SFECC CORRIDOR STUDY

Rail-Volution 2012

Integrating Transit Planning and Community Involvement to Build Project Support
The Project

- Transit Alternatives Analysis under the FTA New Starts process
- 85-mile corridor through three counties with multiple transit markets and diversity of communities
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South Florida East Coast Corridor Study

- **FEC Railroad**
  - Jacksonville to Miami
  - Historically opened up the Florida coast for redevelopment
  - Passenger service stopped in 1968
  - Continues to operate as a freight railroad
**Multiple Stakeholders:**
- Two districts of FDOT
- Three Counties
- Three MPOs
- 28 municipalities
- SFRTA
- FEC railroad
- Multiple transit agencies
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• **Project Challenges:**
  – Needed regional consensus and support from many different communities and agencies
  – Diversity of corridor
    - Passes through some of the richest and poorest communities in the state
  – Needed to begin generating support for a ‘local match’ to help fund the project
  – Technical:
    - Low density environment and fear of ‘densification’
    - Existing parallel service – Tri-Rail
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- **Planning Process**
  - Open, proactive and responsive:
    - Avoiding the rumor mill
    - Gaining trust
  - Leading with land use (and community involvement):
    - Educating the community about the synergy of transit and TOD
    - Lead time required for land use regulatory changes
    - Longer lead time to see results
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• **Approach:**
  
  – Developed a station typology
  – Met with every community many times
  – Presented to industry groups/organizations
  – Designed a flexible process that fit each community to plan for their station:
    - Charrettes
    - Planning workshops
    - Proactive planning studies
Imagining Future Economic Redevelopment

Jupiter, Palm Beach County
Images courtesy of TCRPC
Attention to ALL Communities

Overtown, Miami
Showing the Possibilities
Fitting into an Existing Downtown
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• **Conclusions:**
  – Every community on board with the project and their station type and location
  – One MPO still on the fence
  – Most frequently asked question from the public:
    ▪ Why can’t this happen sooner?
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• **Factors leading to Success:**
  – Tailored the process to each community’s requirements
  – Started by explaining ‘why’
  – Showed positive examples from other places
  – Gave people multiple opportunities to be heard
  – Invested the necessary time to build trust
  – Showed people visualizations so they could understand the possibilities
  – Worked with public, government staff and elected officials
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• The Legacy:
  – Subsequent planning moving forward with community support
  – Only corridor where different providers are competing to start passenger service
  – Ongoing community outreach confirms communities are on-board understanding the requirement of a local funding match
Questions?