



Goals Summary

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

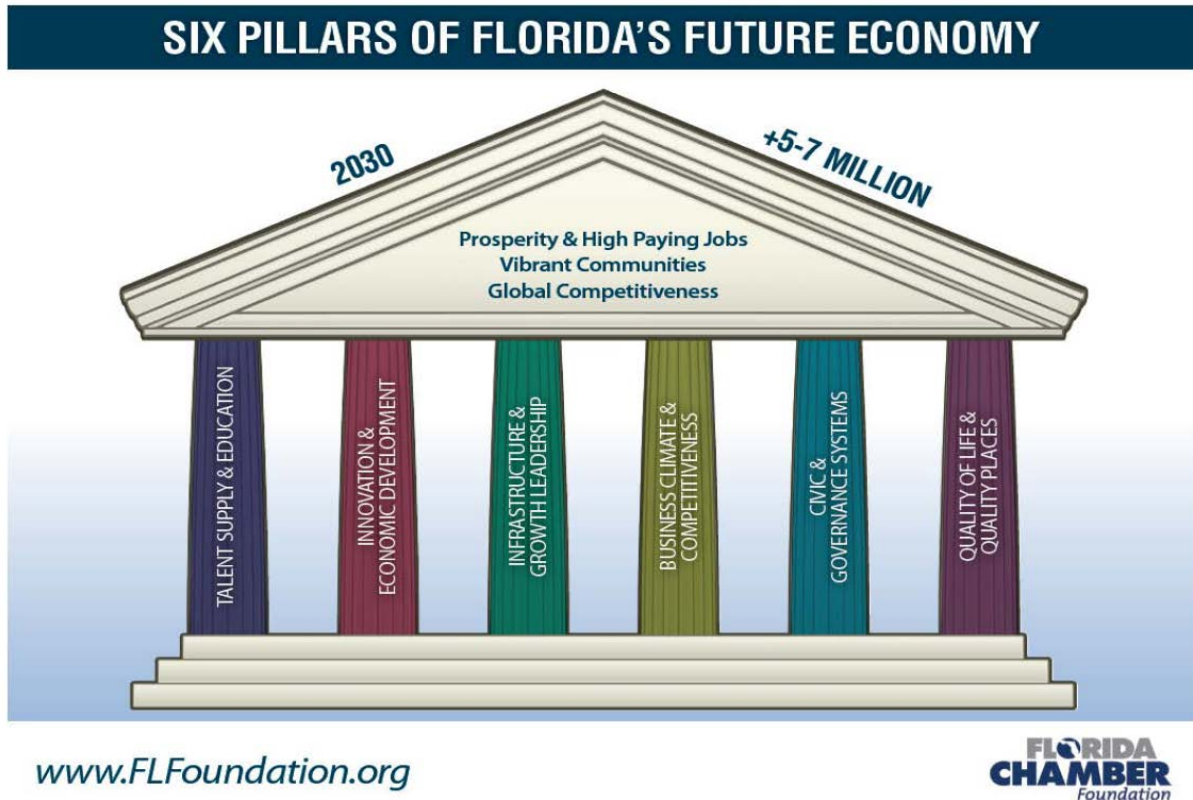
The Strategic Regional Policy Plan (SRPP) should serve as a guidebook on coordinated steps to achieve the goals and objectives for Northeast Florida included in First Coast Vision. It is a reference guide and data source on most facets of life in the Region and its counties. The Plan is organized around strategic subject areas that are in turn related to the priorities of the State of Florida and the mission of NEFRC.

The Plan contains policy guidelines where statute requires them. In other cases, it recommends approaches and supports communities in the strategies they choose to achieve regional goals. It identifies regional goals and the intent of NEFRC to regularly track the progress of the Region in achieving them. It is a tool for communities, Local Government managers and staff, and legislators, but not a mandate. First Coast Vision remains the guiding document for the plan. NEFRC will make our best efforts to assist in sharing best practices and ideas to help with vision, and plan implementation.

Special Note

The changes to Northeast Florida that will come from the 2020 COVID 19 pandemic, social unrest and recent significant events are not yet known. While it is true that all plans experience the phenomenon of being somewhat out of date as soon as they are completed, the current situation is more pronounced. The process to assess and update Strategic Regional Policy Plans is described in State statute. The Northeast Florida Regional Council (NEFRC) is proceeding, as required, with the plan update that began with plan assessment in June of 2019. Public input as to what should change in the plan was gathered in late 2019. Economic resilience discussions are just beginning and will result in strategies that are believed to assist the entire region to thrive. Once Northeast Florida has determined the approach that will work here to address the short- and long-term changes that are just beginning, it may be appropriate to update the SRPP. In the meantime, the principles of First Coast Vision remain a useful guide. It is anticipated that this updated plan will be a transitional one, succeeded by one that reflects how the world and Northeast Florida have changed and how both continue to evolve.

