



AGENDA ITEM # VI.C

DATE: JUNE 16, 2023
TO: COUNCIL MEMBERS
FROM: STAFF
SUBJECT: COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

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

Recommendation

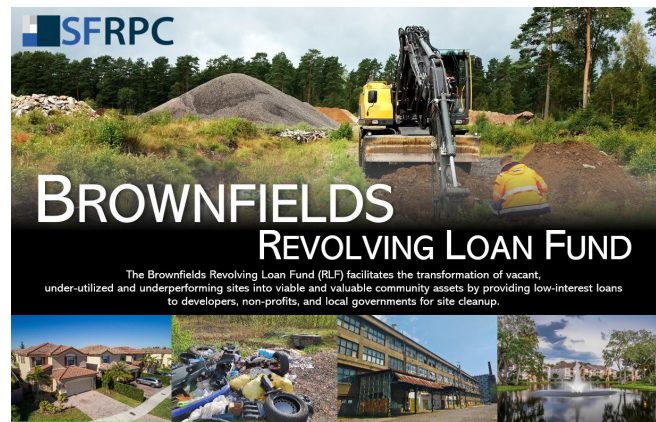
Information only

JUNE 2023

EPA AWARDS \$1.00MM BCRLF AND \$500K ASSESSMENT GRANT

For additional information, please contact Senior Loan Officer, Jeff Tart at jtart@sfrpc.com

The **South Florida Regional Planning Council** has been selected for a \$500,000 Brownfields Assessment Grant. Community-wide grant funds will be used to conduct eight Phase I and six Phase II environmental site assessments. Grant funds also will be used to develop a site inventory, prepare seven cleanup plans and five reuse plans, and conduct community outreach activities. The target area for this grant is the City of Homestead's southwest neighborhood, which was developed in the 1930s to serve African American agricultural workers, but went into decline when passenger rail service ceased along the FEC Railway in the 1960s. Priority sites include the 3-acre Triangle property, which is the gateway to the southwest neighborhood, a 0.9-acre former storage yard for railroad ties, and a 4.2-acre former residential community that was leveled by Hurricane Andrew.



The **South Florida Regional Planning Council** has also been selected for a \$1,000,000 Brownfields Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) Grant that will be funded by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. The grant will be used to capitalize a revolving loan fund from which the South Florida Regional Planning Council will provide at least three loans and one subgrant to support cleanup activities. Grant funds also will be used to market the RLF program and conduct community engagement activities. RLF activities will focus on central Miami, an area that was physically separated from the predominantly white area east of 12th Avenue until 1985 by an 8-foot-high concrete wall stretching for six blocks and was nearly destroyed by a fire after riots broke out in 1979. Priority sites include the 2-acre former Orkin Site, the 20-acre Poinciana Industrial Center assemblage property, and the 4.3-acre Northside Transit-Oriented Development property.

[\[READ MORE\]](#)

ICE MECHANICS' INTRODUCTION TO EV MAINTENANCE APPROVED FOR PILOT

For additional information, please contact Southeast Florida Clean Cities Coalition Director, Alisha Lopez at alopez@sfrpc.com

The Southeast Florida Clean Cities Coalition partnered with West Virginia University and Sheridan Technical College on a U.S. Department of Energy grant application to develop an electric vehicle (EV) technician program. The "Internal Combustion Engine (ICE) Mechanics Introduction to EV Repair: a national franchise training model for diversifying the expertise of today's auto



technician” was recently approved for funding through the U.S. Department of Energy. The “ICE Mechanics Introduction to EV Repair” envisions the development and deployment of a sustainable, scalable model for delivering a standards-driven, continuing education, focused on EV maintenance for employees who do not work for Original Equipment Manufacturer dealership networks. The project strategically targets four locations across the country to pilot a hybrid EV course for 60 hours to be delivered to approximately 40 to 60 workers who want EV maintenance and repair skills.

The partners will develop a novel delivery model with the goal of making the course financially accessible for individuals and employers. To support a diverse workforce, accessibility will be assessed to reduce or eliminate barriers. Lessons learned from this pilot will be used to scale the program nationwide.

Alisha Lopez, the Clean Cities Director at the South Florida Regional Planning Council, will lead the Coalition’s involvement in the project in coordination with Barrett Goldman, Assistant Director, at Sheridan Technical College. The Coalition and Sheridan Technical College will be responsible for coordinating stakeholder engagement, outreach, and education planning and activities with Justice40 Initiative planning in the Southeast Florida market.

SOUTHEAST FLORIDA CLEAN CITIES AND SOUTH FLORIDA LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE HOST ELECTRIC & PROPANE SCHOOL BUS FIRST RESPONDER TRAINING

For additional information, please contact Southeast Florida Clean Cities Coalition Director, Alisha Lopez at alopez@sfrpc.com, and/or LEPC Coordinator, Charlene Burke at cburke@sfrpc.com

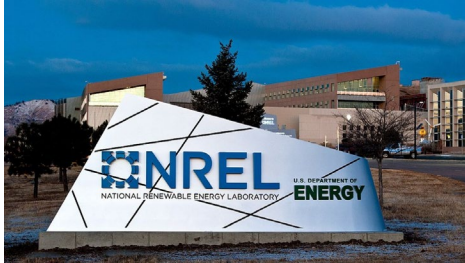


The Southeast Florida Clean Cities Coalition and the South Florida Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) identified first responder training needs for the LEPC Region 10, which includes Broward, Miami-Dade, and Monroe counties. To meet this need, the Coalition and the LEPC hosted an introductory training and informational session for electric and propane school buses on May 18, 2023. The introductory training and informational session took place at the City of Hollywood Training Fire Training Facility in Broward County. The Coalition worked with Florida Transportation Systems, Inc., and the LEPC to bring this novel training course to LEPC Region 10.

