



Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) for South Florida (2012 -2017)

Final Draft (8/31/2012)

Vision

South Florida will be the leading international community and commerce gateway, welcoming the world to Florida, the nation's top performing economy. It will be recognized one of the world's best places to live, visit, learn, work and conduct business.

Goals

- o Lead the State and the nation in global competitiveness as an international center for trade, business, investment, talent, innovation, tourism, and the arts.
- o Expand South Florida's intermodal transportation system so that it enhances the region's economic growth and prosperity.
- o Preserve and enhance the region's natural environment and quality of life.

Objectives

- o Improve employment in South Florida.
- o Foster opportunities for prosperity.
- o Grow businesses.
- o Expand global commerce.
- o Increase South Florida's attractiveness to employers, workers, residents and visitors.
- o Increase use of South Florida's intermodal transportation system by businesses, residents, and visitors.

Cross-Cutting Strategies

1. Improve collaboration and alignment among the South Florida's public, private and non-profit entities to create one voice in support of the Region's economic vision.
2. Develop regional talent and innovation clusters using global best practices.
3. Create a globally competitive Southeast Florida superregion by integrating economic development, infrastructure, and other resources within Monroe, Miami-Dade, Broward, Palm Beach, Martin, St. Lucie, and Indian River Counties.
4. Enhance South Florida's position as a global hub for trade, visitors, talent, innovation and investment.
5. Enhance South Florida's resiliency to respond, maintain continuity of business operations, recover and adapt to future disruptions to the region's economy.
6. Include a focus on increasing equity and reducing economic disparities in the region in each of the other strategies to increase community engagement and prosperity.

Area-Specific Strategies

Talent Supply & Education	Innovation & Economic Development	Infrastructure & Growth Leadership	Business Climate & Competitiveness	Civic & Governance Systems	Quality of Life & Quality Places
7. Align education and workforce development programs to develop and retain talented workers with the skills to meet current and future employer needs in South Florida.	12. Foster a strong and diverse economy by nurturing the emerging industries and strengthening the existing competitive clusters in the region.	15. Develop and maintain multimodal, interconnected trade and transportation systems to support a globally competitive economy and focus on improvement.	19. Streamline and reform permitting, development review, and other regulatory process to provide a predictable legal and regulatory environment for businesses.	23. Improve coordination and collaboration between and among all levels of government as well as the private sector, including enhancing public-private partnerships, and make strategic investments that are aligned with and further regional priorities.	26. Develop, maintain and promote intergenerational communities with a range of housing choices and opportunities for all residents; efficient public transportation systems; safe pedestrian networks; and access to quality health care and educational facilities; and other quality of life amenities.
8. Develop an integrated pre-K through post-secondary including career education system and training on running small/micro businesses to prepare the region's students for becoming successful workers or entrepreneurs.	13. Grow, sustain, and integrate efforts related to R&D, technology commercialization, and seed capital to create, nurture, and expand innovation businesses in the region.	16. Develop and maintain diverse, reliable, and cost effective energy sources and systems by incorporating technological advancements and exploring alternative sources for generating energy.	20. Ensure regional and local agencies provide collaborative, seamless, consistent and timely customer service to business.	24. Increase civic participation rates by implementing successful voter education and other outreach programs.	27. Mobilize and promote the regions diversity and cultural assets in order to leverage the region's present and future dynamics.
9. Lead the State in science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics (STEAM) research, education and market-relevant technical skills.	14. Enhance South Florida's position as an international trade center and adequately market the region's reputation as a global destination for businesses.	17. Continue the development and implementation of regional water conservation and alternative water supply projects to ensure supply and healthy water quality for the environment and residents of South Florida.	21. Develop a business friendly tax system and incentive program by finding the balance between taxation and provision of public services to enhance the competitiveness of the region in attracting new businesses and growing existing businesses.	25. Design a transformational leadership training system and assure public involvement in coordinating decision-making and investments at the regional level.	28. Develop, maintain and promote integrated connections between the inner city communities and larger regional economy.
10. Expand access to education and training programs for South Florida residents in distressed communities.		18. Develop a priority list and strategies to fund regional capital improvement projects to correct aging infrastructure, especially the transportation, water and sewer systems.	22. Expand opportunities for access to capital for businesses throughout their life cycle.		29. Promote and protect South Florida's Natural Resources of Regional Significance in a sustainable manner.
11. Develop a cultural education curriculum that affords graduates the ability to communicate among the languages of South Florida.					



