



MEMORANDUM

AGENDA ITEM #IV.C

DATE: SEPTEMBER 18, 2023

TO: COUNCIL MEMBERS

FROM: STAFF

SUBJECT: FY 22-23 PARTIAL LIST OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS TO DATE

Please find attached a partial list of the Council's activities and accomplishments during FY 22-23.

Recommendation

Information only

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



SFRPC
South Florida Regional Planning Council
Proudly serving South Florida since 1974

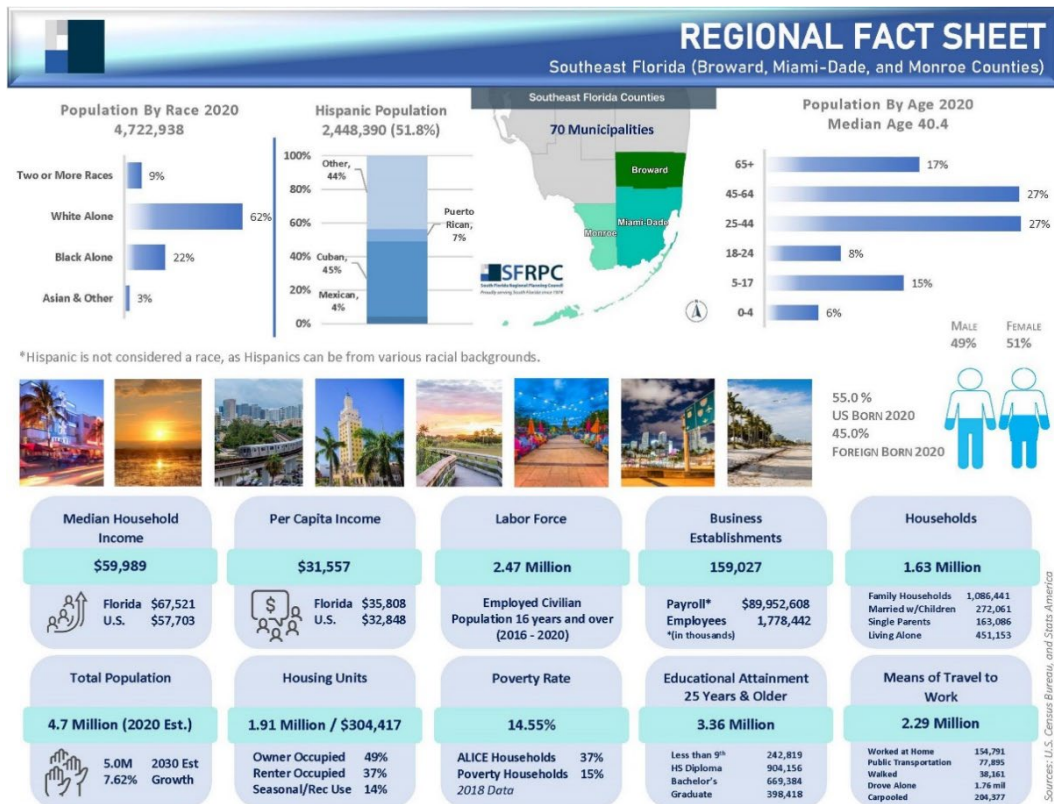
2022 - 2027 South Florida
Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy



2022-2027 SOUTH FLORIDA COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

The [2022-2027 South Florida Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy](#) (CEDS) was completed after more than a year and a half of hard work by regional leaders and stakeholders. The CEDS identifies and analyzes key economic challenges and opportunities facing Miami-Dade, Broward, and Monroe counties and its population of 4.7 million residents. The report highlights the key issues and strategic direction the region's leaders should pursue to advance economic development, equitable access to opportunity, and prosperity in South Florida.

