

**FIRST COAST CONSORTIUM
MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
FOR THE
NORTHEAST FLORIDA REGION**

I. Purpose

The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is to provide a mutual understanding in support of the signatory agencies, organizations, governments, and individuals that will be working in cooperation to: 1) prepare a successful HUD Sustainable Communities Regional Planning grant application; and 2) complete the work funded under the grant.

II. Background

On July 28, 2011, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) released a Notice of Funding Announcement for the Sustainable Communities Regional Planning grant program. HUD has partnered with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) to help improve access to affordable housing, more transportation options, and lower transportation costs while protecting the environment in communities nationwide. A set of guiding livability principles and a federal interagency partnership agreement is intended to guide their efforts in coordinating federal housing, transportation, and other infrastructure investments designed to protect the environment, promote equitable development, and help to address the challenges of climate change.

Three federal agencies have made a commitment to utilize the integrated regional plans or visions to guide their planning and funding decision-making. Funding to these metropolitan regions would generally be directed towards programs and projects identified in "Regional Plans for Sustainability" aimed at increasing transportation choices, reducing combined housing and transportation costs for American families, improving the quality of life in communities, and improving the natural and built environment.

III. Agreement

Whereas, there is a recognized need among the signatories for a coordinated, collaborative regional effort to prepare and carry out a successful Sustainable Communities Regional Planning grant application and work program; and

Whereas, a Sustainable Communities Regional Planning grant application and work program will be prepared and managed by the Northeast Florida Regional Council, and an Executive Committee comprised of North Florida TPO, City of Jacksonville, ULI North Florida, Health Planning Council of Northeast Florida, Inc., the Regional Community Institute of Northeast Florida and JaxUSA Partnership for Regional Development, in cooperation with MOU signatories, including, but not limited to, Nassau County, Florida, with the intent of establishing a comprehensive regional plan or vision identifying critical projects and infrastructure to: 1) improve the Region's sustainability; and 2) assist and guide federal funding agencies in prioritizing and focusing future federal investment in Northeast Florida; and

Whereas, the signatories agree to the best of their abilities and within the limits of their budgets to work cooperatively on the grant application and funded project; and

Whereas, any private sector organization, non-profit, academic or research institution, philanthropic partner, community organization, governmental entity, individual, or intermediary agency that bears responsibility for or has an interest in the sustainable development and redevelopment of Northeast Florida may be a partner and signatory to this MOU; and

Whereas, each of the signatories to this MOU understands communities, growth and development, and/or the environmental, transportation, social, and economic and community development implications of a regional plan for sustainable development and its potential impact on our region and its people; and

Whereas, each of the signatories to this MOU is committed to following the Livability Principles relating to the sustainable development and redevelopment of Northeast Florida:

1. **Provide more transportation choices.** Develop safe, reliable and economic transportation choices to decrease household transportation costs, reduce our nation's dependence on foreign oil, improve air quality, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and promote public health.
2. **Promote equitable, affordable housing.** Expand location-and energy-efficient housing choices for people of all ages, incomes, races and ethnicities to increase mobility, and lower the combined cost of housing and transportation.
3. **Enhance economic competitiveness.** Improve economic competitiveness through reliable and timely access to employment centers, educational opportunities, services, and other basic needs by workers as well as expanded business access to markets.
4. **Support existing communities.** Target funding toward existing communities through such strategies as transit-oriented, mixed-use development and land recycling – to increase community revitalization, improve the efficiency of public works investments, and safeguard rural landscapes.
5. **Coordinate policies and leverage investment.** Align policies and funding to remove barriers to collaboration, leverage funding, and increase the accountability and effectiveness of all levels of government to plan for future growth, including making smart energy choices such as locally generated renewable energy.
6. **Value communities and neighborhoods.** Enhance the unique characteristics of all communities by investing in healthy, safe, and walkable neighborhoods – rural, urban or suburban.

