

2000 Issue Forum Final Report

Community Growth and Development

This forum group sought understanding of the current transportation system in Northeast Florida with the goal of advocating for a more comprehensive system to serve our region. They explored various interconnected issues such as the prioritization of roadway improvements, transportation policies, transit-oriented development, the Better Jacksonville Plan, and mass transit.

Key findings:

- The existence of a tremendously complex transportation infrastructure involving local, county, regional, state, and federal regulatory agencies, public and private planning agencies, multimodal transportation systems (i.e., automobile, bus, rail, aviation, port), and 28 different short- and long-term transportation plans.
- A lack of priority by transportation agencies for encouraging higher-density and transit-oriented development that would help reduce traffic congestion.
- Florida's transportation concurrency laws are inefficient, often contributing to the difficulties and challenges of transportation planning and actual road construction and improvements. These laws encourage sprawl and generally work directly against comprehensive transportation planning.
- The need for improved coordination among public and private agencies that are involved in or are impacted by transportation projects, including land-use, zoning, and economic development agencies.

Action plan—Increase Development Density to Spur Mass Transit:

Group members believe that public awareness about the value of higher-density and transit-oriented development is lacking. They will spend the next six months developing an educational presentation to increase awareness about these two important issues, calling on key transportation agencies, elected officials, and community groups to consider a viable mass transit system within an MPO and JTA approved right-of-way corridor. The group realizes that this may be a long-term goal but believes it is a viable one if appropriate seeds are planted now.

Community Leaders and Resource Experts

Issue forum groups met with both community leaders and resource experts who provided valuable information for group discussions. We wish to thank the following individuals for their contributions to the Forward process.

Michael Blaylock, Deputy Director, JTA
Denise Bunnewith, Chief, Metropolitan Planning Org.
Joe Debs, Vice President Transportation, RS&H, Inc.
Jeannie Fewell, Chief, Jacksonville Planning Dept.
Mike Goldman, Manager, FL Dept. of Transportation
Edward Lehman, NE FL Regional Planning Council
Rick Mullaney, General Counsel, City of Jacksonville
Jim Rinaman, Attorney, Marks, Gray, Conroy, & Gibbs
Aage Schroder, District 2, FL Dept. of Transportation
Roger Sharp, Deputy Chief Engineer, JTA
Lynn Westbrook, Chief, Div. of Streets and Drainage

Issue-Forum Participants

Forum groups met biweekly for four months. They received information from knowledgeable resource people and additional written materials provided by Forward staff. Congratulations on your efforts and future civic involvement and advocacy.

Tripp Gulliford, Chair
Steve Diebenow, Vice
Chair
James Crooks (JCCI
Advisor)
Dave Auchter
Oliver Barakat

Bill Bishop
Cord Butler
David Conte
James Holt
Andrew Jaffa
Nancy Kilgo
Chris Kuhn

David Lane
Jay Magee
Mike McCollum
Bill Pettit
Justin Sencer
Trip Stanly
Allan Wulbern