MEMORANDUM

To: Council Members

From: Staff

Date: January 18, 2013 Council Meeting

Subject: Seven50 Southeast Florida Prosperity Plan Update

Introduction

The Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council, in association with the Southeast Florida Regional Partnership and the South Florida Regional Planning Council, continues work towards the creation of the Seven50 Southeast Florida Prosperity Plan (Seven50). The geographic area addressed by the Seven50 project is the “Southeast Florida Region,” made up of Monroe, Miami-Dade, Broward, Palm Beach, Martin, St. Lucie and Indian River counties. Seven50 is an acronym given to the effort referring to the seven counties and a 50-year timeframe for the plan.

Seven50 proposes to create an investment or business plan to identify critical projects, programs, and infrastructure to improve economic and environmental sustainability. The Seven50 plan will also provide a roadmap for future local, state, and federal investment for the Southeast Florida Region over the next 50 years and beyond. Other Seven50 objectives are to: 1) improve communication, information sharing, and decision-making in the Southeast Florida Region; 2) strengthen linkages between regional and local government plans; and 3) expand community involvement in the vision for the future. The overarching purpose of the resulting Seven50 plan is to help communities become more economically strong and independent, and environmentally sustainable.

In the last month, two partners, Indian River County and the City of Vero Beach, have opted to cease their participation in Seven50. Both local governments expressed concern that Seven50 is a conduit to implement Agenda 21, a 20-year old, non-binding, United Nations action plan related to sustainable development. Both local governments also expressed an unwillingness to participate in “regional projects” or “regionalism” related to Seven50. The withdrawal of Indian River County and the City of Vero Beach from participation in Seven50 has resulted in other associations, like the American Institute of Architects, the American Engineers Association, the NAACP, and the community of Gifford in Vero Beach, to express a desire to join the Partnership. Staff will provide an update of any other recent activities at the Council meeting.

The next major event for Seven50 is the second regional Summit, scheduled for January 24, 2013 in Downtown Miami (Wolfson Campus, Miami Dade College). Registration is now open for this event. This Summit will be a pivotal moment for Seven50 because it will mark the shift from an
almost exclusively input-gathering phase to a plan development phase. A kickoff reception will be held on January 23rd between 6:00pm and 8:00pm at the Freedom Tower (reservations for this reception are required as space is limited).

The following events and speakers are anticipated during the Summit:

- Unveiling of the 2060 Future Trends Scenario model
- Unveiling of the Regional Data Warehouse
- Work groups and input gathering recap
- Participation by local government, agency leaders, and the private sector
- Regional values polling
- Draft scorecard indicators for measuring future progress of regional plan initiatives
- Presentation by nationally recognized leaders and members of the consultant team
- Tours and special events
- Networking with other organizations

Staff encourages Council members to participate in this important event.

Recommendation

For informational purposes only.