

NEFRC Highlights

Monthly Report of the Northeast Florida Regional Council

October 2011

Statewide Regional Evacuation Study Wins Award

Having already received three other State and National awards for the Statewide Regional Evacuation Study, lead by the Northeast Florida Regional Council, we were recently granted one of four Trailblazer Awards by the National Association of Development Organizations. Working together in a coordinated manner, all 11 Regional Planning Councils in the State completed the multi-year Regional Evacuation Study which represents an unprecedented undertaking to concurrently update regional evacuation studies for each Region. Previous awards received include the 2011 Outstanding Public Study Award by the Florida Planning and Zoning Association, the 2011 Achievement Award from the National Association of Regional Councils and a 2011 Innovation award from the National Association of Development Organizations. For more information, contact Brian Teeple at bteep@nefrc.org



Back row from right to left: Pat Steed ED CFRPC, Scott Koons ED NCFRPC, Tim Ware NADO President, Manny Pumeriaga ED TBRPC. Seated front row Brian Teeple NEFRC CEO, Sheri Coven, FRCA.



Scott Koons, NCFRPC ED and Brian Teeple, NEFRC CEO with Trailblazer Award



The Council welcomes our newest tenant Girls on the Run (GOTR) a positive youth development program which combines an interactive curriculum and running to inspire self-respect and healthy lifestyles in pre-teen girls. GOTR Executive Director is Laura Lasko. For more information, Girls on the Run can be contacted at 904.619.6763 or www.girlsontherun.org.

If you are interested in becoming a tenant at NEFRC, space is available. Please contact Mario Taylor at 904.279.0880 or mtaylor@nefrc.org.

NEFRC Hosts Local Government Officers

The Council hosted the Region's local government Chief Administrative Officers for their quarterly meeting on October 13, 2011. Topics discussed included water and sewer utilities, budgets, personnel policies, internet café regulation and the upcoming 2012 Legislative Session. On October 27, 2011 the Council also hosted the Region's Planning Directors quarterly meeting. Discussion at the meeting included internet café land use regulations, implementation of the Community Planning Act, new Census Bureau data, proportionate share calculations and a general planning update. For more information, contact Brian Teeple at bteep@nefrc.org

First Coast Manufacturers Association

The First Coast Manufacturers Association is holding a series of workshops in the Soforenko Board Room this Fall. NEFRC is always happy to accommodate businesses in Northeast Florida. Interested in using NEFRC facilities? For more information, contact Mario Taylor at mtaylor@nefrc.org.

Regional Economic Development Forum Showcases Innovate Northeast Florida

The Regional Economic Development Forum hosted by JaxUSA on October 19, 2011 showcased the ongoing economic development study entitled Innovate Northeast Florida. The study co-managed by the Northeast Florida Regional Council and JaxUSA and funded through the Economic Development Administration is focusing on drilling down into the sub-clusters which make up our targeted industries and making recommendation on specific strategies to attract and retain industries in those specific areas. The study is anticipated to be completed in April 2012. For more information, contact Brian Teeple at bteep@nefrc.org

Urban Plan

The Urban Land Institute's Urban Plan program allows real estate professionals to interact with high school students in Northeast Florida, who, as part of their class work, are planning a redevelopment project that is based on the real world. Margo Moehring has been trained as an Urban Plan facilitator, and facilitated students at Episcopal and Nease High Schools in October. This continues the NEFRC partnership with ULI North Florida and allows NEFRC to keep up contacts with young people, who are so important to efforts such as visioning. For more information, contact Margo Moehring at mmoehring@nefrc.org.

South Atlantic Alliance

The Governors of North and South Carolina, Georgia and Florida came together in 2010 in a voluntary partnership to significantly increase regional collaboration among South Atlantic states, with federal agency partners and other stakeholders, to sustain and enhance the environmental (coastal/marine), natural resource, economic, public safety, social, and national defense missions of the respective states and the South Atlantic Region. The Guana Tolomato Matanzas National Estuarine Research Reserve in St. Johns and Flagler Counties was the host of a stakeholder's meeting on October 11, 2011 to gather input and determine what related actions are underway on the topic of "Clean Coastal and Ocean Waters." An extensive group of stakeholders attended, including NEFRC staff, and representatives from the City of Jacksonville and Palm Coast. For more information, contact Margo Moehring at mmoehring@nefrc.org.

