



AGENDA ITEM #VI.E

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DATE: JANUARY 25, 2021  
TO: COUNCIL MEMBERS  
FROM: STAFF  
SUBJECT: COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

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Attached are brief descriptions of some ongoing programs and activities of the Council.

Information only.



**South Florida Regional Planning Council**

*Proudly serving South Florida since 1974*

## COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

### January 2021



### Florida Statewide Evacuation Study Program

Council staff continues working with the Northeast Florida Regional Council and the other eight Florida RPCs to continue the efforts of the RPCs in the Statewide Regional Evacuation Study Program. Recent accomplishments of the study include updating GIS data such as location of shelters and changes to evacuation zones for inputs in the state evacuation model. Council staff has

coordinated with County Emergency Managers to provide information related to the updating the Behavioral Study, which is being led by a consultant Cambridge Systematics and a UCF research team. The project will be completed June 30, 2021.

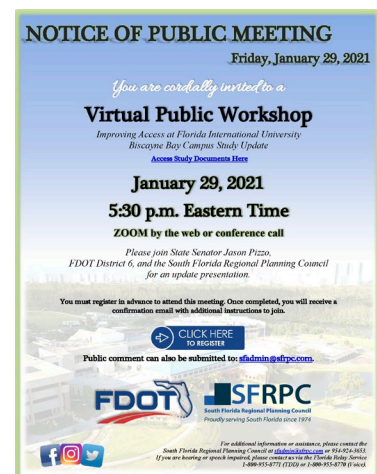
**Staff Contact:** Mark Cassidy, MRP, Regional Planner; [mcassidy@sfrpc.com](mailto:mcassidy@sfrpc.com)

### Improving Access at Florida International University Biscayne Bay Campus Study Update (2020)

An update of a 2011 Miami-Dade MPO study of Improving Access in the FIU Biscayne Bay Campus Work Area was undertaken earlier this year by the Florida Department of Transportation District 6 pursuant to a request by State Senator Jason Pizzo. During September 2020, multiple meetings were held with community stakeholders to present the Study Update and request public input.

Following these meetings, the FDOT considered all input and conducted additional research. A report to stakeholders will be presented at a **Virtual Public Workshop** on **Friday, January 29<sup>th</sup>** from **5:30 – 7:30 p.m.** Registration is open to the public and can be accessed [here](#).

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## SFRPC to Host Regional Broadband Workshop in Partnership with Florida Department of Economic Opportunity's Office of Broadband



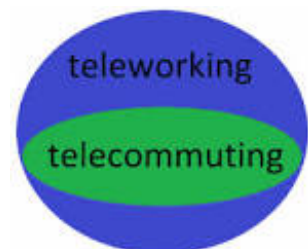
The **Florida Office of Broadband** at the Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) is hosting a series of workshops to better understand regional needs for expanding broadband internet access across the state. DEO is partnering with the Florida Regional Councils Association (FRCA) to the host workshops, to include leaders from various sectors of the state, including Libraries, K-12 Education, Colleges/Universities, Local Healthcare Providers, Private Businesses, Community Organizations, Economic Development Organizations, Local Governments, Tourism, Parks & Recreation, Agriculture, and Internet Service Providers.

As part of the FRCA, the South Florida Regional Planning Council (SFRPC) is one of the State's 10 Regional Planning Councils (RPCs) that will host its Workshop, to be held on February 9, 2020. The Council's role is to convene leaders and stakeholders from designated industries within South Florida to provide regional input and perspectives on broadband issues in the region. Council staffs will also assist with facilitating the session and prepare post-Workshop report for the DEO. The goal of the Broadband Workshops is to ultimately assist in the design of state programs and resources for broadband adoption, deployment, expansion, and resiliency. The information shared during the workshops will also be used in the development of the Florida Strategic Plan for Broadband.

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## Miami Dade TPO Travel Behavior Trend Analysis

Council staff is undertaking a *COVID-19 Travel Behavior Trend Analysis* for the Miami-Dade Transportation Planning Organization (TPO). The goal of the work is to identify changes in travel patterns that occurred due to the pandemic and the related lockdowns and assess whether those trends will have long-term impacts on the use of the transportation network. The Analysis will include an analysis of overall traffic, as well as pedestrian, bicycle, freight, seaport, and airport activity. The results of the Council Analysis will assist the TPO in its multi-modal, long range transportation planning for Miami-Dade County. It is anticipated the Analysis will be completed by mid-summer 2021.



