
**DRAFT JOINT MEETING MINUTES OF THE
SOUTH FLORIDA AND TREASURE COAST REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCILS**

The South Florida and Treasure Coast Regional Planning Councils held a joint meeting on October 25, 2019 at the Palm Beach Atlantic University – Lassiter Student Center/Weyenberg Center, 900 South Olive Avenue, West Palm Beach, FL 33401.

Agenda Item 1: Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Adams called the meeting to order at 9:41 a.m. and welcomed everyone. She led the pledge of allegiance.

Agenda Item 2: Roll Call

The following members and alternates were present from **Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council**:

Indian River County:	Commissioner Susan Adams, Chair Councilwoman Laura Moss, City of Vero Beach, Alternate
St. Lucie County:	Commissioner Cathy Townsend Commissioner Jeremiah Johnson, City of Fort Pierce
Palm Beach County:	Commissioner Hal Valeche Commissioner Melissa McKinlay, Alternate Mayor Mack Bernard Commissioner Mary Lou Berger Commissioner Robert Weinroth, Alternate Mayor Anne Gerwig, Village of Wellington Councilman Jeff Hmara, Village of Royal Palm Beach Commissioner Kristine de Haseth, Town of Ocean Ridge, Alternate Commissioner Omari Hardy, City of Lake Worth Beach Vice Mayor Robert Gottlieb, Town of South Palm Beach, Alternate Councilwoman Maria Marino, City of Palm Beach Gardens, Alternate
Martin County:	Commissioner Doug Smith Commissioner Stacey Hetherington Commissioner Penny Townsend, Town of Jupiter Island
Gubernatorial Appointees:	Douglas Bournique, Indian River County Michael Houston, Martin County Michael Davis, Palm Beach County Peter Sachs, Palm Beach County Reece Parrish, St. Lucie County
Ex-Officios:	Kathy LaMartina, SFWMD Lois Bush, FDOT District IV

Jason Andreotta, FDEP

Council Staff: Thomas Lanahan, Executive Director
Kathryn Boer
Phyllis Castro
Kim DeLaney
Liz Gulick
Stephanie Heidt
Dana Little
Jessica Seymour

Council Attorney: Keith Davis

The following members were present from **South Florida Regional Planning Council**:

Broward County: Mayor Greg Ross, Chair
Commissioner Beam Furr
Commissioner Steve Geller

Miami-Dade County: Council Member Jordan Leonard

Monroe County: Commissioner Michelle Coldiron
Commissioner David Rice

Gubernatorial Appointees: Patty Asseff, Broward County
Cary Goldberg, Broward County
Sandra Walters, Monroe County

Ex-Officios: Jason Andreotta, FDEP
Shereen Yee Fong for Dat Huynh, FDOT District VI

Council staff: Isabel Cosio Carballo, Executive Director
Manny Cela
Arlene Davis-Walcott
Karen Chang
Kathe Lerch
Christina Miskis

Council Attorney: Sam Goren

Agenda Item 3: Chair’s Comments – The Honorable Susan Adams, Chair, TCRPC; and the Honorable Greg Ross, Chair, SFRPC

On behalf of the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council, Chair Adams welcomed and thanked everyone for attending today’s joint meeting.

Chair Adams welcomed and introduced Ms. Kaityln Currey with Senator Mayfield’s office; Ms. Evelyn DuPlecy with Senator Lori Berman’s office; and Ms. Melissa Santoro with Representative Matt Willhite’s office.

On behalf of the South Florida Regional Planning Council, Chair Ross welcomed and thanked everyone for attending today’s joint meeting. He thanked ex-officio Jason Andreotta with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) for attending.

Agenda Item 4: Agenda Approval

Council Action: Commissioner Ross from the City of Cooper City moved approval of the agenda. Commissioner Smith from Martin County seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Agenda Item 5: Welcoming Remarks – Vicki Pugh, Vice President of Development, Palm Beach Atlantic University and the Honorable Mack Bernard, Mayor, Palm Beach County BOCC

Vicki Pugh, Vice President of Development, Palm Beach Atlantic University

Ms. Vicki Pugh welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for their service. She offered a tour of the campus.