Town Of Interlachen Awards The NEFRC

Effective June 2, 2011 with the adoption of the new Growth Management legislation, the Town of Interlachen, like others in Putnam County, has more discretion in determining the need to update their local Comprehensive Plan. The Town of Interlachen no longer is required to submit an Evaluation and Appraisal Report, but will need to submit an Evaluation and Appraisal Notification letter August 2014. However, the Town of Interlachen recognizes the need to update the 1991 Plan to provide strategies and policies to guide development. On September 27, 2011 the Town of Interlachen awarded the NEFRC the project to complete the Town's Amendments to the Comprehensive Plan. The NEFRC was one of eight respondents to the request for proposals. The NEFRC is pleased that the Town continues to rely on the NEFRC services as it has done for the last 20 years. Updates to the Comprehensive Plan begin immediately and the Town has opted to complete the updates no later than December 2012. Mr. Ed Lehman will be the primary contract manager and will oversee all aspects of the project. The first phase of the update to the Plan will be to digitize the Comprehensive Plan map series. In the next eight months the NEFRC will be creating new Elements for the Town's Comprehensive Plan and submitting these through the Expedited State Review. The Town is commended for their efforts and investment to be current as well as proactively planning for the future of Interlachen. For additional information, please contact Ameera F. Sayeed at asayeed@nefrc.org

Large Vehicle Bomb Post Blast Inspection

The Regional Council helped plan, coordinate, and administrate the Large Vehicle Bomb Post Blast Inspection course, a week long training course in Ft. Walton Beach and Eglin Air Force Base from September 26 – 30, 2011. The class was taught by nationally recognized explosive ordnance experts from the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Students consisted of representatives from local, state, and federal law enforcement investigative personnel and bomb technicians. These participants were taught advanced methods and techniques in command and control procedures for a large vehicle bomb incident as well as forensic scene operations. The tactics taught were designed to help students to reconstruct a massive crime scene where the exploded pieces and parts of the vehicles were spread over a large area.

The first half of the class was presented as a lecture style, setting up the basic components of the investigation, such as planning, preparation, organization, and team management. During this time, other instructors detonated several vehicles at the bomb range located at Eglin Air Force Base earlier in the week; the students were then split into teams to investigate the explosion in order to collect and gather evidence, construct the crime scene, determine the means of detonation, and investigate the associated suspect. All of this information culminated into a case that was then presented to an Assistant U.S. Attorney at the end of the class. Approximately fifty-five (55) students attended the class, with forty (40) of those from the State and Local governments of Florida.

The Florida Interoperability Network (FIN)

Staff from the Northeast Florida Regional Council conducted a three day training workshop in Altamonte Springs on October 18 -20th, 2011. Over 200 dispatch center operators, certified training officers and supervisors participated in classroom and lab based activities relating to a recent update to communications software known as FIN 4.7.

The Florida Interoperability Network (FIN) is the statewide interoperability solution. Interoperability is the ability of public safety and service agencies to talk within and across entities and jurisdictions via radio and associated communications systems. The system provides for federal/state/local mutual-aid radio communications and inter-system radio patching and dispatch-to-dispatch center coordination. FIN 4.7 is the latest FIN software update.

Instructors from different agencies across the state gathered to teach 9 classes and a lab. Subject matter included practical applications of FIN, mutual aid and dispatch, and state and local resources. Participants also had the opportunity to use the new communications software in Motorola's state of the art MOTOBridge workstation.

The quality and knowledge of the instructors made this Workshop a success. In the end, the Workshop attracted personnel from over 55 Florida counties and 10 state agencies. Next the FIN lab will go on the road and be presented in 7 locations before the end of November and the launch of the upgraded software on November 30th.