

Recap of the Joint Meeting of the South Florida and Treasure Coast Regional Planning Councils



TCRPC Chair Maria Marino, Palm Beach County Commissioner, and SFRPC Chair Senator René García, Miami-Dade County Commissioner, convened the South Florida and Treasure Coast Regional Planning Councils on April 10, 2026 for a successful Joint Council Meeting, bringing together regional leaders and subject matter experts for a day of discussion on key issues shaping Southeast Florida.

The agenda included conversations on biosolids and emerging technology solutions, data center development and Blue Ribbon Projects, Florida's Coral Reef and restoration funding, advanced air mobility, Opportunity Zones 2.0, and updates from the 2026 State Legislative Session.



Meeting Recording

Missed the meeting or would like to revisit the discussion? A recording of the Joint Council Meeting is now available. [\[View Recording\]](#)

Joint Meeting Featured on WPBF 25 News



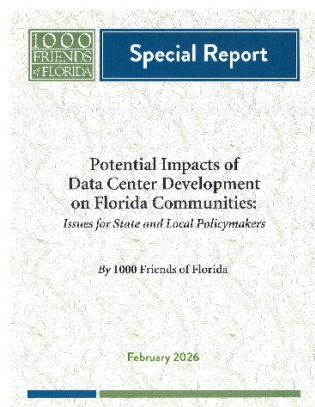
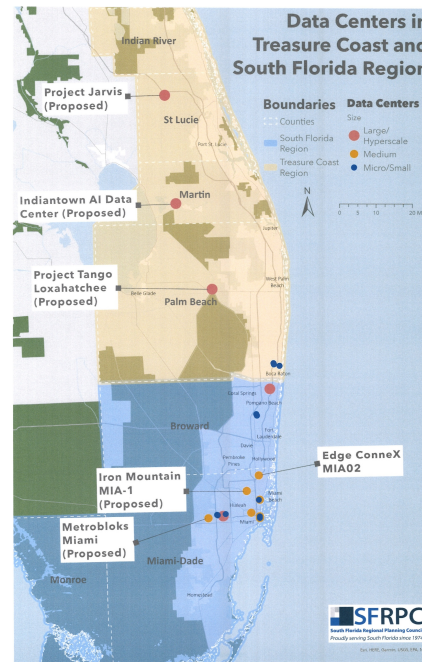
The Joint Meeting of the South Florida and Treasure Coast Regional Planning Councils was featured on WPBF 25 News, with coverage focused on discussions around data centers and environmental concerns. The segment included commentary from guest speakers and commissioners, highlighting key regional priorities addressed during the meeting. [\[View the Segment\]](#)

Biosolids Legislation Update and Technology Solutions

Thomas J. Lanahan, Executive Director of the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council, and Rana Brown, Government Consultant at Ronald L. Book, P.A., presented on House Bill 1245 (2026), which introduces new restrictions on the land application of bulk Class AA biosolids fertilizer and compost products. Stanley Janicki, Chief Commercial Officer at Sedron Technologies, followed with a presentation on technology solutions to help municipalities comply with biosolids regulations while managing costs. [\[View Presentation\]](#)




Data Centers and “Blue Ribbon” Development in the 2026 Legislative Session



Paul Owens, President of 1000 Friends of Florida, addressed planning challenges related to large-scale data centers, recent legislation regulating these facilities, and proposed “Blue Ribbon” development bills aimed at fast-tracking major projects. [\[Learn More\]](#)

Florida's Coral Reef Restoration and Funding Update



FLORIDA'S CORAL REEF

Florida's Coral Reef Restoration and Recovery Initiative (FCR3)

Phase I (FY 2023-2026)
Goals and Objectives:

- In-State Facilities Expansion.
- Strategy Development.
- Science, Monitoring and Adaptive Management Plan.
- Restoration Site Selection.
- Reinforce Existing Restoration Efforts.
- Workforce Development.

Phase II (FY 2027-2035)
Goals and Objectives:

- Construction of New and Maintenance of Existing Facilities.
- Refine Training Curriculum.
- Maximizing Efficiency.
- Workforce and Volunteer Optimization.

Phase III (FY 2036-2050)
Goals and Objectives:

- Sustaining Facilities and Operations.
- Expansion and Monitoring.
- Maximizing Peoplepower.

Phase I (FY 2023-26)
Estimated Budget:

- \$9.5 million per year for award recipients.
- In addition to DEP and FWC operating costs.
- *Some objectives to be accomplished internally with supplemental funding.*

Phase II (FY 2027-2035)
Estimated Budget:

- \$25 million per year for award recipients.
- In addition to DEP and FWC operating costs.
- *Some objectives to be accomplished internally with supplemental funding.*

Phase III (FY 2036-2050)
Estimated Budget:

- \$15 million per year for award recipients.
- In addition to DEP and FWC operating costs.
- *Some objectives to be accomplished internally with supplemental funding.*


FLORIDA'S CORAL REEF RESTORATION AND RECOVERY (FCR3) INITIATIVE

Friends of Our Florida Reefs (FOFR) is the citizen support organization for DEP's Coral Programs. FOFR's mission is to assist, complement, and enhance the critical efforts of DEP to conserve Florida's Coral Reef.

