

# STATE OF FLORIDA

## OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

### EXECUTIVE ORDER 13-319

**WHEREAS**, the State Comprehensive Plan, the Florida Strategic Plan for Economic Development, the 2060 Florida Transportation Plan, and other statewide plans call for coordinated decision making and investments to address Florida's long-term economic development, environmental stewardship, community development, and infrastructure needs on a statewide and regional basis; and

**WHEREAS**, the Florida Legislature, recognizing the need for innovative planning and development strategies to promote a diverse economy and vibrant rural and urban communities, including sector planning, has tasked the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity, in coordination with other state and regional agencies, to assist communities in finding creative solutions for fostering vibrant, healthy communities while protecting the functions of important state resources and facilities; and

**WHEREAS**, well-planned statewide and regional transportation corridors can improve mobility and connectivity for people and freight, support economic development, promote high-quality development patterns, help preserve Florida's natural resources, and facilitate emergency evacuation and response; and

**WHEREAS**, enhanced or new transportation corridors should be planned in coordination with long-term land use decisions to ensure the protection of environmental resources, the preservation of agricultural lands, and the planning of areas for future economic development and urban growth; and

**WHEREAS**, the Florida Department of Transportation has initiated the "Florida's Future Corridors" initiative to plan future transportation corridors for the movement of people and freight on an interregional, statewide, or interstate basis; and

**WHEREAS**, one corridor study area identified by the Florida's Future Corridors initiative extends from Tampa Bay to the Atlantic Coast across 15 counties in the central part of Florida (hereinafter "Tampa Bay-Central Florida Study Area"); and

**WHEREAS**, in 2013, the Florida Department of Transportation completed a Future Corridor Concept Study for the Tampa Bay-Central Florida Study Area that recommended the Florida Department of Transportation conduct a pilot Evaluation Study to address a regional connectivity gap between the Orlando International Airport and the southern Space Coast and to refine the proposed corridor planning process for future use; and

**WHEREAS**, the objectives of the pilot Evaluation Study include the identification of anticipated future development patterns in the Orlando/Space Coast area, comprised of portions of Brevard, Orange, and Osceola counties, and associated mobility and connectivity needs, as

well as potential solutions for addressing these needs through coordinated planning and partnering with recognition of the area's economic, community, and environmental goals; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2007, myregion.org completed a 2050 regional visioning process with stakeholders from the public, private, and civic sectors and input from nearly 20,000 residents of Brevard, Lake, Orange, Osceola, Polk, Seminole, and Volusia counties, culminating in adoption of the "How Shall We Grow?" vision and regional growth compact by representatives of seven counties and 86 cities; and

**WHEREAS**, the "How Shall We Grow?" vision identified the potential need for a new or enhanced multimodal corridor connecting Orlando to southern Brevard County; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2012, Florida East Coast Industries, Inc., announced the formation of All Aboard Florida, LLC (hereinafter "All Aboard Florida"), for the purpose of planning and establishing privately operated passenger rail service from Miami to Orlando on a route that would include eastern portions of the Tampa Bay-Central Florida Study Area; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2012, the Osceola County Expressway Authority, established by the Florida Legislature in 2011, adopted a 2040 Master Plan that identifies potential new transportation corridors in eastern portions of the Tampa Bay-Central Florida Study Area; and

**WHEREAS**, state, regional, and local economic development initiatives highlight the importance of investments in life science, aerospace/aviation, and other research and technology institutions in Orange, Osceola, and Brevard counties, including the need to transition the Brevard County economy following the end of the Space Shuttle program; and

**WHEREAS**, the eastern portion of the Tampa Bay-Central Florida Study Area includes: high-quality beaches, lakes, rivers, parks, forests, and preserves; the headwaters of the Everglades and the St. Johns River; and wildlife and ecological corridors of statewide significance; and

**WHEREAS**, the Florida Transportation Code, section 337.273(1)(d), Florida Statutes, provides that "the designation and management of transportation corridors can best be achieved through the inclusion of transportation corridors in the local government comprehensive plans that are developed, reviewed, and adopted pursuant to chapter 163, Florida Statutes, in order to ensure comprehensive planning for future development and growth, improved coordination between land use and transportation planning, and compliance with concurrency requirements."; and

