



MEMORANDUM

AGENDA ITEM # IV.D

DATE: JANUARY 26, 2026
TO: COUNCIL MEMBERS
FROM: STAFF
SUBJECT: COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

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

Information only.



LATEST NEWS FROM THE SFRPC

REFLECTING ON 2025: UPDATES FROM THE SFRPC



As 2025 draws to its conclusion, the SFRPC Board and Staff would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support of the South Florida Regional Planning Council (SFRPC). Your support and contributions of time, expertise, and resources continue to advance regional planning, collaboration, and progress on issues of regional concern throughout South Florida.

As we reflect on this last year and the progress made in South Florida, the SFRPC continues to advance key initiatives in regional planning, economic

and workforce development, data research and analysis, environmental and community resilience, environmental management restoration, improved water quality, solid waste management, affordable housing, regional mobility, and emergency preparedness. This year's highlights include the construction of new affordable housing in partnership with our local governments and community lenders, significant new EPA funding to support Brownfields assessment and cleanup throughout the region, expanded resilience and hazard mitigation efforts, increased training for emergency preparedness and response, and continued support of entrepreneurs and small businesses by means of the SFRPC's Revolving Loan Fund programs.

The SFRPC is pleased to be engaged with renewed regional efforts that are underway to advance and support restoration of Florida's Coral Reef and expansion of the Blue Ocean Economy. The SFRPC's September 2025 Regional Conference, "The Business Case for Transit-Oriented Development with Affordable and Workforce Housing," brought together public, private, and non-profit leaders from across Southeast Florida. The Conference provided a vital regional forum for



policy makers and community and business leaders to discuss how Transit-Oriented Development and Transit-Oriented Communities can provide pathways to a more robust regional economy, improved mobility, enhanced access to opportunity for all residents, and increased housing affordability as a key components of a regional economic and community development strategy.

In this edition, we share recent highlights from the SFRPC's work over the past few months and outline key initiatives continuing into the new year. Thank you again for your continued partnership and support in advancing regional goals across South Florida.

NEW ECONOMIC AND RESILIENCE STUDIES SUPPORTING FLORIDA'S OCEAN ECONOMY, RESILIENT INFRASTRUCTURE BENEFIT-COST ANALYSIS TOOL, AND RAIL EXPANSION

The SFRPC is leading several key initiatives at the intersection of economic development, regional planning, and resiliency. Working in partnership with Florida Atlantic University (FAU), the SFRPC is preparing the 2026 Florida's Ocean Economy Annual Update for the State of Florida Office of the Ocean Economy hosted at FAU. The Office of the Ocean Economy was created by the Florida Legislature to connect the state's ocean and coastal resources to economic development strategies that will grow and enhance the ocean economy. This Annual Update provides a legislatively required economic analysis of the state's ocean economy and outlines initiatives to support its growth while keeping the Governor and Legislature informed of its importance and opportunities for continued investment in this sector. The SFRPC also is engaged with and supports the work of the Marine Research Hub and Florida Ocean Alliance, organizations supporting the Blue Ocean Economy.



With support from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Resilient Florida grant program, the SFRPC is expanding the South Florida Resilient Infrastructure Benefit-Cost Analysis Tool for use statewide working in partnership with our sister regional planning councils. The Resilient Infrastructure Benefit Cost Analysis tool was originally funded by DEP to help South Florida's local governments and technical consultants approach decisions about green, gray, and hybrid infrastructure in a standardized framework by assembling cost of construction data, comparative benefits of those infrastructure mixes, and a social impact scorecard so nonmonetary or community amenity impacts may be considered in a decision making framework. It is a planning level or 'sketch' tool so that various scenarios for tackling flood and storm surge challenges can be compared in a financially sound modeling environment.

