



**Fort Myers Beach Joint Session
Town Council and Local Planning Agency**

**Town Hall Council Chambers
6231 Estero Boulevard
Fort Myers Beach, FL 33931**

Agenda

**Tuesday, November 25, 2025
ORDER OF BUSINESS**

9:00 AM

- I. CALL TO ORDER**
- II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
- III. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**

- A. Ordinance 24-10; Comprehensive Plan Adoption
As requested, a joint session discussion regarding:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF FORT MYERS BEACH, FLORIDA, AMENDING THE TOWN OF FORT MYERS BEACH COMPREHENSIVE PLAN IN ITS ENTIRETY, PURSUANT TO 163.3184 (3), FLORIDA STATUTES; PROVIDING FOR ADOPTION OF THE TOWN OF FORT MYERS BEACH COMPREHENSIVE PLAN 2045, INCLUDING AMENDMENTS TO THE FUTURE LAND USE ELEMENT AND THE FUTURE LAND USE MAP, THE COMMUNITY DESIGN ELEMENT, THE TRANSPORTATION ELEMENT, THE HOUSING ELEMENT, THE HISTORIC PRESERVATION ELEMENT, THE UTILITIES ELEMENT, THE CONSERVATION ELEMENT, THE COASTAL MANAGEMENT ELEMENT, THE RECREATION, & OPEN SPACE ELEMENT, THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL COORDINATION ELEMENT, THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS ELEMENT, AND THE PROPERTY RIGHTS ELEMENT; INCLUSIVE OF ALL ASSOCIATED TABLES, EXHIBITS AND MAPS; AUTHORIZING FINDINGS AND ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS; PROVIDING FOR TRANSMITTAL; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR SCRIVENER'S ERRORS; AND PROVIDING FOR EFFECTIVE DATE.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

NOTE: THIS MEETING IS STREAMED LIVE ON [YOUTUBE](#).

IF A PERSON DECIDES TO APPEAL A DECISION MADE BY THE COUNCIL IN ANY MATTER CONSIDERED AT THIS MEETING/HEARING, SUCH PERSONS MAY NEED TO ENSURE THAT A VERBATIM RECORD OF THE PROCEEDING IS MADE, TO INCLUDE THE TESTIMONY AND EVIDENCE UPON WHICH ANY SUCH APPEAL IS TO BE BASED.



For special accommodation, please notify the Town Clerk's Office at least 72 hours in advance. (239) 765-0202 In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), persons needing a special accommodation to participate in the Board's proceedings should contact the Town Clerk's Office not later than three days prior to the proceedings.

1. **Request:**

Meeting Date: November 25, 2025

As requested, a joint session discussion regarding:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF FORT MYERS BEACH, FLORIDA, AMENDING THE TOWN OF FORT MYERS BEACH COMPREHENSIVE PLAN IN ITS ENTIRETY, PURSUANT TO 163.3184 (3), FLORIDA STATUTES; PROVIDING FOR ADOPTION OF THE TOWN OF FORT MYERS BEACH COMPREHENSIVE PLAN 2045, INCLUDING AMENDMENTS TO THE FUTURE LAND USE ELEMENT AND THE FUTURE LAND USE MAP, THE COMMUNITY DESIGN ELEMENT, THE TRANSPORTATION ELEMENT, THE HOUSING ELEMENT, THE HISTORIC PRESERVATION ELEMENT, THE UTILITIES ELEMENT, THE CONSERVATION ELEMENT, THE COASTAL MANAGEMENT ELEMENT, THE RECREATION, & OPEN SPACE ELEMENT, THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL COORDINATION ELEMENT, THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS ELEMENT, AND THE PROPERTY RIGHTS ELEMENT; INCLUSIVE OF ALL ASSOCIATED TABLES, EXHIBITS AND MAPS; AUTHORIZING FINDINGS AND ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS; PROVIDING FOR TRANSMITTAL; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR SCRIVENER'S ERRORS; AND PROVIDING FOR EFFECTIVE DATE.

Why the action is necessary:

This is the second hearing for adoption of the ordinance that adopts the comprehensive plan and future land use map.

What the action accomplishes:

Adoption of the comprehensive plan is required by the state and will allow the Town to move forward on other related updates.

2. **Agenda:**

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

3. **Requirement/Purpose:**

Ordinance

4. **Submitter of Information:**

Jason Green, Community
Development Services

5. **Background:**

The Comprehensive Plan was approved by the Town Council for transmittal to the state. The state agency comments have been received and the response to those comments can be found in the agenda packet, along with the entire comprehensive plan for adoption. This is the second and final hearing for adoption of the comprehensive plan.

Attachments:

1. NS New 24-10, Comprehensive Plan (1)
2. Exhibit A: Town of Fort Myers Beach Comprehensive Plan 2045.
3. Response Memo for adoption hearing
4. Full FLU Map

Financial Impact:

Unknown

6. **Alternative Action**

Recommend changes and adoption

7. **Management Recommendations:**

Adopt Ordinance 24-10

8. **Recommended Approval:**

Amy Baker, Town Clerk

Created/Initiated - 11/20/2025

ORDINANCE 24-10
(FMB Comprehensive Plan Adoption)

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF FORT MYERS BEACH, FLORIDA, AMENDING THE TOWN OF FORT MYERS BEACH COMPREHENSIVE PLAN IN ITS ENTIRETY, PURSUANT TO 163.3184 (3), FLORIDA STATUTES; PROVIDING FOR ADOPTION OF THE TOWN OF FORT MYERS BEACH COMPREHENSIVE PLAN 2045, INCLUDING AMENDMENTS TO THE FUTURE LAND USE ELEMENT AND THE FUTURE LAND USE MAP, THE COMMUNITY DESIGN ELEMENT, THE TRANSPORTATION ELEMENT, THE HOUSING ELEMENT, THE HISTORIC PRESERVATION ELEMENT, THE UTILITIES ELEMENT, THE CONSERVATION ELEMENT, THE COASTAL MANAGEMENT ELEMENT, THE RECREATION, & OPEN SPACE ELEMENT, THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL COORDINATION ELEMENT, THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS ELEMENT, AND THE PROPERTY RIGHTS ELEMENT; INCLUSIVE OF ALL ASSOCIATED TABLES, EXHIBITS AND MAPS; AUTHORIZING FINDINGS AND ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS; PROVIDING FOR TRANSMITTAL; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR SCRIVENER'S ERRORS; AND PROVIDING FOR EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the Town Council of the Town of Fort Myers Beach, Florida, desires to amend the Town of Fort Myers Beach's Comprehensive Plan in its entirety, in accordance with Chapter 163.3184(3); and

WHEREAS, the Town Council has provided notice of the proposed Comprehensive Plan 2045 Amendment ("Comprehensive Plan") and has conducted the required public hearings to receive citizen input; and

WHEREAS, the Comprehensive Plan contains goals, objectives, and policies to guide the development of the Town of Fort Myers Beach through the year 2045, addressing future land use map, the community design element, the transportation element, the housing element, the historic preservation element, the utilities element, the conservation element, the coastal management element, the recreation, & open space element, the intergovernmental coordination element, and the capital improvements element; inclusive of all associated tables, exhibits and maps; and

WHEREAS, the Local Planning Agency of the Town of Fort Myers Beach, held a public hearing at its duly noticed April 9, 2024 public meeting to consider the proposed Comprehensive Plan amendment and recommended that Town Council adopt the same; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council has reviewed and considered all relevant evidence, information and testimony, as well as the recommendations of the Local Planning Agency, witnesses, the public, and Town staff and has determined that the proposed amendment is in compliance with Chapters 163.3184 and 166.041, Florida Statutes; and

WHEREAS, on May 6, 2024, the Town Council held a first reading of the proposed Ordinance and gave full and complete consideration and recommendation of the LPA and transmitted a copy to the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity for comment; and

WHEREAS, on September 9, 2024, the Town Council held a Second and the adoption hearing of the proposed Ordinance and voted to continue the hearing to a future date; and

WHEREAS, a second reading of the proposed Ordinance and a public hearing was legally advertised and thereafter held before the Town Council on November 17, 2025; at which time the Town Council gave full and complete consideration for adoption of the Comprehensive Plan as proposed in the Ordinance; and

WHEREAS, all necessary hearings and public notices, in conformity with the procedural and substantive requirements of Florida Statutes and the Comprehensive Plan have been satisfied; and

WHEREAS, the adoption of the Town's Comprehensive Plan furthers the health, safety and welfare of its citizens, local businesses and visitors of the Town.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF FORT MYERS BEACH, LEE COUNTY, FLORIDA, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Ratification of Recitals. The Town Council of the Town of Fort Myers Beach, Florida, hereby adopts and ratifies those matters as set forth in the foregoing “WHEREAS” recitals.

Section 2. Comprehensive plan amendment. The amendment to the Town of Fort Myers Beach Comprehensive Plan 2045 is hereby adopted, which amends the Goals, Objectives & Policies and Data Inventory & Analysis, including the Future Land Use Maps and all tables incorporated by reference, for the following elements: future land use map, the community design element, the transportation element, the housing element, the historic preservation element, the utilities element, the conservation element, the coastal management element, the recreation, & open space element, the intergovernmental coordination element, and the capital improvements element, as set forth in the attached Exhibit "A". A certified copy of the Town of Fort Myers Beach Comprehensive Plan 2045 shall be located in the Town Clerk's office.

Section 3. Severability. The provisions of this Ordinance are intended to be severable. If any provision of this Ordinance is determined to void or declared illegal, invalid, or unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of this Ordinance shall remain in full force and effect.

Section 4. Repeal of Laws in Conflict. If any ordinances, or parts of ordinances, or if any sections, or parts of sections, of the Ordinances of the Town of Fort Myers Beach, Florida, are in conflict herewith, this Ordinance shall control to the extent of the conflicting provisions.

Section 5. Scrivener's Errors. Sections of this Ordinance may be renumbered or re-lettered and corrections of typographical errors, which do not affect the intent, may be authorized by the Town Manager, or the Town Manager's designee, without need of public hearing, by filing a corrected or re-codified copy of same with the Town Clerk.

Section 6. Effective Date. The effective date of this plan amendment, if the amendment is not timely challenged, shall be thirty-one (31) days after the state land planning agency notifies the Town of Fort Myers Beach that the plan amendment package is complete. If timely challenged, this amendment shall become effective on the date the state land planning agency or the Administration Commission enters a final order determining the adopted amendment to be in compliance in accordance with 166.3184 (3)(c)(4), Florida Statute. No development orders, development permits, or land uses dependent on this amendment may be issued or commence before it has become effective. If a final order of noncompliance is issued by the Administration Commission this amendment may nevertheless be made effective by adoption of a resolution affirming its effective status, a copy of which resolution shall be sent to the state land planning agency.

The foregoing Ordinance was moved for passage upon second reading this 17th day of November, 2025, by Council Member _____. The motion was seconded by Council Member _____. Upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

Dan Allers, Mayor
Jim Atterholt, Vice Mayor
John R King, Council Member
Rebecca Link, Council Member
Scott Safford, Council Member

TOWN OF FORT MYERS BEACH

Dan Allers, Mayor

ATTEST:

Amy Baker, Town Clerk

**APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGAL
SUFFICIENCY FOR THE USE AND RELIANCE
BY THE TOWN OF FORT MYERS BEACH:**

Vose Law Firm, LLP, Town Attorney

Exhibit A: Town of Fort Myers Beach Comprehensive Plan 2045.

TOWN OF FORT MYERS BEACH 2045 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

OCTOBER 2025



GOALS, OBJECTIVES, & POLICIES



CORRADINO



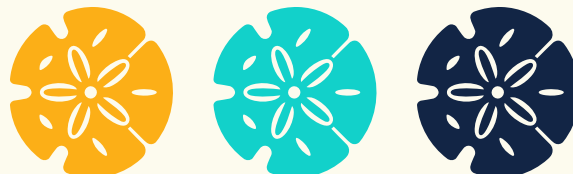
TOWN OF FORT MYERS BEACH

2045 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

GOALS, OBJECTIVES, & POLICIES

TABLE OF CONTENTS

• 1 VISION	1
• 2 FUTURE LAND USE ELEMENT	2
• 3 COMMUNITY DESIGN ELEMENT	19
• 4 HOUSING ELEMENT	30
• 5 TRANSPORTATION ELEMENT	35
• 6 HISTORIC PRESERVATION ELEMENT	43
• 7 RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE ELEMENT	48
• 8 CONSERVATION ELEMENT	56
• 9 COASTAL MANAGEMENT ELEMENT	74
• 10 UTILITIES ELEMENT	80
• 11 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS ELEMENT	83
• 12 INTERGOVERNMENTAL COORDINATION ELEMENT	90
• 13 PROPERTY RIGHTS ELEMENT	94





The Fort Myers Beach of today and in the future is a safe, multigenerational community where residents can grow older with our families, together with the Town, peacefully and quietly enjoying our natural resources, with scenic views of the Gulf and the beaches, while still being able to find good eats, experiences, and music locally when one desires. We are a place that welcomes and embraces visitors and new residents.

Fort Myers Beach is resilient, having learned the lessons of natural events. We care deeply about our environment, natural resources, and water quality.

Our community is one that has transportation choices and is easy to get around, with great local opportunities for lifelong learning, and is backed by strong civic services, like the library. Fort Myers Beach strives to ensure accessibility to personal services and experiences, like medical services, banks, entertainment, groceries, and others, for our community.

This is our slice of paradise. We share it in balanced ways that contribute positively towards our overall quality of life, with considerations of economic and social resiliency.

Thematic Aspects of Our Community Vision:

Neighborhood Character

- Preserve small-town character and community identity
- Limit high-density development and new high rises
- Enhance parks and civic/public spaces as community hubs

Community Mobility and Accessibility

- Promote alternative transportation: bike paths, trolleys, walkability
- A safe, accessible and walkable community that's designed around pedestrians, bicyclists and public transit riders of all ages and abilities
- Ensure beach access for pedestrians and bicyclists

Natural and Cultural Assets

- Preservation of natural and cultural assets
 - Beach
 - Mound House
 - Inclusive growth that serves residents
- Maintain scenic views and coastal integrity through height limits
- Ensure water quality and protect the environment
- Protect and create opportunities for meaningful personal experiences through cultural events and interactions with nature

Growth and Development

- Human-scale development that respects the present scale of the town
- Growth is acceptable if aligned with the town's character and values
- Encourage local businesses and services within town limits
- Balance tourism with sustainability and resident quality of life



GOAL 4 FLU-1: To keep Fort Myers Beach a healthy and vibrant “small town,” while capitalizing on the vitality and amenities available in a beach–resort environment and minimizing the damage to the natural and built environment that a hurricane, sea-level rise, and coastal erosion could inflict.

OBJECTIVE 4 FLU-1-A: SMALL-TOWN CHARACTER - Maintain the small-town character of Fort Myers Beach and the pedestrian-oriented “public realm” that allows people to move throughout the island around without their the need of cars even in the midst of peak-season congestion.

POLICY 4-A-1 FLU-1-A-1: Maintaining the town’s current “human scale” is a fundamental redevelopment principle. Fort Myers Beach is best enjoyed from outside a car; n New buildings should be designed to encourage use or admiration by people on foot or bicycle, rather than separating them with gates, walls, deep setbacks, or unnecessary building heights. The Land Development Codes shall ensure that improvements which potentially impact the appearance of Estero Boulevard, as well as major activity centers such as Times Square and Villa Santini, the mixed-use districts, the town’s shoreline, scenic views of the waterfront and tidal waters, public parks and other public grounds and institutions are managed and enhanced through application of the site plan review process.

Community character is reflected in Floor to Area Ratios (FAR), lot sizes, house sizes, site placement, height, architectural features and existing vegetation. The Town should strive to stabilize and preserve neighborhoods and establish urban design standards which protect and promote quality of life, in order to prevent teardowns, encourage re-use, infill and new development.

POLICY 4-A-2 FLU-1-A-2: The Town of Fort Myers Beach values its vibrant economy and walkable commercial areas. Through this plan, the town will ensure that new commercial activities, when allowed, will contribute to the pedestrian-oriented public realm. All new development is encouraged to provide for amenities that enhance the public realm, including, but not limited to: art, benches, bike racks, trash receptacles, right-of-way landscaping, etc.



POLICY 4-A-3 FLU-1-A-3: The Town shall should protect residential neighborhoods from intrusive commercial activities (see Policies 4-C-2 and 4-C-3 below). Stable residential areas should be protected from encroachment by incompatible development. However, within residential areas, the Land Development Codes shall allow home-based businesses that do not detract from the residential quality of the neighborhood. These regulations should incorporate criteria for determining compatible home occupation uses, and standards to ascertain that no negative impacts on adjoining properties result.

POLICY 4-A-4 FLU-1-A-4: Easy walking access to the beach is a key element of the town's human scale. Development trends that inhibit this access are undesirable. (including traffic improvements to Estero Boulevard that would make it a barrier to the beach for pedestrians). The Town should not vacate, diminish, or otherwise impair publicly owned pathways (without replacement or demonstrated benefit to the Town), sidewalks, roads, ends of roads, parking areas, docks or boat launching facilities, and other access points currently used, or susceptible to use, by the public to access the shorelines, consistent with Comprehensive Plan unless there is documented evidence that physical public access is destabilizing unaltered shorelines. Further, the Town shall not abandon any right-of-way, improved or unimproved, which terminates on a body of water.

POLICY FLU-1-A-5: The Town shall explore opportunities to provide innovative parking solutions on the Island to meet future demands. The town shall maximize efficient use of land, minimize gaps in the urban landscape, and improve urban form by: encouraging redevelopment of existing surface parking lots; discouraging creation of new surface lots; consolidate parking in strategically located parking structures; and manage parking as a system. The Town shall consider/encourage the use of shared parking.

POLICY 4-A-5 FLU-1-A-6: The town contains many important natural resources despite its urbanized character. Preservation of those resources is of the highest importance and is a frequent theme throughout this plan. Efforts shall be made to update the Town's Land Development Codes to address development in floodplains, shoreline protection, wetlands protection, water quality, urban forestry and habitats for listed protected or endangered species.

POLICY 4-A-6 FLU-1-A-7: The beaches provide incomparable recreational and environmental benefits to the town; careful management of the beach, including renourishment when necessary, can increase both. Frequent beach accesses are essential to the town's character and shall be maintained and expanded where possible.

POLICY FLU-1-A-8: The Town, together with the private sector, shall consider proactive steps and pilot programs to adapt for sea level rise and storm surges, including but not limited to preserving transportation options, increasing residential building resiliency, preserving landscaping and residential building aesthetics, and preserving water quality.

POLICY 4-A-7 FLU-1-A-9: Estero Bay also provides great benefits to the town and can be enhanced by improving public access and reversing the decline in water quality. The Conservation and Coastal/Management Elements of this plan outline the town's efforts on these matters.

POLICY 4-A-8 FLU-1-A-10: The town shall establish clear and consistent rules and processes that govern private and public development. They Town shall be consider the need to incorporated into an illustrated portions of the Land Development Code that:

- i. Defines the permitted uses and illustrates the dimensions needed to implement this comprehensive plan;



- ii. ~~illustrates~~ Illustrates the types and dimensions of allowable signs that will identify businesses and other destinations without damaging the aesthetic qualities of the town;
- iii. ~~Resolves~~ Resolves inconsistencies between current zoning and land development regulations and this comprehensive plan using the guidelines found in Chapter 15;
- iv. ~~Eencourages~~ Encourages the conservation and re-use of historic buildings as described in the Historic Preservation Element;
- v. ~~lin~~ In existing subdivisions, controls the scale of new homes to avoid the replacement of existing homes with excessively large structures; and
- vi. ~~Eensures~~ Ensures the availability of public facilities at the levels of service specified in this plan concurrently with the impacts of development (see Capital Improvements Element for a summary of these levels of service plus guidelines for the town's Concurrency Management System).
- vii. Ensures that the approval of all development shall be subject to the availability of adequate levels of service for all facilities and services that are subject to concurrency management requirements.

~~POLICY 4-A-9 FLU-1-A-11:~~ ~~Many amenities available to local residents are the result of the local tourist economy and would diminish if hotels and motels were displaced. Landowners may redevelop hotels and motels for other uses, but special incentives of this plan such as post-disaster and pre-disaster buildback (Objectives 4-D and 4-E) only apply if the current use is maintained. Hotels and motels with special incentives as provided by this plan may be rebuilt as post-disaster and pre-disaster buildback only if the current Hotel or Motel use is maintained.~~

~~POLICY 4-A-10 FLU-1-A-12:~~ ~~Hotels and motels may be constructed or converted to condominium ownership provided they are operated as hotels or motels. The Land Development Code shall provides detailed regulations that distinguish hotels and motels from residential uses and other types of lodging.~~

~~POLICY FLU-1-A-13:~~ ~~The Land Development Codes shall be amended to be consistent with this Comprehensive Plan within 12 months of any Comprehensive Plan update.~~

~~POLICY FLU-1A-14: PUBLIC BENEFITS ORDINANCE~~ - ~~The town will evaluate and adopt as appropriate into its Land Development Code a Community Benefits/Public Benefits ordinance as an incentive program for development.~~

~~POLICY FLU-1A-15: VARIANCES REGULATIONS~~ - ~~The town will evaluate and adopt into its Land Development Code, as appropriate, defined criteria for variances to ensure clarity, including categories, permissible variance requests, procedures, and evaluation criteria. No variance requests shall be granted outside of these defined criteria.~~

~~POLICY FLU-1A-16: SMALL LOTS~~ - ~~The town shall regularly evaluate and adopt into its Land Development Code provisions, as appropriate, for small lots that will provide for increased flexibility for use and development.~~

~~POLICY FLU-1A-17: COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT~~ - ~~The town will evaluate appropriate areas for redevelopment and shall provide for a Finding of Necessity report where necessary to encourage and implement the creation of a Community Redevelopment Agency, a Business Improvement District, or other framework that allows for value capture, branding, and focused community enhancement approaches.~~



OBJECTIVE 4-B FLU-1-B: FUTURE LAND USE MAP CATEGORIES - Reduce the potential for further overbuilding through a new Future Land Use Map that protects and enhances the remaining natural and historic resources, preserves the small-town character of Fort Myers Beach, and protects residential neighborhoods against commercial intrusions.

