

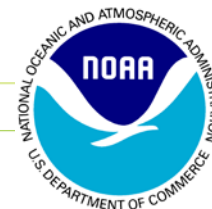


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DEPARTMENT *of*
ECONOMIC
OPPORTUNITY

Community Resiliency Initiative

Planning for Adaptation

Sean Reiss



Agenda

- Background: Community Resiliency Initiative
- Adaptation Action Areas
- Fort Lauderdale Adaptation Action Areas Project of Special Merit
- Statewide challenges and takeaways



Community Resiliency Initiative Goals

We are working to help local governments:

- Implement statutory language
- Understand current and future flood risk and identify areas at risk
- Examine policy options and tools for integrating coastal resiliency into existing planning processes
- 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?

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

Significant flexibility in how a local government can develop and implement AAAs

- Framework for adaptation planning and prioritizing infrastructure investments
- 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



Adaptation Action Areas

Optional designation for areas experiencing or are vulnerable to current and future coastal flooding, Florida Statutes 163.3164.1 and 163.3177.6.g.10

AAA identifies one or more areas that:

- Experience coastal flooding due to extreme high tides and storm surge
- Are vulnerable to the related impacts of rising sea levels

Criteria for the AAA may include, but need not be limited to areas for which:

- Land elevations are below, at, or near mean higher high water
- Have a hydrologic connection to coastal waters
- Are designated as evacuation zones for storm surge



Adaptation Action Areas

AAAs designated in Florida:

- Broward County
- City of Fort Lauderdale
- City of Satellite Beach
- Town of Yankeetown
- Village of Pinecrest



Fort Lauderdale AAA Pilot

- Fort Lauderdale pilot = case study of outreach, incrementalism, and integration
- Project of Special Merit timeline: 2011-2014
- Partnership between DEO, South Florida Regional Council, City of Fort Lauderdale, and Broward County



Photo Credit: City of Fort Lauderdale



Fort Lauderdale AAA Pilot

- Built into the City Vision Plan's "We Are Ready" Directive
- Community outreach and dialogue was foundational to the visioning effort and AAA effort
 - Forming relationships and building understanding/trust
 - Focused on the present issue
 - "We are a resilient and safe coastal community" – How can we ensure we stay that way?



Photo Credit:
City of Fort
Lauderdale



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Neighbor Outreach



Slide Credit: City of Fort Lauderdale

Oct 2013

Council of Fort Lauderdale Civic Associations

Jan 2014

Climate Adaptation Open House

Apr 2014

Sustainability Advisory Board

June 2014

Hurricane Expo Climate Resiliency booth

Review and Approval Process

Jan 2014

Drafting of Policy Language

Apr 2014

Development Review Committee

No public comment

May 2014

Planning and Zoning Board

Unanimously voted

YES ✓

Recommendation to City Commission

June 2014

City Commission

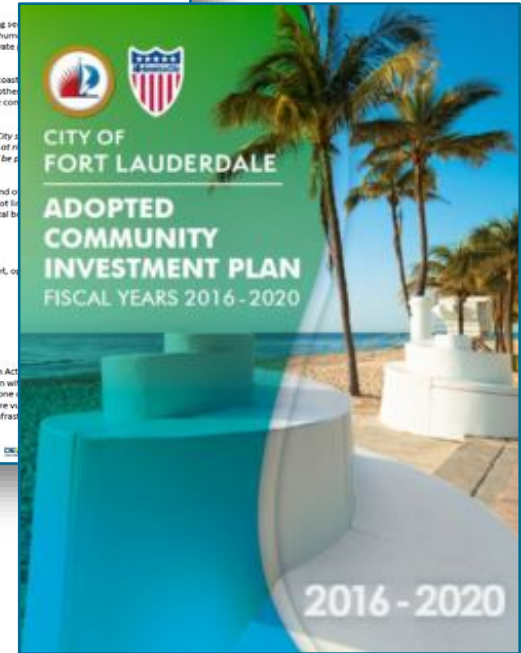
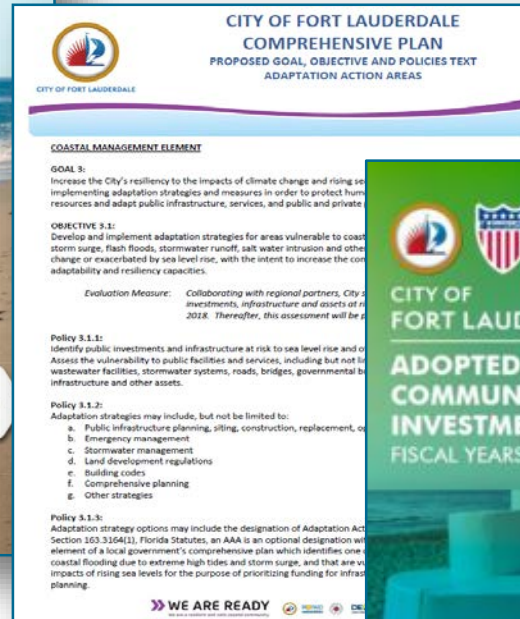
Unanimously voted

YES ✓

Transmittal to State



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2013 – Vision Plan, Strategic Plan, and AAA Interlocal Agreement



2014 – AAA Comprehensive Plan



2015 – Community Investment Plan



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Fort Lauderdale AAA Pilot

AAA Goal: “Increase the City’s resiliency to the impacts of climate change and rising sea levels by developing and implementing adaptation strategies and measures in order to protect human life, natural systems and resources and adapt public infrastructure, services, and public and private property.”