Honorable Mack Bernard, Mayor, Palm Beach County BOCC

On behalf of himself and his colleagues from the Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners, Mayor Bernard welcomed everyone to the meeting. He noted that this group represents seven counties and they share a common history and issues such as housing, economic development, infrastructure, the environment, and climate resilience.

Agenda Item 6: Affordable Housing and Joint Resolution TCSF #19-01

Suzanne P. Cabrera, President/CEO of the Housing Leadership Council of Palm Beach County

Ms. Cabrera gave an overview of the history and current housing issues in Palm Beach County. Established in 1992, the William E. Sadowski Affordable Housing Act created a dedicated source of revenue for housing from a portion of documentary stamp taxes on transfer of real estate. Money was intended for affordable housing. She noted that over the past sixteen years, more than \$2 billion in funds have been diverted from the State and Local Housing Trust Fund to other programs not related to affordable housing. Last year the Senate and the Governor recommended full funding, but the House was not on board.

Ralph Stone, Executive Director, Housing Finance Authority of Broward County

Mr. Ralph Stone gave an overview of current housing issues in Broward County. He noted that over the past year Broward County contributed over \$35 million to the Sadowski Fund and has received only \$2 million back. He indicated that over the past nine years they are down by about \$150 million. He noted that Broward County allocated \$10 million to the general fund, creating a housing trust fund. To date, eight projects, representing over 1,000 units, have been financed. Also, because Broward County has very little land available, the cost is astronomical. Additionally, he stated there is gap financing for 3 affordable housing projects coming before the Broward County Board of County Commissioners on November 5th. He indicated that the City of Pompano Beach is contributing \$2.5 million dollars and the City of Fort Lauderdale is contributing \$10 million which will fund a mixed-use project in FatVillage in Downtown Fort Lauderdale.

Mayor Mack Bernard, Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners

Mayor Mack Bernard presented an overview of the Palm Beach County affordable housing program. He indicated that the Palm Beach County Department of Housing and Economic Sustainability increased its State Housing Initiative Partnership (SHIP) homeowner subsidy up to \$100,000 to enhance affordability. He indicated that the rental market remains strong in the County and they have adopted changes to their program in an effort to increase the number of available workforce housing units.

The Honorable Senator Steve Geller, Broward County Commissioner

Commissioner Geller gave a presentation on a concept to incentivize the construction of affordable housing at existing commercial sites along transportation corridors in Broward County. He noted that the Sadowski Act was passed when he served in the legislature and the funds were placed in a trust fund for affordable housing, yet it is now being used for other purposes. He stated that it is important to increase the overall housing supply, especially the affordable housing supply. He stated that the County presented their Transit Oriented Development (TOD) plan that will reduce the number of cars on the road, increase use of mass transit, and create walkable communities.

Commissioner Smith suggested from this board, sending Commissioner Geller's concept to the Florida Association of Counties (FAC) as a joint resolution asking the FAC to present this to all the counties in the state. Commissioner Geller noted he would share this at a future FAC meeting.

Council Action: Commissioner Smith moved approval of proposed Resolution TCSF #19-01 supporting full appropriation of the state and local housing trust funds for housing; and to send a letter to the Florida Association of Counties recognizing and supporting Broward County's effort on affordable housing. Councilmember Walters from Monroe County seconded the motion with suggested changes to the resolution. She requested that the language in the resolution be changed to "strongly urge." Commissioner Smith accepted the changes. The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Hardy from the City of Lake Worth Beach stated there is not enough housing for the people that are moving to this state. He inquired about parking and to what extent this was addressed with the legislation. Commissioner Geller responded that the parking was discussed, and it was decided to leave that up to the local cities.

Agenda Item 7: National Flood Insurance Program Reauthorization Update – Presentation by the Honorable Quentin Beam Furr, Broward County Commissioner, and Joint Resolution #19-02

Broward County Commissioner Beam Furr discussed proposed resolution TCSF #19-02 urging that any reauthorization of the National Flood Insurance Program must include meaningful affordability protections for all policy holders, specifically a lower cap on annual increases.

