



MEETING SUMMARY
SOUTH FLORIDA CEDS STRATEGY COMMITTEE
September 11, 2023

The South Florida CEDS Strategy Committee met virtually and in person on this date at the South Florida Regional Planning Council, 1 Oakwood Boulevard, Suite 250, Hollywood, FL 33020. Chair Geller welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. He reminded everyone of the meeting's procedures, held a moment of silence for the victims of 9/11, and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

I. Pledge of Allegiance and Roll Call

Senator Steve Geller, Chair, CEDS Strategy Committee

*Michael Bateman, VP, Career Source Broward**

*David Dech, Executive Director, SFRTA**

*James Kohnstamm, Executive Vice President, The Miami-Dade Beacon Council**

Bob Swindell, President & CEO, The Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance

*John Wensveen, Ph.D., Chief Innovation Officer & Executive Director,
NSU and Alan B. Levan / NSU Broward Center of Innovation**

*Jonathan Gueverra, President, College of the Florida Keys**

*Daniel Samess, CEO, Greater Marathon Chamber of Commerce**

*Newton Sanon, President & CEO, OIC South Florida**

*Randall Vitale, President, BBX Capital Partners**

* Virtually Present

SFRPC Executive Director Isabel Cosio Carballo was present along with the following members of Council staff:

Randy Deshazo, Deputy Director, Chief of Staff, and Director of Economic Development and Research

Eralda Agolli, Program Manager – Community and Economic Development

Jeff Tart, Senior Loan Officer

Chair Geller explained that Council Staff is required to prepare a CEDS Annual Report for the EDA. This update will identify and report on key economic development trends and progress made by the Council and regional stakeholders in furthering economic resilience through our activities, programs, and initiatives which further CEDS implementation. As part of this Annual Update, Council staff requests your assistance in compiling your initiatives and achievements for incorporation into this report. In a few minutes we will have a short presentation to refresh the Committee on the CEDS Goals and Action Plan.

When Council Staff has completed the Draft Annual Report, it will be distributed to the CEDS Committee for review and comment. Council staff will then schedule a meeting to consider any amendments and vote on the Report. This Report will then be submitted to the SFRPC Board for their approval prior to posting for Public Comment and submitting to EDA in November.

Called upon by Senator Geller, Eralda Agolli gave a short presentation on the CEDS Goals & Action Plan.

Presentation on CEDS Goals & Action Plan

Goal 1: Cultivate a Competitive Economy and Foster Economic Mobility.

Goal 2: Create Vibrant and Connected Places to Increase the Overall Quality of Life.

Goal 3: Design, Construct, and Maintain Resilient Infrastructure to Support Sustainable Business and Population Growth.

Goal 4: Promote Regional Collaboration of Intergovernmental, Public-Private, Interagency, and Non-Profits to Address South Florida's Economic Challenges.

Council staff underscored the importance of the upcoming CEDS Annual Report. Required by EDA, this report serves as a comprehensive update of key economic development trends and the progress achieved by the Council and regional stakeholders in advancing economic resilience through various activities, programs, and initiatives that further CEDS implementation. Council staff requested that the Committee Members share details of their initiatives, projects, and achievements and specify the CEDS goal(s) they align with and provide their status (e.g., funded, underway, planning stage, or completed). This information will be instrumental in crafting an impactful report. Council staff will follow with the CEDS Committee Members via email to facilitate collection of the required information.

Chair Geller then moved on to the second topic of the meeting. He complimented the Committee stating he has served as an elected official since the late 1980's and has participated as a member of many high-level Blue-Ribbon Committees and Commissions. He has never served on a Committee with a membership of such high quality. We have assembled a group of the top movers and shakers of South Florida. Now, he is reluctant to have this wonderful group do nothing other than vote to approve a report. He would like to have this group come up with a singular topic that we can work on over the next year. He is suggesting five topics to begin the conversation. He would like to come up with up to three topics today for distribution to the committee as a whole and further refinement to one topic.

Selection of a Special Topic Issue: During the meeting, the committee discussed seven potential topics for Committee's focus in the upcoming year.

1. Recycling
2. Silver Tsunami
3. Affordable Housing
4. Mass Transit
5. Continuum of Work Force Development
6. Other?

Two additional topics were added: Infrastructure and Resilience. After two votes, the Committee Members in attendance identified 1) Affordable Housing, 2) Transit, and 3) Infrastructure as the top three priority issues, for distribution to the CEDS Committee.

The next step involves refining these priorities to a single, central topic. Council staff will follow up with the CEDS Committee members to identify the sub-topics under each topic for further consideration.

Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m.