Example AAA policies:

- Identify at-risk public infrastructure and investments
- Considerations, basis, and mechanisms for AAA designations and funding
- Integration of AAAs into existing city processes and plans
- Allow for flexible adjustments
- Alignment with national, state, and regional adaptation strategy documents

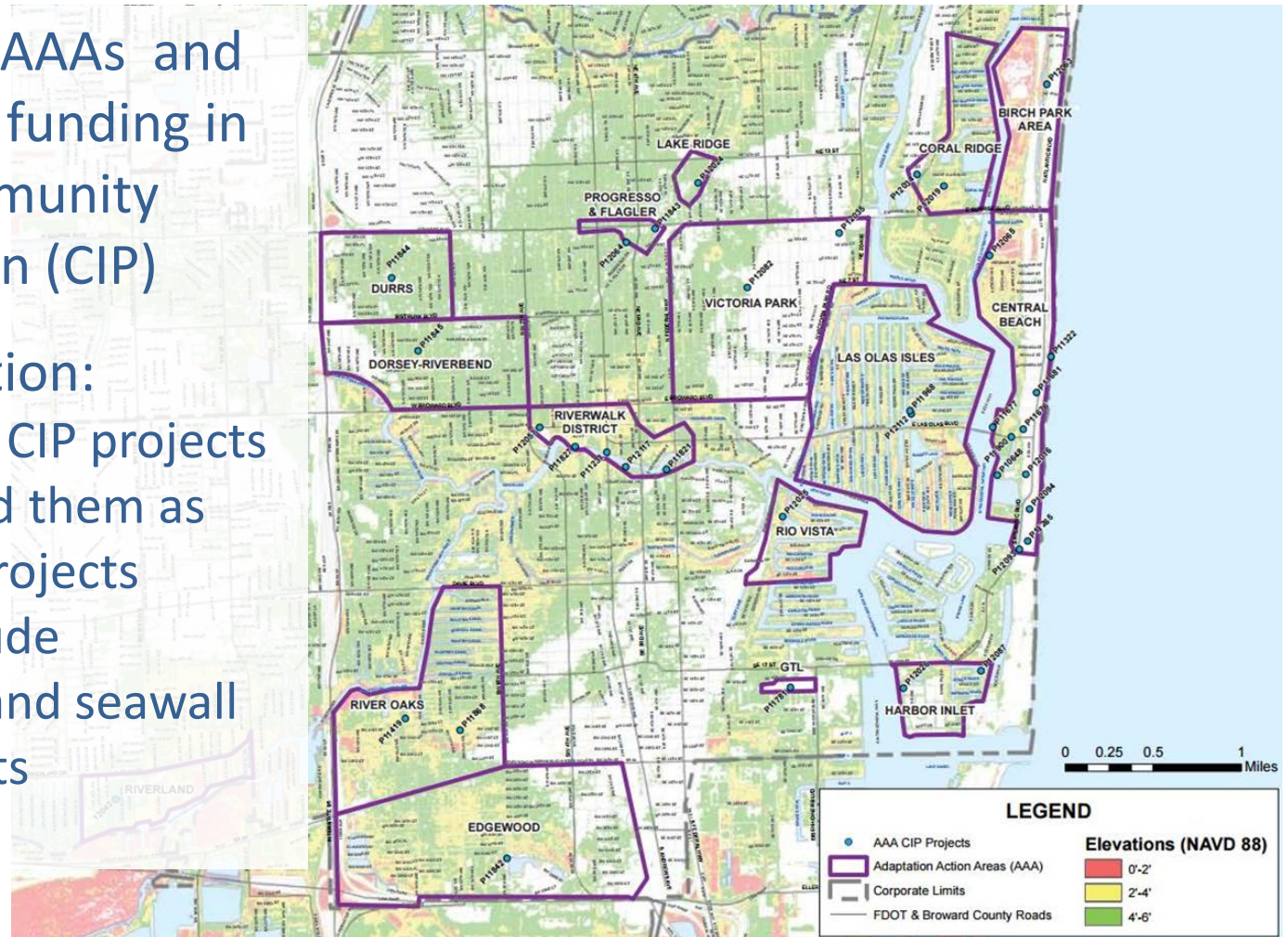


Fort Lauderdale AAAs

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



Fort Lauderdale AAA Pilot

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



AAAs Project of Special Merit

Project of Special Merit Resources:

- Adaptation Action Areas Guidebook: A Planning Guidebook for Florida's Local Governments
- Adaptation Action Areas: Policy Options for Adaptive Planning For Rising Sea Levels
- Adaptation Action Area Short Film, 2014
- Adaptation Action Area Podcast Shorts, 2014 (DEOFL YouTube Channel):
 - Broward County Emergency Management Director, Miguel Ascarrunz
 - City of Fort Lauderdale Budget Manager, Emilie Smith
 - City of Fort Lauderdale City Manager, Lee R. Feldman
 - City of Fort Lauderdale Mayor, John P. "Jack" Seiler
 - City of Fort Lauderdale Public Works Director, Hardeep Anand



Fort Lauderdale AAA – Short Film

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eehUhv7ghEY>



Mayor of the City of Ft. Lauderdale: Jack Seiler



Statewide Challenges and Takeaways

Sea level rise adaptation requires a long-term approach

- Integrates complex science with local policies and plans
- Communicate 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



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Credit to Adrienne Ehle (City of Fort Lauderdale) for assisting in the creation of this presentation



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