Councilmember Leonard from the Town of Bay Harbor Islands proposed the following two amendments to the resolution: 1) a 9% cap and 2) recognize that Florida is a donor state.

Councilmember Asseff, Gubernatorial Appointee from Broward County, noted there should be a requirement for disclosure if the seller of a home has received money from the Federal Emergency Management Agency or an insurance company.

Commissioner Rice from Monroe County noted that 9% added to the rental market will seriously impair affordable housing and is not sustainable, at least in the area he lives. Commissioner Coldiron from Monroe County concurred.

Council Action: Commissioner Geller moved approval of proposed Resolution TCSF #19-02 and to add an amendment to ask the Federal Emergency Management Agency to include recognition of the strength of the Florida Building Code. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion.

Mayor Gerwig from the Village of Wellington asked for ‘net donor’ to be added to Whereas, number 6. Chair Ross noted that Florida is a donor state and is the lowest paid claims state, recognizing that the Florida Building Code does make a difference.

Under Public Comment, Drew Martin spoke on behalf of the Sierra Club, Loxahatchee Group, serving on the Natural Shorelines Committee. He stated that seawalls are not the best solution and natural shorelines, such as mangroves, work about one thousand times better in protecting the property. He stated that flood insurance needs are not just an issue for coastal communities. Flood insurance needs to be affordable for everyone.

Chairman Ross called for a vote with the amendments as stated and to include the South Florida Building Code.

Councilmember Asseff requested to add in the resolution that the Federal Emergency Management Agency should pay in a timely fashion.

Chair Ross asked if there was any objection to adding this. The maker of the motion, Senator Geller and seconder, Commissioner Smith voiced no objections.

The motion to approve the proposed joint resolution as amended to include the South Florida Building Code and to include net donor and language that the Federal Emergency Management Agency should pay in a timely fashion carried unanimously.

Agenda Item 8: Florida’s Water Infrastructure Challenge Update – Presentation by Frank Bernardino, Partner, Anfield Consulting and Joint Resolution TCSF #19-03

Mr. Frank Bernardino provided an overview to the Councils on the challenges of water infrastructure funding in the State, as well as some of the issues that they are facing this year during the legislative session.

He noted that it is estimated that \$53.81 billion is needed over the next 20 years in all areas of water infrastructure. The estimate does not include the implementation of any of the recommendations to the blue green algae which is continuing to work at the direction of Governor DeSantis. It does not include any of the dollars that will be necessary to phase the approximately \$3 trillion of infrastructure that is at risk as a result of sea level rise.

Commissioner Smith thanked Mr. Bernardino for his work on meeting the challenges mentioned above. Commissioner Smith continued to discuss the necessity of an advocacy board on a grand scale for water similar to the approach on transportation that will allow local governments to be a part of the policy and direction changes. Commissioner Smith emphasized the importance of fully engaging in the financial, policy, and advocacy discussions while at the table.

Mr. Bernardino turned the discussion to the management of financing water infrastructure in the state. He emphasized that the process needs to move into programmatic financing. He noted both Monroe and Polk counties have enacted legislation which requires that all the local governments within the jurisdictions of those two counties collaborate to submit a single request for water resources infrastructure to the legislature, which has been positive.

Councilmember Bournique, Gubernatorial Appointee from Indian River County, emphasized the importance of sustaining an adequate water supply. He noted that the drought in 2010 tapped out four of the five wells in the city of West Palm Beach.

Councilmember Davis, Gubernatorial Appointee from Palm Beach County, indicated he supports the resolution, and after in-depth discussion on the importance of conserving our water and habitat, the discussion ended with a challenge: "We ought to be doing a better job of capturing what the true consequences are from the economic standpoint of not investing in water infrastructure. I would like to see us give that some thought . . . do a better job of painting that picture."

Mr. Bernardino added that he would work with economists and others who have reached out to our organization to put that information together. He indicated that the blue green algae events of the last couple of years have awakened both political parties to the importance of this issue, but their public positions need to translate into real action and real policy that helps us use the building blocks for water infrastructure.