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Action Plans for the Region					
Complete the Seven50 Seven50 Regional Prosperity Plan incorporating the South Florida's CEDS and the Treasure Coast's CEDS.					
Promote a Southeast Florida integrated multi-modal transportation plan connecting activity centers, airports, seaports, rail, management highway lanes, dedicated bus lanes, pedestrian and bicycle pathways.					
Transform and repurpose the Institute of Community Collaboration into a regional economic development research institute and regional data clearing house.					
Implement the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan.					
Partner with Southeast Florida Regional Climate Change Compact to implement Regional Climate Action Plan.					
Talent Supply & Education	Innovation & Economic Development	Infrastructure & Growth Leadership	Business Climate & Competitiveness	Civic & Governance Systems	Quality of Life & Quality Places
Support the efforts and initiatives of the Workforce One, South Florida Workforce, and the education system.	Support the efforts of the Beacon Council, Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance, and Monroe County.	Support the transportation and logistics initiative of Florida Eight in Southeast Florida.	Implement a supportive initiative in the region focusing on market data and information; entrepreneurship education and technical assistance; and building operational, financial, and physical support networks (incubators, angel networks).	Continue to engage private, public, and non-for-profit organizations and expand the Southeast Florida Regional Partnership to develop and implement the Seven50 Regional Prosperity Plan.	Support plans and projects that increase accessibility to ensure healthy and safe physical environments.

Proposed Projects					
Talent Supply & Education	Innovation & Economic Development	Infrastructure & Growth Leadership	Business Climate & Competitiveness	Civic & Governance Systems	Quality of Life & Quality Places
Support institutional initiatives on science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics (STEAM) that enrich students' educational experience and in the long term contribute to the positive workforce development of the region.	Support Life Sciences South Florida (LSSF) initiative to promote innovation, investment, entrepreneurship and economic growth in the areas of biotechnology, pharmaceuticals, diagnostics, and information to generate high-technology and high paying employment.	Facilitate the selection of a single plan for public, regional, integrated transit service for the Southeast Florida Railroad Corridor.	Prepare a feasibility study and business plan for a Regional Family of Funds that could include New Markets Tax Credits Community Development Entity, a funding vehicle for Community Development Financial Institutions, and a triple bottom line investment fund to provide capital for "Smart Growth" sustainable development projects.	Conduct asset mapping of non-profit agencies' programs and services to determine if there are any gaps and leveraging opportunities among not-for-profits as well as with the public sector.	Attract investment in developing and promoting new cultural attractions and strength partnerships between arts and cultural organizations and non-arts entities.
Support efforts like Broward College's "Fast Train" initiative which is customized, industry based, relatively short term training aimed at bridging the skills gap between the existing skills of the worker and the rapidly changing needs of industry.	Support and expand "South Florida - Your Global Business Connection" - a regional economic development marketing plan.	Support the implementation of the All Aboard Florida, inter-regional, passenger service between Miami and Orlando.	Obtain investments to recapitalize the Regional Revolving Loan Fund Program and double the number of loans closing.	Utilize Seven50 regional planning process to identify opportunities to improve efficiencies and effectiveness of regional governance.	Supports pedestrian-oriented transit access functionality/Transit Oriented Development (TOD) projects that expands on transportation choices; increase in regional mobility; lower costs to access to all community destinations; and overall enhancement of all community conditions.
Support region wide vacancy and skills gaps surveys segmented by industry to determine those needs on frequent basis.	Support projects that promote and enhance marine, tourism, renewable energy, military, and agriculture sectors.	Implement plans and projects which enhance intermodal freight mobility and trade in the Southeast Florida region.	Support programs or projects to streamline permitting and regulatory environment for businesses.	Utilize Seven50 regional planning process to provide outreach to citizens to enhance their awareness of the need for regional development plan to achieve regional prosperity.	Expand the State Road 7/U.S.441 Strategic Master Plan including Palm Beach, Broward, and Miami-Dade Counties.
Support the efforts of the South Florida Educational Consortium to facilitate coordination of educational resources and credit articulation among educational institutions.	Support initiatives to develop and enhance innovative clusters in the region.	Support projects implementing the Southeast Florida Managed Lanes Network and ensure equitable access for all users.	Support comprehensive emergency management planning effort to enhance the region's resiliency to natural and manmade disruptions on business operations.	Support projects and programs to identify and provide more funding for non-for-profit organizations.	Prepare a regional affordable workforce housing plan and provide incentives to promote the creation of diverse affordable workforce housing options including rentals utilizing public resources, tax and appropriate bonus incentives.
Promote efforts to have educational institutions give college credit for relevant military occupational experience to expedite soldier re-entry into civilian life.		Support regional water projects identified in the South Florida Water Management District's Lower East Coast Water Supply Plan.		Rally Business support for the existence and continuance of the Children's Services Councils in all the counties which have one.	
Engage Early Learning Coalitions to see how the business community and economic development can support early learning and school readiness.					
Support the efforts to use the entire potential workforce including people with disabilities, those with language barriers, ex- offenders, older workers, displaced homemakers, veterans, homeless and others with special barriers to becoming productive members of society.					