

East Central Florida Regional Planning Council "Creating Transit-Friendly Communities"

Date of Event: January 29, 2009

Audience Description: More than 200 planners, developers, elected officials and staff of the region's Metropolitan Planning Organizations and Regional Planning Councils.

A. Summary of Event:

- Keynote speaker Randall Arendt discussed "How to Reclaim the Commercial Strip" for mixed uses. This message fits with Central Florida's vision of commercial corridor redevelopment from one-story, low-density commercial uses to transit-oriented, multi-modal, mixed corridors with multi-story buildings. These buildings are set close to the street with parking on the rear, to facilitate the movement of transit.
- Tawny Olore, Project Manager, Florida Department of Transportation, provided an update on *SunRail*-Central Florida's Commuter Rail System, and the importance of transit-oriented development.
- A. Blake Drury, Senior Associate Urban Designer, Glatting Jackson, made a presentation on "Urban Design for a Successful Transit-Oriented Development."
- Panel discussion on tools and lessons learned for successful transit-oriented and commuter rail stop development.

B. Key Speakers:

- Randall Arendt, nationally renowned planner, professor and author
- A. Blake Drury, Senior Associate Urban Designer, Glatting Jackson
- T.J. Fish, Executive Director, Lake-Sumter MPO
- Chuck Hanlon, Principal and President, Land Vision, Inc.
- Heather Himes, LEED AP, Akerman Senterfitt
- Robert Keith, Senior Planner, Volusia County MPO
- Roger Neiswender, Director of Transportation, City of Orlando
- Tawny Olore, FDOT Commuter Rail Project Manager
- Richard C. Wohlfarth, Associate Director, IBI Group, Inc.

C. Key Issues Identified:

- Opportunities provided in old commercial corridors for redevelopment
- Need for transit to serve some of these corridors
- Need for mixed use and housing to be integral to these corridors
- Design around older buildings and trees

(Continued . . .)

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C. Key Issues Identified (*continued . . .*):

- Need for better regional land-use policies to support the development around transit corridors
- Need for a regional vision for transportation
- Need for a regional funding mechanism

D. Next Steps:

- Following up with communities to identify principal corridors in their communities that are ripe for redevelopment and to integrate the land use planning with transit planning