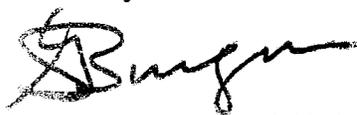


Memorandum

MIAMI-DADE
COUNTY

Date: April 24, 2007

To: Honorable Chairman Bruno A. Barreiro
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

From: George M. Burgess
County Manager 

Subject: Report on Status of Countywide Planning Initiative

Agenda Item No. 12(B)2

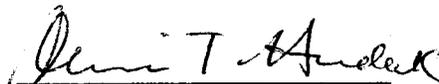
This report is provided to update the Board on the implementation status of the Countywide Planning Initiative. On June 6, 2006, the Board adopted Resolution No. R-740-06, providing for the Department of Planning and Zoning to initiate a countywide dialogue on future land use planning. The attached memorandum lays out the basic framework for managing the projected countywide population growth in both the incorporated and unincorporated areas of Miami-Dade County.

We are at a point in the history of Miami-Dade County where comprehensive, long range land use planning cannot occur with a narrow view, but should occur as the product of a holistic approach toward the future buildout of this community. Current and prior planning activities have primarily focused on land use in the absence of any meaningful integration with socio-economic and transportation functions. Land use services that are provided in the future should stem principally from a proactive approach to planning and community development, rather than a reactive approach to privately filed applications. In order for the County to provide an improved quality of life for all residents, we must better integrate socio-economic planning and analysis, transportation planning, and an improved public dialogue and resident involvement.

As you know, the approved FY 2006-07 Budget includes an allocation of \$200,000 to engage the services of an entity to facilitate this process. A Request for Qualification document is being prepared to initiate the hiring of this entity. This project is a multi-year, multi-faceted one, and it is unknown at this time what additional allocations may become necessary. Much of the refinement will be known after receiving countywide feedback via the Manager's Roundtable and proposed Elected Official's Forums.

I have reached out to local municipalities to begin the dialogue on this initiative. I held my first roundtable meeting with the municipal managers on December 4, 2006. The meeting was well attended and there was support for the initiative from those who attended. Similar municipal roundtable sessions will continue to be held as together we establish mutual goals and determine the next steps in this comprehensive effort. Additionally, the Department of Planning and Zoning has maintained a dialogue with the professional staff of the various municipalities.

Attached is the project timeline and program outline setting forth the steps in this countywide planning process from the Planning and Zoning Director. I will continue to work with this Board and other leaders on this important planning process for the future successful growth of Miami-Dade County.


Assistant County Manager

Memorandum



Date:
To: George M. Burgess
County Manager
From: *Diane O'Quinn*
Diane O'Quinn Williams, Director
Department of Planning and Zoning
Subject: Countywide Planning Initiative Program outline

This is a facilitated effort to develop a process that helps create a comprehensive, sustainable and equitable growth management strategy for the whole County through cooperation and active participation of all the municipalities. The following steps establish a mechanism, which allows for continued dialogue within the community in order to maintain current and refreshed strategies, and provides an opportunity for the community to have a "buy in" in shaping the future of their community.

Process

The goals of this facilitation effort can be achieved in two separate but interconnected phases: a short-term goal and a longer-term goal. Specific objectives of the short-term goal are as follows:

- To establish areas of countywide significance for accommodating growth, to identify areas of opportunities for growth with a full understanding of the context and appreciation of the surrounding neighborhood characteristics, and
- To develop a countywide vision to accommodate growth among all jurisdictions within Miami-Dade County, establishing benchmarks, designing a coordinated process for assuring sustainable development countywide that reflects equitable distribution of benefits and responsibilities for countywide infrastructure, to recommend implementing standards, and
- To develop mutually beneficial relationships among jurisdictions to support the long-term sustainability of these efforts.

To assure a successful outcome of the process and to have the necessary political support, it needs to have broad based community "buy in". It is envisioned that an overlapping involvement of the four following key components will be needed to conduct the planning process.