7. **Enhance community resiliency to the impacts of Climate Change.** Enhance community resiliency to the impacts of climate change through the development of mitigation and adaptation strategies.

Whereas, any regional plan document developed under the grant will support these Livability Principles and should, to the greatest extent possible and where appropriate, be built upon the foundation of work that has been accomplished and undertaken in the region where existing plans, partnerships, and processes enhance regional planning, coordination and efficiency, reduce unnecessary duplication of effort and responsibilities, and add clarity and accountability to implementation processes.

Now, Therefore, this MOU is established to create a framework for coordinating efforts related to the preparation of a successful grant application and successfully completing the work funded under the grant.

IV. Programming, Budgeting, Funding and Reimbursement Arrangement

- a. This MOU is neither a fiscal nor a funds obligation document. Any transfer of funds between parties may take place through existing authorities and procedures.
- b. Generally, any endeavor involving the transfer of funds will follow normal procurement or other appropriate processes and will be affected in writing by representatives of the organizations involved.
- c. This MOU in no way restricts the signatories from participating in similar activities or arrangements with other entities or agencies.
- d. Nothing in this MOU shall obligate the signatories to expend appropriations, obligate funds or enter into any contract or other agreement.

V. Effective Date, Duration

This MOU will become effective upon signature by any two parties. Any Party may terminate its participation in this MOU upon written notice to the other Parties. The provisions of the MOU will be reviewed periodically, as appropriate, and amended or supplemented as may be mutually agreed upon. The term of this MOU shall be from September 12, 2011 through December 31, 2014.

VI. Other Memorandum of Understandings

This MOU supersedes one executed in support of a Sustainable Communities regional Planning grant application submitted in August 2010 on this topic among some of the Parties hereto.

VII. Signatures

This MOU may be executed in one or more counterparts, each of which shall be deemed an original, but all of which together shall constitute one and the same instrument. Each Party has signed this five-page agreement on a separate page. The original signature pages are on file at the Northeast Florida Regional Council, 6850 Belfort Oaks Place, Jacksonville, Florida, 32216.

**FIRST COAST CONSORTIUM
MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
FOR THE
NORTHEAST FLORIDA REGION**

By my signature below, my organization/agency becomes a signatory to the First Coast Consortium Memorandum of Understanding for the Northeast Florida Region, dated September 12, 2011. I understand that the MOU will be executed in one or more counterparts, each of which will be deemed an original, but all of which shall constitute one and the same instrument. This original signature page will be kept on file at the Northeast Florida Regional Council.

Nassau County Board of County Commissioners


Walter J. Boatright, Chair

9-12-11
Date

gsk
9/12/11
229/11

Please return to:

Northeast Florida Regional Council
6850 Belfort Oaks Place
Jacksonville, Florida 32216
Attention: Margo Moehring

From: Teeple, Brian [mailto:BTeeple@nefrc.org]

Sent: Friday, August 26, 2011 2:28 PM

To: Stephanie.Kopelousos@co.clay.fl.us; Allison Ratkovic; Boynton, Woody; bcambell@cityofflaglerbeach.com; Capasse, Lorraine ; chall@townop.com; Coffey, Craig (Christie Mayer); Czymbor, M (Kim Elliot); Czymbor, Michael; Dopson, Gerald; Dopson, Gerald; Forbes, George; Hanson, Jim; Hill, Lula; Horne, Cleo; Jack, Shelby; Jarboe, Jim; cosa@citystaug.com; Jones, Judy; Judd, Danielle; Kennedy, Patrick; khyde@coj.net; Kohler, Martina; Landon, James; Leary, Rick; Loadholtz, Donna ; Martinez, Armando; Masciulli, Brenda - Interim; Nelson, Karen; Purvis, Lisa; Royle, Max; Royle, Max; Ted Selby; Thompson, C.J.; Wanchick, Michael; Wanchick, Michael (Laura Taylor); Wilburn, Pam; Williams, Mike; Adam Mengel; Aray@townop.com; Amanda Askew; bmurphy@cityofflaglerbeach.com; bill killingsworth; Bissonnette, Carolyn; Brenda Bridges; Brian Hammons; David Kaufman; Ed Preston; Gary Larson; Geoff Sample; Hammons, Brian; james bennett; jan hancock; jsheffield@northfloridatpo.com; Lanny Harker, AICP; Lee Bentley; Mark Knight; Marshall McCrary; mcuthbertson@bunnellcity.us; Mike Kloehn; Nestor Abreu; Purvis, Lisa; Randl Saunders; rtyner@ci.palm-coast.fl.us; Sonya Doerr; steve fitzgibbons; Steven Lindorff; Suzanne Konchan; Teresa Bishop; trowe@palatka-fl.gov; Walter Fufidio