**WHEREAS**, section 163.3245, Florida Statutes, provides that local governments or combinations of local governments can adopt into their comprehensive plans a long-range "sector plan" for a substantial geographic area of at least 15,000 acres to promote and encourage long-term planning for conservation, development, and agriculture on a landscape scale; to facilitate protection of regionally significant resources; and to avoid duplication of effort in terms of the level of data and analysis required for a development of regional impact, while ensuring the adequate mitigation of impacts to applicable regional resources and facilities; and

**WHEREAS**, eastern portions of the Tampa Bay-Central Florida Study Area include approximately 300,000 acres, commonly referred to as Deseret Ranch, owned by non-profit corporation Farmland Reserve, Inc. (hereinafter "Deseret Ranch"), as well as other large tracts of land under single ownership, and Viera, a major master planned development; and

**WHEREAS**, transportation corridor planning serves the public interest by preserving the long-term ability to use lands for future multimodal transportation facilities to move people and freight and for other linear infrastructure, improving mobility, increasing connectivity within and outside Florida, and supporting statewide and regional goals for economic development, quality of life, and environmental stewardship.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, RICK SCOTT**, Governor of the State of Florida, by the powers vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the State of Florida, do hereby promulgate the following Executive Order, effective immediately:

1. There is hereby created the East Central Florida Corridor Task Force (hereinafter "Task Force") for the purpose of evaluating and developing consensus recommendations on future transportation corridors serving established and emerging economic activity centers in portions of Brevard, Orange, and Osceola counties.
2. Members of the Task Force shall include:
  - A. The Executive Director of the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity;
  - B. The Secretary of the Florida Department of Transportation;
  - C. The Commissioner of Agriculture;
  - D. A representative from Brevard County, as appointed by the Brevard County Board of County Commissioners;
  - E. A representative from Orange County, as appointed by the Orange County Board of County Commissioners;
  - F. A representative from Osceola County, as appointed by the Osceola County Board of County Commissioners;
  - G. Two individuals to be appointed by the Governor that represent recognized environmental or conservation organizations;
  - H. A representative of Deseret Ranch;
  - I. A representative of The Viera Company;
  - J. Two individuals to be appointed by the Governor that represent the economic development or business community with a presence in the study area; and
  - K. A citizen to be appointed by the Governor that resides in the study area.
3. The members of the Task Force may designate an alternate to attend meetings of the Task Force and exercise voting authority.
4. Consensus recommendations shall not require a unanimous vote of the Task Force members.
5. The Chair of the Task Force shall be the Executive Director of the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity or his designee.
6. The charge of the Task Force shall include the following tasks:

- A. Recommend guiding principles for coordination of future transportation and land use planning, with environmental stewardship, sustainable agriculture, economic development, and community development plans and investments;
  - B. Review transportation plans of the Florida Department of Transportation, MetroPlan Orlando, the Space Coast Transportation Planning Organization, the Orlando-Orange County Expressway Authority, the Osceola County Expressway Authority, and other public and private entities and determine the extent to which these plans are consistent with each other and how they might affect future corridor planning between East Central Florida and the Space Coast;
  - C. Review the land use and development plans of local governments and regional entities and determine the extent to which these plans are consistent with transportation plans and how they might affect future corridor planning between East Central Florida and the Space Coast;
  - D. Consider and recommend transportation facilities, including the general purpose, need, and location for any new or enhanced transportation corridors as well as a range of alternative routes and modes for major transportation corridor investments;
  - E. Solicit and consider input from local, regional, state, and federal agencies; stakeholders, including property owners, agricultural interests, business interests, and environmental interests; residents; and the public; and
  - F. Recommend a proposed action plan for moving forward with new or enhanced transportation corridors in the study area.
7. In conducting its work, the Task Force should at a minimum, consider:
- A. Statewide goals, including those related to the State Comprehensive Plan, the Florida Strategic Plan for Economic Development, the 2060 Florida Transportation Plan, and statewide emergency response and evacuation plans;
  - B. The Regional Growth Vision as stated in the report "How Shall We Grow?";
  - C. Protection of property rights;
  - D. Protection of surface and groundwater resources, natural lands, regionally significant wildlife corridors and habitats, and other natural resources;
  - E. Long-term opportunities for sustainable agriculture; and
  - F. Support for high quality long-term growth patterns, with an emphasis on those envisioned by regional and community entities.
8. Concurrent and in coordination with the activities of the Task Force, Deseret Ranch is requested to work with Orange, Osceola, and Brevard counties (hereinafter "Local Governments"), as appropriate, in cooperation with other landowners and stakeholders, in preparing one or more long-term master plans, pursuant to section 163.3245, Florida Statutes, for Deseret Ranch's lands proximate to the area to be studied by the Task Force, for the purpose of coordinating long-term land use decisions with environmental stewardship, sustainable agriculture, transportation planning, economic development, and community development in the sector plan area. Insofar as practicable, Deseret Ranch and the Local Governments are requested to provide timely status reports regarding preparation of the master plan(s) to the Task Force to support the Task Force's decision-making process and meeting schedule.