Chaired by SFRPC Chair Senator Steve Geller, the CEDS Strategy Committee Membership includes multiple University and College Presidents, top CEOs / Business Leaders, the Presidents, CEOs, and Directors of the region's Economic Development Organizations and County Economic Development Offices, Job/Workforce Training Organizations, the top Leadership of Water Management & Regional Transit Agencies, Elected and Appointed Government leaders, etc. The CEDS Committee met both in person and electronically with more than 15 meetings over the course of a year.



SFRPC CONVENES REGIONAL STAKEHOLDERS TO DEVELOP SOUTH FLORIDA TECH HUB PROGRAM PROPOSAL



The U.S. EDA 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 SFRPC, working in its capacity as the U.S. EDA South Florida Economic Development District, has been instrumental in bringing together approximately one hundred stakeholders, spanning from Palm Beach to Monroe County. These stakeholders represent the region's Economic Development Organizations, counties, municipalities, universities, technology, and business leaders. This collaborative effort aims to craft an economic development proposal centered 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, due in August 2023, will also outline a plan for how the region will use the EDA funding to strengthen its innovation ecosystem and create good jobs.

TRANSPORTATION / TOD PLANNING



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

The SFRPC's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy for South Florida (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 SFRPC and the Miami-Dade Transportation Planning Organization have partnered to study the nexus between affordable housing and transit hubs.



The study 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.

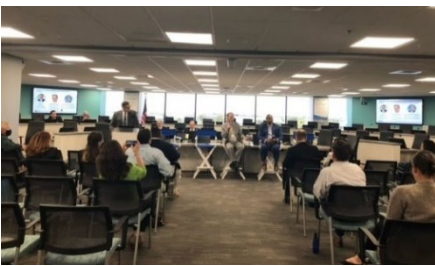


The study is expected to be completed by September 2023 and will provide a number of benefits, including:



- 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.

SFRPC staff convened an Advisory Group with subject matter experts to collect input and provide updated guidance. 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.



STRIDING FORWARD: FIRST & LAST MILE INNOVATION IN THE REGION

The SFRPC hosted the “Striding Forward: First & Last Mile Innovation in the Region” event where more than 100 participants registered to learn about the economic and community benefits of improved first and last mile connectivity. Topics of discussion included what types of densities and land use policies support first and last mile connectivity, the interrelationship of affordable housing and mobility, and an overview of South Florida’s regional vision for mobility. With transportation being the second highest expense in the region’s high cost of living environment, the consensus among speakers was that transit is key to a thriving economy with opportunity for all, and Transit-Oriented Development and Transit-Oriented Communities create “Live – Work – Play” communities that increase access to affordable housing, education, employment, and recreational opportunities.

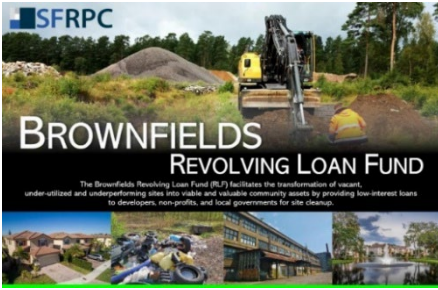


IMPROVING CONNECTIONS TO REGIONAL TRANSIT WITH THE SOUTH FLORIDA REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY (SFRTA)

The SFRPC continues to work in partnership with the SFRTA, operators of Tri-Rail, to improve the connection between regional transit and surrounding communities, improving the mobility and livability of South Florida. The SFRPC supports improved access to Tri-Rail stations by advocating for land use and zoning that is supportive of transit-oriented communities (TOCs); safe pedestrian and bicycle access on the roadway network; and multi modal options such as micro transit, and shared rides. Assigned tasks include supporting the facilitation of Transit Oriented Development (TOD) within the study areas. The SFRPC also provides Geographic Information Systems (GIS) analysis for the Tri-Rail shared rider program, which supports transit riders’ access to and from Tri-Rail stations and their origin or destination.



BROWNFIELDS & REVOLVING LOAN FUNDS PROGRAMS



EPA AWARDS THE SFRPC \$1 MILLION FOR BROWNFIELDS RLF GRANT AND \$500K FOR THE BROWNFIELDS ASSESSMENT GRANT

The SFRPC 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 SFRPC 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 east of 12th Avenue. 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.

