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Congress of Regional Leaders Meeting

Date of Event: February 6, 2009

Audience Description: Elected officials representing 93 city and governments and school boards from across the seven-county Central Florida region.

A. Summary of Event:

- Overview of the progress that 15 cities and 6 counties have reported in implementing the 4 Cs of the Regional Growth Vision: Conservation, Corridors, Centers and Countryside.
- Overview of the ULI-Orlando Workshop in conjunction with *myregion.org* to identify barriers and solutions to develop a sustainable approach to transportation and land use in Central Florida.
- Report on progress in securing support for *SunRail* in Tallahassee and the region's commitment to the development of a regional transportation plan.
- Open discussion on how to be more effective in integrating state, regional and local plans.
- Open discussion on what changes need to be made to state, regional and local policies and practices.

B. Key Speakers:

- The Honorable Lee Constantine, Senator – District 22, The Florida State
- Noranne Downs, Secretary – District Five, Florida Department of Transportation
- T.J. Fish, Director, Lake/Sumter MPO
- Phil Laurien, Executive Director, East Central Florida Regional Planning Council
- The Honorable Steve Precourt, Representative – District 41, Florida House of Representatives
- Jim Sellen, Executive Vice President, MSCW, Inc.
- Jacob V. Stuart, President & CEO, Central Florida Partnership

C. Key Issues Identified:

- The Department of Community Affairs' use of BEBR population projections as an allocation tool and indication of need
- The use of maximum intensity analysis and concurrency systems presently used
- The need for a regional dedicated funding source and other revenue streams for mass transit options
- The option of a referendum to raise local taxes by each local community
- The need for unification of services
- The need for an amendment of concurrency standards

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D. Next Steps:

- County and city representatives agreed to hold joint meetings to further advance the implementation of the Regional Growth Vision.
- A meeting will be held with FDOT District 5 Secretary Downs and other state, regional and local agencies to find ways to streamline and reduce duplication of efforts.
- The impact of including Sumter County on the Congress of Regional Leaders will be explored.
- Regional recommended changes to growth management laws and transportation concurrency will be researched and circulated to the Congress for decision on “next-step” actions.