



MEMORANDUM

AGENDA ITEM # VI.F

DATE: SEPTEMBER 27, 2021

TO: COUNCIL MEMBERS

FROM: STAFF

SUBJECT: COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

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

Information only.

SEPTEMBER 2021

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN FUND ALLOCATION, COVID PLANNING, RESPONSE, AND RECOVERY FOR SOUTH FLORIDA

As COVID-19 spread around the world and in our region, the outbreak has had extensive effects on people and businesses. There has been an urgent need to understand who has been affected, how they have been affected, and how local and regional governmental entities can help coordinate resources to provide support.

The Council had a successful event where the Mayors shared their American Rescue Plan funding allocations, problems, and issues encountered due to COVID. [[PowerPoint Presentation](#) or [Recorded Webinar](#)]



For additional information, please contact: Eralda Agolli, CARES Act Economic Disaster Recovery Coordinator ([eagolli@sfrpc.com](mailto: eagolli@sfrpc.com))

SFRPC RECEIVES THE 2021 NADO IMPACT AWARDS



The National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) recently announced [the winners of the 2021 Aliceann Wohlbruck NADO Impact Awards](#). The 2021 class of awardees consists of 102 projects from 70 organizations spanning 24 states.

The South Florida Regional Planning Council (SFRPC) is proud to be a recipient of this award and thanks NADO for their recognition of the Council's CARES ACT Revolving Loan Fund Program.

The Impact Awards program honors NADO members for their creative approaches to advancing regional economic development and improved quality of life. These projects have made significant impacts on their regions and demonstrate the diversity of services and program delivery provided by regional development organizations across the country. [[READ MORE](#)]

For additional information, please contact: Jeff Tart, Senior Loan Officer ([jtart@sfrpc.com](mailto: jtart@sfrpc.com)).

SOUTH FLORIDA LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE (LEPC)

On Thursday, May 27, 2021, the South Florida Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) collaborated with regional emergency response agencies to develop the Committee's annual response exercise. The functional exercise, centered around a radiological event, included participants from the Hazardous Materials/Special Operations units of multiple fire departments in Broward and Miami-Dade counties.



The scenario of the exercise consisted of a multi-agency response to suspicious packages at six locations across two counties. The LEPC is very appreciative of the Florida Department of Health's Bureau of Radiation Control for providing "hot" radioactive samples at each of the exercise locations. This amplified the realistic theme of the exercise. Participants were excited to pivot back into special operations training after a long and continuing response to the COVID-19 Pandemic. It's important to remember that emergencies relating to hazardous materials can happen at any time and are even more likely to occur during another disaster, such as a pandemic. Exercises are a great way to keep South Florida's responders' skills sharp for a real-world emergency.

The South Florida Regional Planning Council is proud to manage this program that is so crucial to South Florida's hazardous materials emergency response community.

For additional information, please contact: Jason McMahon, South Florida LEPC Coordinator at jcmahon@sfrpc.com.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT

American Rescue Plan Act (APRA)

SFRPC staff met with the TCRPC, Economic Development Organizations, business incubators, and local government economic developers to discuss ARPA economic development funding opportunities to align regional priorities and achieve maximum return on investment for ARPA grants applications.

An ongoing process of aligning regional project ideas is intended to culminate into a proposal for a large regional application (\$20-\$75 million) under the *Build Back Better* ARPA program for innovative and high wage job creation in line with South Florida's competitive advantages, unique challenges, institutional systems, and EDA's investment priorities. The application process for the program includes an October 19, 2021 deadline for a Phase I proposal for research and planning, and a March, 2022 deadline for Phase II (implementation). The Phase II funds must be expended by September 2027.

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)

As part of the Council's responsibility to maintain the region's CEDS document, Council staff coordinated with Senator & Broward County Mayor Geller, Chair of the CEDS Committee, to invite key leaders from around the region to participate as [members of the CEDS Strategy Committee](#). The first CEDS Committee Meeting was held on September 13, 2021 and fully attended. [Meeting Materials](#) are available on the Council's website. The 2022-2027 CEDS document is to be submitted to EDA by September 2022. [\[READ MORE\]](#)



Additionally, staff prepared the second quarterly progress report for CEDS 2021-2023 Partnership Planning Grant; and met with Economic Development Representatives and Economic Development professionals across the state multiple times to coordinate economic development and disaster recovery efforts, including funding opportunities through the CARES Act, and upcoming American Rescue Plan Act.

