Planning for Adaptation: State of Florida’s Perspective

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Community Resiliency Initiative

Partners:

- Part of the Florida Coastal Management Program (FCMP)
  - DEO is a networked partner in a multi-agency coastal management effort
  - Builds upon previous FCMP five-year resiliency strategies
    - Waterfronts Florida
    - Post-disaster Redevelopment Planning

12/13/2016
Community Resiliency Initiative Goals

Working to help local governments:

- Understand current and future flood risk and identify areas at risk
- Examine policy options and tools for integrating coastal resiliency into existing planning processes
- Implement statutory language
- Share the results and lessons learned
What We Are Doing

• Building partnerships: statewide focus group and state agency sub-group

• Developing guidance materials:
  – Technical assistance
  – Integrating adaptation into current planning and development processes

• Pilot projects: Adaptation Action Areas (AAA) Project of Special Merit and three adaptation pilot communities
Adaptation Pilot Projects

Pilot projects demonstrate planning options available to local governments

• How can we assess vulnerability to current and future coastal flooding?

• How can we design and implement adaptation policies?
Adaptation Pilot Projects

Past: Adaptation Action Areas Project of Special Merit – Fort Lauderdale & Broward County

Current: Three Adaptation Pilot Local Governments

• City of Clearwater
• Escambia County
• City of St. Augustine
Policy Tool: Adaptation Action Areas

- Framework for adaptation planning and prioritizing infrastructure investments
- Optional designation for areas experiencing or are vulnerable to current and future coastal flooding
- Significant flexibility in how a local government can develop and implement AAAs
Policy Tool: Adaptation Action Areas

• Addresses coastal adaptation in the comprehensive plan and paves the way for integration with related plans and implementation processes:
  – Capital Improvements Plan
  – Local Mitigation Strategy
  – Stormwater Management Plan
  – Visioning processes and strategic plans
Fort Lauderdale AAA Pilot

Designated 16 AAAs and 38 projects for funding in the City’s Community Investment Plan (CIP)

Focused on action:
• Took existing CIP projects and budgeted them as adaptation projects
• Projects include stormwater and seawall improvements
Ingredients for success:

• Supportive leadership
• Clear, consistent, and transparent communication  
  – “speak with the community early and often”
• Be attentive and responsive to signals for how fast or slow people are willing to go
• Focus on what we are already doing to be resilient  
  – “We Are Ready” to handle this challenge  
  – Incremental process for building community capacity for future efforts
• Flexible policy language  
  – Non-prescriptive so it is adaptable over time
Statewide Challenges and Takeaways

*Sea level rise adaptation requires a long-term approach*

- Integrates complex science with local policies and plans
- Communicating the present-day benefits of beginning adaptation now
- Lay the groundwork for adaptation by seeking out projects that have present benefits
Statewide Challenges and Takeaways

*Florida communities are diverse*

- Varying needs, capacities, and local contexts
- One size fits all approach does not work

*Smaller local governments need more assistance*

- Lack staff capacity and funding
Thank You.

If you have questions or comments about this presentation or need to discuss a future project; please contact our office.

http://www.floridajobs.org/adaptation-planning

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