POLICY 4-B-1: OVERBUILDING --Judicious planning could have avoided the kind of overbuilding found at Fort Myers Beach by limiting construction to match road capacity and the physical environment. Since such planning came too late, the town must deal with today's congestion plus the impacts of future development that has vested rights to proceed. These conditions have shaped the vision of this plan, as development rights once granted are not easily or lightly reversed; great care has been taken in this plan to balance important public and private rights.

POLICY 4-B-2 FLU-1-B-1: MAP ADOPTION - The Town of Fort Myers Beach hereby adopts a Future Land Use Map (Figure 16) to govern further subdivision and development within its municipal boundary. The entire town is located within the coastal high-hazard area, as shown on the Coastal High Hazard Areas map Figure 17 which is part of the adopted Future Land Use Map series. This map advances the principles of this comprehensive plan by assigning one of nine eight categories to all land and water, based on its location, condition, and existing uses.

POLICY FLU-1-B-2: LAND USE CATEGORIES - The following Future Land Use designations shall be applied to the Future Land Use Map:

POLICY 4-B-3 FLU-1-B-2a3: “LOW DENSITY RESIDENTIAL” - Ddesigned for existing subdivisions with an established low-density character (primarily single-family homes). For new development, the maximum density is 4 dwelling units per acre, and commercial activities are limited to home occupations as described in the Land Development Code (limited to incidental uses by the dwelling unit's occupant that do not attract customers or generate additional traffic).

POLICY 4-B-4 FLU-1-B-2b4: “MIXED MEDIUM RESIDENTIAL” - Ddesigned for older subdivisions with mixed housing types on smaller lots, newer high-rise buildings, and ~~mobile home and RV parks~~. This category will ensure that Fort Myers Beach retains a variety of neighborhoods and housing types. ~~For new development, the maximum density is 6 dwelling units per acre (except where the Future Land Use Map's “platted overlay” indicates a maximum density of 10 units per acre for legally existing dwelling units).~~ Commercial activities are appropriate primarily along Estero Boulevard and are limited to lower impact uses such as offices, motels, churches, and public uses, and must be sensitive to nearby residential uses, complement any adjoining commercial uses, contribute to the public realm as described in this comprehensive plan, and meet the design concepts of this plan and the Land Development Code. ~~These qualities and overall consistency with this comprehensive plan shall be evaluated by the town through the planned development rezoning process. Non-residential uses (including motels and churches) now comprise 7.9% of the land in this category, and this percentage shall not exceed 12%. The non-residential Floor Area Ratios (FAR) in Medium Residential shall not exceed 1.5.~~

Density: The maximum density is up to six (6) dwelling units per acre, except those developments previously vested with 10 units under the “platted overlay” may continue.

POLICY FLU-1-B2c5: “MIXED-USE” - This land use designation is designed for portions of the Town along Estero Boulevard to allow for intense commercial and multifamily residential development. Each mixed-use district is prescribed a maximum density and intensity. To obtain approval for new or expanded commercial activities, proposals must be sensitive to nearby residential uses, contribute to the public realm as described in this comprehensive plan, and meet the design



concepts of this plan and the Land Development Code. These qualities and overall consistency with this comprehensive plan shall be evaluated by the Town. Where commercial uses are permitted, residential uses are encouraged on the upper floors. Within the Mixed-Use land use category, all existing “Marina” uses described shall be preserved and allowed to remain on parcels that were zoned for marinas prior to adoption of this plan. The following provides for the specific Mixed-Use Districts:

a. TIME SQUARE MIXED-USED (TS-MU) DISTRICT

Purpose: The Time Square Mixed-Use District is an intense activity center that serves as the Town’s main tourist destination. The district is located at the Town’s northern gateway and is generally bounded by First Street to Estero Boulevard, and from Old San Carlos Boulevard to Pearl Street. The district shall encourage mixed-uses and compact urban design that enhances the pedestrian experience and limits the use of vehicles. The Town shall encourage the preservation of existing housing on the bay side of Estero Boulevard. Properties abutting Estero Boulevard shall be encouraged to develop to primarily meet the needs of visitors.

Uses which may be permitted: Where permissible and consistent with Flood regulations, development on Estero Boulevard shall be in a mixed-use context with commercial uses required on the ground floor. Development shall encourage preservation or enhancement of existing hotel/motel and multifamily densities east of Estero Boulevard. Uses permitted include general retail, personal services, restaurants/bars (including outdoor dining), take-out and outdoor walk-up facilities, marine-dependent and marine-related uses, lodging/hotel accommodations, and live entertainment venues. New surface parking lots as a principal use are discouraged. The Land Development Codes shall prescribe and limit the permitted uses in this district.

Intensity: The District’s maximum building height shall be established by the Land Development Codes. Maximum building heights shall include considerations of flood elevation, freeboard standards as may be adopted and amended from time to time by the Town and provide for provisions for non-habitable ground floor space as applicable. The non-residential Floor Area Ratios (FAR) in the TS-MU shall not exceed 2.5.

Transient residential (hotel and motel) shall be counted as non-residential development and subject to rules on FAR.

Density: The permitted density is up to six (6) units per acre, except those developments previously vested with 10 units under the “platted overlay” may continue.

b. CIVIC CENTER MIXED-USE (CC-MU) DISTRICT

Purpose: The Civic Center Mixed-Use District includes properties adjacent to Estero Boulevard from Chapel Street to Lover’s Lane as provided for in the Future Land Use Map. The CC-MU District’s core, approximately bounded by Chapel Street and School Street, is envisioned to support a mix of housing options and neighborhood-serving retail uses for the immediate residential cluster. The town shall encourage the collocation of any redeveloped or new municipal services and educational facilities within the district. Encroachment into the adjacent low-density residential districts shall be prohibited. The use of landscaping, increased setbacks and reduced building heights shall be employed to serve as a transition between the land use categories.



Uses which may be permitted: As limited by the Land Development Codes, permitted uses shall include civic/municipal uses, business and professional offices (including emergency, medical and dental), retail sales and personal service establishments, restaurants (including outdoor dining). Hotel/motel uses shall be conditional. Compact residential developments that support various housing types for permanent residents of the Island is encouraged in this district, including but not limited to Workforce Housing. When permitted, properties along Estero Boulevard shall be redeveloped in a mixed-use context only with retail or commercial uses required on the ground floor.

Intensity: The District's maximum building height shall be established by the Land Development Codes. Maximum building heights shall include considerations of flood elevation, freeboard standards as may be adopted and amended from time to time by the Town and provide for provisions for non-habitable ground floor space as applicable. The non-residential Floor Area Ratios (FAR) in the CC-MU shall not exceed 1.5.

Density: The maximum density is up to six (6) dwelling units per acre, except those developments previously vested with 10 units under the "platted overlay" may continue.

c. CENTER ISLAND MIXED-USE (CI-MU) DISTRICT

Purpose: The Center Island Mixed-Use District's general boundaries are generally from Estero Bay to the Gulf, and from Bayview Avenue to Madera Road. The Center Island Mixed-Use District is envisioned as a lifestyle retail center with a mix of uses that supports the existing marina. The intent of this district is to provide development opportunities for existing and new medium-intensity commercial uses to serve the Town.

Uses which may be permitted: As limited by the Land Development Codes, permitted uses include various types of commercial business and professional offices (including medical and dental), retail sales and personal service establishments, restaurants (including outdoor dining), and residential (only in mixed-use context). Marine-related and marine-dependent uses that support an active waterfront and marina are highly encouraged. Elimination or reduction of the marina use is prohibited.

Intensity: The District's maximum building height shall be established by the Land Development Codes. Maximum building heights shall include considerations of flood elevation, freeboard standards as may be adopted and amended from time to time by the Town, and provide for provisions for non-habitable ground floor space as applicable. The non-residential Floor Area Ratios (FAR) in the CI-MU shall not exceed 1.5.

Density: The maximum density is up to six (6) dwelling units per acre, except those developments previously vested with 10 units under the "platted overlay" may continue.

d. THEATRE & ARTS MIXED-USE (TA-MU) DISTRICT

Purpose: The Theatre & Arts Mixed-Use District is envisioned as the cultural, theater, and arts district for the Island. The TA-MU District is composed of the properties abutting Estero Boulevard to the west, from Mound Road to Ibis Street, and includes the Beach Theatre site. The Town shall encourage the preservation of the theatre.

Uses which may be permitted: Uses that support and enhance the Town's cultural assets are encouraged in the TA-MU District. Permitted uses, as limited by the Land Development Codes,



includes commercial recreation, retail, restaurants (including outdoor dining), professional offices (including dental and medical), venue spaces, theaters, artisanal retail, art galleries, music and dance studios, arts education, and live/work units. Live/work units are permitted on the ground level. Exclusively residential uses are permitted only above the ground floor.

Intensity: The District's maximum building height shall be established by the Land Development Codes. Maximum building heights shall include considerations of flood elevation, freeboard standards as may be adopted and amended from time to time by the Town, and provide for provisions for non-habitable ground floor space as applicable. The non-residential Floor Area Ratios (FAR) in the TA-MU shall not exceed 1.5.

Density: The maximum density is up to six (6) dwelling units per acre, except those developments previously vested with 10 units under the "platted overlay" may continue.

e. THE SANTINI VILLAGE MIXED-USE (SV-MU) DISTRICT

Purpose: Santini Village Mixed-Use District is the tallest and most dense district on the island with tourist supporting services and commercial uses. It is also envisioned as a redevelopment opportunity with more entertainment, tourist and neighborhood commercial uses at the southern gateway of the Island. The SV-MU District includes the existing Santini Marina Plaza Shops. The general boundaries include the properties along Estero Boulevard from Island Pines Way south to Bella Lago Drive as depicted on the Future Land Use map. The City's redevelopment plan for Santini Plaza, prepared by Dover, Kohl & Partners established a vision for this area. The plan shall serve as a guide to the District's redevelopment. Special consideration shall be given to the existing marina. The marina site shall be redeveloped in a mixed-use context to promote an active waterfront with a mix of uses. The marina use shall not be eliminated by the site's redevelopment.

Uses which may be permitted: Uses shall serve the needs of residents and visitors, as limited by the Land Development Codes. Permitted uses include general retail, amusement centers, bars, restaurants (including outdoor dining), residential, personal services, professional offices (including dental and medical), assisted living facilities, hotel/lodging accommodations, and marine-related/dependent uses. For properties abutting Estero Boulevard, commercial development is required on the ground floor, subject to FEMA regulations.

Intensity: The District's maximum building height shall be established by the Land Development Codes. Maximum building heights shall include considerations of flood elevation, freeboard standards as may be adopted and amended from time to time by the Town, and provide for provisions for non-habitable ground floor space as applicable.

The maximum non-residential FAR for the SV-MU district is 2.5.

Density: The maximum density is up to six (6) dwelling units per acre, except those developments previously vested with 10 units under the "platted overlay" may continue.

POLICY 4-B-5 FLU-1-B2d-6: "BOULEVARD" - A mixed-use district along portions of Estero Boulevard, including less intense commercial areas, traditionally comprised of historic cottages, and mixed housing types. This category is not intended to allow commercial uses on all properties; its mixed-use nature is intended to remain permanently. For new residential development, the maximum density is 6 dwelling units per acre (except where the Future Land Use Map's "platted overlay" indicates a maximum density of 10 units per acre for legally existing dwelling units).



To obtain approval for new or expanded commercial activities, proposals must be sensitive to nearby residential uses, complement any adjoining commercial uses, contribute to the public realm as described in this comprehensive plan, and meet the design concepts of this plan and the Land Development Code. These qualities and overall consistency with this comprehensive plan shall be evaluated by the town through the planned development rezoning process. Non-residential uses (including motels and churches) now comprise 46.9% of the land in this category, and this percentage shall not exceed 70%. The non-residential Floor Area Ratios (FAR) in the Boulevard shall not exceed 1.5.

Density: The maximum density is up to six (6) dwelling units per acre, except those developments previously vested with 10 units under the “platted overlay” may continue. Permitted new density may be increased up to ten (10) units per acre provided that at least 10% of the development is for affordable or workforce housing as covenanted for a minimum of 30 years. Those developments previously vested with 10 units under the “platted overlay” may continue.

POLICY 4-B-6 FLU-1-B2e-7: “PEDESTRIAN COMMERCIAL” - A primarily commercial district applied to the intense activity centers of Times Square (including Old San Carlos and nearby portions of Estero Boulevard) and the area around the Villa Santini Plaza. For new development, the maximum density is up to 6 dwelling units per acre (except where the Future Land Use Map’s “platted overlay” indicates a maximum density of 10 units per acre for affordable units consistent with the adopted redevelopment plan). Commercial activities must contribute to the pedestrian-oriented public realm as described in this comprehensive plan and must meet the design concepts of this plan and the Land Development Code. Where commercial uses are permitted, residential uses are encouraged in upper floors. All “Marina” uses in Policy 4-B-7 are also allowed on parcels that were zoned for marinas prior to adoption of this plan. Nonresidential uses (including motels and churches) now comprise 58.9% of the land in this category, and this percentage shall not exceed 90%. The Pedestrian Commercial district shall be limited to 2.5 FAR.

Density: The maximum density is up to six (6) dwelling units per acre, except those developments previously vested with 10 units under the “platted overlay” may continue.

POLICY 4-B-7 FLU-1-B2f-8: “MARINA” - designed for prime sites that can provide access to the valuable waters around Fort Myers Beach. This category provides services for recreational boating, including related accessory uses provided that don’t displace recreational marina services. Cruise ships and similar uses that draw large amounts of vehicular traffic are not permitted in this category. Specific regulations will be placed in the Land Development Code. Existing Marinas are prime sites that can provide access to the valuable waters around Fort Myers Beach. Development within the Marina district shall continue to be limited to 1.5 FAR and 0 dwelling units per acre. This category shall prioritize services for limited industrial and recreational boating, including related accessory uses. The redevelopment of existing Marinas shall encourage a working waterfront with mixed-use development, inclusive of commercial and residential uses, provided the uses do not displace marina dependent and related services. Specific regulations will be placed in the Land Development Code.

POLICY 4-B-8 FLU-1-B2g-9: “RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE” - This designation provides for applied to public parks, schools, undevelopable portions of Bay Beach, and those parts of Gulf beaches that lie seaward of the 1978 coastal construction control line. Additional accretions of beach, whether by natural causes or through beach renourishment, will automatically be assigned to this category. No new residential development is permitted (although several existing buildings were legally constructed partially seaward of the 1978 control line). The maximum density of residential development here is 1 dwelling unit per 20 acres, with all dwelling units to be constructed outside



this category. Allowable uses are parks, schools, libraries, bathing beaches, beach access points, and related public facilities. Non-recreational uses (such as the elementary school) now comprise 2.7% of the land in this category; additional school sites and public buildings shall not increase this percentage beyond 6%.

POLICY 4-B-9 FLU-1-B2h-10: “WETLANDS” - A conservation district applied to all remaining wetlands. The maximum density of residential development here is 1 dwelling unit per 20 acres. Other allowable uses, if compatible with wetland functions, are passive recreation, walking access to tidal waters (boardwalks and docks), and restoration of degraded habitats. Prohibited activities include placement of fill material; dredging of boat basins and channels; placement of seawalls or other shoreline stabilization; and removal of native vegetation.

POLICY 4-B-10 FLU-1-B2i-11: “TIDAL WATER” - Applied to all saltwater canals and all waters surrounding Estero Island that lie within the municipal boundary (out 1,000 feet). No residential development is permitted. Allowable uses are water sports, boating, swimming, fishing, and similar uses. Also allowed are fixed structures for water access provided they comply with Land Development Code provisions designed to avoid impeding navigation and to minimize environmental damage and interference with aesthetic enjoyment of surrounding waters.

POLICY 4-B-11 FLU-1-B3-12: PLATTED OVERLAY - This is not a separate category on the Future Land Use Map, but is applied in addition to one of the eight categories listed above. Allowable land uses are the same as in the underlying category, but the maximum residential density is 10 units per acre. This density level applies in the Pedestrian Commercial category only for affordable units consistent with the adopted redevelopment plan; in other categories it applies only to recognize existing dwelling units that were built legally but which would be non-conforming under a density cap of 6 units per acre. The Mixed-Use, Boulevard, and Pedestrian Commercial future land use designations signify the areas within the town envisioned for the most intense development and land use activities. The intensity of development is determined by the recommended Floor Area Ratio (FAR) specified for each land use district.

POLICY 4-B-12 FLU-1-B4-13: LAND-USE TYPES DEFINED - For purposes of this comprehensive plan, land uses are divided into the following types:

- i. Residential uses include detached homes, accessory apartments (see Policy 4-C-7), home occupations (see Policy 4- B-3), mobile homes, assisted living facilities, apartments, live-work units, accessory dwelling units for commercial structures, and condominiums, provided that no dwellings are rented for periods shorter than one week.
- ii. Commercial uses involve the sale or rental of goods or services, including businesses such as art galleries, art/music/dance/theater studios, retail stores, offices (including medical and veterinary), urgent care facilities, restaurants/bars, service/craft/rental businesses, RV parks, and hotels/motels/resorts; churches and civic buildings are also included in this category.
- iii. Marina uses involve the use of prime waterfront sites to support a mix of uses, including residential, commercial, recreational boating, such as wet or dry boat storage, sales/rentals of boats and supplies, and boat repair.
- iv. Industrial uses such as manufacturing, seafood processing, and warehousing are not permitted in the Town of Fort Myers Beach, except for dry storage of boats at approved marinas.
- v. Recreational uses include beaches, parks, playgrounds, and similar uses.
- vi. Mixed uses means some combination of the above land-use types in a single building, or on a single site, or on different sites within a single category on the Future Land Use Map, depending on the context.



POLICY 4-B-13 FLU-1-B5-14: PUBLIC FACILITIES - Most public facilities such as parks, schools, libraries, fire stations, and government buildings will may continue be located within the “Recreation” category (but only non-habitable park structures are allowed seaward of the 1978 Coastal Construction Control Line), and all mixed-use, commercial, and boulevard land use categories. When no suitable sites can be found in the “Recreation” category, public facilities may also be located in “Mixed Residential,” “Boulevard,” and “Pedestrian Commercial” categories as may be allowed by the Land Development Code.

POLICY 4-B-14 FLU-1-B6-15: SCHOOLS - Public and private schools may be located in Mixed-Use, Boulevard, Medium Residential (along Estero Boulevard), Recreation and Open Space land use categories except for Wetlands and Recreation and Open Space (provided that the school is the following categories on the future land use map: Mixed Residential, Boulevard, Pedestrian Commercial “Mixed-Use”, or Recreation (but never not seaward of the 1978 coastal construction control line) and compliant with Flood and other regulations as established by the Land Development Codes. The historic Beach Elementary School shall be exempted. The maximum intensity of new or expanded schools shall not exceed a floor-area-ratio of 0.50 (the total floor area of the building divided by the buildable area of the site). Governmental agencies providing parks, libraries and community centers are strongly encouraged to locate them near schools.

OBJECTIVE 4-G FLU-1-C: APPLYING THE FUTURE LAND USE MAP - The Future Land Use Map shall be interpreted in accordance with the following policies.

POLICY 4-G-1 FLU-1-C-1: LEGAL EFFECT - The density limits and land-use restrictions described above for each category are legally binding immediately upon adoption of this comprehensive plan. During the preparation of the new Land Development Code that will fully implement this plan, conflicts may arise with previous regulations and zoning districts. Chapter 15 of this plan describes how such conflicts will be resolved.

POLICY 4-G-2 FLU-1-C-2: COMMERCIAL INTENSITY - The maximum intensity of allowable commercial development in any category may be controlled by height and Floor to Area Ratio (FAR) regulations (see Policy 4-G-4) or by other provisions of this plan and the Land Development Code. Standards in the Land Development Code will encourage more intense commercial uses on properties with frontage on Estero Boulevard and only in the “Pedestrian Commercial”, “Mixed-Use”, and “Boulevard” category categories. The Land Development Code shall specify maximum commercial intensities using floor-area-ratios (the total floor area of the building divided by the area of the site in the category allowing commercial uses). The Land Development Code may allow floor-area-ratios in the “Pedestrian Commercial” category as high as 2.5, and in other categories as high as 1.5;

POLICY 4-G-3 FLU-1-C-3: COMMERCIAL LOCATIONS - When evaluating proposals for new or expanded commercial uses in categories where they are permitted, the following principles shall apply:

- i. No rezonings for purely commercial uses shall be allowed in the “Low Density Residential” category.
- ii. Where new or expanded commercial uses are encouraged, as in the “Pedestrian Commercial” category; the Land Development Code shall specify its permitted form and extent and provide a streamlined approval process. Landowners may also use the planned development rezoning process to seek approval of other forms of commercial development in that category.
- iii. In the “Mixed Medium Residential” category, commercial uses are limited to lower impact uses such as offices, motels, and public uses, and must be sensitive to nearby residential uses, complement any adjoining commercial uses, contribute to the public realm as described in this



comprehensive plan, satisfy concurrency requirements for public facilities, and meet the design concepts of this plan and the Land Development Code. ~~Landowners may seek commercial rezoning only through the planned development process:~~

iv. In the “Boulevard” and “Mixed-Use” category, ~~where mixed-use development including some commercial and residential uses may be are permissible,~~ landowners may seek commercial rezoning only through the planned development process. Proposals must be sensitive to nearby residential uses, ~~complement any adjoining commercial uses,~~ contribute to the public realm as described in this comprehensive plan, and meet the design concepts of this plan and the Land Development Code.

v. ~~The following principles shall be considered by the town w~~ When evaluating requests for new commercial uses: , shopping and services that contribute to the pedestrian character of the town are strongly preferred over buildings designed primarily for vehicular access.

a. ~~Shopping and services for residents and overnight guests are strongly preferred over shopping and services that will attract additional day visitors during peak-season congestion.~~

b. ~~Shopping and services that contribute to the pedestrian character of the town are strongly preferred over buildings designed primarily for vehicular access.~~

vi. The neighborhood context of proposed commercial uses is of paramount importance. The sensitivity of a proposed commercial activity to nearby residential areas can be affected by:

a. ~~T~~he type of commercial activities (such as traffic to be generated, hours of operation, and noise);

b. its physical scale (such as the height, and bulk of proposed buildings); and

c. ~~T~~he orientation of buildings and parking). Commercial activities that will intrude into residential neighborhoods because of their type, scale, or orientation shall not be approved.