South Florida Region COVID-19 Economic Impact Analysis Report

Through its membership in the South Florida Economic Forecasting Partnership, the SFRPC supports local authorities in making economic development investment decisions by providing consistent assessments of the magnitude and characteristics of the economic benefits related to those decisions. Through a work program in partnership with the TBRPC and its Regional Economic Analysis Program, the SFRPC produced a COVID-19 economic impact assessment in Florida and the South Florida Area in May 2021. The project will conclude March 2022. [\[READ MORE\]](#)

Key findings:

- Since March 2020, economic shutdowns from Covid-19 caused the U.S. gross domestic product (GDP) to contract by 9.5% (a -33% annualized rate of change)
- Jobs in Broward, Miami-Dade, and Monroe counties decreased by more than 394,000 (-16%) during the peak of the Covid-19 crisis from Q3 – Q4 2020.
- Many of the individuals unemployed during the Covid-19 shutdown are returning to work. Over 147,000 jobs (7%) returned from Q1 2020 – Q3 2021.
- In April 2020, average workplace trips decreased by 46%. In April 2021, average workplace trips decreased by 24%. Trips to workplaces and recreation and retail places remained less than the average but are becoming more modest.
- The South Florida region experienced a \$10 billion (-36%) decrease in sales in Q4 2020. After the initial sales decrease in Q4 2020, all counties' retail sales increased by \$5.2 billion (30%) from Q4 to Q2 2020 when businesses opened after prolonged shutdowns.
 - Consumer spending most impacted in Miami-Dade County
- A decrease in taxable sales of 13% in 2020, although it has increased each quarter since shutdowns first occurred
- Total personal income increased despite widespread job loss
- Economic Advisory Boards predict a general economic recovery by the end of 2021

Florida Statewide Evacuation Study Program

The project was completed in June 2021, and Council staff continues to provide basic on-call coordination between the Florida Department of Emergency Management and Local Emergency Managers to distribute the report and evacuation clearance time findings, and answer questions as necessary to ensure timely and proper application of the new data.

Miami-Dade Transportation Planning Organization's COVID-19 Travel Behavior Trend Analysis

Council staff submitted an updated draft report representing the final analysis of relevant literature, travel data, phases for the analysis (per County Executive Orders related to travel and business restrictions with new additions consisting of findings), final conclusions, and recommendations. The primary goal of this effort is to assist the TPO with understanding the impact that the pandemic has had on those that utilize the surface transportation networks in Miami-Dade, and project future travel behaviors and how these behavioral shifts may impact transportation demand. The project will conclude September 2021.

For additional information, please contact: Mark Cassidy, Economic Development & Research Manager at mcassidy@sfrpc.com.

GIS SUPPORT FOR SFRTA'S TRI-RAIL UBER/TAXI PILOT PROGRAM

During July and August of 2021, the SFRPC provided GIS analysis assistance to the South Florida Regional Transportation Authority (SFRTA). The SFRTA had recently partnered with Uber and Taxi companies to provide first/last mile rides to and from selected Tri-Rail Stations mirroring the service areas formerly served by the SFRTA Commuter Connectors. Thus, the scope of the work involved generating a series of maps in ArcGIS to evaluate the distribution, frequency, and accumulation of the number of rides taken in the designated Tri-Rail service areas where the Uber/Taxi service is available. The results will be used for future planning of this type of service.

For additional information, please contact: Christina Miskis, Senior Planner Transportation & Land Use at cmiskis@sfrpc.com.

STORMWATER & WASTEWATER – 20 YEAR NEEDS ANALYSES

Section 403.9301 and 403.9302, Florida Statutes, (see Chapter 2021-194, Laws of Florida), direct municipalities, counties, and independent special districts that provide a stormwater management system or programs, or waste water management services, to develop a 20-year needs analysis every five years. [\[READ MORE\]](#)



For additional information, please contact: Bridget Huston, Environmental & Community Resilience Regional Planner at bhuston@sfrpc.com.

SOUTHEAST FLORIDA CLEAN CITIES COALITION



EV CAR SHOW
DANIA POINTE | SATURDAY
OCTOBER 2, 2021 | 10AM - 1PM

Free Admission!
Meet local EV owners and dealers to see what driving green is all about!

For more information, please email alopez@sfrpc.com

139 S. Compass Way
Dania Beach, FL 33004

On Saturday, October 2, 2021, the Southeast Florida Clean Cities Coalition (SEFLCCC) will be hosting an Electric Vehicle (EV) Car Show at Dania Pointe. Come meet local EV owners to see what driving green in all about.

Additionally, our SEFLCCC Coordinator, Alisha Lopez will be joining the Energy Panel and speaking at the [Florida Resiliency Conference](#) on Thursday, September 16th.

For more information, please contact: Alisha Lopez, Clean Cities Coordinator at alopez@sfrpc.com.