In addition, the SFRPC 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 will also be used to develop a site inventory, prepare seven cleanup 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. 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.



SFRPC RECOGNIZED AT THE 40TH ANNUAL MEDWEEK GALA TO CELEBRATE MINORITY ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT WEEK

The South Florida Regional Planning Council was recognized by M. Gill & Associates, Inc. at Florida's 40th Annual MEDWeek Gala to celebrate minority enterprise development week. The SFRPC's CARES ACT Revolving Loan Fund was honored as a leading capital assistance program for minority business owners in South Florida that had been impacted by COVID.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING



SFRPC COMMITS \$1,000,000 TO REMEDIATE FORMER CONTAMINATED SITE INTO AFFORDABLE HOUSING FOR THE MIAMI HEALTH DISTRICT

The SFRPC committed \$1,000,000 from its EPA Brownfields Clean-Up Revolving Loan Fund to help remediate and redevelop a 2.08-acre property located at 1960 and 1970 NW 27th Avenue in Miami, Florida. This regional project is a

collaborative effort between the SFRPC, Goldstein Kite Environmental, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Miami-Dade County Department of Environmental Resources Management, and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection.



SFRPC EXPANDS AFFORDABLE HOUSING INITIATIVE WITH \$1,000,000 COMMITMENT TO CONSTRUCT SINGLE FAMILY HOMES IN HOMESTEAD, MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

The SFRPC continues to expand its affordable housing initiative with a \$1,000,000 commitment from its Revolving Loan Fund, to help construct four (4) new single-family homes for first time homebuyers in the City of Homestead, FL. The project is a collaborative effort between the SFRPC, Homestead Community Redevelopment Agency, and the Minority Builders Coalition. The homes will be located at 705 SW 6th Street, 813 SW 6th Street, 829 SW 6th Street, and 704 SW 7th Street and reside in the Homestead CRA.



MAKING HOMEBUYING AFFORDABLE ONE FAMILY AT A TIME

Liberia Economic and Social Development Inc. successfully completed the development of two (2) affordable single-family residential homes for first-time minority homebuyers. Financing for the construction of the homes was provided by a partnership of the Southeast Florida Community Development Fund, Inc., and the Urban League of Broward County/Central County Commission Development Corporation. We congratulate the homebuyers of 2351 and 2361 Raleigh Street, Hollywood, FL.

The Southeast Florida Community Development Fund, Inc. (SFCDFI) was created in 2014 by the SFRPC to promote community and economic development, provide access to capital for small businesses, and incent job creation for low- and moderate-income individuals. A primary activity of the SFCDFI is working with minority builders to create affordable housing opportunities.

CLEAN CITIES



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE SOUTHEAST FLORIDA CLEAN CITIES COALITION ON REDESIGNATION

The SFRPC's Southeast Florida Clean Cities Coalition (SEFLCCC), a public-private partnership spanning Monroe through Palm Beach counties, was recently approved for redesignation by the U.S. Department of Energy. The redesignation from the U.S. Department of Energy's Vehicle Technologies Office means that the South Florida region will continue to have access to Clean Cities tools, resources, and support networks to help convert fleets to non-petroleum fuels that can help

decrease harmful vehicle emissions, achieve sustainability goals, and reduce long-term transportation costs. The redesignation signals national recognition of the continued efforts by local fleets and government entities to build a more sustainable transportation system in South Florida that supports the local economy and quality of life.



SFRPC HOSTS SOUTHEAST U.S. CLEAN CITIES ANNUAL MEETING

The Southeast Florida Clean Cities Coalition hosted the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and Clean Cities Coalition Directors from the Southeast United States for a two-day information sharing and planning meeting on February 27th and 28th in Hollywood, FL. At this meeting, the U.S. DOE announced the recertification of the Southeast Florida Clean Cities Coalition and applauded our Coalition as one of the best in the United States. The U.S. DOE has asked the SFRPC and Coalition if we would be willing to host a National Conference later this year or early next year. The SFRPC has hosted and staffed the Coalition for more than 25 years.