STRATEGIC REGIONAL GOALS



The Strategic Regional Policy Plan is structured as the statute requires, into strategic regional subject areas. In the case of Northeast Florida, there are nine: Demographics and Equity, Communities and Affordable Housing, Economic Development, Emergency Preparedness and Resiliency, Energy, Health, Natural Resources of Regional Significance, Regional Transportation, and Cultivation. All goals and policies in this plan are aligned with the mission of the Northeast Florida Regional Council, and with the Six Pillars of Florida's Future Economy (see above). This ensures that the regional plan furthers the State's priorities, and that regional goals are supported by the priorities and abilities of NEFRC.

The following are the high-level regional goals that guide the policies and measures found in each of the strategic regional subject area chapters of the SRPP.

DEMOGRAPHICS AND EQUITY

Goal: Progress toward achieving our goals should have a positive impact on the ability of all of Counties in the Region to prosper and all of the residents in the Region to achieve their personal goals. We will look for residents of modest means to spend less of their incomes on

housing and transportation, and for mobility for all to access jobs and those things that impact quality of life.

Pillar Alignment: All Six

COMMUNITIES AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Goal: Each local government is encouraged to take the lessons learned from visioning, the public preference for multiple growth centers, the opportunities and challenges raised by resources of regional significance and the desires of their residents and determine where new growth should go, ideally in locations allowing it to take advantage of existing infrastructure, be mixed use, compact and connected to other centers. These mixed use growth and redevelopment centers are supported in all seven Counties and have the potential to increase transit ridership, reduce car dependency, maintain water and air quality and conserve water. Once these locations are chosen, governments should do all they can to support quality development there that will appreciate in value and achieve multiple community and economic goals.

Goal: A safe, sanitary, efficient and resilient housing supply that provides lifestyle choice (agricultural, rural, suburban, and urban) and affordable options for all income, age and ability groups, equitably placed in vibrant, viable and accessible communities throughout the region.

Pillar: Quality of Life and Quality Places, Business Climate and Competitiveness

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Goal: Our region is the top destination for opportunity and investments, making it the highest performing economy in the nation.

Goal: View all policy through the lens of the Six Pillars of Florida's Future Economy. Each of the policies in this plan and all of the actions of the NEFRC will be reviewed based on their relevance to our future, and this includes a broad definition of the assets that drive our regional economy. We will not create a new plan for economic development, but will join the region in support of the goals and policies identified by Elevate Northeast Florida and the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy.

Goal: Northeast Florida's economic development strategies, consistent with Federal guidelines, are set with partners and new policy is not set by NEFRC. NEFRC's goal is to ensure that the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy is a five-year strategy that

reflects economic development planning on a regional and county level, and that the region is always positioned to collaborate to maximize funding opportunities.

Pillar: All Six

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND RESILIENCY

Goal: A resilient and safe region that is prepared for a coordinated and effective response to all hazards in emergencies and is prepared to adapt to change to remain resilient and safe in the long term.

Pillar: Innovation and Economic Development

ENERGY

Goal: A region that is flexible, innovative and takes full advantage of the diversity of potential energy sources, especially local sources. We will not wait for federal or state guidance or mandates to act if action can benefit the region. We acknowledge that, as a region vulnerable to natural disasters, resiliency and redundancy in energy, both in motor fuel and power, can set us apart from regions that choose not to address these issues that can be of large impact to business and residents.

Pillar: Infrastructure and Growth Leadership

HEALTH

Goal: The Region supports local and regional efforts to ensure that the region's residents have access to a healthy lifestyle and good health care. NEFRC supports our partners in seeking improvement in health outcomes throughout the region.

Pillar: Civic and Governance Systems, Quality of Life and Quality Places

NATURAL RESOURCES OF REGIONAL SIGNIFICANCE

Goal: Northeast Florida recognizes that some resources have the potential to impact more than one jurisdiction, and their viability is of concern to the Region. NEFRC promotes the protection of these resources, as contained on the Natural Resources of Regional Significance list.

Pillar: Quality of Life and Quality Places

REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION

Goal: Create efficient connectivity within the Region, and with state, national, and global economies. Include centers of population and jobs that are well-connected, limit commute times for most residents and provide opportunities for all residents of the region to work if they choose. Northeast Florida makes development of regional employment centers and infrastructure a first priority, politically and fiscally.

Goal: In order to promote a diversified and vibrant regional economy, the Region supports an efficient multi-modal transportation framework to move people and goods, and NEFRC and its partners support over time the infrastructure investments needed to make it work. The framework maintains an environment that includes mobility options to move goods and people to support business and industry.

Pillar: Innovation and Economic Development

REGIONAL CULTIVATION

Goal: Recognize the importance of cultivation in Northeast Florida and be part of the conversation on what approaches are appropriate here and how to successfully implement them.

Pillar: Innovation and Economic Development