POLICY 4-C-4 FLU-1-C-4: BUILDING HEIGHTS - The Land Development Code shall limit the height of new buildings under most conditions to ~~two three~~ three stories or 30 feet above flood elevation except where otherwise noted in this Comprehensive Plan Land Use categories and to provide for workforce housing units protected by a minimum 30-year covenant, ~~(exceptions may include the buildback situations (see Policies 4-D-1 and 4-E-1), and different heights may be applied to officially designated redevelopment~~ Mixed-Use ~~areas such as Times Square, Red Coconut/Gulf View Colony, and Villa Santini Plaza).~~ The town may consider taller building heights in the mixed-use districts, if appropriate. Mixed-use district regulations shall include provisions to limit heights or provide for additional buffers when the development is located within 100 ft of detached single-family residences. In those few cases where individual parcels of land are so surrounded by tall buildings on lots that are contiguous ~~(or directly across a street)~~ that this ~~two three~~ three-story height limit would be unreasonable, landowners may seek relief through the planned development rezoning process, which requires a public hearing and notification of adjacent property owners. The town will approve, modify, or deny such requests after evaluating the level of unfairness that would result from the specific circumstances and the degree the specific proposal conforms with all aspects of this comprehensive plan, including its land-use and design policies, pedestrian orientation, and natural resource criteria. Particular attention would be paid to any permanent view corridors to Gulf or Bay waters that could be provided in exchange for allowing a building to be taller than two three stories, including the ground story. The ground floor for developments along the Gulf side of Estero Boulevard shall be encouraged to provide non-habitable uses that enhance the view corridors to the Gulf. In each case, the town shall balance the public benefits of the height limit against other public benefits that would result from the specific proposal.



POLICY 4-G-5 FLU-1-C-5: DENSITY - This plan establishes density levels as the maximum number of residential dwelling units allowed per acre of land (DU/acre). This acreage includes all residential land plus land within the development to be used for street and utility rights-of-way, recreation and open space, water management, and existing lakes that are entirely contained within the residential development. Commercial and other non-residential land shall not be included in this acreage; however, where mixed uses are permitted in a single building, residential densities will be computed without regard for commercial uses located on lower floors. When computing densities on existing subdivisions where lots are smaller than 15,000 square feet, one-half the width of adjoining streets and canals may be included in the acreage, and computed densities greater than 1.50 DU/acre may be rounded up to two dwelling units where multiple dwellings are permitted.

POLICY 4-G-6 FLU-1-C-6: MOTEL TRANSIENT DENSITIES - The Land Development Code shall provide for the usage of commercial, mixed-use, or transient residential FAR, and minimum hotel/motel unit sizes as the basis for calculating transient residential unit. specify equivalency factors between guest units (which include motel rooms) and full dwelling units. These factors may vary based on size of guest unit and on land-use categories on the Future Land Use Map. They may vary between a low of one guest unit and a high of three guest units for each dwelling unit. (These factors would apply only where guest units are already permitted.) In order to implement the 1999 Old San Carlos Boulevard / Crescent Street Master Plan that encourages mixed-use buildings with second and third floors over shops on Old San Carlos, hotel rooms may be substituted for otherwise allowable office space in that situation and location only without using the equivalency factors that apply everywhere else in the town. This alternate method for capping the number of hotel rooms applies only to properties between Fifth to First Streets that lie within 200 feet east and west of the centerline of Old San Carlos Boulevard. Hotel rooms built under this alternate method must have at least 250 square feet per rentable unit, and under no circumstances shall buildings they are located in exceed four stories (with the ground level counted as the first story).

POLICY 4-G-7 FLU-1-C-7: ACCESSORY DWELLING UNITS FOR RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES APARTMENTS - Accessory apartments are common provide an option for inclusive housing in at Fort Myers Beach and may be legal under several circumstances.: For the purposes of density calculation, accessory dwelling units shall be counted as 0.5 units.

- i. If the apartment is in a building that meets all requirements (including density limits in this plan); or
- ii. If the apartment was built prior to zoning in 1962 and has been in continuous use, it may qualify as a “legally non-conforming use” and can continue in use until taken out of service; or
- iii. If the apartment was built between 1962 and 1984 and complies with all requirements except the density cap of 6 dwelling units per acre and the floodplain elevation requirements (both of which took effect in 1984); or
- iv. If a single existing apartment is in an owner-occupied home, it is not considered an independent dwelling unit and may be allowed under certain conditions as specified in the Land Development Code.

POLICY FLU-1-C-8: AUXILIARY DWELLING UNITS FOR COMMERCIAL PROPERTIES - The Town shall evaluate and provide for Land Development Codes that provide auxiliary dwelling units in existing commercial structures, while maintaining commercial uses on the ground floor. The Town shall explore density transfer of existing transient units in properties designated Commercial, to facilitate the development of auxiliary dwelling units on properties with a land use designation of Commercial.



POLICY 4-C-8 FLU-1-C-9: DENSITY TRANSFERS - The Town Council may, at its discretion, permit the transfer of residential and transient (including hotel/motel) development rights from one parcel to another if the following conditions are met:

- i. ~~The~~ transfer is clearly in the public interest, as determined by the Town Council;
- ii. ~~the parcels affected by the transfer are in close proximity to each other;~~
- iii. ~~The~~ density of residential or hotel/motel units being transferred is based upon allowable density levels in the category from which the density is being transferred;
- iiiv. ~~The~~ transfer is approved through the planned development rezoning process; and
- iv. ~~Binding~~ permanent restrictions are placed on the property from which development rights have been transferred to guarantee the permanence of the transfer.

POLICY 4-C-9 FLU-1-C-10: UTILITY SERVICES - Utility services may be constructed in any category on the Future Land Use Map provided all development regulations are met including proper zoning.

POLICY 4-C-10 FLU-1-C-11: MAP AMENDMENTS - The intensity and density levels allowed by the Future Land Use Map may be increased through formal amendments to this plan if such increases are clearly in the public interest, not just in the private interest of a petitioning landowner. Petitions from landowners will be accepted annually. The Town Council may accept applications more frequently at its sole discretion.

POLICY 4-C-11: SANTOS ROAD - ~~The town is interested in considering land-use alternatives for parcels bordering Palermo Circle, Santos Road, and Estero Boulevard. Alternatives may include: Santos Road being added into the pedestrian zone; limited retail on the ground floor along Santos; with shared off-site parking; better buffering of existing parking and refuse areas; and a clear separation between all commercial uses and the residential areas on Palermo Circle. These options would be explored by a privately-funded but town-initiated planning process, with full involvement of affected and nearby landowners.~~

POLICY 4-C-12 FLU-1-C-12: WETLAND BUFFERS - Upland development shall maintain a 75-foot separation between wetlands and buildings or other impervious surfaces. This requirement shall not apply to platted lots, or to a previously approved development order to the extent it cannot reasonably be modified to comply with this requirement (~~see Chapter 15 of this plan for details~~).

OBJECTIVE 4-D FLU-1-D: POST-DISASTER REDEVELOPMENT - Provide for the organized and healthy reconstruction of Fort Myers Beach after a major storm by showcasing successful local examples of flood- proofing, by requiring redevelopment activities to meet stricter standards for flood- and wind-resistance, and by improving the current post-disaster buildback policy.

POLICY 4-D-1 FLU-1-D-1: POST-DISASTER BUILDBACK POLICY - Following a natural disaster, land may be redeveloped in accordance with the Future Land Use Map or, at the landowner's option, in accordance with the following "buildback policy" begun by Lee County in 1989. This policy applies only where development is damaged by fire, hurricane or other natural disaster, and allows the following options:

- i. Buildings/development damaged less than 50% of their replacement cost (measured at the time of damage can be rebuilt to their original condition, subject only to current building and life safety codes.
- ii. Buildings/development damaged more than 50% of their replacement cost can be rebuilt to their legally documented actual use, density, intensity, and size, ~~and style~~ provided the new construction complies with:



- a. Current federal requirements for elevation above flood level;
 - b. Any building code requirements for floodproofing;
 - c. Current building and life safety codes;
 - d. Coastal Construction Control Line requirements; and
 - e. Any required zoning or other development regulations (other than density or intensity), except where compliance with such regulations would preclude reconstruction otherwise intended by this policy.
- iii. Redevelopment of damaged property is not allowed for a more intense use or at a density higher than the original lawful density except where such higher density is permitted under this plan and the town's Land Development Codes. To further implement this policy, the town may establish blanket reductions in non-vital development regulations (e.g. buffering, open space, side setbacks, etc.) to minimize the need for individual variances or compliance determinations prior to reconstruction. The Land Development Code may also establish procedures to document actual uses, densities, and intensities, and compliance with regulations in effect at the time of construction, through such means as photographs, diagrams, plans, affidavits, permits, appraisals, tax records, etc.

POLICY FLU-1-D-2: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND RECOVERY: The Town shall regularly evaluate and implement studies of areas in need of incentives for development and recovery. The Town will implement as appropriate enhanced recovery mechanisms for Times Square and Santini Village, via the establishment of new Community Redevelopment Agency and Business Improvement District(s) as planning and economic development frameworks.

OBJECTIVE FLU-1-E: HAZARD MITIGATION - Mitigate the potential effects of storm surges, flooding, sea-level rise, coastal erosion, and hurricanes by easing regulations that impede the strengthening of existing buildings, by encouraging the relocation of vulnerable structures and facilities, and by allowing the upgrading or replacement of grandfathered structures without first awaiting their destruction in a storm.

POLICY 4-E-1 FLU-1-E-1: PRE-DISASTER BUILDBACK POLICY - Owners of existing developments that exceed the current density or height limits may also be permitted to replace for the same use it at up to the existing lawful density and intensity (~~up to the original square footage~~) prior to a natural disaster. Landowners may request this option through the planned development rezoning process, which requires a public hearing and notification of adjacent property owners. The town will approve, modify, or deny such a request based on the conformance of the specific proposal with this comprehensive plan, including its land-use and design policies, pedestrian orientation, and natural resource criteria. Such development shall be deemed legally non-conforming where applicable. The Town shall encourage ~~may require~~ that the new building be built to a higher resiliency standard as a condition to allow the non-conformity, including via adherence to applicable federal FEMA regulations and the Florida Building Code. The Town Council may approve additional enclosed square-footage only if an existing building is being elevated on property that allows commercial uses; dry-flood-proofed commercial space at ground level could be permitted in addition to the replacement of the pre-existing enclosed square footage.

POLICY 4-E-2 FLU-1-E-2: COASTAL SETBACKS - To protect against future storm damage and to maintain healthy beaches, the Town of Fort Myers Beach wishes to see all buildings relocated landward of the 1978 Coastal Construction Control Line. This line has been used on the Future Land Use Map to delineate the edge of land-use categories allowing urban development. Some existing buildings lie partially seaward of this line; when these buildings are reconstructed (either before



or after a natural disaster), they shall be rebuilt landward of this line. Exceptions to this rule may be permitted by the town only where it can be scientifically demonstrated that the 1978 line is irrelevant because of more recent changes to the natural shoreline. The town shall seek the opinion of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection in evaluating any requests for exceptions. (Exceptions must also comply with all state laws and regulations regarding coastal construction.)

POLICY 4-E-3 FLU-1-E-3: NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM - The town will continually maintain a floodplain ordinance that reduces future damage from flooding and qualifies landowners for the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). The town shall modify its current floodplain ordinance in accordance with this comprehensive plan through measures such as: means that encourage higher standards and strategies that will improve the Town's NFIP Community Rating System (CRS) rating and ensure availability of flood insurance and flood insurance premium discounts for residents.

- ~~i. not counting costs of strengthening buildings as "improvements" that are limited to 50% of a building's value; and~~
- ~~ii. minimizing the negative effects of the 50% rule on historic buildings; and~~
- ~~iii. adjusting the time period for calculating the 50% rule to encourage healthy redevelopment in this plan's "Pedestrian Commercial" "Mixed-Use" category; and~~
- ~~iv. providing reasonable alternatives for determining the value of older buildings.~~

POLICY 4-E-3 FLU-1-E-3: FLOODPROOFING OF COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS - Where commercial development is allowed by this comprehensive plan, full-height dry floodproofing is the most desirable alternative for providing ground-level commercial space in pedestrian areas.

POLICY 4-E-5: COASTAL BUILDING REGULATIONS - ~~The town shall request state approval of an island-wide (rather than parcel-by-parcel) approach to limiting obstructions below flood elevation if this change is needed to avoid the loss of pedestrian activity near Times Square.~~

POLICY FLU-1-E4: GROUND FLOOR AND FLOOR AREA RATIO - The Town shall regularly evaluate and adopt into its Land Development Code provisions for the exclusion of ground floors from floor area ratio calculations where the building's ground floor is designed solely as non-habitable space, including parking and storage, or where appropriate to encourage resilient building design.

POLICY FLU-1-E5: RESILIENCY IN HEIGHT AND FREEBOARD ORDINANCE - The Town shall regularly evaluate and adopt into its Land Development Code provisions that allow for the building height to be calculated from above the ground floor when the building is designed for resiliency, with non-habitable space on the ground floor.

POLICY FLU-1-E6: VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT - The town shall implement any recommendations, as appropriate, resulting from its findings in its Vulnerability Assessment. The Vulnerability Assessment shall be updated by the town as needed.

OBJECTIVE 4-F FLU-1-F: REDEVELOPMENT - Take positive steps to redevelop areas that are reaching obsolescence or beginning to show blight by designing and implementing public improvements near Times Square to spur private redevelopment there, by supporting the conversion of the Villa Santini Plaza into a pedestrian precinct, by providing an opportunity for landowners to replace vulnerable mobile homes and recreational vehicles with permanent structures in the Gulfview Colony/Red Coconut area, and the proposed Arts and Theater district, and by providing building code relief for historic buildings.



POLICY 4-F-1 FLU-1-F-1: HISTORIC BUILDINGS - The protection of historic buildings is of great importance to the town, and shall be aided by implementing the policies set forth in other elements of this comprehensive plan.

POLICY 4-F-2 FLU-1-F-2: SPECIFIC REDEVELOPMENT PLANS - This comprehensive plan anticipates substantial redevelopment over the coming years. Specific concepts have been developed for three specific areas: the Gulfview Colony/Red Coconut Village, and Santini Village.

i. ~~Times Square – The Estero Island CRA’s plan for the Times Square area is reflected in this plan, bounded by the “Pedestrian Commercial” category at Times Square. Implementation of that plan will be on-going as discussed through this comprehensive plan and in accordance with the specific regulations provided in the Land Development Code. The Times Square redevelopment plan is described in Community Design Policies 3-D-1 through 3-D-13.~~

ii. ~~Villa Santini Plaza – This area is shown as “Pedestrian Commercial” the Future Land Use Map. Existing land uses may continue. If landowners wish to redevelop part or all of this property, the following concepts shall apply:~~

~~a. buildings are brought closer to the street;~~

~~b. drainage has been placed underground to make room for wide sidewalks, street trees, and some on-street parking (once passive traffic calming activities have reduced speeding on Estero Boulevard);~~

~~c. the shopping center is reconfigured with a central green plaza and better ties to the marina to the rear; and~~

~~d. off-street loading areas are provided for delivery vehicles; This redevelopment plan can only be accomplished through a public-private partnership as described in Community Design Policies 3-C-1 and 3-C-2.~~

~~This area is shown as “Mixed Residential” and “Boulevard” the Future Land Use Map. If landowners wish to redevelop part or all of this property, the following concepts are encouraged, and shall form the basis for a pre- approved redevelopment option in the Land Development Code:~~

~~a. Ttraditional neighborhood design emphasizing porches on the front; primary entrances visible from the street; and cars to the rear (except for on-street parking);~~

~~b. Ddetached houses or cottages (with optional accessory apartments) abutting existing single-family homes;~~

~~c. Llow-rise townhouses or apartments allowed toward the center;~~

~~d. Wwalkable narrow streets with shade trees that double as view corridor to the Preserve and Gulf;~~

~~e. Ssubstantial open space with views to be maintained from Estero Boulevard to the Gulf;~~

~~f. Mmixed commercial and residential uses along the Bay side of Estero Boulevard;~~

~~g. Qquiet internal street connections to the north and south;~~

~~h. Ssignificantly reduced density from the existing level of 27 RV/mobile homes per acre at the Red Coconut to a maximum level of 15 dwelling units per acre;~~

~~i. Pprovision for a publicly acquired access point to the Matanzas Pass Preserve. This redevelopment plan is described in Community Design Policies 3-A-5 and 3-A- 6.~~

~~j. Floor area ratios shall not exceed 1.5.~~

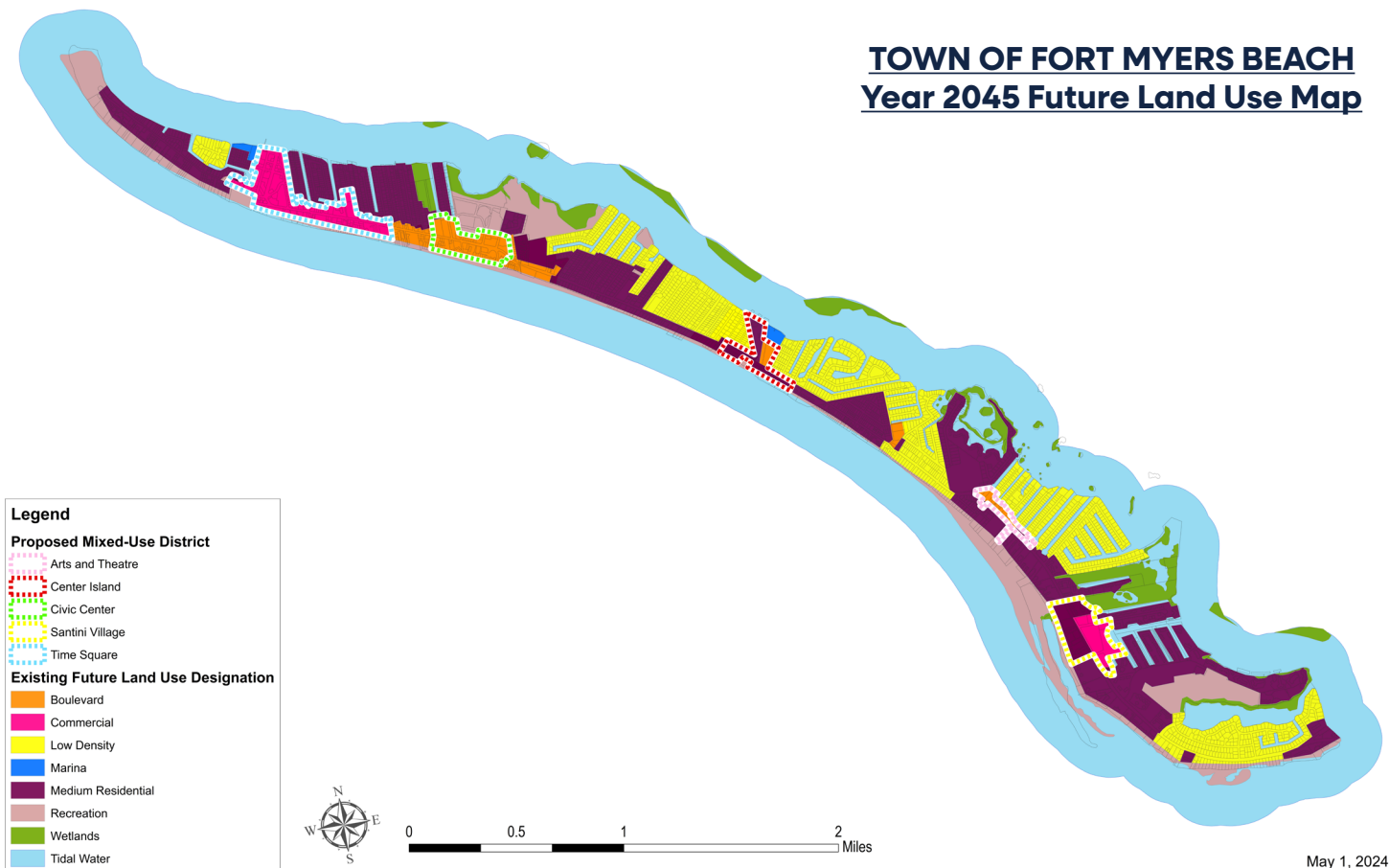
~~k. Residential density shall allow up to 15 dwelling units per acre for redevelopment in accordance with this section.~~



Different redevelopment concepts that are consistent with this comprehensive plan may also be proposed for any of these areas through the planned development rezoning process.

POLICY FLU-1-F-3 WORKFORCE HOUSING DENSITY: The Town shall evaluate the implementation of a workforce housing policy to allow additional density and building heights in the mixed-use areas. To qualify, developers shall provide a minimum of 10% of workforce housing as covenanted for a minimum of 30 years unless otherwise noted in the Land Use Designations in this Comprehensive Plan. Additional building height can be achieved as an incentive for providing workforce housing on or nearby off island. The Town's Land Development Code provides the guidelines for additional building height and density.

TOWN OF FORT MYERS BEACH Year 2045 Future Land Use Map



May 1, 2024



GOAL CD-1: GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT - Accommodate growth while preserving the island's beachfront character by providing an alternative growth pattern that addresses traffic congestion, promotes a compatible mix of uses and encourages a variety of housing types and affordability to rejuvenate the existing fabric of the community and community character.

OBJECTIVE CD-1-A: NEIGHBORHOOD SERVING COMMERCIAL CORES - Identify mixed-use commercial districts throughout the island that provide neighborhood serving commercial uses and lifestyle retail around clusters of residential uses.

POLICY CD-1-A-1: MIX OF USES - Provide a complementary mix of land uses with design characteristics that provide:

- i. Uses that meet the daily needs of residents
- ii. A variety of affordable housing types

POLICY CD-1-A-2: CREATE THE TIMES SQUARE MIXED-USE DISTRICT - The Times Square Mixed-Use District is the main tourist/entertainment district which will accommodate the most growth in terms of height and density with a predominance of residential uses on the east side of Estero Boulevard and hotel lodging and commercial uses on the west side. It is the main gateway to the island. Entertainment and tourist supporting commercial uses should be clustered here to reduce the need to drive throughout the island and to encourage walking.

POLICY CD-1-A-3: CREATE THE CIVIC CENTER MIXED-USE DISTRICT - Civic Center Mixed-Use District is a commercial district with residential on the east side of Estero Boulevard and commercial on the west. A strong mixed-use core is envisioned on the east side of Estero Boulevard as a redevelopment site. The core will support a mix of housing options and neighborhood serving retail uses for the immediate residential cluster.

