TREASURE COAST REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

MEMORANDUM

To: Council Members

From: Staff

Date: February 21, 2014 Council Meeting

Subject: Local Government Comprehensive Plan Review
Draft Amendment to the St. Lucie County Comprehensive Plan Amendment No. 14-1ESR

Introduction

The Community Planning Act, Chapter 163, Florida Statutes, requires that the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council (TCRPC) review local government comprehensive plan amendments prior to their adoption. TCRPC comments are limited to adverse effects on regional resources and facilities identified in the Strategic Regional Policy Plan (SRPP) and extrajurisdictional impacts that would be inconsistent with the comprehensive plan of any local government within the Region. TCRPC must provide any comments to the local government within 30 days of the receipt of the proposed amendments and must also send a copy of any comments to the State Land Planning Agency.

The amendment package from St. Lucie County includes a text amendment to the Port Sub-element of the comprehensive plan. This report includes a summary of the proposed amendment and TCRPC comments.

Summary of Proposed Amendment

The proposed amendment is to revise Policy 2A.2.1.2 to support and seek maritime academic and vocational uses at the Port of Fort Pierce, and to specify that St. Lucie County, the City of Fort Pierce, and Indian River State College shall identify a blue ribbon panel to develop a path to establishing a Maritime Academy at the Port of Fort Pierce. Also, the proposed amendment is to revise Policy 2A.3.1.3 to include the following future public infrastructure improvement projects in the Port Planning Area: Harbor Pointe shoreline protection; refurbish and or improve City marina bulkheads; and Fisherman’s Wharf. This county-initiated text amendment is based on a recommendation by the Harbor Advisory Committee.
Extrajurisdictional Impacts

TCRPC requested comments from local governments and organizations expressing an interest in reviewing the proposed amendment on January 14, 2014. No extrajurisdictional impacts have been identified.

Regional Impacts

No adverse effects on significant regional resources and facilities have been identified.

Conclusion

The proposed amendment is consistent with the SRPP. TCRPC adopted Resolution #14-01 on January 17, 2014 supporting St. Lucie County’s efforts to update the Port of Fort Pierce Master Plan and supporting joint City of Fort Pierce and St. Lucie County efforts to develop a Maritime Academy at the Port of Fort Pierce.

Recommendation

Council should approve this report and authorize its transmittal to St. Lucie County and the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity.

Attachments
List of Exhibits

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<td>Proposed Amendment Showing Strikethrough and Underline</td>
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Exhibit 1
General Location Map
Policy 2A.2.1.2: The Port of Ft. Pierce shall support/seek development activity such as mega yacht construction and maintenance, commercial uses, marine research facilities, maritime academic and vocational uses, and/or expansion of tourist/recreational uses, depending on market conditions.

St. Lucie County, the City of Ft. Pierce and Indian River State College shall identify a blue ribbon panel to develop a path to establishing a Maritime Academy at the Port of Ft. Pierce.

Policy 2A.3.1.3: Future public infrastructure improvements in the Port Planning Area will be made consistent with the Port Master Plan, to include the following projects: Harbor Pointe shoreline protection, refurbish and/or improve City marina bulkheads and Fisherman’s Wharf.
RESOLUTION #14-01

A RESOLUTION OF THE TREASURE COAST REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL
REPRESENTING THE LOCAL GOVERNMENTS OF INDIAN RIVER, MARTIN, PALM
BEACH, AND ST. LUCIE COUNTIES, FLORIDA SUPPORTING ST. LUCIE COUNTY
EFFORTS TO UPDATE THE PORT OF FORT PIERCE MASTER PLAN AND
SUPPORTING JOINT CITY OF FORT PIERCE AND ST. LUCIE COUNTY EFFORTS TO
DEVELOP A MARITIME ACADEMY AT THE PORT OF FORT PIERCE

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners of St. Lucie County has recognized the
importance of the Port of Fort Pierce to the economy of St. Lucie County; and

WHEREAS, full development of an operational port is dependent upon efficient waterfront
infrastructure necessary to accommodate port related economic activity; and

WHEREAS, the City of Fort Pierce and St. Lucie County have been working together through their
respective staffs to identify improvements and updates to the Port of Fort Pierce Master Plan; and

WHEREAS, St. Lucie County adopted Resolution Nos. 13-233 and 13-234 in support of Port of Fort
Pierce Master Plan updates, infrastructure improvements, and the inclusion of a Maritime Academy
in the Port of Fort Pierce Master Plan; and

WHEREAS, the City of Fort Pierce adopted Resolution No. 13-28 supporting St. Lucie County’s
Port Master Plan update to consider policies that provide for the location of a Maritime Academy at
the Port of Fort Pierce; and

WHEREAS, in consideration of the anticipated growth to be experienced by Florida’s 14
operational seaports via the Panama Canal expansion, a Maritime Academy located at the Port of
Fort Pierce would meet the need for enhanced maritime training; and

WHEREAS, creation of a maritime and port careers academy could be an important regional
economic generator and fulfill a need in the state and the nation, attracting national and international
students/candidates for training for those interested in maritime, transportation, distribution, and
logistics careers in a real-world setting; and

WHEREAS, the type of training envisioned by the maritime academy is needed in the State of
Florida to develop and sustain the competitiveness of its quality workforce.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council
supports St. Lucie County’s efforts to update the Port of Fort Pierce Master Plan and supports joint City
of Fort Pierce and St. Lucie County efforts to develop a Maritime Academy at the Port of Fort Pierce.

Duly adopted by the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council this 17th day of January 2014.

Peter O’Bryan
TCRPC Chairman

Michael J. Busha
Executive Director