Waterways Plan for Martin & St. Lucie Counties

Waterways Forum #2: Land Use & Upland Transportation

January 8, 2014

Overview & Project Approach

120+ Miles of Waterways

Waterways Educational Forums

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* Tentative dates, times & locations; confirmations pending
Policy & Design Charrette
(Late April/Early May 2014)

Project Schedule

Broad Responsibility – Federal Law

- Managing the ‘3 C’ planning process
  - Continuing
  - Comprehensive
  - Cooperative
- Preparing a Metropolitan Transportation Plan
  - 2035 Regional Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP)
- Preparing a shorter-range Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Fitting It All Together
Environmental Division

- PLANNING
  Provide environmental review of proposed development activities

- COMPLIANCE
  Monitor environmental compliance / Field Inspections

- ENFORCEMENT
  Environmental and zoning violations

Environmental Division

- Environmental Regulations:
  1982 – Wetlands Protection
  1982 – Shoreline Protection (estuaries)
  1990 – Uplands Protection

- 650+ Pamps, 15.2 square miles
  City of Stuart = 9 square miles
Why are waterways important to Martin County?

- COMPREHENSIVE GROWTH MANAGEMENT PLAN
  Chapter 8 – Coastal Management Element

  “Protection of natural resources and planning for water-related and water-dependent uses has been a concern of Martin County centered around the Comprehensive Plan adopted in 1982.”

Waterways Plan for Martin & St. Lucie Counties

Land Use & Upland Transportation
Dynamic Innovative Sustainable
GOLDEN GATE • HOBE SOUND • INDIANTOWN • JENSEN BEACH • PALM CITY • PORT SALERNO • RIO
Martin County CRA's

UPLAND CONNECTION

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Martin County CRA's

JEOPARDY!

QUALITY OF LIFE

DEVELOPMENT

ENVIRONMENT

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QUALITY OF LIFE

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Waterways Plan for Martin & St. Lucie Counties

Terry O'Neil, AICP
Development Director

City of Stuart
(& Stuart CRA)

Shepard Park Fish Walk

Anchorage/Marina

Population: 15,841
Daytime population: approximately 30,000
EXISTING RIVERWALK FUNDED BY:

1,500 linear feet  
F.I.N.D: $569,668  
50/50 match

Harborage Promenade 2,050ft

Takeaways

How can the City take further advantage of its waterfront?

Potential for marine projects such as breakwaters, dredging, channels, environmental enhancements?

Water taxis?
Seaplane base?
St. Lucie Transportation Planning Organization (TPO)

What is the St. Lucie TPO?
A forum for interagency coordination and citizen input on decisions involving the state & federal funding of surface transportation projects

Who Decides?

TPO Board
- Elected Officials
- School Board
- Community Transit

Three Advisory Committees
- Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)
- Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC)
- Bicycle-Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC)

TPO Main Functions
- Planning
- Project Selection/Prioritizing
- Coordinating
Transportation Planning for Fort Pierce, Port St. Lucie, St. Lucie Village and St. Lucie County

Leslie Olson, AICP
Planning Manager
St. Lucie County

Land Area: 572 sq. miles
Population: 277,789 (2010 Census)

Waterways Plan for Martin & St. Lucie Counties

Martin/St. Lucie Waterways Plan
St. Lucie County Land Use & Priority Projects

St. Lucie County Statistics

Coastal Planning Area

Land Area: 13,342 sq. acres

Water Bodies:
Indian River Lagoon
North Fork of the St. Lucie River
Atlantic Ocean
Taylor Creek
10-Mile Creek

Uses:
Commercial: 6%
Residential: 33%
Public: 35%
Conservation: 26%
Undeveloped: 15%
Primarily Residential

Prepared by TCRPC (1/8/2014)
North Hutchinson Area:
- Atlantic Ocean
- Fort Pierce Inlet
- Indian River Lagoon
- Spoil Islands
- Taylor Creek

South Hutchinson Area:
- Atlantic Ocean
- Fort Pierce Inlet
- Indian River Lagoon

Savannahs Area:
- Wetlands to the west
- Ridge/Scrub to the east
- Not connected to the other waterways
- Important wetland areas
- Wildlife Corridor
- Occasionally usable for water recreation

Daniel Holbrook, AICP
Director of Planning & Zoning
City of Port St. Lucie

Waterways Plan for Martin & St. Lucie Counties
City Overview

- Population = 168K
- Area = 120 square miles
- Development patterns: suburban low density residential
- Land use along the waterways is mostly open space and residential
- Decades of responsible water quality practices
- Key City waterway responsibilities: development review, parks and recreation, environmental stewardship

Why are the waterways important to your local government or agency?

- Our waterways are considered our natural jewel.

What is the key capital project or development on the waterways that the County would consider to be the highest priority?

- Water quality
- Public access
  - Canal Park
  - Boardwalk extension
  - Westmoreland Tract
  - Additional commercial water uses

Proposed Boardwalk
Westmoreland Tract
Canal Park (proposed)

Waterways Plan for Martin & St. Lucie Counties
Rebecca Grohall, AICP
Planning Manager
City of Fort Pierce (& Fort Pierce CRA)
Fort Pierce & Waterfront

History: Why are the waterways important?

Marinas and Port

Fisherman’s Wharf

Port of Fort Pierce

City Marina

The waterfront & CRA (FPRA)

Land Use

Zoning
Next Forum:

**Waterways Forum #3: Regulation & Management of the Waterways**

Wednesday, January 29, 2014 (2 PM)
Stuart City Hall (Downtown Stuart)