POLICY CD-1-A-4: CREATE THE CENTER ISLAND MIXED-USE DISTRICT - The Center Island Mixed-Use District will support the nearby marina uses and provide lifestyle retail uses like cafes with outdoor dining and neighborhood serving retail for the surrounding residential neighborhood.



POLICY CD-1-A-5: CREATE THE THEATRE & ARTS MIXED-USE DISTRICT- The Theatre & Arts Mixed-Use District is envisioned with arts and theatre related uses like cafes, art galleries, art studios, and restaurants. Existing views to the water here should be preserved.

POLICY CD-1-A-6: CREATE THE SANTINI VILLAGE MIXED-USE DISTRICT - Santini Village Mixed-Use District is the tallest and most dense district on the island with tourist supporting uses and commercial. It is also envisioned as a redevelopment opportunity with more entertainment, tourist and neighborhood commercial uses as the southern gateway to the island.

OBJECTIVE CD-1-B: TRANSITION ZONES AND CONSERVATION DISTRICTS - Create language to prevent commercial intrusion into the residential neighborhoods by providing transitions from commercial to residential uses. Use Conservation Districts to maintain the scale, massing and character of Fort Myers Beach and new construction.

POLICY CD-1-B-1: TRANSITION ZONES - New development on properties abutting single family homes and one and two story multi-family homes shall provide a building profile that matches the height of the abutting property as prescribed in the land development codes, to create an incremental transition in height.

POLICY CD-1-B-2: CREATE CONSERVATION DISTRICTS - Develop specific standards for the Conservation District. Use Conservation Districts to maintain the scale, massing and character of Fort Myers Beach and new construction. New buildings and additions should match the height and bulk of existing building form, with architectural treatments and building articulation that are consistent with the existing building vernacular.

OBJECTIVE CD-1-C: Workforce Housing Through Density and Height Bonus.

POLICY CD-1-C-1: Each of the mixed-use districts may provide for additional bonus height for developments that provide a workforce housing component.

POLICY CD-1-C-2: The Town shall determine the minimum requirements for the workforce housing component as a policy in the land development regulations.

OBJECTIVE CD-1-D: MASTER PLANNED DEVELOPMENT - Provide mechanisms to incentivize master planning large parcels and land assemblies for mixed-use development.

POLICY CD-1-D-1: The Town may consider and approve requests for Master Planned Developments. Assembled parcels that exceed four (4) acres can be master planned such that the applicant can propose new building scale, massing and uses from the underlying zoning.

POLICY CD-1-D-2: Assembled parcels that exceed seven (7) acres must have a workforce housing and housing component to enjoy the benefits of changing the underlying zoning to be determined by the Town. The Town may consider incentive bonuses to be defined for each Master Planned Development. Such public benefits packages are optional and shall be clearly defined in the Land Development Regulations.

POLICY CD-1-D-3: Assembled parcels that exceed seven (7) acres must provide a master plan for approval by the Town at a public hearing. The Town shall consider measures in its Land Development Code that provides for incentives for workforce housing as part of a clearly defined public benefits package for Master Planned Developments.



OBJECTIVE CD-1-E: PRESERVING BUILDING SCALE BY ADAPTIVE REUSE OF EXISTING BUILDING STOCK

- Encourage conversions from vacation rentals and motels to condominiums to provide affordable housing options for Fort Myers Beach's workforce.

POLICY CD-1-E-1: ADAPTIVE REUSE - Encourage the adaptive reuse of existing structures located within mixed-use and commercial land use designations, particularly those that were originally established as motels or vacation rentals are over 50 years old, by providing incentives, such as relief in the Land Development Regulations, grants to facilitate retrofitting or rehabilitation, etc.

POLICY CD-1-E-2: INCENTIVES FOR ADAPTIVE REUSE - Develop an incentives package in the Land Development Regulations that encourage adaptive reuse of motels and vacation rentals to convert to condominiums to maintain the historic character and development pattern over time.

OBJECTIVE CD-1-F: STREET FRONTAGES AND PARKING LOTS - Develop policies to limit parking lots fronting main streets in the Land Development Regulations.

POLICY CD-1-F-1: RESTRICTING PARKING AS A PRIMARY USE ON ESTERO BOULEVARD - Parking lots shall not be encouraged as a primary use on Estero Boulevard.

POLICY CD-1-F-2: RESTRICTING PARKING FRONTAGE LENGTH ON ESTERO BOULEVARD - Parking lot frontages shall ideally be limited in size to one fourth the lot width on Estero Boulevard.

POLICY CD-1-F-3: PARKING STANDARDS FOR NEW DEVELOPMENT IN MIXED-USE COMMERCIAL DISTRICTS - Within the Mixed-Use Commercial Districts, new development shall locate and design off-street parking areas in a manner that does not detract from the character by providing standards in the Land Development Regulations, such as locating parking to rear of buildings, limiting curb cuts, and landscaping and façade requirements.

POLICY CD-1-F-4: PARKING STANDARDS IN TIMES SQUARE - Improve the current parking situation near Times Square through the means outlined in the Transportation Element of this plan.

POLICY CD-1-F-5: PARKING SUPPLY - Evaluate parking supply needs by conducting a parking supply study and determine parking solutions including shared parking, structured parking that meets the character of the Island and parking management practices like centralized parking and offsite parking for employees.

For the purposes of this policy, parking supply shall mean vehicular, bicycle, and any future micromobility options.

OBJECTIVE CD-1-G: DESIGN STANDARDS FOR PRESERVING BEACHFRONT CHARACTER - Develop building design standards to preserve and enhance the existing beachfront character.

POLICY CD-1-G-1: NEIGHBORHOODS AND MIXED-USE DISTRICTS - Maintain design standards in the Land Development Regulations for neighborhoods and districts which protect and enhance their unique character through building setbacks, building footprint, massing and scale. These can be enhanced through Conservation District language to protect the Fort Myers Beach building vernacular and encourage adaptive reuse for motels and vacation rentals.

POLICY CD-1-G-2: ESTERO BOULEVARD - Continue to make improvements to Estero Boulevard in terms of the eclectic character of building design with incentives in the Land Development Regulations.



POLICY CD-1-G-3: GUIDELINES FOR BUILDING COMPATIBILITY WITH FLOOD REGULATIONS - Encourage or require compatible means of meeting the mandatory flood elevation requirements (for example, using dry-floodproofing techniques, having maximum allowable floor to ceiling height that match adjacent structures especially for buildings that need to be elevated at grade level and using gradual inclines for grade changes on commercial properties.

GOAL CD-2: COMMUNITY CHARACTER OF PUBLIC AND OPEN SPACES - Improve the physical appearance of the island's public spaces, paths, streets and streetscape to achieve a unified small town character which balances the needs of both residents and tourists.

OBJECTIVE CD-2-A: PUBLIC AND OPEN SPACES AND VIEWS TO THE WATER - Use urban design standards to reinforce walkable streets, public and private spaces and a sense of community through the public realm.

POLICY CD-2-A-2: OPEN SPACE AND LAND USE - Beautify public spaces throughout the island and preserve and protect natural areas that serve and benefit the public.

POLICY CD-2-A-3: VIEW CORRIDORS - Maintain existing public rights-of-way that provide view corridors to water bodies and, whenever possible, provide features such as benches, landscaping, and trash receptacles to enhance the areas as pocket parks, and develop a process and criteria for identifying specific scenic resources, view corridors, and vistas that should be preserved or enhanced as new development and redevelopment occurs.

POLICY CD-2-A-4: ENTRY GATEWAYS - Create Estero Boulevard gateways or entry features at the south end near Big Carlos Pass and near the touchdown of the Matanzas Pass bridge.

POLICY CD-2-A-5: VACANT LOTS - The Town shall regularly evaluate and include into its Code of Ordinances a Vacant Lots ordinance that maintains standards for programs and processes that will encourage proper maintenance and appearance of vacant lots. The town shall adequately fund any associated enforcement efforts and shall regularly evaluate incentive programs to encourage neighborhood upkeep.

OBJECTIVE CD-2-B: STREETSCAPE - Enhance the existing paths and sidewalks and streetscape to foster a more appealing environment for walking and biking.

POLICY CD-2-B-1: COMMERCIAL STREETSCAPE - Improve the appearance of the town throughout by developing land development regulations for landscaping public property and rights-of-way with native vegetation and ensuring sidewalks are six (6) feet wide in residential zones and up to twelve (12) feet wide in mixed-use commercial districts.

POLICY CD-2-B-2: LANDSCAPE FEATURES - Identify potential mechanisms to implement and maintain special amenities such as entry features, monuments, or other special landscape projects through a formal landscape planning process.

POLICY CD-2-B-3: STREET CROSSINGS - Improve pedestrian crossings; including push button (demand) lights; textured materials to emphasize crossings to drivers; and covered seating areas and other "oasis" amenities at trolley stops and beach accesses that are consistent with the Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices and the Florida Design Manual as applicable.



POLICY CD-2-B-4: RESIDENTIAL STREETSCAPE - Develop a landscape plan in the Land Development Regulations for residential streets. The plan should consider regularly spaced street trees in public rights-of-way on residential streets which provide adequate shade, color and interest, are low maintenance, with root systems that will not damage sidewalks, accommodate wildlife, are non-invasive.

POLICY CD-2-B-5: RESIDENTIAL STREET PROGRAM -The town should develop a residential streets program to implement the landscape plan. The Program can provide:

- i. Assistance in developing a workable approach on a street-by-street basis, consistent with the island-wide concept.
- ii. Volunteer local arborists to provide specific advice and technical assistance.
- iii. Financial assistance for planting trees.
- iv. A booklet describing the characteristics of desirable street trees for Fort Myers Beach.
- v. A guidebook for tree planting, irrigation, and pruning methods.
- vi. A plan for short- and long-term maintenance of planted areas and street trees.

GOAL CD-3: CONNECTIVITY AND MOBILITY TO REDUCE TRAFFIC IMPACTS - Plan for interconnected streets and pedestrian paths that connect to mixed-use commercial districts to enhance mobility options.

OBJECTIVE CD-3-A: COMPLETE STREETS AND BICYCLE INFRASTRUCTURE - Provide for comfortable streets, street grid and interconnected paths that includes designated spaces for walking, biking, cars and transit that seamlessly connect to mixed-use commercial districts.

POLICY CD-3-A-1: INTERCONNECTED PATHS - Create an additional interconnected system of pedestrian and bicycle pathways throughout the island to improve mobility and promote community interaction that connects to mixed-use commercial districts behind Estero Boulevard.

POLICY CD-3-A-2: STREET CONNECTIVITY - Preserve, enhance, and provide connectivity for the downtown character and neighborhoods while fostering complete streets initiatives. Maintain and enhance the tightly gridded, interconnected street network that facilitates the dispersal of traffic and contributes to the character of Fort Myers Beach.

POLICY CD-3-A-3 MAINTAIN PEDESTRIAN CIRCULATION - Maintain the pedestrian circulation plan:

- i. Bayside sidewalk and streetscape improvements for Estero Boulevard within the Core area with underground utilities and improved sidewalks.
- ii. Sidewalks (5' wide minimum sidewalk) along all streets in the Core Area.
- iii. Bike path along Estero Boulevard utilizing Crescent Street to Third Street across to Old San Carlos and then connecting back to Estero Boulevard and north to Bowditch Point.
- iv. Old San Carlos as a pedestrian spine linking Times Square and the marina by implementing public sidewalks and major crosswalks designed to work in conjunction with arcades or plazas located on private property.
- v. A new public pedestrian plaza at the east of Old San Carlos.
- vi. New on-street parking and side- walk on the south side of Crescent Street.
- vii. Third and Fourth Streets with on-street parking and sidewalks on both sides of the street.
- viii. Proposed improvements with the pedestrian, parking, mass transit, and traffic circulation concepts in the Transportation Element of this plan.



GOAL 1 ~~To continually improve the appearance and functioning of transportation corridors, commercial areas, and links to natural and recreational areas.~~

OBJECTIVE 1-A ESTERO BOULEVARD ~~Improve the functioning and appearance of Estero Boulevard as the premier public space and primary circulation route of Fort Myers Beach.~~

POLICY 1-A-1 ~~Changes along Estero Boulevard should improve on the characteristics that make it a boulevard in character and not just in name: safe and interesting to walk along, impressive landscaping, and scaled to people rather than high-speed traffic.~~

POLICY 1-A-2 ~~The town should develop a sidewalk and streetscape plan for all of Estero Boulevard that builds on the design theme of the 1997 improvements from Times Square and to the Lani Kai. This plan should recreate the historic “Avenue of Palms” concept by adding appropriate palm trees such as coconuts on both sides between the sidewalk and new curbs. This plan should also address related needs such as parking and trolley pull-offs, and should be sufficiently detailed to estimate costs and suggest potential phases of construction. Priorities should include positive impacts on:~~

- ~~i. stimulating revitalization consistent with the town’s overall vision in this comprehensive plan~~
- ~~ii. completing pedestrian and bike path linkages from one end of the island to the other;~~
- ~~iii. managing traffic flow;~~
- ~~iv. improving pedestrian crossings; including push button (demand) lights; textured materials to emphasize crossings to drivers; and covered seating areas and other “oasis” amenities at trolley stops and beach accesses;~~
- ~~v. lowering construction and maintenance costs from the original design;~~
- ~~vi. correcting drainage problems;~~
- ~~vii. coordinating with utility undergrounding; and~~
- ~~viii. working within new and available sources of funds.~~

~~After completing that plan, the town shall establish a phased schedule of capital improvements to complete this network.~~

POLICY 1-A-3 ~~In commercial and mixed-use areas, the town shall identify specific portions of Estero Boulevard where changes in land development regulations could work towards a more coherent “framing” of the Boulevard. New regulations should accomplish the following design goals over time through infill and redevelopment:~~

- ~~i. bringing buildings closer to the side-walk;~~
- ~~ii. encouraging or requiring compatible means of meeting the mandatory flood elevation requirements (for example; using dry-floodproofing techniques, or designs such as the old hardware store which is built close to the street with outside steps up, but with added steps up inside to reach the flood elevation);~~
- ~~iii. locating most parking to the rear of buildings, limiting curb cuts, and promoting shared parking areas;~~
- ~~iv. facilitating pedestrian and bicycle access and contributing to the interconnectedness of the circulation system;~~
- ~~v. adopting design guidelines that encourage architecture and urbanism along Estero Boulevard that contributes to the human scale and “beach cottage character” (such as the Huston Studio or Hussey tourist information center).~~



OBJECTIVE 1-B OTHER PUBLIC SPACES – Beautify public spaces throughout the island.

POLICY 1-B-1 Create Estero Boulevard gateways or entry features at the south end near Big Carlos Pass and near the touchdown of the Matanzas Pass bridge.

POLICY 1-B-2 Improve the appearance of the town throughout by landscaping public property and rights-of-way with native vegetation.

POLICY 1-B-3 Identify potential mechanisms to implement and maintain special amenities such as entry features, monuments, or other special landscape projects.

POLICY 1-B-4 Monitor the effectiveness of the county's program for removing trash and debris from the beachfront and Bay accesses.

POLICY 1-B-5 Develop a program for placing utilities underground that addresses both public and private sector development.

POLICY 1-B-6 Conduct regular and adequate street cleaning (sweeping or vacuuming) throughout the town. Evaluate effective methods to keep streets and drainage systems clean despite the abundance of blown sand and the absence of curbs.

GOAL 2 To upgrade residential neighborhoods throughout Estero Island.

OBJECTIVE 2-A HIDDEN PATHS – Create an additional interconnected system of pedestrian and bicycle pathways throughout the island to improve mobility and promote community interaction.

POLICY 2-A-1 The town should encourage a community-sponsored program to identify and build a system of existing and potential "hidden paths" parallel to but behind Estero Boulevard. A local foundation or community land trust could identify and acquire existing vacant lots or easements to gradually complete the network. These parcels could be transferred back to the town for long-term maintenance.

POLICY 2-A-2 The town shall adopt changes to the land development regulations to allow small portions of existing lots to become a part of the hidden-path network without diminishing future uses of those lots.

POLICY 2-A-3 The town shall ensure coordination between efforts to develop this hidden-path network and its new streetscape plan for Estero Boulevard.

OBJECTIVE 2-B SIDE STREETS – Encourage residents to achieve a higher ambition for their residential streets, improving their walkability, comfort, beauty, interconnectedness, and safety.

POLICY 2-B-1 The town strongly supports the planting of regularly spaced street trees in public rights-of-way on residential streets. The selection of specific trees shall be guided by public input and the following criteria:

- i. amount of shade provided, especially during the summer months;
- ii. the amount of water and other regular maintenance that will be required (such as types of leaves, fronds, and fruit);
- iii. potential damage from extensive root systems or other characteristics of specific trees;
- iv. variety and beauty, including flowering characteristics;



- v. the potential for wildlife utilization;
- vi. a strong preference for native trees such as live oak, gumbo limbo, sea grape, cabbage palm, mastic, Jamaica dog-wood, mahogany, black olive, strangler fig, pigeon plum, and buttonwood; and
- vii. a prohibition on the use of invasive trees such as Australian pine, Brazilian pepper, melaleuca, and Java plum.

POLICY 2-B-2 The town should develop a residential streets program that provides guidelines and technical assistance to neighborhoods that wish to improve their public spaces as civic projects. The program could include the following elements:

- i. assistance in developing a workable approach on a street-by-street basis, consistent with the island-wide concept;
- ii. volunteer local arborists to provide specific advice and technical assistance;
- iii. assistance in preparing a planting plan for street trees;
- iv. financial assistance for planting street trees;
- v. a booklet describing the characteristics of desirable street trees for Fort Myers Beach;
- vi. a guidebook for tree planting, irrigation, and pruning methods;
- vii. a plan for short- and long-term maintenance of planted areas and street trees;
- viii. a current list of contact persons and a description of the process for requesting street repairs and maintenance and for reporting code violations; and
- ix. information on how to form a street lighting district.

GOAL 3 To revitalize and improve specific transitional neighborhoods.

OBJECTIVE 3-A HEART OF THE ISLAND – Redevelop the School/Library/Bay Oaks area as the new “heart of the island.”

POLICY 3-A-1 — The complex of civic activities in the Bay Oaks area is a key community asset. Its access and significance would be enhanced by creating a main entryway; School Street could become a walkable palm-lined street of restored and infill cottages that announce the entry to this center of civic activity.

POLICY 3-A-2 A prominent civic structure benefits the community most when its location serves the public conveniently and when its design helps shape the surrounding public spaces and provides a new and symbolic vista from other public places.

POLICY 3-A-3 If the town ever decides to build a Town Hall rather than renting office space, a new building, even if modest in size, should help complete a center of public activity and should be visually prominent as a showcase of urban design.

POLICY 3-A-4 A “heart of the island” plan should be prepared to coordinate the public and private actions needed to fully implement this concept, including identifying the sequence of actions, responsibilities for implementation, and potential funding sources. Initial actions should include:

- i. develop a design concept consistent with the new streetscape plan for Estero Boulevard, identifying approximate costs, potential funding sources, and suggested phasing;



- ii. refine regulations that would allow a compatible mix of uses such as residential, live-work spaces such as studios or galleries, and small-scale specialty retail uses consistent with the historic theme, including eased setback and parking regulations to accommodate the unique needs of renovations of existing and move-on cottages; and
- iii. prepare architectural guidelines for cottage renovations and for infill development.

POLICY 3-A-5 Provide in the new Land Development Code a pre-approved option for the future redevelopment of the Red Coconut/Gulfview Colony properties consistent with the town's vision of traditional neighborhoods – neighborhoods that recreate a small-town feel; which are pedestrian and bicycle friendly with an internal circulation system that makes it possible to walk or bicycle to schools and services without always using Estero Boulevard; which retain the psychological connection and views to both the Bay and the beach; and which offer a variety of housing types and opportunity for mixed uses.

POLICY 3-A-6 In accordance with Policies 4-E-1 and 4-F-2 of the Future Land Use Element, evaluate any alternative redevelopment concepts for any portion of the Gulfview Colony/Red Coconut properties as to the following design principles:

- i. retains and/or creates water views through street layout, site design, and architectural design;
- ii. provides a variety of housing types rather than uniformity;
- iii. locates the more durable housing types and mix of uses along the Bay side of Estero Boulevard;
- iv. new streets create a highly connected network which includes mid-block paths or alleys;
- v. streets have sidewalks and street trees;
- vi. local streets are interconnected from Donora and Shell Mound through to the north.

OBJECTIVE 3-B NEAR-TOWN NEIGHBORHOODS – Revitalize older residential areas using traditional neighborhood techniques for renovations and infill.

POLICY 3-B-1 The town shall prepare and adopt land development regulations to apply to the older “near-town neighborhoods” that will encourage renovations and compatible infill development, using the following types of techniques:

- i. modifying lot size, setback, and parking requirements where the current regulations hinder redevelopment;
- ii. adding design guidelines to encourage front porches, decks, and other elements from the cottage design tradition to help frame public spaces and define private areas;
- iii. modifying permitted uses to accommodate quiet home offices and possibly other mixed uses;
- iv. modifying current limitations on the number of guests and/or length of stays to protect residential areas from excessive intrusion by poorly regulated short-term rentals.

OBJECTIVE 3-C SANTINI “MAIN STREET” – Redevelop the Villa Santini Plaza and its environs as a “Main Street” town center for the south end of the island.

POLICY 3-C-1 — The town wishes to convert, over time, the existing Villa Santini Plaza and surrounding land from its current configuration of auto-oriented commercial uses. The desired plan would create a new “Main Street” shopping and civic center to serve residents of the south end of Estero Island and visitors to the state park on Black Island and Lovers Key (see Policy 4-F-2(ii) of the Future Land Use Element). To accomplish this goal, the town wishes to structure a public/private partner-ship agreement that provides for the following:



- i. outlines the public improvements necessary to implement the concept, and identifies the agencies and entities involved and their respective roles;
- ii. provides the town's design criteria to guide the preparation of the development plan by the property owners; and
- iii. sets forth the process for the partnership, identifies responsibilities, areas of commitment, timing and process, order of magnitude costs, fiscal impacts/benefits, and any reimbursements.

