

RESOLUTION NO. 2011- 262

A RESOLUTION BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA, AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR TO EXECUTE A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE FIRST COAST CONSORTIUM OF THE NORTHEAST FLORIDA REGION AND ST. JOHNS COUNTY FOR THE PREPARATION OF A HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (HUD) SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES REGIONAL PLANNING GRANT

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development ("HUD") has partnered with the U.S. Department of Transportation and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to assist in providing affordable housing, more transportation choices at lower cost and protect the environment and have committed to utilize integrated regional plans or visions to guide their future planning and decision making; and

WHEREAS, the County supports the goal to foster sustainable livability principles through transportation choices, equitable affordable housing, economic competitiveness, support of existing communities, coordination of goals and leverage investment and value of communities and neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, there is a recognized need for a collaborative regional effort to prepare and carry out a successful Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant and work program; and

WHEREAS, the First Coast Consortium was established in 2010 to support grant funding to create a regional plan for sustainable development; and

WHEREAS, the Sustainable Regional Planning Grant application and work program will be prepared by the Northeast Florida Regional Council ("NFRC"), which seeks the support of local governments; and

WHEREAS, the County desires to show its support for the NFRC's efforts by providing a letter of support; and

WHEREAS, the County further desires to show its support by entering into the proposed First Coast Consortium Memorandum of Understanding for the Northeast Florida Region (attached hereto and incorporated herein), which sets forth a framework for coordinating efforts related to the preparation of a successful grant application and successful work program.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA, that

Section 1. The above Recitals are incorporated into the body of this Resolution, and said Recitals are adopted as Findings of Fact.

Section 2. The County Administrator, or designee, is hereby authorized to provide a letter to NFRC expressing the County's support of NFRC's efforts as described above.

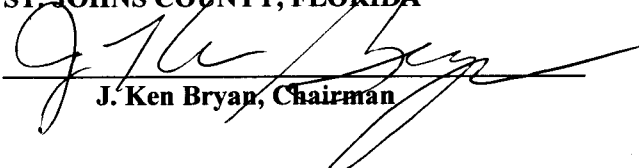
Section 3. The County Administrator is hereby further authorized to approve and execute a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the First Coast Consortium substantially in the form of that attached hereto.

Section 3. To the extent that there are typographical, administrative, or scrivener's errors that do not change the tone, tenor or concept of this Resolution, then this Resolution may be revised without further action by the Board of County Commissioners.

Section 4. This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon its adoption.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of County Commissioners of St. Johns County, Florida, this 20th day of Sept. 2011.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF
ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA**



J. Ken Bryan, Chairman

Attest:

Cheryl Strickland, Clerk

By: Pam Helterman
Deputy Clerk

RENDITION DATE 9/22/11



**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, St. Johns County, 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

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.

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 _____, 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.

Signature

Typed Name and Title

Organization/Agency

Date

Please return to:

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



St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners

Growth Management Department

August 30, 2011

Mr. Brian Teeple
Chief Executive Officer
Northeast Florida Regional Council
6850 Belfort Oaks Place
Jacksonville, Florida 32216

Re: HUD Sustainable Communities Planning Grant

Dear Mr. Teeple:

On behalf of St. Johns County, I wish to express support for the First Coast Consortium's funding request for the HUD Sustainable Communities Planning Grant.

We support the creation and implementation a Regional Plan for Sustainable Development. We also support the program goal of fostering a sustainable Region that is consistent with the Livability Principles:

- Provide more transportation choices
- Promote equitable, affordable housing
- Enhance economic competitiveness
- Support existing communities
- Coordinate goals and leverage investment
- Value communities and neighborhoods

We hope that the Department of Housing and Urban Development will fund this important effort.

Sincerely yours,