Restoring Florida's Coral Reef is a smart investment. The United States Geological Survey found that restoration of 22 miles of Florida's Coral Reef could pay for itself within a year by providing increased shoreline protection, delivering a positive return on investment.


Since 2023, 15 partner institutions have received FCR3 Initiative funding to support impactful, science-driven efforts that accelerate the recovery of Florida's Coral Reef.

Partner	Amount
Broward County	
New Southwestern University	\$3,000,000
Hillsborough County	
The Florida Aquarium / ICARE	\$2,045,000
Reef Renewal USA	\$2,060,000
Miami-Dade County	
The University of Miami	\$2,000,000
Frost Science Museum	\$200,000
Florida International University	\$2,795,000
Monroe County	
Plant a Million Corals	\$950,000
Boy Scouts of America	\$400,000
Newfound Harbor Marine Institute	\$670,000
Orange County	
Fish & Wildlife Foundation of Florida	\$1,025,000
Palm Beach County	
The Reef Institute	\$3,500,000
Pinellas County	
SeaFoundry	\$1,000,000
Sarasota County	
Mote Marine Laboratory & Aquarium	\$1,600,000
St. Johns County	
Florida Atlantic University Harbor Branch	\$2,720,000



Clean water is essential for coral reefs to thrive.

The Biscayne Bay Water Quality Improvement Grant supports the FCR3 Initiative!



www.FloridasCoralReef.org | info@floridareef.org

Mollie Cordo, Southeast Regional Administrator at the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, and Joanna C. Walczak, Vice President of Conservation at Loggerhead Marinelife Center, presented on the Kristin Jacobs Florida Aquatic Preserve Management Plan and Florida's Coral Reef Restoration and Recovery Initiative (FCR3).



The presentation outlined a phased, long-term approach to restoring reef resilience, supported by ongoing funding, planning, and implementation efforts across the state. [\[View More\]](#)

Advancing Transportation: The Future of Air Mobility in Florida



FDOT

Florida's Aerial Network

Network supports testing, validation, and scale of air-taxi, cargo, and emergency management use cases

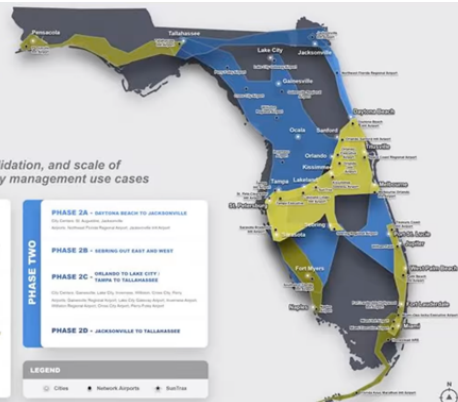
PHASE ONE

PHASE 1A - CENTRAL FLORIDA AT CORCORAN
The Orange County & Seminole County Shared Corridor connects Orlando, Winter Springs, and Lake Wales. It is a 100-mile corridor that will support air-taxi, cargo, and emergency management use cases. The corridor is currently under construction and is expected to be completed in 2025.

PHASE 1B - PORT AU LAURE TO WABER
The Port au Laure to Waber corridor connects Port au Laure and Waber. It is a 100-mile corridor that will support air-taxi, cargo, and emergency management use cases. The corridor is currently under construction and is expected to be completed in 2025.

PHASE 1C - TAMPA TO WABER - WABER TO KEY WEST
The Tampa to Waber - Waber to Key West corridor connects Tampa, Waber, and Key West. It is a 100-mile corridor that will support air-taxi, cargo, and emergency management use cases. The corridor is currently under construction and is expected to be completed in 2025.

PHASE 1D - PANAMA TO TALLAHASSEE
The Panama to Tallahassee corridor connects Panama and Tallahassee. It is a 100-mile corridor that will support air-taxi, cargo, and emergency management use cases. The corridor is currently under construction and is expected to be completed in 2025.



PHASE TWO

PHASE 2A - DAYTONA BEACH TO JEAQUINHOVILLA
The Daytona Beach to Jaquinhovilla corridor connects Daytona Beach and Jaquinhovilla. It is a 100-mile corridor that will support air-taxi, cargo, and emergency management use cases. The corridor is currently under construction and is expected to be completed in 2025.

PHASE 2B - SEASIDE OUTH EAST AND WEST
The Seaside Outh East and West corridor connects Seaside Outh East and West. It is a 100-mile corridor that will support air-taxi, cargo, and emergency management use cases. The corridor is currently under construction and is expected to be completed in 2025.

PHASE 2C - HIGHLAND TO LAKE CITY - TAMPA TO TALLAHASSEE
The Highland to Lake City - Tampa to Tallahassee corridor connects Highland, Lake City, Tampa, and Tallahassee. It is a 100-mile corridor that will support air-taxi, cargo, and emergency management use cases. The corridor is currently under construction and is expected to be completed in 2025.

