

NORTHEAST FLORIDA REGIONAL COUNCIL

HighLights

Bimonthly Report of the Northeast Florida Regional Council

June / July 2018

JTA Autonomous Vehicle

On June 7th, 2018, Board Members and staff of the Northeast Florida Regional Council experienced a ride in the Jacksonville Transportation Authority's (JTA) latest test autonomous vehicle, the EasyMile Gen-2 in Downtown Jacksonville. The Board Members rode the EasyMile Gen-2 on a designated test track from Intuition Ale Works to Daily's Place Amphitheater.

The EasyMile Gen-2 is the latest model produced by Transdev. It offers twice the battery power and engine power of Transdev's first model, which JTA leased previously. Board members were educated on the EasyMile Gen-2 by JTA and Transdev staff and learned that the vehicle is battery operated, has features like USB charging ports, hydraulic doors, lidar sensors, and a touch screen operating panel. The EasyMile Gen-2 is designed to carry about 12 passengers. However, the vehicle could be paired together in a fleet of vehicles, break away for cab-like service, and has the potential for para-transit service. For more information, contact Margo Moehring at mmoehring@nefrc.org.



Pictured from left: Commissioner David Sullivan, Mayor Sean Lynch, Mr. James Troiano, Mayor Catherine Robinson, Mr. Darryl Register

For more information, contact Margo Moehring at mmoehring@nefrc.org.

The Florida Association of Counties Honors NEFRC Board Members

At its Annual Meeting in Orlando the last week in June, the Florida Association of Counties graduated Commissioner Buddy Goddard of Putnam County and Commissioner David C. Sullivan of Flagler County from its Certified County Commissioner Program. Commissioner James K. Johns from St. Johns County graduated from the Advanced County Commissioner Program. Commissioner Larry Harvey of Putnam County and the Commissioner George Spicer of Nassau County were honored as Torchbearers, graduates of the Advanced County Commissioner Program that show ongoing commitment to the Association and to continued learning. Commissioner Jimmy Anderson of Baker County was recognized as a 2018 Presidential Advocate, having shown exceptional leadership to advance the counties legislative agenda. For more information, contact Brian Teeple at bteeple@nefrc.org.

2018 St. John's Hurricane Exercise

With the beginning of the 2018 Atlantic Hurricane Season, NEFRC staff designed and facilitated the Annual St. John's County Hurricane Exercise. Designed to identify strengths and areas of improvement for hurricane preparedness, response and initial recovery, this exercise contained four operational periods that challenged the staff working at the St. Johns County Emergency Operations Center. The exercise was highlighted by several local news agencies, and one local article was picked up and reported on nationally by Emergency Management Magazine. For more information, contact Tyler Nolen at tnolen@nefrc.org.

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Bringing Communities Together to Advance the Regional Agenda

Regional Leadership Academy considers "Really Big Stuff"

On June 27th, members of the Regional Leadership Academy (RLA) and Northeast Florida Regional Council (NEFRC) staff attended the "Real Big Stuff" segment of RLA 2018. They visited Naval Air Station Jacksonville (NAS JAX) and the Town of Orange Park in Clay County. At NAS JAX, RLA members met with the base's Commanding Officer, Capt. Michael Connor, were given a tour of the Fleet Readiness Center Southeast (FRCSE), and had a working lunch at Black Point Interpretive Center. At FRCSE, members were shown maintenance of various active military and civilian aircraft and took a tour of the base's light industrial manufacturing plants that supports aircraft maintenance and repairs. In addition to learning about FRCSE's mission and capabilities, members learned that FRCSE is the largest industrial employer in Northeast Florida and Southeast Georgia. At Black Point, members learned about NAS JAX's environmental education outreach plans and environmental regulatory compliance programs. At the Town Hall in Orange Park, members heard from Sarah Campbell, Town Manager of Orange Park. They learned about the Town's size, scope, operations, and budget. They then heard from Clay County Planning Manager, Ed Lehman, who briefed the group on the issues and opportunities Clay County faces, both now and in the future. They were then briefed by Morgan County, Jacksonville Highway Group Leader for RS&H consulting and Amy Williams of FDOT about the First Coast Expressway that is linking I-95 in St. Johns County to I-10 in Duval County, connecting through Clay County. Lastly, the members heard from Ameera Sayeed, Project Consultant for FECI. She presented on Brightline, a higher-speed rail system that currently operates in south Florida and will be connecting to Orlando. The presentations were followed by a Q&A panel for the RLA members. For more information on RLA, contact Margo Moehring at mmoehring@nefrc.org.



NASJax Base Commander Michael O'Conner with the Regional Leadership Academy Class of 2018

Resilient Flagler County Stakeholder Meeting #3

At the 3rd and final stakeholder meeting, NEFRC presented the draft plan of the Resilient Flagler County study at the Flagler County EOC on July 31st. This project, which assesses the vulnerability of coastal Flagler County in the face of flooding from storm events and sea level rise, is a collaboration between NEFRC, the University of Florida's GeoPlan Center, Flagler County, and River to Sea TPO. Partners such as the East Central Florida Regional Planning Council, FDOT, and Florida Department of Environmental Protection provided support at the beginning and throughout the life of the project. The study looks at the county's critical infrastructure including significant roadways and government facilities and describes the flooding impact that may be experienced during multiple scenarios through the year 2100. Stakeholders gave valuable feedback on this information as it will inform the best approach when considering vulnerability and risk in planning for sea level rise and incorporating strategies into various plans. For more information, contact Aaron Glick at aglick@nefrc.org.



Aaron Glick

Regional Tourism

The Regional Tourism Committee of the Regional Community Institute met at the St. Johns County Volunteer Center/Chamber of Commerce on July 19, 2018. After several meetings held throughout the region to information-gather, this meeting was the first where the group focused on what might be done to support tourism on a regional basis. The discussion went well and the next meeting on August 8 will include a review of a draft regional action plan. For more information, contact Margo Moehring at mmoehring@nefrc.org.