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

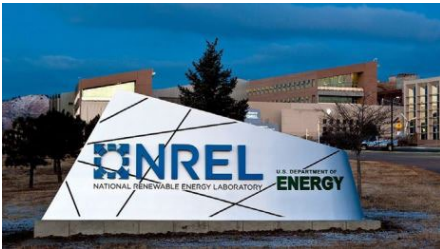
The Southeast Florida Clean Cities Coalition and the South Florida Local Emergency Planning Committee Region 10 (LEPC) identified first responder training needs for Broward, Miami-Dade, and Monroe counties. To meet this need, the Coalition and the LEPC hosted a training for electric and propane school buses on May 18, 2023. The training was provided to support Blue Bird’s contract to supply Broward County Public Schools (BCPS) with 60 new electric school buses. The order replaced part of BCPS diesel fleet with zero-emission vehicles through the Florida Department of Environmental Protection’s Electric School Bus Project. This deal marks the largest electric school bus fleet purchase in Blue Bird’s history.

Approximately 50 first responders from Miami-Dade and Broward counties participated in this standing-room only training opportunity. The responders rotated between a classroom and outside, hands-on training. The classroom training provided an overview of the propane system and the electric vehicle battery. During the hands-on component of the training, responders were able to climb on board and underneath the propane and EV school buses to thoroughly examine engine mechanics and structural components and to field questions directly to the manufacturers. The program was well-received, and plans are in the works to provide additional alternative fuel vehicles training later in FY 2023.



ICE MECHANICS' INTRO TO EV MAINTENANCE APPROVED FOR PILOT

The 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 "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.



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

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. 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.

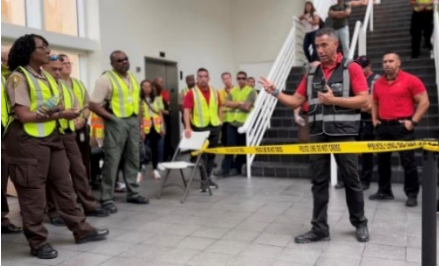
Broward County and the Southeast Florida Clean Cities Coalition will work together to provide information and insights for tangible outcomes for communities. The Cohort will support the partners to prepare electric vehicle infrastructure plans, apply for funding, and deploy a strategic network of EV infrastructure.



SOUTHEAST FLORIDA CLEAN CITIES DIRECTOR NOMINATED TO THE DRIVE ELECTRIC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Alisha Lopez, the Clean Cities Director for the Southeast Florida Clean Cities Coalition was recently elected to the Drive Electric Florida Board of Directors. Drive Electric Florida seeks to support and accelerate the adoption of electric vehicles and deployment of accompanying infrastructure. She is the newest member elected this year and the only representative of the Clean Cities Program elected to the Board. She will serve as a liaison between the Clean Cities Coalitions in Florida and the Drive Electric Florida organization. Alisha will help with the policy goal development and educational outreach.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS



OPERATION HEAT SHIELD IV

The Southeast Regional Domestic Security Task Force (SERDSTF) and Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) hosted Operation Heat Shield IV, which focused on advancing the community as a whole and regional partnerships. The exercise was designed and conducted to test and demonstrate critical skills in multidisciplinary areas of expertise and to advance lessons learned during previous exercises. Training to test new capabilities in a controlled environment helps to plan, prepare, prevent, respond, mitigate, and recover from potential terrorist incidents. In addition, the Heat Shield series provides the region's partners with the opportunity to identify gaps for inclusion in future training exercises. Operation Heat Shield IV exercises were held at Port Miami and other locations throughout Miami-Dade County in March. Event partners included law enforcement, fire rescue, emergency response personnel, joint media, and intelligence sharing entities. Through cross-jurisdictional collaboration response capabilities improve and the region's vulnerability from a complex coordinated attack is reduced. Planning exercises are a best practice to help keep South Florida's first responder skills sharp in the event of a real-world emergency.