Elected Official's Forum:

Membership includes elected representatives of the County and the various municipalities to set the tone for the dialogue and give an overall direction to the Countywide planning exercise and to assure political support. This body should meet on a quarterly basis to monitor the progress and direction of the work.

Leadership Council:

Membership on this Council includes representatives of groups such as academia, professional organizations, coalition of Human Services, labor organizations, community leaders and visionaries.

The purpose of this Council would be first to provide the leadership needed to undertake such an initiative and secondly to act as the voice of the community in the process. This Council would be characterized as a "think tank" that can look beyond narrow special interests and help develop a broader vision for the whole community. The Council would meet monthly to provide guidance to the Technical Working Committee and will update the Elected Official's Forum as necessary. The County Manager will appoint the members to this Council.

Technical Working Committee:

Membership on the Technical Working Committee includes technical support from a range of planners who are vital to this strategic planning process. The purpose of this group is to provide technical information and prepare professional recommendations to the Leadership Council, including creation of community benchmarks that reflect civic priorities and smart growth indicators. This working committee will meet as frequently as needed to provide the necessary data and analysis to the Leadership Council. The municipal City Managers will appoint their respective representatives to this Committee.

Community Roundtables:

Community input is needed throughout the planning process. A series of community roundtables will be convened to assure that a cross section of community interests are reflected in the review of trends, analysis, vision, goals and priorities for the production of the plan. Ongoing support for community participation and the engagement of civic input and leadership throughout this process is critical to the success and sustainability of the venture.

Once a positive working relationship is established with a common vision with the municipalities, the longer-term goal (the second phase) is to take this effort to the next level through on-going community dialogue and a system of continual feed back for the purpose of establishing an enhanced and holistic planning process which integrates social, economic, health, land use, and transportation planning. This process must be designed to be transparent. Continuation of these efforts allows the planning to stay ahead of the curve in Miami-Dade County's rapidly changing socio-economic environment.

Program Timeline

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| Nov 06-Mar 07 | Manager's Round Table Forums. The purpose of these forums is to introduce the initiative to the municipal managers, begin the dialogue, establish mutual goals, and determine the next steps in this comprehensive effort. |
| | Authorization from the Board of County Commissioners to retain a Facilitation Team |
| Mar 07- Dec 07 | Retain and execute agreement with a Facilitation Team |
| Jan 08- March 08 | Planning phase: Kick off the public input process with the first of a series of community roundtables, "Conversations for Change" to engage a diverse cross-section of the community in future scenario planning. Based on the input |

received in these meetings, a more detailed work plan, including a detailed budget and recommendations for composition of the three councils, will be developed.

- April 08- June 08 Establish Elected Official's forum, Leadership Council and a Technical Working Committee.
- July 08- Oct 08 Data Collection phase: All the four components will work to gather relevant and necessary information and to develop a set of guiding principles. These guiding principles will be used to formulate a framework for the management of future growth.
- Nov 08- March 09 Integration phase: All the working groups will be engaged in analysis of the findings from the previous phase and develop preliminary conclusions and recommendations on the vision and prioritization of the framework for the management of future growth.
- April 09- Sept 09 All three groups will be engaged with the Board of County Commissioners and the municipalities to articulate the final vision and set priorities for the comprehensive plan.
- Oct 09- Oct 10 Staff files any necessary amendments to their respective (city/county) CDMP.
- Nov 09- Dec 10 Continued role of the Elected Officials Forum and that of the Leadership Council are anticipated beyond this phase to develop what will become an on-going partnership. Prepare a detailed outline of a process that fosters a culture of on-going community dialogue, creates an environment for constructive civic engagement and provides a continuous feed back loop using web-based technology, community meetings, educational seminars, focus group meetings or other proven methods. Consideration should be given to entering into an interlocal agreement to memorialize this co-operative working relationship between the jurisdictions.