

NEFRC

Highlights

Monthly Report of the Northeast Florida Regional Council

August 2013

Commodity Flow Study

The District 4 Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) recently conducted a Regional Hazardous Materials Commodity Flow Study on our major roadway networks. This study will contribute to the efforts to prevent and respond to incidents involving hazardous materials and substances being transported via roadways, in and through the region. On average there are 5,000 trucks involved in fatal crashes annually in the United States, of which about 200 are hazardous materials related. Although these numbers are relatively small, the potential for human injury and property damage in hazardous materials crashes is much greater. Having a better understanding of hazardous materials and how they are transported provides the best insight into chemical risks posed to the area and its first responders.

The final report examined the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) requirements for motor carriers, placarding, and current safety regulations. It also identified the top five common hazardous materials transported through the region by truck, which were gasoline/petrol, elevated temperature liquids, diesel fuel, ammonia, and propane gas. With this knowledge, which is specific to corridors in District 4, officials can make better-informed decisions on allocating resources. The report was delivered to all local emergency managers and the Florida Division of Emergency Management, and then was presented to the District 4 LEPC at their last meeting. The Northeast Florida Regional Council staffs the LEPC. For more information contact Sarrah Stanley at ssstanley@nefrc.org.

Northeast Florida Well Represented At Transportation Disadvantaged Awards Dinner

NEFRC staff attended the annual Transportation Disadvantaged (TD) Awards Ceremony in Daytona Beach on August 7. The TD Commission recognized a number of Northeast Florida individuals for their contributions. Clay County Commissioner Doug Conkey received the Outstanding Local Official of the year award for efforts in promoting transportation coordination. Jacksonville Transportation Authority won the Innovation Award for their outstanding work in execution of the Veterans Grant. Finally, former St. Johns Council on Aging Director Cathy Brown won the prestigious William and Budd Bell Lifetime Achievement Award for her many efforts in promoting transportation services in St. Johns County. Congratulations to all of these worthy award winners! For more information, contact Ed Lehman at elehman@nefrc.org



(Front row from L to R) former St. Johns COA Director Cathy Brown, Clay County Commissioner Doug Conkey, JTA Regional Service Coordinator Liz Peek

NEFRC Assists Putnam County

Putnam LOGIC (Local Government In Cooperation), an organization primarily consisting of County and Municipal governments in Putnam County has asked the NEFRC to assist them with facilitation and visioning services. This effort is being driven, in part, by an article that appeared in the March 10, 2013 issue of the Washington Post. The Post article, entitled, "Research Ties Economic Inequality to Gap in Life Expectancy", pointed out that several indicators of the Putnam community needed to be improved upon. The leaders in Putnam LOGIC are determined to make that happen. Over the next several months the group will come up with short term, mid-range and long term actions that will be designed to move the needle on those indicators. For more information, contact Brian Teeple at bteeple@nefrc.org.



The Northeast Florida Regional Council is on Facebook



Bringing Communities Together to Advance the Regional Agenda

Local Emergency Planning Committee Meeting

The quarterly meeting of the District 4 Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) was held at the Regional Council on August 14, 2013. The meeting was highlighted by two presentations on hazardous materials. Ms. Sarrah Stanley, NEFRC intern, presented her findings from conducting a "Hazardous Materials Commodity Flow Study" on our major roadway networks. Her presentation highlighted the most common hazardous chemicals being transported throughout the region and recommended training to respond to a chemical release or spill.

Eric Anderson, NEFRC Staff, gave a presentation on the West, Texas fertilizer plant explosion. Although this incident was overshadowed by the Boston Marathon terrorism event, this still remains the largest chemical accident in the United States in decades. A total of 15 people died and over 200 were injured in the detonation of 30 tons of ammonium nitrate. In response to this incident, staff will be working with each county fire department to provide more chemical resources and information. This is being done in an effort to better pre-plan responses to facilities that

contain chemicals which pose a serious risk to people and the environment. Our region sits at the crossroads of one of the busiest rail and transportation corridors in the nation. A small amount of resources committed to pre-planning can prevent the catastrophic loss of life and resources from a major spill or release. For more information contact Eric Anderson at eanderson@nefrc.org



NEFRC Acquires Additional Economic Model

The Northeast Florida Regional Council recently acquired the Regional Input-Output Modeling System II (RIMS II). This model supplements the Council's current modeling capacity through the Regional Economic Models Inc. (REMI). RIMS II produces multipliers that are used in economic impact studies to estimate the total impacts of a project in a region. This is an input-output model and is based on a detailed set of industry accounts that measure goods and services produced by each industry and the use of these goods and services by industries and final users. Recent experience with RIMS II by Council staff shows it to be very reliable and accurate for an input-output model. For more information contact Ameera Sayeed at asayeed@nefrc.org

Northeast Florida Well-Represented at Statewide Conference

Northeast Florida, and the Regional Leadership Academy (RLA)/Regional Community Institute (RCI) in particular, will be well-represented in presentations at the September 10-13 American Planning Association Florida Conference in Orlando. Planners Rob Palmer (RLA Class of 2008 and RCI Board Member), Wiatt Bowers (RLA Class of 2010) and Fredrick Jones (RLA Class of 2011) will be presenting on transportation, revitalization and sustainability, respectively. Other experts from the Region who are scheduled to present include Ben Moore from RS&H, Jeff Sheffield from the North Florida TPO, Jim Maher from FDEP, Alison Mcgrath from Plum Creek, Bill Killingsworth from DEO, and Boyd Thompson from Ride Solutions. For more information, contact Brian Teeple at bteeple@nefrc.org

Did you know

The newly released Florida Strategic Plan for Economic Development cites Innovate Northeast Florida, a targeted industry sub-cluster strategy, jointly developed by the Council and the JaxUSA Partnership, as a Best Practice in targeting jobs and talent for the future.