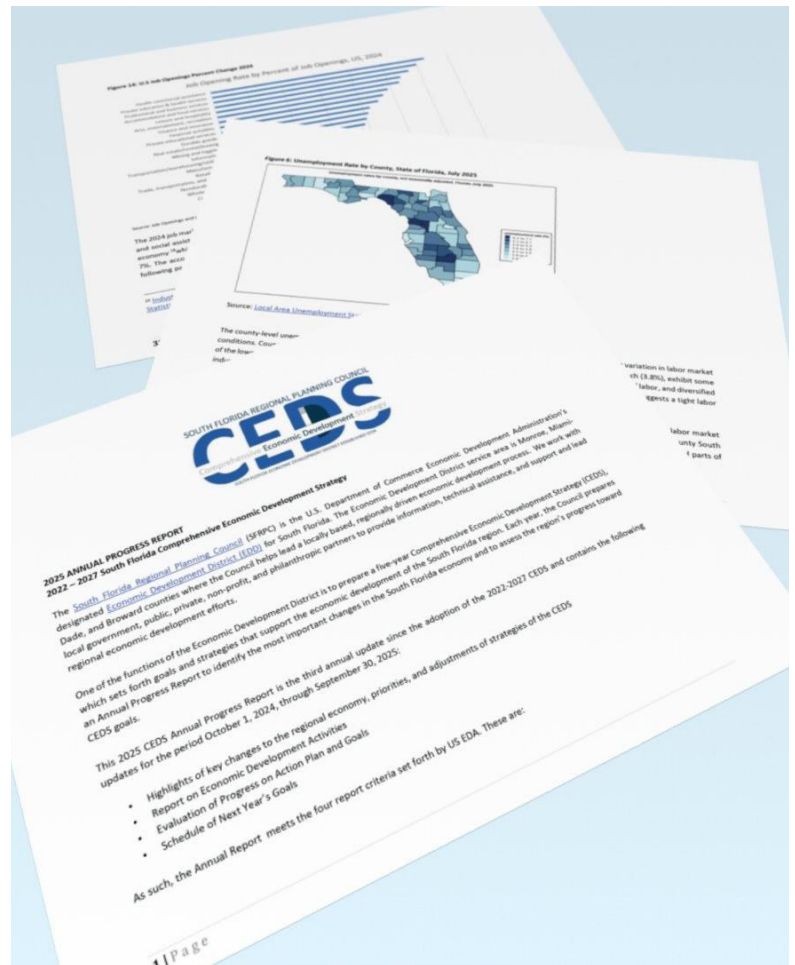
With a second year of funding from DEP the SFRPC is expanding the functionality of the tool and making it available statewide by incorporating local construction costs. This process involves substantial outreach to broaden peer review of the model and its intended functionality. The SFRPC's sister RPCs are assisting in the identification of local users within their respective regions to learn about and help refine the model. Part of the consultants' task is to also develop training materials and a train-the-trainer session. The resulting framework may help DEP assess resiliency investments across Florida.

In partnership with our sister agency the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council (TCRPC), the SFRPC is also conducting an Economic Analysis for the proposed Brightline extension to Stuart, evaluating potential impacts on Stuart and surrounding areas in support of a Federal Railroad Administration grant application.



COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY COMMITTEE APPROVED KEY ACTIONS FOR 2025 AND FINAL ANNUAL UPDATE REPORT

The Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Committee, a high-level committee of the region's top private, public, non-profit, and academic leaders chaired by Immediate-past Chair Senator Steve Geller, held its final 2025 meeting on October 22nd, where members approved key economic development initiative for 2026 and the 2025 CEDS Annual Update Report. The report serves as an important foundation for securing federal and state funding to support economic development across the region.



A 30-day public comment period on the draft report was held from October 22nd to November 22nd with community input incorporated as appropriate. The final CEDS 2025 Annual Update has now been approved. Through its work as the U.S. Department of Commerce designated Economic Development District of South Florida and board membership on the Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance and Beacon Council, the SFRPC supports and advances the economic development priorities of the region's Economic Development Organizations, county/municipal economic development agencies, academic institutions, and leading Chambers of Commerce comprised of region's business community.

SOUTH FLORIDA LEPC ADVANCES EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS EFFORTS

In October and November, the South Florida Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) continued its work to support regional emergency preparedness, response, and compliance with local, state, and federal regulations. On October 29th, the LEPC virtually hosted the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA) Workshop 2025, providing an overview of the EPCRA, and together with Florida Division of Emergency Management offered EPCRA training to help emergency personnel and facilities prepare for the upcoming reporting season.

On November 12th, the LEPC held its Quarterly Meeting in a hybrid format at the SFRPC office, bringing together members and stakeholders to share updates, approve new member nominations, set 2026 meeting dates, review State Emergency Response Commission (SERC) updates, and discuss ongoing projects and priorities.