Cc: Moehring, Margo

Subject: The First Coast Consortium and the HUD Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant

Dear Chief Administrative Officer:

The First Coast Consortium was created in 2010 to support an application to the Department of Housing and Urban Development to create a regional plan for sustainable development. That application was not funded. Since then, First Coast Vision, a vision for growth and development for the next 50 years, has been nearly completed, which we hope will give us a head start among this year's applicants. Each of our counties convened events related to First Coast Vision, and ultimately thousands of residents participated. This grant application, if funded, could capitalize on the work already done, give us the resources to truly engage all stakeholders and the public in regional planning, and help us to set up the mechanisms to achieve our goals and to emerge as a Region united around a common vision for the future. If the grant is not funded, we all still benefit by the communication and engagement that a partnership like First Coast Consortium can encourage, and we will stand ready for future regional funding opportunities.

If we are funded, the grant will help us to use First Coast Vision to inform a Strategic Regional Policy Plan update that will be the plan for the Region. By engaging local governments, stakeholders and the public in a meaningful way, we can ensure that this plan is truly the Region's plan. Instead of a plan that creates hurdles for local governments, it will embody goals we agree upon, and provide us with

9/6/2011

the opportunity to measure the success of the Region. This is our philosophy for the plan even if we are not funded. The program we plan to pursue under the grant will also help us to pursue action items recommended by First Coast Vision, gather data that will help us all with our sustainability goals, create a roadmap for leadership that will outlast any grant and will move the Region forward, and develop our existing assets into a network that helps us to ensure that our actions engage and consider all of our citizens.

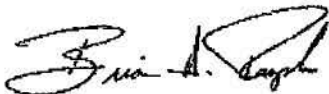
Will you join us, or rejoin us, as a member, of the First Coast Consortium? HUD advised that we must obtain new commitments to accompany the 2011 application. Attached is an MOU to be signed by someone in your government able to commit to joining the Consortium. The MOU makes clear the commitment of your government to "livability principles", but does not include any obligation to provide funding or any restriction on future actions. I am also attaching a "member form" that contains questions to be briefly answered by Consortium members, and also provides a format for you to give us your ideas. If you prefer not to join the Consortium, we will of course keep you informed of our actions and progress, and we hope that you will provide a letter of support. A draft of such a letter is also attached. All of these documents, as well as additional information, may be found at http://www.firstcoastvision.com/FCV_Consortium.html. We would appreciate receiving the documents by September 15, 2011, as this will allow us to reflect them in the grant application, but we will accept members after that date.

Please join us at 9am on September 2, 2011 for a meeting of the First Coast Consortium at NEFRC. We will discuss the Consortium and the grant and address any questions you may have. Please RSVP to 904 279 0880 if you plan to attend.

This is an outstanding opportunity to provide input at a pivotal moment for the First Coast. Having a strong partnership gives us a better chance of success, both in terms of this grant application and as a Region. Even if we are not funded, I hope that your government will want to participate in these efforts to ensure we are on the right path for the First Coast. Please feel free to contact me or Margo Moehring both at 904 279 0880, if you have any questions.

We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely yours,



Brian D. Teeple, AICP
Chief Executive Officer

cc: Planning Staff

9/6/2011