Commissioner Leonard addressed Dade County's wastewater management, stating that the unconscionable act of discharging wastewater into the bay and the Atlantic Ocean causes an economic and environmental crisis. He stated that if we do not have clean water there will be no tourists coming to the area. He also noted that desalination process can be expensive, but believes the positive impact is worth it.

Mr. Bernardino discussed the number for drinking water supplies that have been projected as a need for the state by the American Society of Civil Engineers, noting that the \$50+ Billion does involve alternative water supplies. He proposes getting a bill passed that will help in paying for those water projects.

Commissioner Furr asked what percentage of all the wastewater is deep-well injected. Mr. Bernardino responded there is a goal of 60% by 2023. Commissioner Furr discussed deep-well injection and advanced water treatment. He believes that the advantages of going to advanced water treatment for replenishing the aquifer and stopping saltwater intrusion is more long-term sighted, so it is a better option than deep-well injection. Mr. Bernardino noted that for most counties, the decision is based only on a cost benefit analysis. Commissioner Furr stated that this business decision is not taking into consideration the real cost nor the deferred cost of having to build more drinking water wells later, because we have saltwater intrusion. Mr. Bernardino noted that the legislature gives every community autonomy to make its own decision as to how they are going to deal with the resources that are under their control, reiterating that whether they are using deep well injection or distributing through a reclaimed water system, it is the community's decision to try to measure the social, environmental, and fiscal impacts of dealing with those resources.

Commissioner de Haseth from the Town of Ocean Ridge noted she represents a very small barrier island community that is 100% on septic and believes that the house bill is short-sighted. She emphasized that if there are matching grant funds, they should be available to all.

Under public comment, Drew Martin, not speaking on behalf of the Sierra Club, expressed concern for how Amendment 1 funds are being spent. He stated that buying and developing our wetlands destroys water quality. He said that one of the greatest things we can do is save our native tree canopy, which protects our soils. He stated that sod and wasteful irrigation are killing South Florida. He suggested that the way to get money for water infrastructure is to charge the consumer for water withdrawals, especially the big users, such as Nestle. He stated that protecting water quality from events like increased temperatures, harmful algal blooms, and red tides and improving how we handle stormwater runoff is paramount. He stated that the best way to protect the wetlands is to have stormwater go to the wetlands and it will come out clean.

Alex Gillan with Friends of the Everglades discussed human health and water quality, deeming it our biggest challenge. He stated we are dealing with a health crisis, and when we are considering how we spend money on our health in the State of Florida, we must consider all areas of health - human, environmental, and economic. He said that whatever the cost is to get our environment right, it is a great investment for the state of Florida. He called for working toward encouraging debate and commitment from our elected officials to get this moving forward.

Gary Roderick, former Environmental Administrator for the Southeast District of FDEP, read into the record a letter he wrote to Dr. Thomas Frazer, Chief Science Officer for the State of Florida. The letter noted that Peter Janicki of Janicki Sedron Technologies would be attending this joint meeting. He stated that Mr. Janicki has developed technologies that eliminate the need for disposal from wastewater facilities on our agricultural lands. He indicated that the harmful algal blooms are driven by nutrients, stated that it is of the utmost important to have nutrient loading experts working on these efforts. He noted that the percentage in which the amount of commercial-purchased fertilizer is being applied has reduced and there are more Floridians now on sewer systems. He stated that Class AA and Class B wastewater treatment facilities produce biosolids, which dump both total nitrogen and total phosphorous onto our rural lands. This should not be done because all agricultural crops can be grown profitably without biosolids. He noted that the cost of cleanup will be much higher if we continue to do these biosolid applications. He indicated that Mr. Janicki will show us how we can take these resources that are almost cost neutral or even

profitable and not add any additional cost for water quality improvements to surface waters to remove the nutrients being added with biosolid application.

Commissioner Smith asked how a resolution should be worded to include the economic conversation on governance. Mr. Bernardino responded that governance is the next step; there should be an insert on the impact of not acting, along with the economic impact, into the legislation.