SFCDFI EXPANDS AFFORDABLE HOMEOWNERSHIP IN FORT LAUDERDALE AND RIVIERA BEACH

Through the Southeast Florida Community Development Fund, Inc. (SFCDFI), the SFRPC is supporting new affordable homeownership opportunities in Broward and Palm Beach counties. In partnership with the Broward County Minority Builders Coalition, SFCDFI is providing construction financing for four new energy-efficient, three-bedroom homes in Fort Lauderdale as part of the county's in-fill lot development program.

In Riviera Beach, the SFCDFI is partnering with the Riviera Beach Community Redevelopment Agency on the Renaissance Riviera Beach project, which will deliver seven affordable homes, including three initial three-bedroom units now entering construction. As an independent 501(c)(3), SFCDFI promotes community and economic development, expands access to capital, and provides financing for first-time minority homebuyers and disadvantaged small businesses across Southeast Florida.



ADVANCING REGIONAL PLANNING, MOBILITY, AND RESILIENCE

Over the past few months, the SFRPC advanced several key initiatives across resiliency, mobility, and regional planning. This includes the SFRTA Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) Outreach Program, which promotes TOD around Tri-Rail and future Coastal Link stations through education, technical assistance, and planning support, as well as work through the North Miami Beach TOD Study Steering Committee to move forward station-area recommendations for the planned Northeast Corridor Station, including land use, zoning, and station-area planning. The SFRPC conducted a Sun Trail Economic Impact Study in Miami-Dade County, and Miami-Dade TPO Pedestrian and Bicycle Infrastructure Study, updating mobility elements to better align land use, multimodal transportation, and major corridor investments. The SFRPC is also kicking off a Mobility Update to the Strategic Regional Policy Plan (SRPP) that will be conducted in the upcoming year.

The City Park Development of Regional Impact (DRI) Sufficiency Review continued, evaluating regional impacts related to transportation, community services, and plan consistency. The City Park DRI, the last DRI under review in the State of Florida, is a proposed master-planned development encompassing approximately 954 acres of agricultural land within the jurisdictional boundaries of Miami-Dade County. City Park is bounded on the north by SW 136 Street, on the east by SW 162 Avenue, on the south by Coral Reef Drive/SW 152 Street, and on the west by Krome Avenue/SW 177 Avenue. City Park is proposed immediately adjacent to and west/outside of the adopted CDMP 2030 Urban Development Boundary which serves as the County's urban service area boundary.

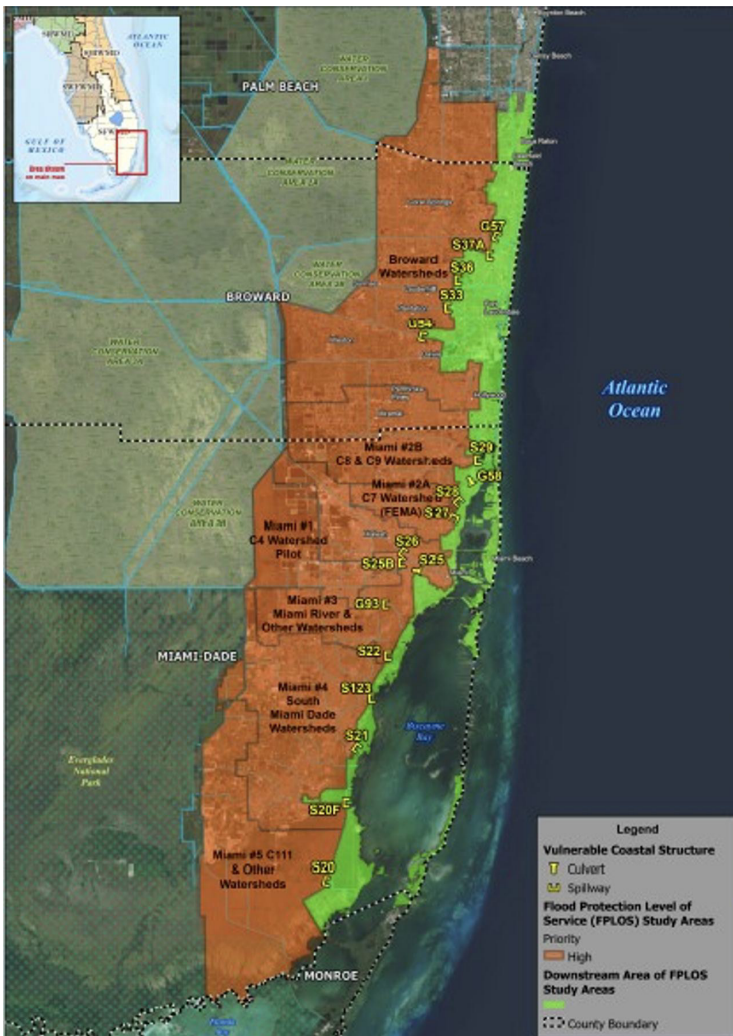
Safety and long-range planning efforts progressed through the Council's participation in the Miami Lakes Vision Zero Safety Action Plan, a data-driven initiative aimed at eliminating traffic deaths and serious injuries, and the Miami-Dade County Evaluation, Appraisal and Review (EAR) Task Force, which is reviewing and recommending updates to the County's Comprehensive Development Master Plan for the 2050 planning horizon.