POLICY 3-C-2 The town shall adopt new development regulations for this area to bring about the desired redevelopment pattern in the Villa Santini area. Along the nearby section of Estero Boulevard, buildings being constructed or renovated shall extend closer to the street and provide front access to pedestrians and on-street parking. Internal site layouts shall be reconfigured to accommodate a central green/plaza area for overflow parking and a trolley transfer point generally consistent with the 1997 design concept prepared by Dover, Kohl & Partners.

OBJECTIVE 3-D TIMES SQUARE – Stimulate the revitalization of the downtown core area (near Times Square) as the nucleus of commercial and tourist activities:

POLICY 3-D-1 The town shall create a Downtown Redevelopment Agency to assist the Main Street program in revitalizing downtown as a lively, inviting, comfortable, and safe public environment.

POLICY 3-D-2 Downtown revitalization shall be based on the concepts in the Core Area Master Plan prepared for the Estero Island CRA Committee in 1993-94, as refined during the continuing implementation of that plan. Those concepts are summarized in the following policies:

POLICY 3-D-3 Continue with sidewalk improvements:

- i. Standard sidewalk widths should be provided by the public sector and/or private developers in each development project as it is implemented. Consider a program for private sidewalk reservation through dedication or easement, particularly along Old San Carlos.
- ii. Use selected materials in public rights-of-way and private property improvements adjacent to sidewalks, such as in plazas or building setbacks.
- iii. Provide special design treatment (e.g. continuation of sidewalk paving patterns) at major intersections of the primary pedestrian streets to create a visual link and distinguish the pedestrian surface from the vehicular right-of-way.

POLICY 3-D-4 Implement the pedestrian circulation plan:

- i. Complete the Bay-side sidewalk and streetscape improvements for Estero Boulevard within the Core area with underground utilities and improved sidewalks.
- ii. Construct sidewalks (5' wide minimum sidewalk) along all streets in the Core Area.
- iii. Provide a bike path along Estero Boulevard utilizing Crescent Street to Third Street across to Old San Carlos and then connecting back to Estero Boulevard and north to Bowditch Point.
- iv. Promote the function of Old San Carlos as a pedestrian spine linking Times Square and the marina by implementing public sidewalks and major crosswalks designed to work in conjunction with arcades or plazas located on private property.
- v. Work with the private sector to establish a site for a new public pedestrian plaza at the east of Old San Carlos.
- vi. Provide new on-street parking and side-walk on the south side of Crescent Street.
- vii. Reconfigure Third and Fourth Streets with on-street parking and sidewalks on both sides of the street.



viii. Coordinate all proposed improvements with the pedestrian, parking, mass transit, and traffic circulation concepts in the Transportation Element of this plan.

POLICY 3-D-5 Improve the current parking situation near Times Square through the means outlined in the Transportation Element of this plan. Suggestions from the Core Area Master Plan include:

- i. Implement parking management practices that create a positive experience for visitors and business operations.
- ii. Encourage the private sector to build and operate expanded parking areas, using public sector assistance if needed for land assembly and regulatory relief.
- iii. Expand the supply of shared on-street parking with 165 new parallel and angled spaces.
- iv. If the new supply of parking will be inadequate and a parking garage must be built, appropriate locations would be to the rear of new storefronts facing Old San Carlos.

POLICY 3-D-6 Design and construct streetscape improvements for Old San Carlos, Crescent Street, Center Street, and First through Fifth Street. These include on-street parking, new side-walks, buried utilities, and landscaping.

POLICY 3-D-7 Continue to implement the stormwater management plan (an exfiltration system that integrates the existing storm sewer pipe system and inlets with exfiltration trenches under Estero Boulevard). Similar systems can be installed for private development under parking lots or open space.

POLICY 3-D-8 Provide technical assistance regarding dry flood proofing methods and design to individuals seeking to develop or improve their properties.

POLICY 3-D-9 Enhance Lynn Hall Park with continuing beach renourishment, beach volleyball areas, and possibly a performance pavilion (in the southeast corner of the park next to Times Square). Include a pedestrian path linking the beach and the northern portion of Estero Boulevard.



GOAL 12 HOU-1: To keep a wide variety of housing types available to people at all stages of their lives. Encourage the availability of attainable housing options within Fort Myers Beach for residents of all ages.

OBJECTIVE 12-A HOU-1-A: GENERAL HOUSING STRATEGIES - ~~Maintain or increase 1997 federal/state funding levels for affordable housing; m~~ Maintain an adequate supply of land to meet forecasted housing needs; and maintain current levels of on-island housing suitable for employees working within the town.

POLICY 12-A-1 HOU-1-A-1: The town shall ~~pursue~~ evaluate the following affordable housing strategies:

- i. Provide liaison and technical assistance in linking eligible activities to partnerships and governmental funding sources;
- ii. Encourage a variety of housing types and cost ranges through flexible provisions in the Land Development Code, including accessory dwelling units in single family residential areas (see Policy 12-C-1);
- iii. Focus planning efforts on specific areas that are in transition, such as the near-town neighborhoods between Times Square and Bay Oaks, and reinforces the quality of existing stable neighborhoods;
- iv. Consider implementation of ~~Implement an incentive-driven regulatory system and the town's new policy regarding~~ create and maintain policies on accessory apartments, pathways for hotel to condo conversions, and single family to duplex, triplex, and quadruplex as appropriate (see Policy 4-C-7);
- v. Consider development of land development codes that support and enable its aging population to remain independent and in their own home or in a non-health care environment for as long as their health allows.
- vi. Enable development and design strategies that enable older residents to remain in their community as their housing needs change allowing accessory dwelling units, such as garage apartments and "in law" suites in all residential areas and connecting residential neighborhoods to daily commercial needs by allowing mixed-income and mixed housing types to be located close to neighborhood or commercial shopping areas, civic or cultural institutions, and parks and open space areas;



- vii. Promote revitalization of existing housing including historic structures (see specific programs in the Historic Preservation Element); and
- viii. Assist service workers to find suitable housing on the island.

POLICY 12-A-2 HOU-1-A-2: This plan's Future Land Use Map shall continually designate sufficient residential and mixed-use land for varying housing densities and housing types to accommodate the town's forecasted housing needs through build-out.

POLICY 12-A-3 HOU-1-A-3: The town shall help provide access to affordable housing services for its residents with special attention to the needs of its low-income and "special needs" population.

- i. The town shall seek an agreement with Lee County to retain the town's standing as an eligible area for expenditures under the county's federal and state entitlement programs, provided assurances are made that town residents received a reasonable share of these expenditures over time. ~~Unless determined to be infeasible or undesirable, the town shall enter into a cooperative agreement with Lee County before October 1998.~~
- ii. The town shall promote the use of public-private partnerships wherever feasible to accomplish the implementation of its housing objectives. Such partnerships could include a Downtown Redevelopment Agency, non-profit housing providers, and private developers and builders.
- iii. Encourage local lenders to provide affordable homeownership opportunities (including needed renovations) through programs such as mortgage assistance, reduced closing costs, and lower interest rates.

POLICY 12-A-4 HOU-1-A-4: The town shall strive to eliminate substandard housing conditions and improve the structural and aesthetic qualities of existing housing. The town shall identify unsafe or substandard structures and take appropriate actions to address such conditions by adopting the Standard Housing Code by 1999 and enforcing it to regulate conditions in rental housing. ~~Emphasis shall be on renovation rather than demolition wherever possible. New housing shall be built to comply with the applicable Florida Building Code and FEMA standards where required by state and/or federal law.~~

POLICY 12-A-5: ~~If ever necessary, the town shall provide equitable housing for citizens who must be relocated through government action supported by federal funds consistent with Chapter 421.55 F.S.~~

POLICY 12-A-6 HOU-1-A-5: The town shall update this element using a state-approved methodology after census data for the year 2000 203020 is available and no later than the town's next scheduled evaluation and appraisal report.

OBJECTIVE 12-B HOU-1-B: NEIGHBORHOOD-SPECIFIC HOUSING STRATEGIES - This plan's vision for revitalized and stable neighborhoods shall guide neighborhood-specific strategies to upgrade the housing stock and maintain a wide range of housing types and costs.

POLICY 12-B-1 HOU-1-B-1: DOWNTOWN (TIMES SQUARE) - Promote new construction and redevelopment to include ~~rehabilitation of existing structures for compact moderate-priced housing on Crescent Street~~ consisting of multi-family units of various sizes, targeted for year-round occupancy for persons who wish to live or work downtown, through:

- i. ~~The regulatory framework and incentives provided through the redevelopment overlay zone;~~
- ii. ~~Activities of a Downtown Redevelopment Agency (if established, see Community Design Element Policy 3-D-1) such as land assembly, provision of infrastructure (drainage, sidewalks, streetscape, undergrounding of utilities etc), and low-interest revolving loans.~~



iii. Other measures to encourage residential uses over retail throughout the downtown area:

- Land assembly, provision of infrastructure (drainage, sidewalks, streetscape, undergrounding of utilities etc), and low-interest revolving loans.
- Other measures to encourage residential uses along with retail throughout the downtown area.

POLICY 12-B-2 HOU-1-B-2: HEART OF THE ISLAND – CIVIC CENTER - Promote the revitalization of the area School Street (see Community Design Policy 3-A-4) as a walkable palm-lined street of restored and infill cottages for residential use, housing to age in place, live-work spaces such as studios or galleries, and small-scale specialty retail uses consistent with the historic theme with retail on the ground floor and residential above.

- i. Prepare regulations that would allow a compatible mix of uses and would ease setback and parking requirements to accommodate the unique needs of renovations of existing and move-on cottages.
- ii. Provide architectural and design guidelines which illustrate cost-effective rehabilitation techniques consistent with the historic theme.
- iii. In partnership with the Estero Island Historic Society, Seek grant funds to reduce costs of move-on and rehabilitation of historic cottages.

POLICY 12-B-3 HOU-1-B-3: RED COCONUT/GULFVIEW COLONY AREA - Support the continued use of the Red Coconut/Gulfview Colony area (see Community Design Policy 3-A-5) as a pleasant home for visitors and long-term residents, and provide a pre-approved option for redevelopment as a traditional mixed-use neighborhood with a variety of housing types.

POLICY 12-B-4 HOU-1-B-4: NEAR-TOWN NEIGHBORHOODS PRESERVATION - Revitalize the older near-town residential areas using traditional neighborhood smart-growth techniques for renovations and infill (see Community Design Policy 3-B-1), using methods such as:

- i. Modify current regulations that have proven to be barriers to redevelopment.
- ii. Encourage the cottage design tradition of front porches and decks to help frame public spaces and define private areas, promoting neighborhood safety.
- iii. Permit quiet home offices (and possibly other mixed uses as determined appropriate).
- iv. Protect residential areas from intrusion by poorly regulated short-term rentals.
- v. Provide access to federal and state housing programs available to income-qualifying owners through Lee County's programs.
- vi. Promote compact, walkable, neighborhoods that serve the diverse needs of both visitors and residents.
- vii. Provide for redevelopment of single-family dwellings to multifamily dwellings in the form of duplex, triplex, and quadruplexes, provided the facade is visually consistent with surrounding development.

OBJECTIVE 12-G HOU-1-C: REVISE THE CURRENT REGULATORY SYSTEM - Complete a thorough revision of the town's land development regulations by the end of 1999 to shall provide clear and consistent rules for housing development and redevelopment.

POLICY 12-G-1 HOU-1-C-1: The town's zoning and development regulations shall allow a variety of lot sizes, densities, and housing types.



POLICY 12-G-2 HOU-1-C-2: ~~Implement~~ The town's land development code ~~new policy on~~ shall provide for attached and detached accessory dwelling units ~~apartments~~ in residential neighborhoods and include standards by which to measure compliance. Where ADUs will be permitted, the Town shall set specific standards and conditions regarding the design, size and occupancy, among other conditions as necessary, to ensure quality development and maintenance of neighborhood standards as appropriate.

POLICY 12-G-3 HOU-1-C-3: ~~Adopt~~ Update/Revise the Standard Existing Buildings Code ~~by 1999 (see Historic Preservation Policy 13-B-6).~~

POLICY 12-G-4 HOU-1-C-4: The land development regulations shall include measures for to ~~implement Chapter 419 F.S. about~~ the proper siting of group homes and foster care facilities.

POLICY 12-G-5 HOU-1-C-5: Consider (and implement as feasible) various methods to reduce the cost of constructing or rehabilitating housing, such as:

- i. ~~Adjusting impact fee schedules so that small units or~~ affordable or workforce housing ~~designed for island employees would pay less than larger housing units;~~
- ii. ~~supporting DCA's new "residential construction mitigation program" to help lower-income residents retrofit their homes to increase their safety and protect their investments before a disaster occurs using low-interest loans or grants;~~
- ii. ~~iii. considering~~ Utilize a bonus system ~~land with mixed-use designation~~ to allow densities above what is normally allowed if reserved for housing in a price range affordable by low- or moderate-income residents; or
- iv. ~~relaxing rules that require many sound buildings to be elevated above expected flood levels before they can be structurally improved.~~
- iii. Expediting permitting and reduction of permitting fees.

OBJECTIVE 12-D HOU-1-D: HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT HOUSING - Retain ~~at least 90% of~~ the town's historically significant housing where appropriate for residential uses (or appropriate adaptive re-uses).

POLICY 12-D-1 HOU-1-D-1: The town shall maintain the inventory of historic structures contained in the Historic Preservation Element.

POLICY 12-D-2 HOU-1-D-2: The town, in cooperation with the Estero Island Historic Society, will assist owners of historically significant housing in locating funds to restore or rehabilitate their homes. Assistance may be provided to move buildings if there is no other option to save the home.

POLICY 12-D-3 HOU-1-D-3: The town shall consider other incentives to encourage renovation of historic structures, as detailed in the Historic Preservation Element. Such incentives could include property tax relief, transfer of development rights, and below-market interest rate loans.

OBJECTIVE HOU-1-E: HOUSING AFFORDABILITY AND ATTAINABILITY - The Town may evaluate current programs to incentivize the construction and development of affordable housing.

POLICY HOU-1-E-1: The Town shall consider implementing an inclusionary zoning ordinance that includes bonus or incentive programs to encourage the construction of affordable housing with new residential construction in its designed activity centers.



POLICY HOU-1-E-2: The Town shall continue to review financial and other incentives to assist the private sector in the provision of workforce housing including, but not limited to:

- Temporary decreases in property tax assessment
- Density bonuses
- Tax increment financing (TIF)
- Municipal land agreements (land banking and land swapping or conveyance, or rental of land)
- Application fee reductions
- Other financing that incentivizes the development of affordable and workforce housing

POLICY HOU-1-E-3: The Town shall aim to expedite the processing of building permits for Affordable, Attainable and Workforce Housing Units.

POLICY HOU-1-E-4: The Town may consider allowing reduced parking requirements for affordable and workforce housing.

POLICY HOU-1-E-5: The Town shall explore the creation of pre-approved designs for workforce housing in order to reduce development costs for such developments.

POLICY HOU-1-E-6: The Town shall continue to maintain an inventory of Town owned property available for use as affordable housing as required by Florida Statutes.

POLICY HOU-1-E-7: The Town shall consider opportunities for partnerships with private and public sector partners to explore the acquisition of vacant parcels and construct new single-family homes for very-low- income, and low-income households that are first-time home buyers.

POLICY HOU-1-E-8: The Town shall consider the creation of a community land trust for affordable housing, and consider mechanisms like land assembly of city-owned vacant lots to support development of affordable housing.

POLICY HOU-1-E-9: The City shall periodically evaluate minimum unit sizes in its land development regulations to determine impact on housing attainability and amend regulations as needed to enhance local housing availability and affordability.

POLICY HOU-1-E-10: To preserve diversity of housing and to prevent over proliferation of undersized units on the basis of affordable or workforce housing, the Town will consider allowing limiting the number of microunits, defined as units between 250 and 500 square feet in size, to 15% maximum of all multifamily developments.

POLICY HOU-1-E-11: The Town shall consider incorporating into its code, workforce dwelling bonuses for development of auxiliary dwellings, residential dwellings in commercial spaces, and for affordable and workforce housing in commercial zones of the Town.

POLICY HOU-1-E-12: The Town shall consider incorporating into its land development regulations, provisions for conversion of underutilized office space into workforce housing. The Town will encourage form-based zoning in commercial, transient residential, and mixed-use areas of the Town to provide for conversions for additional housing by adopting such regulations into its land development code by 2025.



GOAL 7 T-1: MULTIMODAL TRANSPORTATION NETWORK FOR SAFE AND EFFICIENT MOVEMENT OF PEOPLE AND GOODS - Ensure a multimodal network that serves the needs of the Town of Fort Myers Beach’s residents, visitors, and local economy with safe and efficient motorized and non-motorized movement of people and goods and which is consistent with desired land use patterns, conserves energy, and protects the natural environment.

OBJECTIVE T-17-A: DEFINING THE PROBLEMS - Through this plan, the Town of Fort Myers Beach will address its three major transportation problems: congestion (by supporting public transit and pedestrian improvements), parking (by improving public parking near Times Square), and speeding (through passive traffic calming on Estero Boulevard). To improve peak-season mobility without reducing the permeability of Estero Boulevard to foot traffic or damaging the small-town character of Fort Myers Beach. The town seeks to reduce speeding, improve evacuation capabilities, and improve mobility through balanced transportation improvements such as a continuous system of sidewalks and bikeways, a network of trolleys and water taxis/ferries linked to off-island systems, and parking options matched to road capacity.

POLICY T-17-A-1: TRANSPORTATION MASTER PLAN - The town shall develop Long-Range Comprehensive Transportation Master Plan/Approach to improve functionality and accessibility of the overall transportation network. Upon plan adoption, the town shall work to enhance a safe and efficient transportation system for vehicles, bicycles, pedestrians, and transit riders.

POLICY T-1-A-2: MASTER PLAN AND COMPONENTS - The town’s Long-Range Comprehensive Transportation Master Plan, shall include considerations for Modal priorities. The plan shall include, at minimum, analyses for vehicular travel, transit, bicycling, and pedestrian modes of travel, and incorporate the following as base elements of the overall plan:

- Roadway
- Transit
- Pedestrian Connectivity
- Bicycle and Alternative Transportation
- Freight



- Complete Streets and Wayfinding Program

POLICY T-1-A-3: CONTEXT SENSITIVITY - The development of a Long-Range Comprehensive Transportation Master Plan/Approach and its implementation shall be context-sensitive to land use patterns and urban design.

POLICY T-1-A-4: DESIGNING FOR ALL AGES AND ABILITIES - The town shall ensure that the transportation network is planned, designed, and maintained in a context-sensitive manner for safe usage by users of all ages and abilities, including pedestrians, dockless mobility, bicyclists, transit users, motorists, and freight vehicles.

~~CONGESTION: Every winter During peak times Estero Boulevard can becomes so crowded that traffic backs up, sometimes for miles in both directions. Much of this congestion is caused by visitors, who will continue to frequent the beaches regardless of development levels on Estero Island. Despite the road congestion, the town welcomes visitors and intends to provide mobility alternatives as described in this plan.~~

POLICY T-1-A-5: WAYFINDING - Where possible, the town shall enhance bikeway, micromobility or other alternative mobility options and sharing services information and way-finding signage along bicycle routes.

~~**POLICY T-17-A-26: PARKING** - Even though existing parking lots are not used to capacity, parking is not abundant at Fort Myers Beach. The welcome rebirth of commercial activity near Times Square will increase the demand for parking. The Town of Fort Myers Beach will address parking needs shortages through the methods outlined in this plan and other appropriate initiatives that seek to provide for shared parking and for a centralized parking system.~~

~~**POLICY T-17-A-37: ESTERO BOULEVARD PEDESTRIANS SPEEDING** - Despite the virtual crawl of traffic on parts of Estero Boulevard, speeding is also a problem. If motorists didn't speed on Estero Boulevard, many more people would get out of their own cars. The town will protect the pedestrian environment along Estero Boulevard and will work to not widen travel lanes or discourage encourage safe pedestrian movement across the boulevard and throughout the Town.~~

~~**OBJECTIVE T-17-B: CONVENTIONAL SOLUTIONS** - The usual response to traffic congestion is widening roads or building alternate routes. Estero Island's long narrow shape, frequent navigable canals, sensitive environmental, and highly urbanized character preclude these solutions. Utilize conventional solutions for eCongestion management at within Fort Myers Beach must aim to reduce transportation delay and improve safety, not just for motorists but for pedestrians and bicyclists as well.~~

~~**POLICY T-17-B-1: DELAY AND SAFETY** - The town recognizes that many efforts to reduce delay and improve safety for motorists have the opposite effect on pedestrians. Creative solutions will be required to address both concerns, particularly for pedestrians. The town shall seek to find innovative solutions that will optimize safety and time efficiency for all modes of transportation.~~

~~**POLICY T-17-B-2: WIDENING** - Under no circumstances shall conventional four-laning of Estero Boulevard be considered as a desirable means of improving traffic circulation on Estero Island.~~

~~**POLICY T-17-B-3: IMPROVEMENTS TO ESTERO BOULEVARD** - The Town of Fort Myers Beach shall initiate additional pedestrian and streetscape improvements along Estero Boulevard ~~beginning in 1999~~, and shall negotiate with Lee County for additional appropriate right-of-way improvements. The town will consider studying and adopting a corridor design plan which will serve as the basis for the town's intergovernmental coordination efforts to improve Estero Boulevard. ~~the turnover of~~~~



responsibility for its maintenance if necessary to carry out these improvements or to further other town policies.

OBJECTIVE T-17-C: EVACUATION ROUTE - Estero Boulevard's critical function as the sole evacuation route for Fort Myers Beach shall be considered in all planning and development activities.

POLICY T-17-C-1: EVACUATION CAPACITY - ~~Evacuation routes do not need to be designed as high-speed roadways. The critical factor is the total number of cars that can evacuate in a given period of time.~~ The town shall evaluate all efforts by Lee County or by the town to reduce speeding on Estero Boulevard during the design phase to ensure that these efforts will not hinder an effective evacuation.

POLICY T-17-C-2: FLOODING - The town shall regularly analyze actual flooding of evacuation routes that occurs due to tropical storms or hurricanes, and shall initiate physical improvements that can avoid future flooding at those locations.

OBJECTIVE T-17-D: VARIETY OF TRAVEL MODES - The Town of Fort Myers Beach shall make efforts every year to improve mobility for its residents and visitors, striving for a balanced transportation system that allows safe movement even during peak periods of traffic congestion of pedestrians, bicyclists, transit users, and vehicles. These efforts may include further subsidies to improve the trolley system, the use of impact fees to improve sidewalks, first-last mile infrastructure and policies, and creation of critical links on the hidden-path system.