Council Action: Commissioner Smith made a motion to have staff work through the appropriate language that would incorporate the economic discussion and moved approval of the staff recommendation on the remainder of proposed Resolution TCSF #19-03. Commissioner Geller seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Agenda Item 9: Management Alternatives for Human Wastewater Biosolids–Presentation by Peter Janicki, CEO of Janicki Bioenergy and Joint Resolution TCSF #19-04

Mr. Peter Janicki, Sedron Technologies, provided an overview of management alternatives for human wastewater biosolids. He noted that the Gates Foundation hired Janicki Industries in 2012 to work on transformative technology for sanitation in developing countries. He discussed and demonstrated the Dakar Pilot Unit, a Gates-funded project, that processes biosolids into electricity. He also discussed the Varcor Processor, which provides a highly efficient solution for processing liquid waste streams that concentrates and recovers the outputs into pathogen-free solid and liquid fractions. The system is currently in operation on dairy farms. A commercially valuable product results, along with clean water and electricity to power the processing equipment. The company feels so strongly about this, they will help finance the installation. Mayor Gerwig and Mr. Janicki discussed the differences between horse and cow manure processing. Commissioner Smith thanked Mr. Janicki for his presentation and for visiting the Council.

Council Action: Commissioner Smith moved approval of proposed Resolution TCSF #19-04. Commissioner Geller seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Agenda Item 10: Florida Department of Environmental Protection Priority Issues Update, Southeast Florida Coral Reef Tract Update, and Joint Resolution TCSF #19-05

Priority Issues Update – Jason Andreotta, Director, Florida Department of Environmental Protection

Mr. Andreotta provided information on the following activities and priorities:

In January 2019, Governor Desantis signed Executive Order 19-12 directing immediate action for water quality improvements across the state.

On April 1st, the Governor announced Dr. Tom Frazier as the first ever State Chief Science Officer. Dr. Frazier is working with the Governor and FDEP on ways we can improve our state's water quality and protect the environment.

Governor DeSantis created the Blue Green Algae Task Force to aid DEP in protecting, conserving, and managing the state's natural resources.

Aubrey Arrington is the Executive Director at the Loxahatchee River Environmental Control District; a show case facility for a wastewater treatment plant that continually reinvests in making upgrades and maintaining their system.

Upon recommendations from the Blue Green Algae Task Force, Governor DeSantis announced proposed legislation for the 2020 legislative session that will expedite water quality improvements throughout Florida: 1) Wastewater infrastructure and Sanitary Sewage Overflows; 2) Biosolids; and 3) Septic Systems

Governor DeSantis announced the appointment of the first Statewide Resilience Officer, Julia Nesheiwat. She is tasked with preparing Florida for environmental, physical, and economic impacts of sea level rise.

Mr. Andreotta noted that he represents DEP's Southeast District Regulatory Office in West Palm Beach, whose primary function is to write environmental permits and to do compliance on those permits. He mentioned another environmental priority: evaluating areas that require additional efforts or resources to achieve water quality improvements, identifying needs for additional compliance inspections at permitted facilities that have a surface water discharge.

Mr. Andreotta expressed gratitude on behalf of DEP for the opportunity to speak during the joint meeting.

Southeast Florida Coral Reef Tract Update – Presentation by Joanna C. Walczak, Southeast Regional Administrator, Office of Resilience and Coastal Protection,

Ms. Walczak updated the members on Florida's Coral Reef Conservation Program and current activities of the task force addressing the coral reef disease outbreak.

The FDEP is committed to supporting the coral disease response effort, calling it "The Stony Coral Tissue Loss Disease."

Ms. Walczak discussed the coral disease in detail: when it began; how far it has spread; the future path of the disease; and the repercussions of the highly infectious, water-borne disease.

Ms. Walczak also discussed avenues of inquiry: Could ballast water be a potential vector for carrying this disease around the world? The EPA and US Coast Guard are making a coordinated effort to design research to help rule in or rule out that issue. Work continues as a multifaceted group, currently overseen by four agencies (DEP, FWC, NOAA and National Park Service).

Ms. Walczak conveyed gratitude to both Councils for being tremendous supporters of this issue from the outset. Ms. Walczak also thanked all the coral disease coordinators (80+), who partner with each other to work on the coral issues.

