

## **The Policy Charge: First Coast Vision Implementation**

The Regional Community Institute (RCI), beginning with its work on Reality Check, created First Coast Vision as a guiding document and integral part of the Strategic Regional Policy Plan (SRPP) in 2011. As NEFRC updates the SRPP, the NEFRC Board has asked the Regional Community Institute to consider:

- What gaps exist in Northeast Florida's ability to implement a vision; and
- Whether the gaps are in leadership or in implementation, and how to address those gaps.

RCI is asked to make recommendations on doable actions to implement First Coast Vision. RCI is asked to report their recommendations in the Fall of 2020.

## **The Context**

At the September 30, 2019 meeting of the RCI Board of Directors, Board Member Bill Garrison accepted the task of leadership of this policy task. In discussions with staff and Jeff Sheffield of the North Florida Transportation Planning Organization, several observations have been made and some factors have been recognized as changed since the launch of First Coast Vision in 2011:

- The world is different. If we were to do a vision in 2020, it would be more likely to be a website with story maps and real time data than a written document.
- Conversations are currently underway that support collaboration on the "state of the region". These include the United Way, the Community Foundation, the City of Jacksonville and the North Florida TPO.
- The Smart North Florida Data Exchange provides a platform to share real time data in the context of thinking about how the region is progressing.
- The NEFRC review of the Strategic Regional Policy Plan, which is guided by First Coast Vision, identified few areas requiring a change in goals or action items. A complete overhaul of the metrics has been recommended, however.

## **The Approach**

Rather than look for gaps in leadership, embrace change by joining with regional partners to look at the measures that will indicate whether we are succeeding in implementing First Coast Vision. Identify who has the ability to impact an issue, what can be done to support better outcomes and how regional collaboration can make this happen. It is anticipated that the regional collaborators will have an agreed upon approach to a single or multiple quality of life indicator(s) by the September 28, 2020 RCI Annual and Board meeting. Two structures are being considered:

- Stand up the RCI Economic Development committee, to meet before each RCI Board Meeting to discuss progress and next steps.
- Invite RCI Board Members that indicate interest to regional collaboration meetings as they occur. Mr. Garrison and staff will update the RCI Board at quarterly meetings.