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## Revolving Loan Funds



Since the commencement of the **EDA CARES RLF** in which the Council secured \$5.38 million from the U.S. Economic Development Administration to assist COVID-impacted business to alleviate sudden and severe economic displacement, the Council has lent out more than \$2.3 million (43.4%) to businesses in the four-county area of Monroe, Miami-Dade, Broward, and Palm Beach counties in record time.

If you have a COVID-impacted business, please visit [www.CARESActRLF.org](http://www.CARESActRLF.org) for additional information and application information.

Loan#	LOAN AMOUNT	COUNTY	CITY
1	\$25,000.00	Monroe	Key Largo
2	\$30,000.00	Monroe	Islamorada
3	\$500,000.00	Broward	Pompano Beach
4	\$85,000.00	Palm Beach	Palm Springs
5	\$300,000.00	Miami- Dade	Miami
6	\$35,000.00	Broward	Hollywood
7	\$500,000.00	Monroe	Key West
8	\$150,000.00	Monroe	Key West
9	\$210,000.00	Broward	Miramar
10	\$500,000.00	Miami- Dade	Miami Beach

In addition to the **Brownfields Revolving Loan Fund**, the Council has operated a longstanding small business loan **Revolving Loan Fund** for more than 20 years. This traditional RLF has funds that can assist businesses with regular business needs. Please visit <https://sfregionalcouncil.org/portfolio-items/revolving-loan-fund-rlf/>



“During difficult times when LEASA needed to borrow funds to keep the business afloat, SFRPC was there to help...” **Andrew Yap**  
– **LEASA Industries Co.**

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## Clean Cities showcases and thanks Coalition Partners!

The Southeast Florida Clean Cities Coalition hosted three fantastic events in the month of December with the assistance of Coalition Partners – **City Furniture**, **Southern Alliance for Clean Energy**, and **Broward County Paratransit**.

- Dave Clevenger, Fleet Director at City Furniture, a national award-winning company with one of the top 25 CNG fleets in the nation, hosted a tour of their Compressed Natural Gas fleet at their Tamarac, Florida headquarters location. To view the tour and access useful information, please visit The City Furniture Fleet Tour: [https://youtu.be/dL\\_PPKiMHnQ](https://youtu.be/dL_PPKiMHnQ)
- The Coalition co-hosted a Virtual Ride and Drive event with Dory Larsen, Program Manager, of the Southern Alliance for Clean Energy. It was an up-close look at a Tesla Model 3, providing in-depth knowledge on the use of electric vehicles. This Virtual Ride and Drive can be viewed at: <https://youtu.be/-Mi45bkJ58>
- The Coalition hosted a Propane Listening Session for the U.S. Department of Energy. The event featured Fleet Director Paul Strobis from Broward County Paratransit which focused on feedback from frontline users for research and development. You won't believe how fascinating propane can be. The Propane Listening Session: [https://youtu.be/sXtbBH\\_GZSs](https://youtu.be/sXtbBH_GZSs)

**Staff Contact:** If your municipality, business, or organization would like to learn more about Clean Fuels and participate with the Coalition, please contact **Alisha Lopez, Coordinator**, [alopez@sfrpc.com](mailto:alopez@sfrpc.com)

## Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)



As the South Florida Region's Economic Development District, the Council has the responsibility of updating the region's CEDS document every five years. Council staff has started preparing to invite the next CEDS Strategy Committee to convene under the leadership of the Council to formulate an approach for revitalizing the economic development strategy of the region by incorporating the new recommendations by the Economic Development Administration to increase the focus on economic resiliency as well as to take advantage of the newly created Opportunity Zones. Over the next 16 months, Council staff will convene the CEDS Strategy Committee multiple times to gather input that will guide economic development investment. The updated CEDS document will be completed December 2021. **Staff Contact:** Mark Cassidy, MRP, Regional Planner, [mcassidy@sfrpc.com](mailto:mcassidy@sfrpc.com)