Ms. Walczak noted the impactful workshops that teach how to identify and prioritize information and findings of the coral disease research, as well as its impact to SE Florida's future corals. The discussion included short-term and long-term effects of focusing on the rescuing, survival, and propagation of corals.

Commissioner Smith noted he was in Washington, DC with the FAC last week, and we had the 16-county coalition and NACO. Whenever we had the opportunity, we dropped into the conversation, asking for support of the reauthorization of the Coral Reef Act. He asked all the members around the table today to touch base with their Congressional Delegation representatives.

Council Action: Commissioner Smith moved approval of proposed Resolution TCSF #19-05. Commissioner Furr seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Ms. Walczak commented that Governor DeSantis is interested in launching Florida's Coral Reef Campaign that will promote awareness and protection of the Coral Reef ecosystem. It will be a central one-stop shop for coral reef information. Commissioner Furr noted that there are many opportunities for each County to look at matching funds to try to push this along. Ms. Walczak also remarked that this was a direct result from a meeting that was co-hosted by the RPCs and the coral program with business leaders, and the tourism industry, who specifically recommended that this campaign happen. Commissioner Furr noted that this is one of the best things our combined Councils have been able to do and is probably one of our best successes.

Chair Ross called the vote. The motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Item 11: Florida Transportation Plan 2020 Update – Presentation by Ken Jeffries of FDOT District 6 and Lois Bush of FDOT District 4

Mr. Jeffries provided an overview of the Florida Transportation Plan (FTP) 2020 Update.

The update includes the following:

- Information on establishing a policy framework for the expenditure of federal and state transportation dollars.
- The introduction of Florida's Strategic Intermodal System which:
 - Focuses on investing more money on seaports, airports, and connecting highways.
 - Focuses on freight, logistics, and infrastructure, making Florida more competitive countrywide and worldwide.
 - Greatly emphasizes obtaining input from citizens and staying connected with them.
 - Emphasizes Florida Transportation goals: providing safety and security, age, resilience, quality transportation infrastructure, automated and connected vehicles, more transportation options, a strengthened Floridian economy, enhanced communities, and environment.

Mr. Jeffries noted that the FTP focuses on four cross-cutting topics: 1) technology - will technology change how and when we travel?; 2) Resilience - how do we prepare our transportation system for, and recover from, weather, environmental, economic, and operational disruptions?; 3) state/interregional – how do we improve the state's most strategic systems?; and 4) regional/local – what regional or local needs should we consider?

Council and audience members participated in an interactive poll guided by Ms. Bush. The results from that will be used to help the steering committee and subcommittees in shaping the vision for Florida's future.

Mr. Jeffries noted that the update to the FTP has been ongoing since 2019 and is scheduled to be completed in December 2020.

Agenda Item 12: Regional Passenger Rail Update

Regional Leadership and Excellence Award from National Association of Regional Councils

Thomas J. Lanahan, Executive Director, TCRPC, presented the 2019 Regional Leadership and Excellence Award from the National Association of Regional Councils recognizing the SFRTA, TCRPC, and SFRPC for their Transit Oriented Development Educational Outreach Program.

Tri-Rail Issues Update – Steven Abrams, Executive Director, SFRTA

Mr. Steven Abrams provided Council with an update on Tri-Rail’s expansion of the system onto the FEC Railway and financial stability.

Tri-Rail . . .

1. celebrates its 30th anniversary this year.
2. has transported over 92 million passengers in the span of 30 years.
3. connects to three international airports and goes directly into the Miami airport.
4. is waiting on Brightline to implement a federal mandate called "Positive Train Control" (a GPS-based collision avoidance system) in order to access Miami Central station downtown.
5. learned there is a renewed interest in a Midtown Wynwood Station.
6. is struggling with their current operating budget.
7. learns there are positive discussions with the counties and state to try to improve funding for the current system.
8. increased fares, starting on January 1, 2020.

