Elaine Brown, has been appointed by City of Atlantic Beach Mayor, Mike Borno, to chair a task force to develop possible solutions. For more information, contact Brian Teeple at 904-279-0880.



Time Training In Tallahassee

The NEFRC is under contract with the Division of Emergency Management to provide training on the Transportation Interface for Modeling Evacuations (TIME). TIME is a planning tool that allows Emergency Managers and Planners to input various scenarios to better plan for large-scale evacuations. TIME was designed as part of the recently completed and award winning Statewide Regional Evacuation Study, to be a uniform tool for the State to assess the impacts to demographic, highway network and shelter capacity changes during an evacuation event. The first TIME training was in Tallahassee, Florida January 12 and 13. The class had approximately 40 students of which 20 were present at the Kelly Training Center (FDEM) and the other 20 accessed the training presentations and scenarios via Webinar.

This training was specially designed as an interactive training session, where attendees were given four scenarios to input into TIME, with the output then explained to help each attendee better understand the program. A series of additional training sessions will be conducted throughout the State. NEFRC will be instructing the next class, in collaboration with the Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council, at the Charlotte County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) in Punta Gorda, Florida, March 14 and 15, 2012. For additional information or questions, please contact Ameera Sayeed at (904) 279-0885, x151.



Quarterly Planning Directors Meet on January 26

The Council hosted its Quarterly Planning Directors meeting on January 26, which was attended by a number of planning directors from Clay, St. Johns, Baker, and Putnam counties, the Cities of Bunnell, Jacksonville Beach, Palatka, and Palm Coast, as well as agency representatives from FDOT and the St. Johns River Water Management District. Amongst other issues, the main topics of discussion included draft legislation from this year's Legislative Session and the update of the Strategic Regional Policy Plan. The next Quarterly Planning Directors meeting will be on April 26. For more information, please contact Ed Lehman at (904) 279-0885, x130.

Statewide Regional Evacuation Study Program (SRESP) Award

On January 10, 2012 the American Planning Association announced the winners of their 2012 National Planning Awards. The Florida Statewide Regional Evacuation Study Program (SRESP) won the National Planning Excellence Award for Hazard Mitigation and Disaster Planning. The study, coordinated by Florida's Division of Emergency Management, was lead by the Northeast Florida Regional Council in conjunction with the State's other 10 Regional Planning Councils. The Hazard Mitigation and Disaster Planning award recognizes an effort that protects communities, minimizes losses from disasters, and helps communities recover quickly and efficiently.

"The Florida Statewide Regional Evacuation Study Program takes planning to an entirely new level," said Marie L. York, FAICP, APA Board Director and 2012 Awards Jury Co-Chair. "It is an outstanding collaborative effort that truly protects residents and their communities. It will help city, county, and regional officials coordinate their efforts using accurate, up-to-date information."



The award for The Florida Statewide Regional Evacuation Study Program will be presented at a special awards luncheon during APA's National Planning Conference in Los Angeles on April 16, 2012. Brian Teeple and several other members of the Florida Regional Councils Association (FRCA) will be there to accept the Award. The program also will be featured in an upcoming issue of Planning magazine, APA's flagship publication. For more information, please contact Beth Payne at (904) 279-0885, x133.