This training is a partnership. Training was provided by Florida Transportation Systems, Inc., Roush, Blue Bird with support provided by the City of Hollywood Fire Rescue & Beach Safety. The electric vehicle and propane training helps to ensure public safety continues to be a priority.

BROWARD COUNTY AND THE SOUTHEAST FLORIDA CLEAN CITIES COALITION SELECTED BY THE NATIONAL RENEWABLE ENERGY LABORATORY FOR THE CLEAN ENERGY TO COMMUNITIES COHORT

For additional information, please contact Southeast Florida Clean Cities Coalition Director, Alisha Lopez at alopez@sfrpc.com



Broward County applied to the U.S. Department of Energy's Clean Energy to Communities (C2C) cohort titled, "Planning and Funding for Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Deployment" with Southeast Florida Clean Cities named as a partner. The National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) and World Resources Institute (WRI) recently approved participation in this peer-learning cohort. This is the first pilot for integrating Clean Cities Coalitions into C2C programming. The Southeast

Florida Clean Cities Coalition is excited to work with Broward County and NREL to support our local communities.

The cohort will consist of six sessions between July and December 2023 and supplementary collaboration between the Southeast Florida Clean Cities Coalition and Broward County between sessions. Broward County and the Southeast Florida Clean Cities Coalition will work together to provide information and insights for tangible outcomes for communities. The Cohort will support the partners to prepare electric vehicle infrastructure plans, apply for funding, and deploy a strategic network of EV infrastructure.

EDA TECH HUBS PROGRAM: COUNCIL CONTINUES TO ORGANIZE AND CONVENE REGIONAL STAKEHOLDERS TO DEVELOP SOUTH FLORIDA PROPOSAL

For additional information, please contact Community and Economic Development Program Manager, Eralda Agolli at eagolli@sfrpc.com

On May 12, 2023, the Economic Development Administration (EDA) published the Tech Hubs Phase 1 Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO). The Tech Hubs Program is an economic development initiative designed to drive regional technology- and innovation-centric growth by strengthening a region's capacity to manufacture, commercialize, and deploy critical technologies.



The Council is working with approximately one hundred stakeholders who represent the region's Economic Development Organizations, municipalities, universities, and business leaders to develop an economic development proposal focused on the EDA Tech Hubs program. The proposal will highlight the region's assets and resources, including its strong research and development community, its diverse workforce, and its strategic location. The proposal will also outline a plan for how the region will use the EDA funding to strengthen its innovation ecosystem and create good jobs.

The deadline for submitting proposals is August 15, 2023. The Council is confident that the region's proposal will be successful, and that the [EDA Tech Hubs](#) program will help to create a more prosperous future for the region.

SFRPC PARTNERING WITH MIAMI-DADE TPO TO STUDY NEXUS BETWEEN AFFORDABLE HOUSING AND TRANSIT

For additional information, please contact Principal Planner, Christina Miskis at cmiskis@sfrpc.com, and/or Community and Economic Development Program Manager, Eralda Agolli at eagolli@sfrpc.com

The South Florida Regional Planning Council Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) identified affordable and workforce housing as a critical issue. The CEDS implementation phase is supportive of ensuring that affordable housing options are strategically developed around transit hubs, creating sustainable and inclusive communities. This summer, the South Florida



Audrey Edmonson Transit Village, Liberty City

Regional Planning Council (SFRPC) and the Miami-Dade Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) are partnering to study the nexus between affordable housing and transit hubs. The study, which will be led by SFRPC staff members Christina Miskis and Eralda Agolli, will examine the following:

- Existing policies on the nexus between affordable housing and transportation;
- Existing and projected affordable housing demand and supply in proximity to SMART Program hubs and corridors;
- Two station areas case studies to analyze projected affordable housing availability in the future (to include proposed developments);
- A fact sheet comparing Miami-Dade County's affordable housing policies with other areas locally and nationally; and
- A Resource Library for special Issues that affect the nexus, such as climate.

Council staff has convened an Advisory Group with subject matter experts to collect input and provide updated guidance. The Advisory Group will meet regularly to review the study's progress and provide feedback. The study is being conducted in preparation for the 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan and will help to inform the Miami-Dade Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) and ensure that the region's transportation system is efficient and accessible.

Benefits of the Study

The study is expected to be completed by August 2023 and will provide a number of benefits, including:

- A better understanding of the relationship between affordable housing and transportation
- A more comprehensive approach to planning for transportation and affordable housing
- Improved coordination between transportation and affordable housing agencies
- Increased access to affordable housing for all residents