Mr. Abrams noted today is St. Crispin’s Day made famous by Shakespeare’s *Henry V*. He thanked the regional planning councils for their support over the years and quoted *Henry V* as saying, “We few, we happy few, we band of brothers; for he today that sheds his blood with me shall be my brother.”

Commissioner Hardy from the City of Lake Worth Beach, recognizing the benefit of a Tri-Rail coastal link, inquired as to what local governments along that corridor can do. Mr. Abrams responded that eventually the SFRTA will ask local governments to participate in the funding of the plan by providing the stations, for example.

Brightline/Virgin Trains USA Update – Rusty Roberts, Brightline VP of Government Affairs

Mr. Roberts provided Council with an overview on Brightline/Virgin Trains USA’s performance and activities:

- Brightline commenced operations in 2018.
- Virgin Group executed a trademark and licensing agreement.
- Discussion for additional stations, Phase 1: Port Miami, Aventura, Boca Raton, Treasure Coast (considering Stuart and Fort Pierce).

- Brevard County Transportation Planning Organization has recommended a station near Cocoa Beach.
- The Orlando station is complete and is part of the new Orlando International Airport terminal.
- Construction for Phase 2 between West Palm Beach and Orlando is underway along the railroad corridor. The first stage involves fiber optic relocation, clearing and grubbing, earthwork, track signalization. The work will take three years to complete.

Mr. Roberts indicated that Phase Two will entail 170 miles of new track. This work will result in temporary closures and include additional safety measures. He indicated that there will be weekly construction updates on their website at: www.gobrightline.com/railroad-constuction. Mr. Roberts noted that Brightline/Virgin Trains USA is starting a program dealing with suicide prevention. The company has formed a collaboration with the Palm Beach County based 211 help-line to develop a campaign centered around intervention and awareness to reach people in crisis to reduce the number of suicides on the rail line.

Mr. Roberts also provided an update on bridge enhancements to the Loxahatchee River Bridge in Jupiter, the St. Lucie River Bridge in Stuart, and the New River Bridge in Fort Lauderdale. He announced that they will be replacing the bridge in Stuart with a double track bridge and showed pictures of a lift span design they are considering. He noted they are waiting for the FDOT-funded study to be completed to begin the next steps in Fort Lauderdale. Mr. Roberts noted that the Coast Guard is doing a test deviation to determine if they need to change the rule requirements for keeping the New River bridge open

Commissioner Hardy expressed concern about the Tri-Rail coastal link adding additional stations between the three Brightline stations initially discussed (Fort Lauderdale, West Palm Beach, and Miami). Mr. Roberts noted there are three different partners at the table, but without a new bridge over the New River, he doubts a coastal link would be feasible since the amount of traffic would keep the bridge down longer than the marine industry would like.

Councilmember Marino from the City of Palm Beach Gardens noted she was looking forward to having a station to service the north end of the county. She asked about the partnership with Tri-Rail. Mr. Roberts indicated their partnership with Tri-Rail is excellent.

Councilwoman Moss thanked Mr. Roberts for his update and access to the website. She asked what the flow of information will be concerning construction; will it be coming from Brightline/Virgin or from the construction companies; and who will be getting the information. Mr. Roberts stated that their public information officer will be in contact with every affected community in terms of disseminating pertinent information. This will include members of the news media, county managers, and public works directors, through social media, the website, and direct emails.

Agenda Item 13: Public Comment

None

Agenda Item 14: Council Comment

Chairman Ross thanked Treasure Coast for hosting the joint meeting. He thanked Executive Director Thomas Lanahan and Chair Susan Adams. He recognized and thanked Liz Gulick and Kathe Lerche for organizing the meeting. He noted that the next joint meeting will be hosted by the South Florida Regional Planning Council in April 2020.

Chair Adams thanked everyone for attending the meeting and indicated she looks forward to the next joint meeting.

Agenda Item 15: Adjournment

There being no further business, Chair Adams and Chair Ross adjourned the Joint Meeting of the Treasure Coast and South Florida Regional Planning Councils at 3:19 p.m. This signature is to attest that the undersigned is the Secretary or a designated nominee of the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council, and that the information herein provided is the true and correct Minutes of the October 25, 2019 meeting.

Date

Signature