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**Florida Regional Councils Association
Executive Directors Advisory Committee**

**September 30, 2016
9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.**

**Hyatt Regency Grand Cypress, Palm D-F
One Grand Cypress Boulevard, Orlando, FL 32836**

PARTNERS MEETING SUMMARY - Draft

Call to Order and Introductions

Michael J. Busha, Chair, and Executive Director Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council

National Association of Regional Councils (NARC)

Erich Zimmerman, Director of Transportation Programs, NARC, patriating by phone, discussed the Notice of Proposed rulemaking impacting the Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs). After many requests, an extension for comments was granted. NARC, along with AMPO and NADO, are looking for way to influence the Office of Management and Budget at the White House and with members of Appropriations Committee to prevent funding for the rule. The rule, if passed, will affect 22 of the 27 MPOs in Florida. Every state has responded to the proposal negatively so far. Mr. Zimmerman stated that the rule is somewhat limited in its impact to mostly urban areas, the east coast, west coast, Chicago, and of course Florida. Areas that were not impacted immediately commented negatively because there may be future impacts based on Census updates. Mr. Zimmerman informed everyone that all comments are accessible on the dockets and NARC is asking MPOs to restate their position and submit comments again during the extended period. Leslie Wollack said that US DOT recognizes they need to address certain problems with the rule, but it seems likely they still will pursue rulemaking. The potential timeframe was discussed with Mr. Zimmerman stating that there is a two year phase in, but that could be pushed past the 2020 Census.

SunRail

Marianne Arneburg Gurnee, Principal, Magsolutions presented on the development and implementation of the SunRail network. SunRail is a publicly funded transportation network which provides 32 miles of connectivity in the Orlando area. It is currently managed by FDOT and was constructed using a mix of federal, state and local general revenue funds. Ms. Arneburg informed everyone that the operations and maintenance of SunRail is being funded by FDOT for the first seven years and local partners will take over at that point. Daily ridership is about 3,200 rides and there has been 1.8 billion dollars projected in transit oriented development around the SunRail stations.

Fred Milch, East Central Florida Regional Planning Council (ECFRPC), provided an overview of development that is occurring around the SunRail stations. ECFRPC has developed a GIS based system on ranking roadways and pedestrian accessibility. The group discussed a need for a champion of sidewalks and an agency dedicated to pedestrian connectivity.

Florida Chamber Foundation

Mr. Tony Carvajal, Executive Vice President, Florida Chamber Foundation reported on upcoming events and economic projections for 2017. He updated the partners on various initiatives including the following:

- Early learning and the role of the private sector
- Jobs for the Future Report
- Education Summit taking place the week of June 13th 2017
- Placing people with disabilities - received a grant to work with businesses and local chambers
- Economic Development Taskforce – meets on the fourth Monday of each month, their focus is managing economic development without incentives. Will be hosting an invitation only summit on growing businesses without incentives.
- Conducting an analysis on current business climate conditions in Cuba.
- Hosting a Transportation Summit December 6th in Miami.
- Florida Realtors are working on an Affordable Housing Study.
- Conducting a Business Climate Initiative which is analyzing the regulations preventing businesses from expanding.
- Workers Compensations Rate Changes are increasing by 14.5%.
- Florida Philanthropic – transfer of wealth opportunities and challenges
- Medical Tourism Report is completed and available under the research tab on the Chamber’s website
- Healthcare Scorecard – trying to assess the impacts of a healthier community and those impacts on the business community.
- Cornerstone 2030 Project – retained Cambridge Systematics to assist and will have research teams for each economic development pillar. Report will be released in the first quarter of 2018. To date have conducted 12 Town Hall meetings and have 19 scheduled for October, all meetings need to be held by February. A full schedule is available on the Chamber’s website.

Meeting Adjourned