POLICY T-17-D-1: ARRIVE WITHOUT A CAR - ~~Fewer vehicles would be driven to Fort Myers Beach if scheduled airport shuttle service were available. The town shall encourage service and the designation of a central drop-off point that could include a trolley stop and taxi stand. The Town will encourage businesses to develop creative programs that incentivize visitors and employees to arrive without a car.~~

POLICY T-1-D-2: REDUCE NEED OF CAR - Promote compact development, enhance pedestrian realm, and promote modes of transportation other than single occupancy vehicles.

POLICY T-1-D-3: OFF-ISLAND PARKING - Work with Lee County to secure off-island land for the purposes of extended parking. Continue to encourage or incentives visitors to park off the island to reduce number of vehicles.

POLICY T-17-D-24: IMPROVE TROLLEY SERVICE - ~~Trolley ridership increases when service is more frequent and when fares are low or free, yet no long-term funding or operational plan has been developed for providing higher service levels. The town will seek to implement p~~Practical measures to improve trolley usage, which include:

- i. Recurring subsidies from tourism sources so that service can be enhanced and congestion minimized during heavy seasonal traffic;
- ii. Pull-offs at important stops along Estero Boulevard so that passengers can safely board and traffic is not blocked excessively; these pull-offs could be built during other improvements to Estero Boulevard or required by the Land Development Code during the re-development process.
- iii. Clear signs at every stop with full route and fare information;
- iv. Bus shelters at key locations, with roofs, benches, and transparent sides;
- v. Replacement of the existing trolley buses with clean-fuel vehicles so that businesses won't object to having trolleys stop at their front doors; and
- vi. Accommodation of the special needs of the transportation disadvantaged.



POLICY T-17-D-35: ALTERNATE TRAVEL MODES - The town shall support alternatives to car travel to free up road capacity for trips that do require a car. Public funding sources shall include county/state gasoline taxes and road impact fees. The town shall modify its road impact fee ordinance, by 1999 as a mobility fee permissible under Florida Statutes, to allow these fees to be spent (within legal limits) on capital improvements that relieve road congestion, such as better sidewalks, trolley improvements, and off-island parking areas. ~~The town seeks to at least double the usage of the trolley system by the year 2001 (from its 1996 total ridership level of 238,754).~~

POLICY T-17-D-46: ENCOURAGE WATER TAXIS TRANSPORTATION - Fort Myers Beach has great potential for water transportation, with its canals, natural waterways, and high levels of tourism. To encourage the private sector to provide this service, the town shall ease regulations or provide assistance, as deemed appropriate by the Town Council, that require a water taxi to provide dedicated parking spaces at every stop and shall encourage restaurants, motels, and marinas to provide dockage for water taxis transportation. Where possible, water taxi transportation drop-off sites should avoid areas of high manatee concentration, or use protective measure such as propeller guards, jet propulsion, or electric motors.

POLICY T-17-D-57: HIDDEN-PATH SYSTEM - The town shall support the creation of a quiet network of “hidden paths” running on the Bay side parallel to Estero Boulevard. This network would provide an alternative to walking and cycling along Estero Boulevard (as described further in the Community Design Element). ~~Initial land acquisition shall begin in 1999.~~

POLICY T-1-D-8: COORDINATION WITH LEE COUNTY - The town shall collaborate with Lee County to expand the LeeTran route(s) onto Estero Island.

OBJECTIVE T-17-E: UPGRADE ESTERO BOULEVARD - ~~As part of its congestion avoidance strategy to enhance pedestrian amenities and reduce the use of single occupancy vehicles, the town shall methodically upgrade Estero Boulevard to reduce speeding and encourage walking, as higher traffic speeds and car-oriented businesses are antithetical to its pedestrian character. (If a suitable partnership to this end cannot be achieved with Lee County, the town may consider taking on maintenance responsibility for Estero Boulevard.)~~

POLICY T-17-E-1: TIMES SQUARE STREETScape - ~~The town shall begin work by 1999 toward extending southward the curbs, colorful sidewalks, and street trees installed by the Estero Island CRA in 1996. Similar side-walks should be placed on both sides of Estero Boulevard as far south as the public library, including drainage, lighting, and trolley improvements. Unspent funds from the Estero Island CRA should be sought from Lee County toward this end. Generous urban sidewalks should also be built in the future around the Villa Santini Plaza as part of its redevelopment (as described in the Community Design Element).~~

POLICY T-17-E-2: TRAFFIC CALMING - The town shall support two types of traffic calming to reduce speeding, which endangers lives and diminishes the quality of the pedestrian environment of Fort Myers Beach:

- i. The first is “active” or traditional traffic calming along residential streets, using physical techniques such as speed humps, narrowed lanes, landscaping, traffic diverters, jogs, or traffic circles at intersections, where appropriate.
- ii. The town’s preferred method is ~~The second~~ is “passive” traffic calming along Estero Boulevard, to control speeding without reducing the number of vehicles that can use the road. Techniques include full curbs and sidewalks separated by street trees; buildings nearer the road; interesting vistas for drivers; and avoidance of overly wide travel lanes or intersections.



POLICY T-17-E-3: BUILDINGS CLOSE TO THE STREET - ~~Where pedestrian levels are high, buildings~~ Buildings should adjoin the sidewalk rather than be separated by parking spaces. Front walls of stores, offices, and restaurants should have large windows rather than blank walls, preferably shaded by awnings or canopies. Access to parking areas shall be off side streets wherever possible. The town's Land Development Code shall implement these concepts ~~beginning in 1999~~.

POLICY T-17-E-4: SIDEWALKS AND BIKEWAYS - The town shall work toward major expansion of sidewalks and bikeways. In addition to the next phase of Estero Boulevard sidewalks (see Policy T-1-E-1 7-E-4 above), the town shall support the following projects:

- i. Support Lee County's imminent plans to fill the gaps from Buccaneer to Estrellita Drive and from the Villa Santini Plaza to Bay Beach Lane using federal funds;
- ii. Initiate extensive improvements ~~by 1999~~ to Old San Carlos and Crescent Street in conjunction with parking improvements (see Policy T-1-F-2 7-F-2);
- iii. Initiate engineering studies ~~by 1999~~ for bikeways and additional sidewalks on the second side of Estero Boulevard and improved pedestrian crossings, including consideration of a pedestrian overpass at Times Square.

POLICY T-1-E-5: PARTNERSHIPS FOR PEDESTRIAN BRIDGES - The Town will evaluate partnerships between development projects that are across from each other along Estero Boulevard to incentivize pedestrian bridge crossings provided as a public benefit. Collaboration with property owners and the Town shall also be encouraged to provide pedestrian safety and walkability through the implementation of pedestrian bridges.

OBJECTIVE T-17-F: OPTIMIZE THE PARKING SUPPLY - Off-island parking facilities served by convenient public transportation should be provided to meet peak-season demands. For year-around demand, the town shall provide additional on-island public parking spaces, based in part on a new peak- season occupancy survey of existing public parking spaces.

POLICY T-17-F-1: ENCOURAGE SHARED PARKING LOTS: Parking lots serving a variety of land uses require much less space than separate on-site lots for each business. Shared lots waste less land and encourage walking because businesses aren't separated by large parking lots. The town shall encourage shared parking lots when businesses are relatively small, are clustered together, and have different busy periods.

POLICY T-17-F-2: SHARED PARKING NEAR TIMES SQUARE - The town shall strive to alleviate parking congestion and enhance accessibility for visitors and residents near Time Square by supporting or encouraging the development of shared parking facilities or a parking garage. The Estero Island CRA recommended a reservoir of shared parking behind businesses along Old San Carlos and adding 165 on-street parking spaces near Times Square (although some of these spaces would merely replace spaces lost to new recreational facilities at Lynn Hall Park). The town shall investigate the feasibility of this concept in 1998-1999 and proceed toward implementation, or create an alternate plan that may include a parking garages near Times Square.

POLICY T-17-F-3: BETTER PARKING LOTS - ~~Large parking lots or garages are usually more cost-efficient to build and maintain, but may not be the best solution for Fort Myers Beach. Disadvantages of large lots include high capital costs; the possibility of providing more parking than is needed or can be handled by the road system; and the unsightliness of most large parking lots and garages.~~



POLICY T-1-F4 7-F-4: DIRECT VISITORS TO AVAILABLE PARKING - Many visitors are unaware of existing parking lots; others would be dissuaded from driving if they were aware of the shortage of parking. Variable message signs can aid both situations. The town shall evaluate and implement improved information systems, including signage, messaging, and other available technology to devise solutions that will direct traffic within the town to available parking. The town should encourage Lee County and FDOT to install these signs as appropriate with information about all major parking areas, including the state park at Lovers Key.

OBJECTIVE T-17-G: THE FUTURE OF THE BRIDGES - Match bridge capacity to Estero Island with the capacity of Estero Boulevard.

POLICY 7-G-1: ADEQUACY OF THE SKY BRIDGE - ~~There is little evidence that traffic congestion at Fort Myers Beach is caused by any inadequacy of the Matanzas Pass Sky Bridge, which unlike Estero Boulevard has no interference from intersecting streets, parking spaces, or pedestrians crossing the street.~~

POLICY T-1-G-1 7-G-2: CHANGES TO THE SKY BRIDGE - If parking lots at Bowditch Point or Times Square greatly increase demand for north-bound turns at the foot of the bridge, striping a third lane on the existing bridge might be considered, as might a reversible third lane during the peak season.

POLICY T-1-G-2 7-G-3: RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE SKY BRIDGE - FDOT may be willing to turn over responsibility for the Sky Bridge to the Town of Fort Myers Beach. This would be advantageous to the town only if part of a congestion management system with peak-period tolls, off-island parking lots, and improved mass transit.

POLICY T-1-G-3 7-G-4: ADDITIONAL BRIDGE CAPACITY - The town will consider as part of any transportation master plan and associated update the need for additional bridge capacity and viable locations. Additional bridge capacity should not be directed to Times Square (except for the potential re-striping in Policy 7T-1-D-2). ~~New lanes to Old San Carlos or Crescent Street would also be undesirable, as most congestion is caused by conditions on Estero Boulevard south of Times Square. Previously proposed bridges from Winkler Road or Coconut Road are infeasible from environmental and financial standpoints and need not be considered further.~~

OBJECTIVE T-17-H: EXPERIMENT WIDELY - The town shall constantly search for innovative solutions to long-standing traffic problems and to new problems as they develop, and shall coordinate its efforts with those of the Lee County Metropolitan Planning Organization. The town ~~shall~~ will consider and when appropriate, serve as a catalyst for traffic engineering experiments that would evaluate minor improvements that might improve traffic flow at Fort Myers Beach. Some potential improvements are described in the following policies:

POLICY T-17-H-1: PEDESTRIAN OVERPASSES - ~~Although pedestrian overpasses are often ignored by pedestrians, The Town will encourage development of an overpasses throughout the Town where appropriate, that providing a panoramic view of the Gulf, might be attractive enough to reduce at-grade crossings at Times Square without discouraging foot traffic in this highly congested area. Even without an overpass, the pPedestrian-actuated stop lights may be replaceable with a flashing caution lights crosswalk beacons may be appropriate where pedestrian overpasses are not warranted to minimize effects of the crossing on traffic flow.~~



POLICY T-17-H-2: SAN CARLOS BOULEVARD - The five-laning of San Carlos Boulevard has created severe problems near the approach to the Sky Bridge. Creative experiments are needed to discourage drivers from using the right-hand lane, or side streets on San Carlos Island, to bypass the line of cars waiting to enter the bridge.

POLICY T-17-H-3: RESERVED TRANSPORTATION & MOBILITY MASTER PLAN - The Town shall maintain and regularly update a Transportation & Mobility Master Plan or a Transportation & Mobility Design Standard/Manual, using context-sensitive approaches to enhance safety and improve multimodal infrastructure and connectivity for residents and businesses. The Master Plan/Design Standard will at minimum create a standard approach to the design of Estero Boulevard, including, but not limited to, considerations of sidewalk width, pedestrian crossings, pedestrian bridges, landscaping and barriers as appropriate, beachfront access locations, trolley/bus stops, bicycle facilities, and micromobility options. Any Master Plan for the Town will consider parking locations on and off-island, as well as the necessary transit improvements to alleviate single-occupant vehicle usage.

POLICY T-17-H-4: VARIABLE MESSAGE SIGNS - These signs could advise motorists of congestion delays as well as available parking. The town should urge the detailed study of this concept by Lee County, FDOT, and the Metropolitan Planning Organization.

POLICY T-17-H-5: ORIGIN/DESTINATION DATA - Better data is needed on the origins and destinations of motorists during the peak season, and the town supports the MPO's efforts to obtain this data.

POLICY T-17-H-6: TRANSPORTATION DEMAND MANAGEMENT - This part of a congestion avoidance strategy reduces the number of single-occupant vehicles during peak traffic periods, either by eliminating some trips completely, or by accommodating existing trips in fewer vehicles, or by moving some trips before or after the most congested periods. This strategy may alleviate peak-season traffic congestion if implemented aggressively in cooperation with area businesses.

POLICY T-17-H-7: DELIVERY VEHICLES - To avoid interference with traffic and pedestrian flow, the town shall develop a strategy to limit commercial deliveries during peak traffic periods. Redevelopment plans shall continue to require a loading plan with preference to off-street loading. No on-street loading is permitted on Estero Boulevard.

POLICY T-17-H-8: FLOODING - During periods of minor flooding, the town shall monitor the performance of roadside drainage systems on and off Estero Island to identify areas where an evacuation could be prematurely halted.

POLICY T-17-H-9: PROFESSIONAL ASSISTANCE - The town may wish to retain a creative traffic engineer to provide advice on these experiments on a continuing basis.

POLICY T-17-H-10: CONNECTIONS TO ESTERO BOULEVARD - ~~An excessive number of streets and driveways have direct access to Estero Boulevard, reducing its ability to handle peak-season traffic.~~ The town shall take advantage of any suitable opportunities to consolidate street connections into fewer access points onto Estero Boulevard. As part of any transportation master plan or roadway plan for Estero Boulevard, and in conjunction with Lee County and the Florida Department of Transportation, the town will evaluate and as needed implement access management policies to improve Estero Boulevard.

POLICY T-1-H-11: TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES - The Town will establish within its development standards, as appropriate, measures and requirements of transportation alternatives for new developments, including transportation technologies and approaches that will impact travel patterns, signalization, curb management, cycling, pedestrian travel, parking, loading/unloading



demand, supporting infrastructure, and roadway design. The Town will establish, as appropriate, community-oriented solutions and benefits to alleviate traffic impacts from tourist-based industries, including hotels/motels, such as voucher or shuttle programs for visitors and workforce transportation, among other transportation demand management techniques.

Policy T-1-H-12: EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES - The Town will continue to evaluate emerging transportation technologies including, but not limited to autonomous vehicles, traffic signalization, parking information, enhanced real time communication, and artificial intelligence in relation to the impacts these advancements will have on transportation, land use, and the mobility options. This evaluation will also include best practices and methods for the safe and context sensitive implementation of shared mobility and micromobility solutions, such as microtransit, dockless bicycle share, dockless scooters, and e-bikes as appropriate for the Town.

OBJECTIVE T-17-I: LEVEL-OF-SERVICE STANDARD - Maintain minimum acceptable levels of service for the transportation system.

POLICY T-17-I-1: ~~Traffic congestion is a serious problem at Fort Myers Beach, caused by a combination of high tourism demand for its beaches and past over-building relative to road capacity. Neither factor is within the control of the Town of Fort Myers Beach, although its residents must tolerate congestion every winter. This comprehensive plan seeks to manage congestion levels and encourage alternate means of mobility including walking, bicycling, and trolleys. The town shall continue to maintain and regularly evaluate level of service standards to ensure multimodal mobility.~~

POLICY T-17-I-2: The peak capacity of Estero Boulevard's congested segments is 1,300 vehicles per hour. The minimum acceptable level-of-service standard for Estero Boulevard shall be that average monthly traffic flows from 10:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. during each month do not exceed that level for more than four calendar months in any continuous twelve-month period. Measurements from the permanent count station at Donora Boulevard shall be used for this standard.

POLICY T-17-I-3: Figure 18 of this element is hereby adopted as the future transportation map of the Town of Fort Myers Beach.

OBJECTIVE T-17-J: PROTECTING PUBLIC ACCESS - Although no future right-of-way needs have been identified, some existing town and county rights-of-way are substandard and few are wider than needed. The town shall review requests to not vacate or acquiesce in the vacation of existing rights-of-way, and shall make efforts to ensure no recognized public access is negatively impacted by vacating the ~~except where no public purpose would be served by retaining the right-of-way.~~

POLICY T-17-J-1: RIGHTS-OF-WAY - Town and county rights-of-way are needed for the undergrounding of utilities; for the expansion of sidewalks and bike paths; for water accesses; for on-street parking; for public transit and road improvements; and for other public purposes. The town shall ~~strictly limit~~ consider limiting vacations of rights-of-way and easements to preserve future access for these purposes.

POLICY T-17-J-2: TRAFFIC IMPACT ANALYSES - A thorough traffic impact analysis is currently required only for major rezonings and very large development orders. The town shall amend its Land Development Code as needed ~~during 2010~~ to:

- i. ~~D~~ecrease the thresholds for requiring traffic impact analyses;
- ii. ~~R~~equire them to study the cumulative impacts of potential development; and
- iii. ~~U~~se the results in assessing whether impacts are acceptable, and whether an improved design could offset some of the impacts.



GOAL 13 HP-1: To maintain “the best of the old” when redeveloping our community by appreciating, protecting, and promoting the historic resources of Fort Myers Beach. To provide stewardship of the legacy of our predecessors, cultivating our understanding of the past as a means of sustaining our future. Create a lasting heritage as the foundation of the town’s historic preservation with key principals: environmental resources, character, sustainability, and preservation maintenance to protect for future generations.

OBJECTIVE 13-F HP-1-A: GENERAL STRATEGIES - Begin in 1999 to develop programs to aggressively identify, document, and evaluate historic and archaeological resources in and around the Town of Fort Myers Beach in order to encourage their long-term protection. **IDENTIFY AND EVALUATE HISTORIC RESOURCES** - The town shall identify historic resources to help protect the town’s heritage and to coincide with its Land Development Codes for historically significant structures.

POLICY 13-F-1 HP-1-A-1: In 1999 the town shall convene an ad hoc historic working group to develop programs, organize volunteers, and make recommendations to the LPA and Town Council relating to Policies 13-A-2, 13-A-3, 13-A-5, 13-B-1, 13-B-3, 13-B-6, and 13-C-3. This group shall include representatives of the Estero Island Historic Society, the LPA, the Lee County Planning Division, and others with expertise in archaeology, history, and/or construction. **HISTORIC RESOURCE MAP** - The Town shall explore efforts to regularly update the historic resources map for properties and historic districts listed on the Local and/or National Registers of Historic Places. Architectural, archaeological, and other related cultural resource surveys shall be conducted pursuant to the standards and policies of the Florida Department of State, Division of Historical Resources and/or the provisions of the National Historic Preservation Act (1966).

POLICY 13-F-2 HP-1-A-2: FLORIDA MASTER SITE FILES AND PHOTOGRAPHS - Acquire high-quality reproductions of all files and photographs from the Florida Master Site File and the Florida Archives for buildings on Estero Island, and make copies available to the public at Town Hall and the public library. These This files should be supplemented by an accurate listing of street addresses and parcel numbers, plus a listing of buildings that have been demolished or renovated beyond recognition. After this updating, the town shall notify all property owners of sites listed on the Florida Master Site File.



POLICY 13-F-3 HP-1-A-3: UPDATES TO HISTORIC BUILDING SURVEY - The town shall periodically review and support efforts to update Lee County's 1986 and 1992 surveys of historic buildings on Estero Island. Additional buildings shall be documented for submission to the Florida Master Site File, and buildings that have been demolished or altered shall be so noted. New information shall be transmitted to the Florida Department of State via the Lee County Planning Division.

POLICY 13-F-4 Require all applications for development review to identify the location and status of historic resources and archaeological sites, utilizing as data bases the 1986 Lee County Historic Sites Survey, the 1987 Archaeological Site Inventory and Zone Management Plan for Lee County, the 1992 Historical Report and Survey Supplement for Lee County, and updated information from implementation of Policies 13-A-3 and 13-A-6. This identification of historic and archaeological resources will assist in administering protective regulations.

POLICY 13-F-5 Continue the program begun by Lee County for formally designating historic and archaeological resources, with the following changes:

- i. Designate the town's Local Planning Agency to serve as the historic preservation board required by the Land Development Code.
- ii. Contract with Lee County for consultation, technical assistance, and on-going staff support for the town's historic preservation program.

POLICY 13-F-6 By 1999, the town shall begin the process of designating one or more historic districts which would include most of the buildings listed on the Florida Master Site File.

POLICY 13-F-7 HP-1-A-4: NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES - The town shall engage with the Request the Estero Island Historic Society to regularly identify any remaining appropriate buildings or sites for nomination by the town to the National Register of Historic Places.

POLICY 13-F-8 Encourage a private program that would visibly recognize historic building through plaques, certificates, historic markers, awards programs, or certificates of historical and/or archaeological significance.

POLICY 13-F-9 HP-1-A-5: PROCESS FOR PRESERVING SCENIC RESOURCES - The town shall explore the Develop development of a process and criteria for identifying specific scenic resources, view corridors, and vistas that should be preserved or enhanced as new development and redevelopment occurs. Particular attention should be given to recommendations in the Community Design Element.

OBJECTIVE HP-1-B: DESIGNATION - Maintain and increase the town's historic resources listed in the Local and/or National Historic Registers of Historic Places. To promote the preservation of the town's historic character, encourage the maintenance and potential expansion of historic resources listed in the Local and/or National Historic Registers of Historic Places.

POLICY HP-1-B-1: HISTORIC DESIGNATION OF BUILDINGS - Explore potential to designate historic structures from all historic resources.

POLICY HP-1-B-2: HISTORIC DESIGNATION OF DISTRICTS - The town shall explore the designation of a historic districts which would include most of the buildings listed on the Florida Master Site File.