9. The Task Force shall work collaboratively with the Local Governments, Deseret Ranch ownership and management, and other landowners and stakeholders to provide data and supporting information for the preparation of transportation corridor plans and related long-term master plan(s), as appropriate for each landholding, that will be available for consideration by the Local Governments as amendments to their respective comprehensive plans pursuant to chapter 163, Part II, Florida Statutes.
10. The Task Force shall submit a report on its findings and recommendations to the Governor by December 1, 2014.
11. The Local Governments are encouraged to consider possible amendments to their comprehensive plans by September 30, 2015 to reflect and incorporate the recommendations of the Task Force and the long-term master plans prepared for adoption by the Local Governments.
12. The Orlando-Orange County Expressway Authority, the Osceola County Expressway Authority, MetroPlan Orlando, the Space Coast Transportation Planning Organization, the St. Johns River Water Management District, the East Central Florida Regional Planning Council, and other agencies, as appropriate, are encouraged to amend and revise their respective plans for future conservation, development, and transportation, as the case may be, by September 30, 2015, to reflect and incorporate the recommendations of the Task Force and the long-term master plans prepared for adoption by the Local Governments.
13. The decision of one or more of the Local Governments not to participate in the tasks set forth in this Executive Order shall not preclude the Task Force and the remaining Local Government(s) from proceeding with such tasks. The Florida Department of Economic Opportunity and all other agencies under the control of the Governor are directed, and all other agencies are requested, to provide timely review of the products of the Task Force as well as the proposed plan amendments by the Local Governments, the Orlando-Orange County Expressway Authority, the Osceola County Expressway Authority, MetroPlan Orlando, the Space Coast Transportation Planning Organization, the St. Johns River Water Management District, the East Central Florida Regional Planning Council, and other agencies, as appropriate.
14. The Florida Department of Economic Opportunity and all other agencies under the control of the Governor are directed, and all other agencies are requested, to render technical assistance to, and cooperate with, the Task Force and the Local Governments in achieving the purposes stated herein.
15. The Florida Department of Economic Opportunity and the Florida Department of Transportation shall be jointly responsible for payment for any operational, administrative, and organizational expenses incurred by the Task Force. All entities with members on the Task Force are encouraged to pay all travel costs for its members. Upon advance notice and approval, the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity and the Florida Department of Transportation may pay travel costs, as authorized by section 112.061, Florida Statutes, for Task Force members from state government entities.

16. Any vacancy occurring on the Task Force shall be filled in the manner and membership category of the original appointment.
17. The Task Force shall meet at times and places designated by the Chair. All Task Force meetings will be publicly noticed as provided in section 120.525, Florida Statutes, with an opportunity for public comment and all meetings shall otherwise be subject to the provisions of chapter 286, Florida Statutes (the Florida Sunshine Law).
18. The Chair may appoint technical advisory groups as needed to assist in the completion of the work of the Task Force and such technical advisory groups may include qualified persons not on the Task Force.
19. The Task Force shall remain available to address issues relating to its recommendations until February 27, 2015, at which time the Task Force's existence shall terminate.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and have caused the Great Seal of the State of Florida to be affixed at Tallahassee, this 1st day of November, 2013.



  
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RICK SCOTT, GOVERNOR

ATTEST:

  
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SECRETARY OF STATE

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA

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