

MERIT AWARD

Seven50: Southeast Florida Prosperity Plan

Graceful Growth for Challenging Times

REGION, CITY, AND TOWN — SOUTHEAST FLORIDA
DOVER, KOHL & PARTNERS

One of the largest and most ambitious regional plans in history, the Seven50: Southeast Florida Prosperity Plan was born out of a grand federal vision—the Partnership for Sustainable Communities between US HUD, DOT, and EPA.

The plan takes its name from its seven-county focus and 50-year duration, covering a wide range of places from intensely urban Miami to the rural and natural Florida Keys. This \$4.25 million project involved four regional planning organizations and a population of 6.2 million—building an unprecedented level of public engagement in the planning process.

Mobile charrette teams, virtual meetings, and strong social media presence boosted citizen input. More than 8,000 hands-on participants and a million online visitors contributed to Seven50. A seven-county transportation model was developed, enabling the first comprehensive long-range transportation plan for the region.

The plan addresses design at all scales, moving from the region as a whole, to each individual county, to cities, down to the street and block, providing strategies for individuals, guidance for larger movements, and specific policies for municipalities. Urban design plans, including affordable housing, were created for individual sites

at key spots like transit hubs. Participants were able to choose from four scenarios for the region's future.

Climate change, a taboo subject in Florida state government, was modeled for all seven counties. The planners considered a sea level rise of 6–8 feet—a tough scenario for Southeastern Florida, with its perpetual hurricane threats and water quality issues.

Seven50 found that the hearts of neighborhoods and key transportation corridors tend to be located at higher elevations. “Focusing any new development along these main roadways makes more sense for long-term resilience,” the planners report.

Implementation began during the planning phase, and the region has already begun to see tangible results from projects that address the needs and concerns emphasized throughout the process.

“The new and lasting relationships Seven50 created throughout the region and the conversations about the future, which continue to this day, will greatly improve the chances that our region will grow gracefully and sustainably through this century and beyond,” says Michael Busha, Executive Director of the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council.



KEY LARGO -
EXISTING CONDITIONS



KEY LARGO -
4' SEA LEVEL RISE



KEY LARGO -
8' SEA LEVEL RISE



KEY LARGO -
8' SEA LEVEL RISE WITH
COASTAL REINFORCEMENT