PHASE 2D - JEAQUINHOVILLA TO TALLAHASSEE
The Jaquinhovilla to Tallahassee corridor connects Jaquinhovilla and Tallahassee. It is a 100-mile corridor that will support air-taxi, cargo, and emergency management use cases. The corridor is currently under construction and is expected to be completed in 2025.

Daniel Iglesias, P.E., District Secretary for District Six at the Florida Department of Transportation, presented on emerging trends in advanced air mobility and its potential to shape the future of transportation in Florida. The

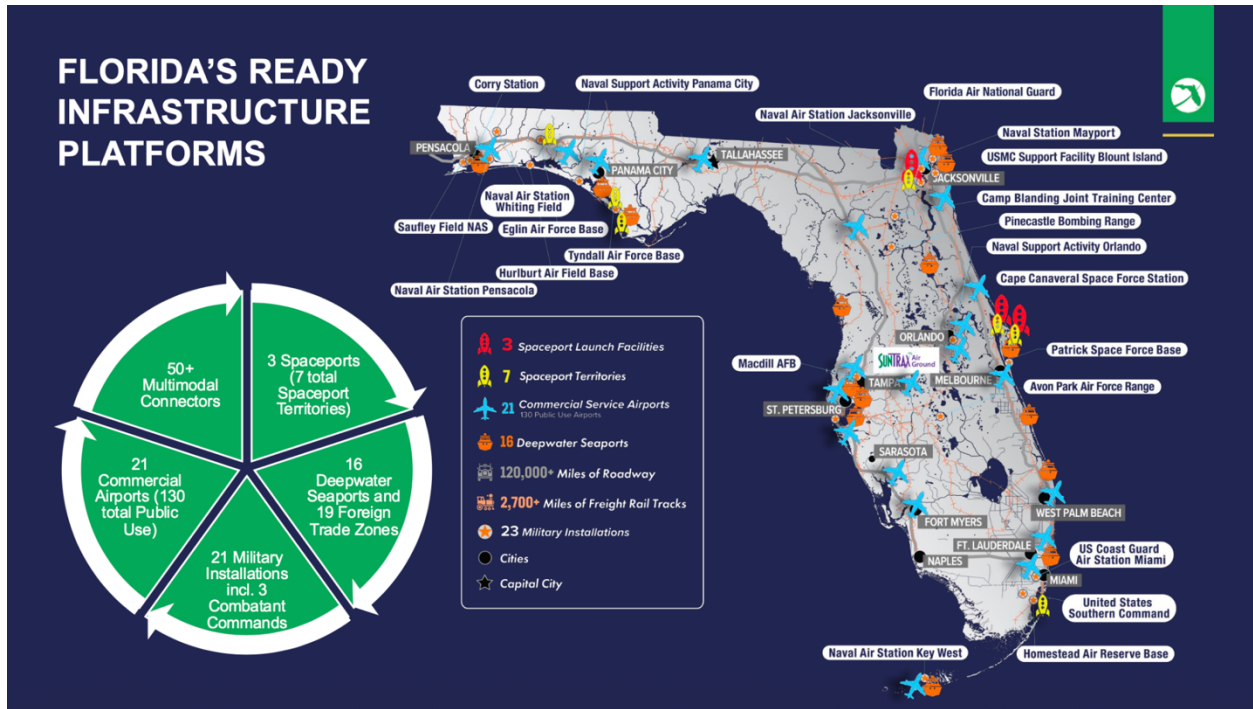
discussion highlighted Florida’s vision for advanced air mobility, innovation in infrastructure, regional connectivity, operational timeline, and long-term planning considerations. [\[More Insights\]](#)



Opportunity Zones 2.0: Evolving Tools for Economic Development



Proposed updates to Opportunity Zones 2.0 and their potential impact on economic development and investment across the region were discussed, including how these tools may continue to support growth in targeted communities. The presentation was delivered by Benjamin Latham, Senior Analyst at FloridaCommerce. [\[View Presentation\]](#)



Key Takeaways from the 2026 State Legislative Session



Key policy developments and priorities from the 2026 Florida Legislative Session were highlighted, with a focus on issues relevant to regional planning, infrastructure, and local governments. The update was provided by Ronald L. Book, Founder, President and Chief Executive Officer of Ronald L. Book, P.A.

Upcoming Council Meetings and Schedule

Stay tuned for upcoming meetings and regional discussions from the South Florida Regional Planning Council. Click below for the full schedule. [\[View Meeting Schedule\]](#)



“The Annual Joint Meeting of the South Florida and Treasure Coast Regional Planning Councils (SFRPC & TCRPC) is an important opportunity for the Council Boards to come together in a joint strategy session, along with subject matter experts, to discuss the regional opportunities and challenges facing residents, communities, businesses, and the environment in Southeast Florida. Together the two Councils represent more than 6.6 million residents from Monroe through Indian River counties. This collaborative partnership enables us to work together on shared interests with one voice and address challenges such as regional transportation, affordable housing, economic development, solid waste management, and flooding to name a few.” SFRPC Chair Senator René García