OBJECTIVE 13-G HP-1-C: REGULATIONS AND INCENTIVES REGULATORY TECHNIQUES - By the end of 1998, e The town shall evaluate Establish and maintain the establishment of a regulatory and incentive system that promotes restoration, reconstruction, and re-use of the town's historic buildings.



POLICY 13-G-1 HP-1-C-1: CERTIFICATION - The Town shall evaluate the provisions of the Certified Local Government program to determine if the town should become certified.

POLICY 13-G-2 HP-1-C-2: COMMUNITY DESIGN HOUSING POLICIES - The town shall consider the implementation of Implement Community Design and Housing Policies that call for preparing and adopting land development codes that will encourage the revitalization of older and historic housing using elements from the cottage design tradition.

POLICY 13-G-3 HP-1-C-3: REGULATORY RELIEF - The town shall explore the use of Using specific existing historic properties in Fort Myers Beach, ~~determine additional and consider~~ regulatory relief that could be provided to designated historic properties to promote their preservation and rehabilitation.

POLICY 13-G-4 HP-1-C-4: REGULATORY INCENTIVES FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION - The town shall explore Study the feasibility of a variety of incentives including transfer of development rights and property tax relief to encourage preservation and rehabilitation of historic properties, ~~and consider: Continue to develop new land use and zoning incentives for eligible and historic resources within the land development codes, such as encouraging the adaptive reuse of historic structures within mixed-use zoning districts and providing parking relief strategies.~~

POLICY 13-G-5 HP-1-C-5: FINANCIAL INCENTIVES FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION - Consider Evaluate financial incentives for historic preservation that might include a revolving loan fund, grants, federal and state funds for income-eligible recipients, tax increment funds (if a CRA is established), or technical support for the use of investment tax cred- its.

POLICY 13-G-6 HP-1-C-6: STANDARD EXISTING BUILDING CODE - The town shall adopt the Standard Existing Buildings Code into its land development code to encourage the rehabilitation of older buildings throughout the town.

POLICY HP-1-C-7: IDENTIFYING HISTORIC AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES - Require all applications for development review to identify the location and status of historic resources and archaeological sites, utilizing as databases information available from the Town, Lee County's Historic Preservation program, and Florida Department of State as appropriate.

POLICY HP-1-C-8: AMENDMENTS TO LAND DEVELOPMENT CODES - The Town will encourage sensitive, adaptive reuse and rehabilitation of structures eligible for historic designation as a preferred alternative to demolition. To this end, as necessary, the Town will regularly evaluate and, where necessary, amend the Land Development Codes to ensure the protection of historic resources.

OBJECTIVE 13-H HP-1-D: CELEBRATING OUR HERITAGE - Continually heighten the appreciation of the town's recent and ancient history and cultural life, and improve opportunities for appropriate public access to publicly supported resources. **PRESERVATION PROGRAMS** - Support and expand the city's historic preservation program with the State of Florida office and to comply with the town's ordinances for preservation to coincide with Land Development Codes.

POLICY 13-H-1 HP-1-D-1: Continue to pursue the acquisition of the William Case home (Long Estate). Assist the foundation that will provide long-term management with funding for start-up costs (with the amount needed to be evaluated annually). Link this facility to other cultural, scientific, educational, and recreational activities. **CHANGES TO FORMAL DESIGNATION** - The town shall consider continuing the program begun by Lee County for formally designating historic and archaeological resources. It shall explore the designation of the town's Local Planning Agency to serve as the historic preservation board as required by the Land Development Code. Contract with



Lee County for consultation, technical assistance, and on-going staff support for the town's historic preservation program.

POLICY 13-H-2 HP-1-D-2: Support the nomination of the Fort Myers Beach Elementary School and the William Case home (and its site) for the National Register of Historic Places. Encourage privately run programs that would visibly recognize historic building through plaques, certificates, historic markers, awards programs, or certificates of historical and/or archaeological significance.

POLICY 13-H-3 HP-1-D-3: Examine methods that the town could use to aid in the protection of Mound Key. **HISTORIC PRESERVATION BOARD** - The town shall consider the establishment of a qualified Historic Preservation Board that meets the Florida Certified Local Government Guidelines to oversee and further develop the functions of the historic preservation program.

POLICY 13-H-4 HP-1-D-4: Work with Lee County in establishing a net-work of canoe and kayak trails linking the sites of historic and archaeological significance from Pine Island to Estero Bay. **STATE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN** - Continue to work cooperatively and in conjunction with the State Historic Preservation Office to achieve the goals set forth in the State Comprehensive Plan and the Comprehensive Statewide Historic Preservation Plan.

POLICY 13-H-5 HP-1-D-5: Establish a task force to develop and implement the town's eco/heritage program. The task force would work with the Marine Resources Task Force to advise the town about implementing the recently adopted recommendations of the Governor's Advisory Committee on Eco-heritage Tourism. **CONSISTENCY WITH HISTORIC PRESERVATION ORDINANCES** - Ensure historic resources remain consistent with the Historic Preservation Ordinances relating to affirmative maintenance, demolition by neglect and boarding, which are adopted in the Land Development Codes and the Code of Ordinances.

POLICY 13-H-6 HP-1-D-6: In cooperation with the Estero Island Historic Society, develop self-guided walking/biking tours of the island's historic points of interest; interpretive panels; and other ways to share the history of the island with visitors. **ACQUIRING HISTORIC AND CULTURAL RESOURCES** - The town shall consider the acquisition of historic and cultural resources when ownership would provide a public benefit and when financial resources can be secured.

POLICY 13-H-7 HP-1-D-7: Continue to improve availability and appropriate public access to historic and cultural resources by implementing Community Design Policies 2-A-1/4, 3-D-4, and 3-D-6 and Recreation Policy 10-A-4. **PUBLIC USES** - The town shall explore the use historic buildings to accommodate public uses whenever feasible.

OBJECTIVE HP-1-E: EDUCATION AND PROGRAMMING - The town shall support efforts that heighten the appreciation of the town's recent and ancient history and cultural life and improve opportunities for appropriate public access to publicly supported resources.

POLICY HP-1-E-1: NETWORK OF CANOE AND KAYAK TRAILS - Support Lee County in establishing a network of canoe and kayak trails linking the sites of historic and archaeological significance from Pine Island to Estero Bay.

POLICY HP-1-E-2: TASK FORCE FOR TOWN'S ECO/HERITAGE PROGRAM - Consider establishing a task force to develop and implement the town's eco/heritage program. The task force would work with the Marine Resources Task Force to advise the town about implementing the recently adopted recommendations of the Governor's Advisory Committee on Eco-heritage Tourism.



POLICY HP-1-E-3: SELF-GUIDED WALKING/BIKING TOURS - In cooperation with the Estero Island Historic Society, the town shall consider the development of self-guided walking/biking tours of the island's historic points of interest; interpretive panels; and other ways to share the history of the island with visitors.

POLICY HP-1-E-4: SUBMERGED ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES - Promote knowledge of submerged archaeological sites as cultural heritage and patrimony.

POLICY HP-1-E-5: PROMOTING HISTORIC AD-VALOREM TAX EXEMPTION PROGRAM - Continue to promote the Historic Ad-Valorem Tax Exemption program to property owners of eligible and historic resources. Continue to provide information regarding all local, state and federal financial incentives to the public such as, the City and County Historic Ad-Valorem Tax Exemption program and the Federal Historic Preservation Tax Incentives programs.

POLICY HP-1-E-6: PROMOTIONAL AND REFERENCE MATERIAL - Develop promotional and reference materials about local historic resources, preservation and cultural heritage; such information will be available at City Hall and on the City website.



GOAL ROS-1: To provide residents and visitors of all ages a comprehensive, accessible system of parks, active recreation areas, open spaces, beach accesses, natural preserves, private recreational facilities, and cultural activities that provide a variety of recreational opportunities and promote an understanding of our community's environmental and cultural heritage.

OBJECTIVE ROS-1-A: PUBLIC ACCESS AT BEACHES AND BAYS - Increase the number and quality of public access points to the Gulf beaches and Estero Bay, parks and natural preserves.

POLICY ROS-1-A-1: BEACH ACCESS - Maintain or improve existing levels of beach and bay access which provide for the continued maintenance of existing beach access points, and evaluate the need for more parking.

POLICY ROS-1-A-2: VIEW CORRIDORS - The town shall aim to increase, preserve, and enhance publicly-owned view corridors to the beach and water, and encourage additional preservation of scenic vistas on private property, when possible.

POLICY ROS-1-A-3: GREAT CALUSA BLUEWAY - Support and participate in Lee County's "Great Calusa Blueway" paddling trail by making convenient links between the trail and the town's environmental, cultural, and historical points of interest.

POLICY ROS-1-A-4: BEACH ACCESS TO MOUND HOUSE AND MANTANZA'S PASS PRESERVE - Specifically provide enhancements for beach access and paddling trail points at Mound House and Mantanza's Pass Preserve for additional public access to the beach for the "Great Calusa Blueway" and the natural walking trail that is provided by the continuous beachfront along Estero Island.

POLICY ROS-1-A-5: NATURAL PRESERVES - Enhance public access to the town's nature preserve areas, while ensuring their ecological sustainability and providing for their long-term maintenance.

POLICY ROS-1-A-6: LITTLE ESTERO ISLAND CRITICAL WILDLIFE AREA AND MANTANZA PASS PRESERVE - Enhance access for the public enjoyment and protection of the areas.



POLICY ROS-1-A-7: BOWDITCH POINT PARK - Increase accessibility for recreational purposes by:

- i. Actively promote alternate means of access to Bowditch Point Park frequent and free trolley service, and especially the construction of public docks on the Bay side for private boats and a water taxis or ferry stop. Actions to support these activities shall include appropriate changes to the Land Development Code, any required rezoning's, and formal requests for funding to Lee County, and may also include further public transit subsidies or financial support for dock construction.
- ii. Bowditch Point Park ensure continued accessibility to visitors from throughout the county and beyond.

POLICY ROS-1-A-8: Encourage Lee County to provide on-site parking for the general public at Bowditch Point (in addition to the existing spaces for the handicapped) by adopting an appropriate resolution of support by the town council and by granting the required zoning changes.

POLICY ROS-1-A-9: LINKING MOUND HOUSE TO GREAT CALUSA BLUEWAY - Link the Mound House to other cultural and recreational points of interest by providing appropriate dockage to serve the Great Calusa Blueway paddling trail and water taxis as well as links to bike and pedestrian paths.

POLICY ROS-1-A-10: WAYFINDING - Increase public awareness of available recreation opportunities through signage on roadways, at park entrances, and within large parks.

OBJECTIVE ROS-1-B: SUSTAINABILITY - Develop policies to promote sustainability in the parks.

POLICY ROS-1-B-1: LEAD EFFORTS TO IMPROVE NATURAL AREAS - Assume a leadership role with other agencies to improve the viability of the natural areas around the town as an integral part of a comprehensive recreational system. Measures of success may include public acquisition of additional beachfront land; designation of canoe trails or water shuttle service linking Fort Myers Beach to surrounding natural resources.

POLICY ROS-1-B-2: MARINE TASK FORCE - Expand the purview of the town's Marine Resources Task Force to include the sustainability of recreational use of marine resources.

POLICY ROS-1-B-3: PUBLIC LAND ACQUISITION TO MEET SUSTAINABILITY PRIORITIES - Support the following priorities for public land acquisition outside the town's boundaries:

- i. Land that will contribute to the sustainability and enhancement of the comprehensive recreation system;
- ii. Land that can provide opportunities for public appreciation of environmental and archaeological resources;
- iii. Land that will provide additional beach access (such as Bunche Beach) for visitors who cannot reach Fort Myers Beach due to congested roads.

POLICY ROS-1-B-4: ECO/HERITAGE TASK FORCE - Establish a task force on eco/heritage tourism to develop and implement the town's "eco/heritage" program. The task force would work closely with Marine Resources Task Force to advise the town on appropriate components of the statewide plan of the Governor's Advisory Committee on Eco-Heritage Tourism where adopted.

POLICY ROS-1-B-5: FLORIDA FRIENDLY AND NATIVE PLANTS - Use Florida Friendly and native plants in all parks and open spaces to the greatest extent possible.



OBJECTIVE ROS-1-C: IMPLEMENTATION AND COORDINATION - Maintain a comprehensive and cost-effective recreational system that meets the future needs of Fort Myers Beach.

POLICY ROS-1-C-1: COORDINATING FUNDING SOURCES - The town shall work with the county, surrounding jurisdictions, state and federal agencies, non-profit organizations, national, state and local land trusts, private organizations and corporations, and other groups to identify funding sources and mechanisms and to structure partnerships to implement the policies of this Recreation Element.

POLICY ROS-1-C-2: COST SHARING MECHANISMS - Promote a cooperative effort among the town, Lee County, city of Sanibel, and other counties and regional agencies to develop cost-sharing mechanisms for improvements needed to improve the experience of visitors.

POLICY ROS-1-C-3: ADEQUATE PRIVATE RECREATIONAL FACILITIES FOR NEW DEVELOPMENT - The town shall require through its development regulations that major redevelopment activities include provisions that will lead to adequate private recreational facilities for their residents as provided for by the town's adopted level of service.

POLICY ROS-1-C-4: MAINTENANCE - Ensure a high level of maintenance and facility development to preserve and enhance the quality of parks and recreational facilities.

POLICY ROS-1-C-5: MATANZAS PASS - Maintain a cooperative planning process for Matanzas Pass and surrounding waterways.

POLICY ROS-1-C-6: AGENCY ON BAY MANAGEMENT - Actively participate in the Agency on Bay Management and the Southwest Florida Regional Harbor Board.

OBJECTIVE ROS-1-D: MONITORING - The following measures shall be used to monitor the achievement of the objectives in the Recreation and Open Space Element:

- The number of projects and amount of funds expended for the acquisition and protection of the Town's beaches for preservation and increased public access.
- Achievement of the LOS standard.
- Comparison of park acreage from 2022 to 2029.
- The number of interagency partnerships, school agreements and interlocal agreements.
- The implementation status of strategies to maintain and increase public participation in park planning, construction, and operational issues, and to increase the public's awareness of recreational opportunities.
- Implementing ADA accessibility requirements in Publicly owned park space.



GOALS – OBJECTIVES – POLICIES

Based on the analysis of recreation issues in this element, the following goals, objectives, and policies are adopted into the Fort Myers Beach Comprehensive Plan:

GOAL 10: To provide residents and visitors of all ages a comprehensive, accessible system of parks, active recreation areas, open spaces, beach accesses, natural preserves, private recreational facilities, and cultural activities that provide a variety of recreational opportunities and promote an understanding of our community's environmental and cultural heritage.

OBJECTIVE 10-A NATURAL RESOURCES – Assume a leadership role with other agencies to improve the viability of the natural areas around the town as an integral part of a comprehensive recreational system. Measures of success may include public acquisition of additional beachfront land; designation of canoe trails or water shuttle service linking Fort Myers Beach to surrounding natural resources; or the successful implementation of a plan for the coordinated use and protection of Matanzas Pass.

POLICY 10-A-1 Expand the purview of the town's Marine

Resources Task Force to include the sustain-ability of recreational use of marine resources along with the activities described in Conservation Policy 6-A-4.

POLICY 10-A-2 Implement Coastal Management Policy

5-F-1 initiating a cooperative planning process for Matanzas Pass and surrounding waterways by 1998.

POLICY 10-A-3 Actively participate in the Agency on Bay Management and the Southwest Florida Regional Harbor Board.

POLICY 10-A-4 Promote the use of a water shuttle to link the components of the town's recreational system without adding traffic on the roads.

POLICY 10-A-5 Support the following priorities for public land acquisition outside the town's boundaries:

Land that will contribute to the sustain-ability and enhancement of the comprehensive recreation system;

Land that can provide opportunities for public appreciation of environmental and archaeological resources;

Land that will provide additional beach access (such as Bunche Beach) for visitors who cannot reach Fort Myers Beach due to congested roads.

OBJECTIVE 10-B BOWDITCH POINT PARK – Enhance the natural resources at Bowditch Point Park while increasing its accessibility for recreational purposes.

POLICY 10-B-1 Encourage Lee County to plant native shade trees at Bowditch Point and control the spread of invasive exotic vegetation such as Australian pines to improve wildlife habitat and enhance opportunities for bird watching. If the Australian pines are destroyed by high winds, the town encourages their re- placement with native shade trees. This encouragement may be expressed by resolution of the town council if requested by Lee County.



POLICY 10-B-2 Actively promote alternate means of access to Bowditch Point Park such as electric trams and more frequent and free trolley service, and especially the construction of public docks on the Bay side for private boats and a water taxis stop. Actions to support these activities shall include appropriate changes to the Land Development Code, any required rezonings, and formal requests for funding to Lee County, and may also include further public transit subsidies or financial support for dock construction.

POLICY 10-B-3 If requested by Lee County, consider the costs and benefits of assuming management responsibility for Bowditch Point Park while ensuring its continued accessibility to visitors from throughout the county and beyond.

POLICY 10-B-4 Encourage Lee County to provide on-site parking for the general public at Bowditch Point (in addition to the existing spaces for the handicapped) by adopting an appropriate resolution of support by the town council and by granting the required zoning changes.

OBJECTIVE 10-C DOWNTOWN AS A RECREATION HUB - Make the Times Square area the nucleus of the town's comprehensive recreational system.

POLICY 10-C-1 LYNN HALL MEMORIAL PARK: Enhance Lynn Hall Park as recommended in Community Design Policy 3-D-12, including continuing beach renourishment and the addition of beach volleyball areas. In cooperation with the town's Main Street Program, encourage entertainment that appeals to residents and visitors while reinforcing the downtown as a recreation and entertainment destination. These could include musical or art-in-the-park events, community festivals, and other family-oriented special events. After at least one year of experience with such events, consider the feasibility of including a performance pavilion in the southeast corner of Lynn Hall Park. In cooperation with local environmental and business interests, consider the feasibility of constructing a boardwalk along the beachfront to connect the beach access near the Lani Kai to Lynn Hall Park on the landward side of the dune line (see Community Design Policy 3-D-4(iii)).

POLICY 10-C-2 PUBLIC PEDESTRIAN PLAZAS TIMES SQUARE - Maintain Times Square as a pedestrian mall and civic plaza consistent with Community Design Policy 3-D-5(ii). Integrate the park with the plaza by creating pedestrian friendly pass-through areas in place of the current fence.

MARINA PLAZA - Work with the private sector to establish a site for a new public pedestrian plaza at the north end of Old San Carlos to increase public activity to the marina and cruise ship docks, consistent with Community Design Policy 3-D-4(v). Investigate the feasibility of improving the existing pier within the town's right-of-way under the Skybridge for public docking, and incorporating the pier and parking area into the Marina Plaza concept. This will provide a second focus for a "walking path" around the core area and a close-by neighborhood common area for local residents; and will link the Times Square area to the water taxi system and dinghy dock. The town can assist in locating grant funding to develop this amenity.

CENTRAL GREEN - Promote the establishment of a third public pedestrian plaza to serve the south end of the island by implementing Community Design Policies 3-C-1 and 3-C-2 regarding the redevelopment of Villa Santini Plaza.

OBJECTIVE 10-D COMMUNITY RECREATION - Increase the already high level of access to recreation facilities, and maintain the required level of service for community parks.

POLICY 10-D-1 Negotiate with Lee County to determine an appropriate balance for operating Bay Oaks Recreation Center without excluding non-town residents, and establish an equitable system of user fees to help fund its operation and enhancements.



POLICY 10-D-2 Support the efforts of the “Build-a-Pool Committee” which has committed to the Town Council to be responsible for raising the funds for the ongoing operation and maintenance of the new public swimming pool. Sources of funds will include user fees, concessions, special events, business sponsorships, and community fund raisers:

POLICY 10-D-3 The town adopts the following level-of-service standard for community parks: for each 7,500 permanent residents, 1 centrally located recreation complex that includes 2 ballfields, 2 tennis courts, outdoor basket-balls courts, play equipment, an indoor gymnasium, and community meeting spaces. Programming shall address all age groups and encompass active recreation, physical improvement, and social, educational, and cultural activities. The town also will maintain a cultural and environmental learning center at the historic Mound House, and contingent on obtaining grant funding for property acquisition, will purchase the Newton estate to serve as an oasis park with interpretive and rest facilities for those traversing Lee County’s “Great Calusa Blueway,” Estero Boulevard, and the walking trail provided by the public beachfront.

POLICY 10-D-4 To identify important gaps in the recreation system, the town shall conduct a community-wide survey to evaluate the adequacy of facilities and programming and measure willingness to pay fees or raise taxes to provide additional services. These services may include the following items that have been suggested in previous community workshops:

- more emphasis on inter-generational programs
- in-line skating and skateboarding facilities
- dog walk areas
- little theater group
- shuffleboard courts
- more tennis courts

POLICY 10-D-5 If the survey indicates sufficient demand, the town should investigate acquiring the privately owned Bay Beach Tennis Club which may be replaced by future phases of development of Bay Beach. A tennis club could be the nucleus of a “satellite” recreation center at the south end of the Island.

OBJECTIVE 10-E NATURAL PRESERVES - Enhance public access to the town’s nature preserve areas, while ensuring their ecological sustainability and providing for their long term maintenance:

POLICY 10-E-1 MATANZAS PASS PRESERVE - Prepare for the transition of the long-term maintenance responsibility of the Matanzas Pass Preserve from Lee County in accordance with Conservation Policy 6-B-3:

POLICY 10-E-2 LITTLE ESTERO ISLAND CRITICAL WILDLIFE AREA - Enhance the public enjoyment and protection of the area in accordance with Conservation Policy 6-B-2:

POLICY 10-E-3 OTHER NATURAL PRESERVES - Establish a citizen task force to evaluate opportunities to designate additional open spaces and natural preserves, and to identify potential funding sources including grants and a 3% utility tax:

OBJECTIVE 10-F CULTURAL FACILITIES AND PROGRAMS - Achieve a heightened appreciation of the town’s recent and ancient history and cultural life:



POLICY 10-F-1 Manage the Cultural and Environmental Learning Center in the historic “Mound House” (formerly known as the Long Estate). Thoroughly analyze the archaeological remains on this site. Link this facility to other cultural and recreational points of interest by providing appropriate dockage to serve the Great Calusa Blueway paddling trail and water taxis as well as links to bike and pedestrian paths.

