



Transit-Oriented Development (Renamed Mobility and Access) Work Group

November 1, 2021

Attendees

Steve Abrams, Executive Director, South Florida Regional Transportation Authority

Dr. George Hanbury, Ph.D., President & CEO, Nova Southeastern University

Dr. Pablo Ortiz, Ph.D., Vice President & Vice Provost, Biscayne Bay Campus, Florida International University

Isabel Cosio Carballo, Executive Director, SFRPC

The primary focus of the meeting was to discuss with the Committee Members the economic recovery resiliency program, best practices, strategies, goals, and objectives, and to give an overview of the SWOT survey responses.

Mark Cassidy gave an overview of the CEDS process and how the participants will assist in writing a program of regional priorities and then identify priority projects to implement that plan. Performance metrics will be developed for organizations that will carry out the work for the next five years. Work Group Committee Members agreed to change the work group name to “Mobility and Access” to emphasize its focus on mobility and access to integrate transit-oriented development, housing, and the other pressing issues.

Each Committee Member was asked what issues or challenges should be included in the Economic Resiliency Plan of the CARES Act grant. All participants agreed with the issues that were identified by the Business Attraction and Workforce Development Work Group: Affordable Housing, Transportation, Workforce Development, and New Business Attraction and/or retain existing businesses.

CARES Act:

1. Affordable Housing

2. Transportation

- a. Dr. Hanbury stated South Florida needs an integrated rail system that connects all directions (East, West, South, North). In his view a dedicated transportation source that does not share the road with automobiles is the only way to have true economic development, affordable housing, workforce development, and improve educational delivery. Transportation is central to attracting people to South Florida for educational opportunities, and creating affordable housing, economic expansion, and prosperity.

- b. Dr. Ortiz stated that college students want the high level of transit access and commuter service that high-performing metropolitan communities have. The ability to reduce the time spent in traffic by FIU staff and students will not only enhance and improve the experience that their students and faculty are having, but it will also give their faculty and students access to opportunities within the community.
- c. Mr. Abrams stated that the problem is not just TOD, but mobility in general and orienting transit toward the places where people need to be. Expanding rail in the region is expensive and we need to try and use the existing rail corridors when we can. He stated that the region's Brightline system is unaffordable for the regular commuter and is mostly geared towards tourists. Their tickets are expensive, people must pay for parking, and there are limited stations and limited hours of operation.

3. Workforce Development

4. Achieve New Business Attraction and/or retain existing businesses

Mark Cassidy presented the CEDS – SWOT Analysis results from the work group members survey answers. The following were identified:

- I. **Strengths:**
 - a. Location, weather, and diversity
 - i. EDO collaboration, workforce development
 - ii. Broad small business community
 - iii. Education
- II. **Weaknesses:**
 - a. Housing affordability
 - b. Limited Public Transportation
- III. **Opportunities:**
 - a. Improving educational institutions
 - b. Economic Growth
 - c. Migration
 - d. Economic Diversification
 - e. Lack of sports culture to drive economic development
- IV. **Threats:**
 - a. Cost of Living
 - b. Housing
 - c. Leadership/Political Polarization
 - d. Land constraints
 - e. Resiliency/Sea Level Rise
 - f. Traffic/gridlock/car-dependence

Common themes are lack of affordable housing, climate change, and transportation options. Committee members mentioned that there is a disconnect between government and regional leadership. It was

noted that no work group is overseeing the environmental threats, the transportation problems; issues that require a unified, coordinated effort to address.

NEXT STEPS

- **2nd CEDS Strategy Committee Meeting – Monday, December 6, 2021, at 10:00am**
 - Finalize SWOT Analysis and Performance Measures
 - Staff will organize the work group responses, distill them, and formulate key themes from the broad perspectives to have a discussion with all the committee members and finalize the goals and objectives, performance metrics, and selected projects.
 - Working topic – CARES Act Strategic Plan Goals and Objectives
 - Staff will give an update on the program, discuss plans, goals, and objectives, and identify specific things to include in the program.
- **2nd Work Group Meeting – Monday, January 10, 2022, at 10:00am**
 - Identify specific projects to speed economic recovery and become more resilient to future shocks
 - Identify CEDS Goals and Objectives, discuss evaluation plan and framework
 - Develop economic resiliency project evaluation framework
- **3rd CEDS Strategy Committee Meeting - March 2022**
 - Draft CARES Act Strategy
 - Finalize Action Plan and Evaluation Framework, formal vision statement, goals, and objectives
- **3rd CEDS Strategy Committee Meeting - March 2022**