



MEMORANDUM

AGENDA ITEM #IV.A

DATE: SEPTEMBER 12, 2016

TO: BOARD MEMBERS

FROM: STAFF

SUBJECT: SOUTHEAST FLORIDA DATACOMMON PROJECT UPDATE

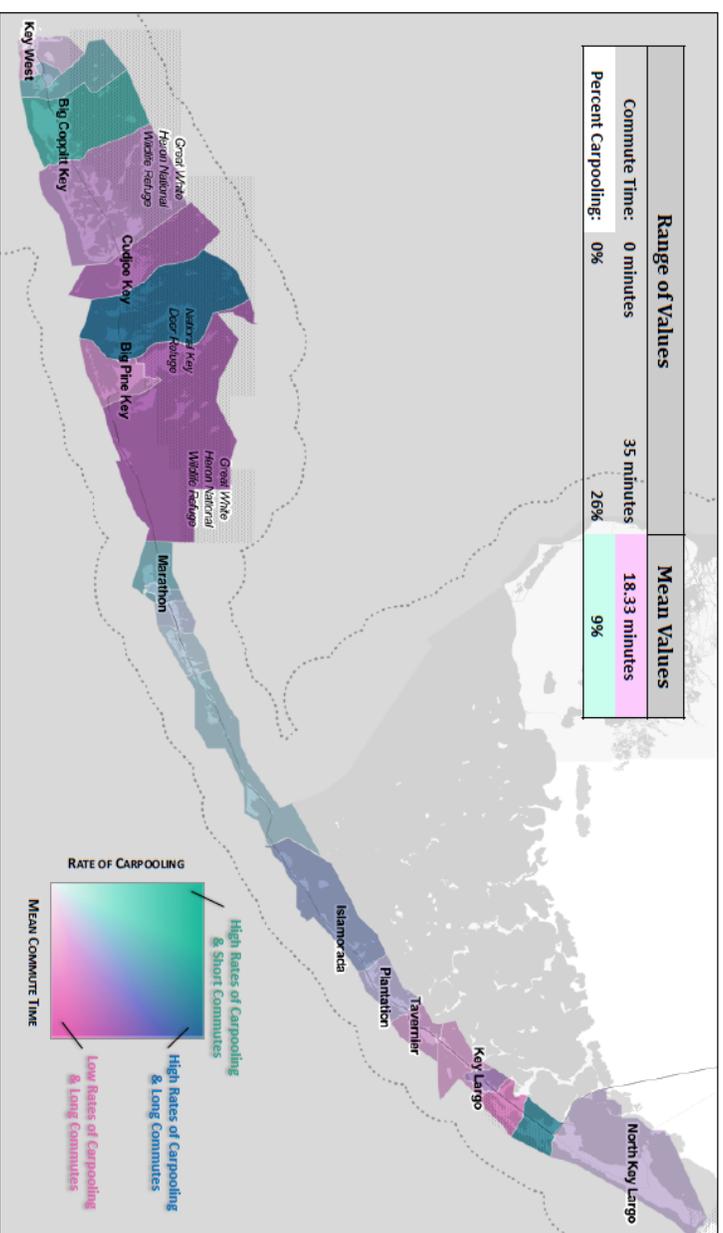
The Southeast Florida DataCommon is an initiative of the South Florida Regional Council (SFRC), working through the Southeast Florida Regional Prosperity Institute. Council staff, working in collaboration with key partners, is developing a regional data portal that features an interactive platform for exploring data and a collaborative space for engaged indicator analysis. The goal is to enhance data and understanding about community and regional policy issues on a broader scale through access to, and sharing of, up-to-date spatial data, visualization tools, and technical assistance and support opportunities.

Why is this needed? Many public, private, nonprofit, civic, and philanthropic organizations within Miami-Dade, Broward, and Palm Beach counties, and the larger seven-county region, are individually collecting data and information about their respective issue areas, communities, service areas, and constituencies. However, sharing data among organizations can be challenging and is not commonplace. As a result, data, analysis, and the lessons learned from the data largely reside in organizational and issue-based “silos.” We believe that this limits shared learning, understanding, and the creation of knowledge about the interrelationship of issues such as children, health, housing, transportation, water, economic development, community development, and the environment.

Through the Southeast Florida DataCommon the partners will support each other with enhanced access to data; increase efficiency and maximize the use of limited resources; create strengthened and new relationships across organizations which support enhanced accessibility and usability of data; create better data for better outcomes in planning and program areas; and create new opportunities for local governments and communities to get ahead of pressing issues, not just address existing challenges. Building a greater understanding of the interconnectedness of the region will allow for informed decision-making and strategic investment at numerous levels.

On September 22nd, the Council is hosting a partner meeting which will update key stakeholders on the progress that has been made to create a working DataCommon. Due to time constraints at the September 12th Council meeting, Council Staff will provide a complete update to the Board at the October 3rd Council meeting. The Council has recently acquired a new software tool called “My Sidewalk.” This tool, along with dedicated staff, has positioned the Council for the launch of the Southeast Florida DataCommon in the near future. The image on the next page illustrates an example of a data story that can be created using the MySidewalk tool.

COMMUTE TIMES AND CARPOOL RATES MONROE COUNTY, FLORIDA



How Does Monroe County Get to Work?

The bivariate map above shows the majority of Monroe County, Florida, from Key Largo to Key West, displaying both commute length and carpooling rates by census tract. Both variables consider employed individuals, employed outside of their place of residence, 16 years of age and older.

Census tracts displaying a deep magenta color denote longer average commute times; notable regions include tracts encompassing Cudjoe Key and parts of Big Pine Key. In addition to sections of Key Largo. Tracts colorized with a darker teal hue suggest high rates of carpooling; one of the highest rates in the region is comprised of Knockemdown, Big Torch, and Middle Torch Keys at 26%. Where these two variables overlap, tracts are shown in a bluish hue, suggesting both long commutes and relatively high rates of carpooling.

Additional information is shown in the accompanying charts. The "Origin and Destination" chart provides information about the flow of workers. "Origin" represents the amount of workers who started their commute from that geography (their home location). "Destination" represents the amount of workers who traveled into the given geography to work. The "same" value represents the number of workers that both live and work within the Keys.

Roughly equal numbers travel in to work as travel out to work in nearby municipalities. Despite some regions exhibiting significantly higher rates of carpooling than others, driving alone is still overwhelmingly the most common method of commuting to work in the Florida Keys. Summary statistics are also provided, showing total population, household, and housing units.