SOUTH FLORIDA LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE HOSTS WASTE OPERATIONS TRAINING

The [South Florida LEPC](#) sponsored an eight-hour OSHA Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response Course for Miami-Dade's Water and Sewer Department. This course took place throughout October and certified 100 employees of the agency in handling certain hazardous material emergencies. During the month of September, another 200 employees of the agency were certified in similar training.

RESILIENCY PLANNING & REGIONAL COLLABORATION

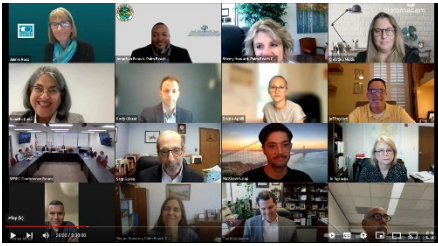


SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE WAS A HUGE SUCCESS

The South Florida and Treasure Coast Regional Planning Councils hosted a 7-County [Regional Conference on Solid Waste Management Challenges and Opportunities](#) in Southeast Florida on October 21, 2022. Featured presentations were given by county professionals and other subject matter experts regarding the current state of solid waste management practice in Southeast Florida, new technologies and "best practice" approaches, and opportunities for greater regional collaboration to manage an ever-growing supply of solid waste.

Based on regional need and demand, the Councils are hosting a follow-up, in-

depth look at Recycling Challenges and Opportunities at their upcoming Annual Conference on October 20, 2023.



MAYORS' ROUNDTABLE ON AFFORDABLE HOUSING

In September 2022, the SFRPC, working in partnership with Miami-Dade, Broward, and Palm Beach counties, the TCRPC, and Florida Housing Coalition, organized and convened a Southeast Florida Large County Affordable Housing Conversation. Chair Geller offered opening comments and then welcomed Mayor Levine Cava, Mayor Udine, and Vice Mayor Weiss who provided opening statements sharing the challenges and opportunities associated with affordable housing in their respective counties. Special guests included Florida Housing Coalition Executive Director Jaimie Ross and Legal Director Kody Glazer who provided an update on housing and legislative issues. County Housing Directors Ralph Stone, Jonathan Brown, and Michael Liu provided affordable housing program updates and shared with their colleagues and elected officials best practices, challenges, and potential opportunities to accelerate the development of affordable housing in Southeast Florida. Funding sources, planning and regulatory reform, and best practices were discussed in addition to inclusionary zoning, linkage fees, land use flexibility for affordable housing, impact fee waivers, ARPA funds for affordable housing, and NIMBYism during the two-hour meeting. SFRPC staff is currently working with the county housing directors and elected officials to host a follow up meeting focused on identifying needed improvements to SB 102 passed during the 2023 legislative session and the sharing of accomplishments, best practices, and affordable housing initiatives undertaken during the past year. This meeting is tentatively scheduled for September 2023.



SOUTH FLORIDA & TREASURE COAST JOINT COUNCIL MEETING

The South Florida and Treasure Coast Regional Planning Councils held its Annual Joint Meeting at the Long Key Natural Area and Nature Center in Davie, Florida. Councilmembers heard from state and local experts on a variety of topics including the upcoming Florida Legislative Session; Florida's Coral Reef Protection and Restoration initiatives and federal coral reef legislation; the Marine Research Hub; Southeast Florida Restoration and Flood Control Planning and Projects; proposed state affordable housing legislation; and statewide water infrastructure challenges and opportunities.



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION DISTRICT 6 RESILIENCY DATABASE

The SFRPC and the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) District 6 have created a [regional resilience database](#) of ongoing, future, and planned resilience efforts. There are currently 156 documents and resources available in the database, with more to come. The intent of this initiative is to create a one-stop

