

City of Lakeland 2009 "Regional Connectivity Summit"

Date of Event: February 4, 2009

Audience Description: Attendees included elected officials from local governments, experts in transportation and economic development, classmates in a 7-county leadership program, regional partnerships' volunteer leaders and staff, chambers and business leaders.

A. Summary of Event:

- Over 110 leaders convened at the Lakeland Center on February 4, 2009, to take on the complexities and opportunities of Regional Connectivity. The six-hour session "funneled" from global and mega-regional trends to the challenges of municipal transit and community development. As a result, and for the first time, leaders confronted the Global supply chain's relationship to the local sidewalk and storefront.

B. Key Speakers:

- Adam Bridges, CSX Intermodal
- Debbie Hunt, Florida Department of Transportation
- John Kaliski, Cambridge Systematics, Inc.
- Tawny Olore, SunRail Project Manager, Florida Department of Transportation
- Bob O'Malley, Resident Vice President of State and Government Affairs in Florida, CSX Transportation
- Joe Smith, TBARTA
- Jeffrey Stiles, Vice President, Jacobs Engineering Group
- Jim Studiale, AICP, Director of Community Development, City of Lakeland

C. Key Issues Identified:

- Super regional collaboration is needed to compare and merge maps and scenarios, and explore the best approaches to multi-modal master planning.
- The Central Florida Congress of Regional Leaders (Facilitated by *myregion.org*) is a promising development and should be considered as a model for super regional expansion.
- Learn about and take on the challenging aspects and necessities of regional governance models.
- Connectivity is the business of the super region.