



Regional Community Institute Work Program

The mission of the Institute is to advance and promote the vision of regionalism as it relates to the quality of life in Northeast Florida's natural, built, economic and social environments. The Institute was created by the Northeast Florida Regional Council (NEFRC) as a not-for-profit organization to advance the mission by assessing and monitoring the state of the region, fostering leadership throughout the region, and creating a vision for the region. The Institute has been asked to create the vision on a timeline that will allow it to be considered by NEFRC when updating the Northeast Florida Strategic Regional Policy Plan.

Goal: Ongoing assessment of the region and a regional vision, created through a work program designed to maximize education and buy-in from the regional community, which will be provided to the NEFRC for their consideration in an update to the Northeast Florida Strategic Regional Policy Plan.

What is a regional vision? An image of a regional pattern for growth, statements of goals that are the product of extensive community input, and policies created by the Institute that could influence the future of the region so that it may achieve its vision.

Timeframe: Complete and publish the vision by September, 2011.

Work Plan

- ❖ *Establish Committees* for Natural Resources, Affordable Housing, Emergency Preparedness, Transportation, Economic Development and Health and Human Services (September 2009). Their work is ongoing.
- ❖ *ON THE ROAD: Visioning Exercises in 7 Counties and a Youth Visioning Exercise.* This is a joint initiative with Region First 2060, as an implementation step for Reality Check First Coast, which will provide data important to a vision for use by the Institute. It will use the same background materials and rules of the game as used for Reality Check First Coast, as well as include information for participants on the results of Reality Check First Coast. This will allow each of our counties to engage a broader spectrum of citizens than was able to participate on May 21, 2009, and allow participants to begin thinking about guiding principles and a preferred growth pattern for the region. It will also provide information regarding what grassroots participants in each county perceive as their vision for the future. We will also convene a youth-only exercise, to compare the preferences of our citizens most impacted with those of our leaders. (October – January 2010)
- ❖ Name the vision and sunshine training for Board and Committee members. (December 2009)

- ❖ *Work on the State of the Region Report Card (January 2010 – Ongoing)*
The NEFRC is guided in its decision making by the Strategic Regional Policy Plan (SRPP). The SRPP includes indicators that, although helpful, may not fully show how we are doing in the mandated policy areas of Affordable Housing, Economic Development, Emergency Preparedness, Natural Resources and Transportation. The Institute will consider, given the wide range of data available, the performance measures that are appropriate to a fair assessment of the state of the region. Through a collaborative relationship with the Jacksonville Community Council, Inc., a series of mutually agreed upon regional indicators will be developed and reported. For the purposes of the Institute, the state of the region includes anything that reflects a sustainable region. In addition, as visioning progresses, the Institute will develop regional indicators for each of the data areas and the benchmarks we should achieve in order to reach our goals. It is anticipated that the Institute will issue a baseline and then an annual report card.
- ❖ *ON THE ROAD Community Outreach: Observations and Preferred Pattern Dialogue.* We will develop measures comparing the impacts of the growth patterns created at Reality Check First Coast and know whether to include other patterns or information based on the “groundtruthing” they have received at the County and Youth exercises. This lends itself to public outreach to help our citizens to understand their choices and to encourage them to start thinking about their preferences. This phase will use the website, staff and volunteer presentations. (February - June 2010)
- ❖ *ON THE INTERNET Community Outreach: Community Preferred Pattern Survey*
We will have the four growth patterns created at Reality Check First Coast with potentially two others – A composite of the county preference patterns and a youth preference pattern. The observations and patterns will be posted and a survey designed and posted to solicit the preferences of as many of the citizens of our region as possible. (July – September 2010)
- ❖ Staff builds an image for the vision based on the community preferred pattern data, the guiding principles identified at Reality Check First Coast, as vetted through community outreach and committees. (October – December 2010)
- ❖ Staff and Committees draft goals and policies for the vision. (January - March 2011)
- ❖ Institute Board consideration of the vision. (April- June 2011)
- ❖ Institute presentation of vision to NEFRC Board. (September 2011)