Additional mobility work included engagement on the SR 9A/I-95 PD&E Study (FDOT), evaluating corridor alternatives and improvements to address congestion, safety, and mobility needs. The South Florida and Treasure Coast Regional Planning Councils support and provide planning support to the region's transportation planning organizations in their respective regions including the Miami-Dade TPO, Broward MPO, and Palm Beach MPO, SFRTA, FDOT Districts 4 and 6, and the Southeast Florida Transportation Council. The SFRPC and TCRPC staff serve on the Regional Transportation Technical Advisory Committee (RTTAC), SFRTA Planning Technical Advisory Committee (PTAC), and provide direct planning support to the SFRTA. Through regular SFRPC/TCRPC Joint Council Meetings, the Councils elevate issues of regional importance, most recently advocating for the restoration of state funding for the SFRTA Tri-Rail Systems and New Starts Program.



SFRPC support includes land-use planning, data collection and analysis, trail planning, and economic and property value analysis to strengthen regional transportation planning. A major focus of this work is developing a long-term vision for community-supported density and intensity along transit corridors, along with longitudinal modal-split analysis that integrates land use and behavioral factors into transportation planning.

The SFRPC Executive Director serves on numerous planning committees including the Broward County Climate Change Task Force, Broward County Water Advisory Board and Technical Advisory Committee, and supports the South Florida Water Management District in its regional resiliency planning and implementation efforts including the advancement of studies and improvements related to the Central and Southern Florida (C&SF) System Section 216 Flood Resilience Study.



In addition to the Miami-Dade County Miami-Dade County Evaluation, Appraisal and Review (EAR) Task Force, which is reviewing and recommending updates to the County's Comprehensive Development Master Plan for the 2050 planning horizon, the Executive Director also serves on the Coordinating Council of Broward County (CCB). The CCB brings together monthly business, government, and nonprofit leaders to advocate for and coordinate health and human services in the community to enhance quality of life, care, and services for community residents.

The SFRPC is currently exploring the opportunity to work with the CCB and other South Florida stakeholders to study of the issue of food insecurity in South Florida.

Resiliency efforts are also moving forward through the South Florida Military Resilience Review (MIRR) with support focused on roadway flooding near the Naval Surface Warfare Center Carderock Division's South Florida Ocean Measurement Facility in Dania Beach, Broward County, assessing impacts to inform resilience and access strategies.

SFRPC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR HONORED BY MIAMI TODAY NEWS IN BOOK OF LEADERS 2025



We are proud to share that Council Executive Director Isabel Cosio Carballo has been named a 2025 honoree in *Miami Today's Book of Leaders*, the publication's annual Hall of Fame recognizing 52 individuals shaping Greater Miami. Now in its 29th edition, the *Book of Leaders* features Achievers profiled throughout the year and celebrates sustained leadership and impact across the region's civic, business, and nonprofit communities. "I am grateful for this great honor by *Miami Today News* as it recognizes the great work of the SFRPC Board and Staff," said Isabel Cosio Carballo, SFRPC Executive Director.

LOOKING FORWARD TO 2026!

In addition to the aforementioned priority regional issues, planning has begun for the 2026 SFRPC/TCRPC Joint Council Meeting and seven-county Regional Conference which will bring together elected officials and other regional leaders to explore regional opportunities and address the pressing issues facing Southeast Florida. Stay tuned!

In closing, the SFRPC Board and Staff wish everyone a blessed, prosperous, and healthy New Year in 2026! Thank you again for your support and contributions of time, talent, and resources that advance regional planning and the multidisciplinary, regional partnerships needed to create an improved quality of life, prosperous economy, healthier environment, and vibrant communities in South Florida.

