

Draft
Tampa Bay to Northeast Florida Future Corridor

Charge from the NEFRC

Implementing First Coast Vision and the Strategic Regional Policy Plan: Transportation (Regional Partners: North Florida Transportation Planning Organization and the Regional Transportation Commission)

The Regional Community Institute (RCI) is asked to convene interested parties to consider the alignment of a transportation corridor between Jacksonville and Tampa, in advance of statewide analysis of alternatives. The purpose of this work is to ensure that the goals, objectives and policies of First Coast Vision and the Strategic Regional Policy Plan are carried out in this important transportation improvement. Another purpose is to ensure diverse representation in the public and stakeholder engagement that considers a project with the potential for significant impacts on the future of Northeast Florida. When the State focuses on Northeast Florida, RCI is asked to reconvene its group to ensure that the State process benefits from the full diversity of regional participation. If appropriate, recommend metrics to be tracked by NEFRC as part of its annual State of the Region report. Report results to NEFRC in Fall, 2016.

Background

In 2011/2012 the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) announced its Florida's Future Corridors initiative. This is a very long range effort with the following purpose:

"The Future Corridors Program is a statewide effort led by the FDOT to plan for the future of the major transportation corridors critical to the state's economic competitiveness and quality of life over the next 50 years. This effort builds upon the 2060 Florida Transportation Plan which calls for planning a transportation system that maintains our economic competitiveness by Meeting today's transportation needs for moving people and freight as well as our needs for decades to come."

More on the overall initiative can be found at: <http://www.dot.state.fl.us/planning/policy/corridors/>. Attached (Tab 1) is a 2-page brochure that provides general information on the initiative and provides maps for the five initial study areas.

In October 2013 the FDOT released the Tampa Bay to Northeast Florida Study Area Concept Report (Summary Report and Technical Report) (Tab 2). These reports provide information as to purpose, general conditions and next steps. More information can be found at: <http://www.dot.state.fl.us/planning/policy/corridors/TB-NE/>.

In December 2014 the FDOT released the Summary and Final reports of the East Central Florida Corridor Task Force (Tab 3). This effort is a subset of the larger Southwest Florida through the Heartland to Central Florida Corridor. This phase was jump started when Deseret Ranch (Farmland Reserve, Inc.) initiated a sector plan on their Osceola County holdings (133,000 acres) that was in the boundaries of the larger corridor study area. The Task Force made recommendations on guiding principles, preservation and enhancement of existing corridors and development of new corridors.

Finally, on October 14, 2015 FDOT Secretary Jim Boxold announced the creation of the Interstate 75 Relief Task Force (Tab 4) to develop consensus recommendations that will:

- Provide relief to I-75 for passengers and freight
- Improve travel safety and reliability
- Improve statewide and regional connectivity
- Enhance economic development opportunities

This new Task Force (Tampa Bay to I75) represents the approach for the first leg of the larger Tampa Bay to Northeast Florida effort. The I75 Relief Task Force will meet monthly for seven times beginning on December 7, 2015 with active Task Force meetings ending in June and a Final Report due to Secretary Boxold by October 1, 2016. It is anticipated that a second leg (I75 to Northeast Florida) Task Force will begin shortly after the conclusion of the work of the I75 Relief Task Force.

Regional Community Institute Committee

Goals

The overall goal of the Committee is to better prepare Northeast Florida to actively participate in the FDOT Task Force Process for the I75 to Northeast Florida portion of the overall Tampa Bay to Northeast Florida Corridor process. Specific goals are as follows:

1. Gather and understand trends/conditions an existing plans related to:
 - a. Environment
 - b. Land Use/Community Development
 - c. Agriculture
 - d. Economy/Economic Development
 - e. Transportation
 - f. Emergency Preparedness
 - g. Affordable Housing
 - h. Energy
 - i. Health
 - j. Equity
 - k. Military Installations
2. Develop a set of “Guiding Principles” that reflect the lessons learned from 1. Above and are representative of the Region’s priorities, preferences and aspirations.
3. Develop a map(s) that portrays land areas that are less suitable for existing corridor enhancement or siting of new corridors.
4. Identify existing corridors for enhancements and new corridors for development

Approach

It is anticipated that the work of the Committee can be completed in 4-5 months. This time frame works well for providing guidance and input into the FDOT process for the I75 to Northeast Florida leg of the overall corridor.

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| Meeting 1 | Presentation on the Tampa Bay to Northeast Florida Corridor
Presentation on the East Central Florida Corridor Task Force |
| Meeting 2 | Review of trends and conditions (Goal 1) and existing plans
Begin development of Guiding Principles (Goal 2) |
| Meeting 3 | Present map overlays of attributes (Goal 3)
Refine Guiding Principles (Goal 2)
Develop list of corridors for enhancement/development (Goal 4) |
| Meeting 4 | Refine/combine maps to portray less suitable areas (Goal 3)
Refine Corridor recommendations (Goal 4) |
| Meeting 5 | Adopt final report |