POLICY 10-F-2 Establish a task force on eco/heritage tourism to develop and implement the town’s “eco/heritage” program. The task force would work closely with the Marine Resources Task Force to advise the town on appropriate components of the statewide plan of the Governor’s Advisory Committee on Eco-Heritage Tourism when adopted.

POLICY 10-F-3 Acquire the beachfront estate of James and Eleanor Newton and operate it as a small community park with close links to the paddling trail in Matanzas Pass, the pedestrian and bicycle facilities on Estero Boulevard, and the adjoining public beach.

OBJECTIVE 10-G PUBLIC ACCESS - Increase the number and quality of public access points to the Gulf beaches and Estero Bay.

POLICY 10-G-1 Maintain or improve existing levels of beach and bay access pursuant to Coastal Management Policies 5-E-1, 5-E-2, and 5-E-3 which provide for the continued maintenance of existing beach access points, and evaluate the need for more parking.

POLICY 10-G-2 Support and participate in Lee County’s “Great Calusa Blueway” paddling trail by making convenient links between the trail and the town’s environmental, cultural, and historical points of interest.

POLICY 10-G-3 Acquire one or more beach access points at the southern end of the island in addition to acquiring the Newton estate (see Policy 10-F-3) for additional public access to the beach and as a mid-island interpretative facility and rest area for the “Great Calusa Blueway” and the natural walking trail that is provided by the continuous beachfront along Estero Island.

OBJECTIVE 10-H NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS - Within five years, begin providing small-scale parks to serve individual neighborhoods and pedestrians.

POLICY 10-H-1 Provide a mechanism for requesting neighborhoods to create and manage a small children’s play area or “visiting” area, as a part of the “hidden paths” and/or “residential streets” programs described in the Community Design Policies 2-A-1 and 2-B-2. Develop a program of guidelines and technical assistance available to requesting neighborhoods. Evaluate the program within two years of initiation and, based on actual demand, and set standards if necessary to regulate the pace and equity of implementation.

POLICY 10-H-2 As provided for in Community Design Policy 2-A-1, facilitate the establishment of a local foundation or community land trust which among other responsibilities, would be responsible for planning and acquiring vacant parcels or easements for the hidden path and “postage stamp” park concept.

POLICY 10-H-3 Provide occasional “oasis” areas (resting places for pedestrians and bicyclists) at selected trolley stops and other strategic locations along Estero Boulevard as a part of the Estero Boulevard Streetscape Plan described in Community Design Policy 1-A-3(iv). The first oasis area shall be the Newton estate at Strandview Avenue (see Policy 10-F-3) which shall be closely linked to the Great Calusa Blueway paddling trail, the public trolleys and sidewalks/bike paths along Estero Boulevard, and to the public beach front.



OBJECTIVE 10-I IMPLEMENTATION – Provide a comprehensive and cost-effective recreational system that meets the future needs of Fort Myers Beach.

POLICY 10-I-1 Demonstrate through the annual budget and five-year Capital Improvements Program that the park and recreation standards of this plan are being met.

POLICY 10-I-2 The town shall work with the county, surrounding jurisdictions, state and federal agencies, non-profit organizations, national, state and local land trusts, private organizations and corporations, and other groups to identify funding sources and mechanisms and to structure partnerships to implement the policies of this Recreation Element.

POLICY 10-I-3 Promote a cooperative effort among the town, Lee County, city of Sanibel, and other counties and regional agencies to develop cost-sharing mechanisms for improvements needed to improve the experience of visitors.

POLICY 10-I-4 The town shall require through its development regulations that major redevelopment activities include adequate private recreational facilities for their residents.



GOAL CON-1 6: To protect the natural resources in and around the town from further damage and improve their future health and sustainability through regulations, education, enforcement, timely management, public improvements, and cooperation with other entities with similar goals. Maintain and improve the Town of Fort Myers Beach's coastal resources with ongoing commitment through regulations, education, land acquisition and preservation, evaluation, programs, and for cooperation with the federal and county governments and related agencies.

OBJECTIVE CON 1-6-A: ESTUARIES AND BAYS - Improve the condition and function of estuaries and bays surrounding Estero Island, including their components such as seagrass meadows, tidal flats, soft bottoms, oyster bars, tidal creeks, and open water. Improve the viability of existing native coastal and upland habitats and establish additional areas for nature preserve and conservation uses to expand habitat areas and improve the conditions of estuaries and bays surrounding Estero Island.

POLICY CON 1-6-A-1: PROTECTING MARINE HABITATS/RESOURCES - ~~Estuaries are the ecological transition between fresh and saltwater systems. They provide \extensive habitat for fish and WILDLIFE including the feeding, breeding, and nursery ground for most of the commercially important fish and shellfish and many species of local and migratory birds, while offering a broad array of recreational opportunities. The Town of Fort Myers Beach will take all feasible steps to protect its marine and estuarine habitats and finfish/shellfish resources to ensure their long-term viability and productivity for scientific, commercial, sport, and recreational purposes. The town shall take a leadership role in enacting ordinances and facilitating resolution of jurisdictional problems.~~

The Town of Fort Myers Beach will take all feasible steps to protect its marine and estuarine habitats and finfish/shellfish resources to ensure their long-term viability with enacting ordinances and facilitating resolution will ensure cooperation with other governmental agencies. Actions include:

POLICY 6-A-2: The town will cooperate closely with other governmental agencies in formulating, monitoring, and enforcing regulations to protect the healthy functioning of the estuary, including but not limited to:-

- i. ~~Marking existing channels crossing through seagrass beds to help boaters avoid damaging them (and their boats);~~
- ii.



- i. Establishing Clarifying permitting criteria for activities within the Town's 1000-foot jurisdiction beyond Estero Island to protect seagrass beds, oyster bars, soft bottoms, and other benthic communities from damage from docks, boat ramps, navigation channels, etc. These criteria would be coordinated with other regulatory agencies to prevent damage and to ensure that every effort is made to protect marine habitats to locate these facilities away from valuable environmental resources. If permits are issued without concurrence from the town, the town may choose to withhold local building permits if a better location or technique could avoid damage to seagrass beds, oyster bars, or other sensitive benthic communities.
- ii. Controlling point and non-point sources of pollution including drainage, sewage pollution, and stormwater runoff.
- iii. Providing hardened shoreline stabilization such as seawalls; iii. maintaining proper quality and timing of freshwater inputs.
- iv. Protecting habitats from dredge-and-fill activities.
- v. protecting sea grasses from "prop scarring" and excessive shading from docks; and protecting important uplands adjacent to wetlands.
- vi. Where appropriate, establishing guidelines that allow for implementation of living shorelines.

~~POLICY 6-A-3:~~ ~~In cooperation with other jurisdictions, evaluate the effectiveness of existing regulations and enforcement techniques in preserving the bay and estuary system. Recommend and support such additional measures as necessary to ensure their sustainability, such:~~

- i. ~~Marking existing channels crossing through seagrass beds to help boaters avoid damaging them (and their boats);~~
- ii. ~~Establishing permitting criteria for activities within the town's 1000-foot jurisdiction beyond Estero Island to protect seagrass beds, oyster bars, soft bottoms, and other benthic communities from damage from docks, boat ramps, navigation channels, etc. These criteria would be coordinated with other regulatory agencies to ensure that every effort is made to locate these facilities away from valuable environmental resources. If permits are issued without concurrence from the town, the town may choose to withhold local building permits if a better location or technique could avoid damage to seagrass beds, oyster bars, or other sensitive benthic communities.~~

~~POLICY 6-A-4:~~ ~~Encourage the organization of a local task force to coordinate and reconcile efforts of various organizations, governments, and businesses to promote long-term sustainability of the estuary. Potential perspectives include eco-tourism, water quality, habitat protection, commercial and recreational uses, and economic development. The task force would promote cooperative activities, assess needs, and recommend methods of coordinating reporting and enforcement of violations. The task force would make recommendations to the town regarding issues such as:~~

- i. ~~Establishing restricted areas and other methods of controlling boat traffic in Estero Bay, particularly around rookery islands and seagrass beds.~~
- ii. ~~Locating a suitable launching point on the Gulf for use by personal watercraft to reduce traffic on the bay side.~~
- iii. ~~Adopting a ban on the commercial collection of live shells.~~
- iv. ~~Recommending capital projects to improve water quality.~~
- v. ~~Recommending regulations to protect local waters.~~

POLICY CON 1-6-A-5: IMPROVE WATER QUALITY: Maintain or improve estuarine water quality in accordance with policy under Objective 8 below: and economic value of the water bodies surrounding the Town of Fort Myers Beach.



POLICY 6-A-6: Regularly examine activities that may be within the town's jurisdiction to determine whether more stringent regulations or other actions are needed to ensure the functioning and long-term viability of natural systems.

OBJECTIVE CON 1-6-B: COASTAL LANDS - Develop policies to improve and protect coastal lands.

POLICY 6-A-7 CON 1-B-1: PARTICIPATION IN EFFORT TO IMPROVE ESTERO BAY - Participate actively in the Agency on Bay Management, the Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program, The Estero Bay Management Plan and other entities attempting to improve the environmental health of Estero Bay.

POLICY 6-A-8 CON 1-B-2: PURCHASE 16,000 ACRES FOR ESTERO BAY PRESERVE - Actively encourage the purchase of the full 16,000 mainland acres adjoining Estero Bay to become an expanded Estero Bay State Buffer Preserve.

OBJECTIVE 6-B: WILDLIFE AND NATIVE HABITATS - Improve the viability of existing native coastal and upland habitats and establish additional areas for nature preserve and conservation uses.

POLICY 6-B-1: CONSERVATION PROGRAMS GENERALLY - The town will cooperate with local, state, and federal regulatory agencies in establishing and managing natural reserves, preserves, and critical wildlife areas. This cooperation will include increasing public awareness, allowing appropriate access, properly protecting natural resources, and documenting and reporting violations of laws and regulations.

POLICY 6-B-2: LITTLE ESTERO ISLAND CRITICAL WILDLIFE AREA - In cooperation with state agencies, the town will aid in the stewardship of the Little Estero Island Critical Wildlife Area through activities such as:

- i. Prohibit commercial activities within the defined boundaries of Little Estero Island.
- ii. Support legislative measures as necessary to protect the long-term future of the preserve.
- iii. Inform residents and visitors of the uniqueness and fragility of the island's habitats and identify funding for measures such as designating pedestrian trails and dune walkovers, adding information and interpretive signs, producing educational brochures, and conducting seminars to encourage proper use.
- iv. Sponsor a volunteer task force to work with the Florida Game and Fish Water Fish Commission to oversee the daily stewardship of Little Estero Island through activities such as:
 - Identify potentially destructive practices (such as mowing or raking on the shoreline, litter, boat traffic, low flying airplanes, disturbances from vehicles and dogs, etc.) and determine appropriate methods to address them.
 - Inform residents and visitors of the uniqueness and fragility of the island's habitats; plant shoreline vegetation to replace vegetation damaged by visitors or other unnatural causes; place and maintain interpretive signs; produce educational brochures; and conduct seminars to encourage proper use.
 - Promote voluntary enforcement and possible citizen "volunteer patrols" to educate residents and visitors of the rules of the island and why they are needed.
 - Develop guidelines to protect the fragile environment of the preserve and, where appropriate, urge their adoption as land development regulations or part of the town's code of ordinances.



POLICY 6-B-9 CON 1-B-3: ACQUISITION OF ADDITIONAL SITES - The town will strive to expand the opportunities for conservation and public appreciation of natural resources through acquisition of additional areas with rare or unique ecological or botanical features, or which provide access to such areas, through activities such as the following:

- i. Identify specific sites that would be desirable for public acquisition.
- ii. Support the efforts of other entities acquiring land that will contribute to the conservation effort (for example, aquatic preserve buffer areas, Bunche Beach, etc.)
- iii. Consider alternative means of land acquisition, such as supporting the efforts of nonprofit conservation land trust or acquiring development rights in lieu of full acquisition.
- iv. Accept donations of land for nature preserves or other resource conservation areas with the following general conditions: if such lands contain ecologically valuable habitat and/or if public ownership of such lands would expand existing or provide increased preservation or resource conservation areas.
- v. When acquiring property, determine the best entity to be responsible to implement a long-range management plan.

POLICY CON 1-6-B-4: MATANZAS PASS PRESERVE - Prepare for the transition of the long-term maintenance responsibility of the Matanzas Pass Preserve from Lee County to a partnership among the county, the town, and a local non-profit organization such as the Friends of the Matanzas Pass Preserve.

- i. Reinforce and support the efforts of the non-profit organization to expand the voluntary community-based portion of the operation and maintenance of the preserve. Assist their efforts to implement the restoration plan (which includes site preparation, revegetation, and long-term management) and future improvements including new foot trails, repairing and extending boardwalks, providing a canoe/kayak access point, and adding a fishing pier/observation deck. This assistance may take the form of seeking grant funds, lending technical assistance, providing equipment (either directly or through leases with the county), or partial funding.
- ii. Negotiate an agreement with the county that assigns responsibilities for the long term maintenance, restoration, and improvement of the preserve, that reflects its status as both a county-wide and local amenity and its importance as natural habitat.

POLICY CON 1-6-B-5: UPLAND HABITAT - Preserve all remaining coastal strand and hammocks and improve the existing habitat through removal infestations of exotic plants and replanting with native species. When these habitats are in private ownership:

- i. Land uses must not result in the degradation of the values and functions of adjoining and nearby wetlands.
- ii. Beaches seaward of the 1978 Coastal Construction Control Line are designated on the Future Land Use Map as “Recreation” to preclude their use for further urban development.
- iii. Known remaining coastal hammocks are designated on the Future Land Use Map as “Recreation” to preclude their use for further urban development.

OBJECTIVE CON 1-C: PROTECTING RESOURCES FROM NON-DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES - Develop policies to protect natural resources from non-development activities.



POLICY CON 1-C-1: WETLANDS IMPROVEMENTS - Structures or facilities that will improve the functional value of wetlands or provide “no-impact” use for observation, education, research, or passage shall include such structures as public boardwalks, observation decks, or launching areas for non-motorized watercraft shall be conditionally permitted, as appropriate, in the land development regulations.

In accordance with Florida Statutes, the Town will not undertake an independent review of the impacts to wetlands resulting from development in wetlands that is specifically authorized by a state Environmental Resource Permit or exemption. However, no development approval shall be issued by the Town for any project which impacts wetland resources until all requisite permits from other agencies have been obtained and provided to the Town. All conditions placed on such permits shall be incorporated into the final development approval issues by the Town. Violations of such conditions shall be prosecuted through the Town’s code enforcement procedures.

POLICY CON 1-C-2: PROHIBITIONS ON EXCAVATION AND MINING - Commercial excavation and mining activities are prohibited in the Town of Fort Myers Beach due to potentially detrimental effects to groundwater, surface water, wildlife habitats, and surrounding land uses and values.

POLICY CON 1-C-3: OFFSHORE GAS AND OIL EXPLORATION - The Town of Fort Myers Beach opposes offshore gas and oil exploration and excavation activities which may be reasonably expected to threaten the quality of coastal beaches and estuarine ecosystems; or would place oil- or gas-related facilities on coastal beaches, islands, or wetlands; or would require the placement of oil or gas storage facilities on the island.

POLICY CON 1-C-4: DREDGING TIDAL CANALS - The dredging of additional tidal canals is prohibited.

POLICY CON 1-C-5: WATER AND SEWER CONNECTIONS AND SEPTIC TANKS - The Town shall require connection to central water and sewer systems. No permits shall be issued for new septic tanks within the Town of Fort Myers Beach.

GOAL CON 2: HEALTHY WILDLIFE HABITAT:

OBJECTIVE CON 2-A: PROTECTED SPECIES - The Town of Fort Myers Beach will protect and ensure the management of designated protected species in cooperation with local, state, and federal agencies.

POLICY CON 2-A-1: ADDITIONAL PROTECTIONS - The Town shall assist in the application of state and federal regulations regarding listed species through activities such as:

- i. Prohibit unmitigated development in and around areas designated as habitats, nesting areas, or feeding sites for wildlife listed as endangered or threatened.
- ii. Provide information regarding listed species on properties undergoing development review.
- iii. Withhold development approval until such time as all applicable state and federal permits pertaining to such species have been obtained and copies provided to the town.
- iv. Cooperate with Lee County and other agencies in the establishment of mitigation parks and banks to allow this form of mitigation for local impacts to listed wildlife species and native communities.
- vi. Support public education on the value of wildlife, native communities, and other natural resources through such means as brochures, newspaper articles, public presentations and workshops, and the placement of interpretive displays and development of observation trails at appropriate park sites.



vii. Encourage and provide technical assistance to volunteer and non-profit organizations such as Turtle Time, Estero Bay Foundation, Estero Bay Buddies, and the Friends of the Matanzas Pass Preserve in their conservation efforts.

POLICY CON 2-A-2: BALD EAGLES - Maintain Lee County's ordinance protecting bald eagle nesting habitat in case bald eagles begin nesting on Estero Island, and urge adherence during development activities to "Habitat Management Guidelines for the Bald Eagle in the Southern Region" prepared by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service which recommends a primary protection zone with a radius of 750 to 1500 feet around active nests in which no development should occur, and a secondary zone an additional 750 feet to a mile from the outer edge of the primary zone to remain undisturbed during the nesting seasons.

POLICY CON 2-A-3: MANATEES - Recognizing that the waters of the Town provide important habitat for the endangered West Indian manatee, the Town will cooperate with local, state, and federal agencies in the establishment of manatee protection programs, including designation, marking, enforcement of slow-speed manatee protection areas and restriction of activities known to adversely affect manatees. The Town waters or portions of Town waters, as properly marked and permitted through the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, are hereby established as all-year slow-speed manatee protection zones:

i. All waters of Matanzas Pass and Estero Bay east of a line that bears 360° from the northernmost tip (approximate latitude 26°27'56" North, approximate longitude 81°58'04" West) of Estero Island, and west and southwest of a line 1,000 feet east and northeast of and parallel to the general contour of the east and northeastern shorelines of Estero Island, and west of a line beginning at a point (approximate latitude 26°24'34" North, approximate longitude 81°53'03" West) on the eastern shoreline of Estero Island and bearing 36° to a point (approximate latitude 26°24'40" North, approximate longitude 81°53'00" West) on the southern shoreline of Coon Key, but excluding the portions of the marked North-South channel in northern Estero Bay from Green Channel Marker "37" (approximate latitude 26°26'02" North, approximate longitude 81°54'29" West) to Green Channel Marker "57" (approximate latitude 26°25'08" North, approximate longitude 81°53'29" West).

ii. All waters of Buccaneer Lagoon at the southern end of Estero Island.

POLICY CON 2-A-4: GOPHER TORTOISES - The town's policy is to protect gopher tortoise burrows wherever they are found. If unavoidable conflicts make on-site protection infeasible, then off-site mitigation may be provided in accordance with Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission (FWC) FGFWFC requirements.

POLICY CON 2-A-5: SEA TURTLES - To pProtect nesting and hatchling sea turtle on the beaches in the Town of Fort Myers Beach ("Town") by ensuring that their nesting habitat is not degraded by artificial light. The objective is to ensure artificial light does not interfere with sea turtle nesting and hatching events through the appropriate design and implementation of coastal lighting systems, public education, code enforcement, and land development regulations. In order to further the objective of full implementation, this article also includes provisions designed to educate residents and beach users in the town on the benefits of appropriate coastal lighting and provides for weekly inspections to ensure compliance with the acceptable lighting standards.



GOAL CON 3: GUIDELINES FOR NEW DEVELOPMENT - Development adjacent to aquatic and other nature preserves, wildlife refuges, and recreation areas shall protect the natural character and public benefit of these areas including, but not limited to, scenic values for the benefit of future generations.

OBJECTIVE CON 3-A: WETLANDS PROTECTION - Protect wetlands from development activities.

POLICY CON 3-A-1: WETLANDS DEFINITION - Wetlands include tidal marshes, salt flats, and mangrove swamps that provide valuable habitat, buffering from storms, shoreline stabilization, and production of food for estuarine and coastal waters. The town will cooperate with state and agencies in the formulation, monitoring, and enforcement of regulations restricting activities that contribute to the destruction of wetlands and/or of the adjacent upland communities that cleanse stormwater inflows. Such potentially destructive activities include construction fill that encroaches on edges of canals and bay waters, dredging of boat basins and channels, use of seawalls, rip rap, and other similar forms of shoreline stabilization, ditching for mosquito control, and any filling or removal of mangrove systems.

POLICY CON 3-A-2: WETLAND BOUNDARIES - The Future Land Use Map provides a close approximation of wetland boundaries. Wetland regulations in this plan and in the land development regulations include all wetlands, even in not specifically shown on the Future Land Use Map, that are identified as wetlands in accordance per Florida Statute "Through the use of the unified state delineation methodology described, as ratified and amended by Florida Statute. If the Future Land Use Map is incorrect due to a clear factual error, an administrative process is contained to establish the precise boundary of any wetland.

OBJECTIVE CON 3-B: PROTECTING DUNES - Protect, maintain and improve dunes and beaches as recreation areas, valuable habitat, protection from storms, and areas of high scenic and aesthetic value. The effect of the town's efforts may be a noticeable transition from today's manicured and compacted beach towards a naturally appearing and functioning beach. This transition will be accomplished through education, regulation, and assistance in physical restoration activities.

POLICY CON 3-B-1: DUNE WALKOVER STRUCTURES - For any beachfront development approved after the adoption of this plan and for all public beach areas within the town, state-approved dune walk-over structures shall be required at appropriate crossing points. These same structures are also encouraged wherever pedestrians will be crossing dune areas. Minor structures includes, but is not limited to, pile-supported elevated dune and beach walkover structures; beach access ramps and walkways; stairways; pile-supported elevated viewing platforms.

POLICY CON 3-B-2: ADDITIONAL PROTECTIONS FOR DUNES AND BEACHES -

a. The following activities are prohibited to protect dunes and beaches:

- i. Removal of dune vegetation and stabilization of submerged and exposed beach by artificial means other than replenishment with compatible sand.
- ii. Excavation or destructive alteration of beach and dune systems. (Minimal disturbance necessary to accomplish approved beach restoration or renourishment activities or construct dune crossovers is allowable).

b. The Town will encourage the protection and restoration of dunes where appropriate through the following activities:

- i. Plant appropriate vegetation such as sea oats wherever sand dunes have been destroyed.
- ii. Undertake a management and maintenance program to control invasive exotic vegetation.



ii. Where appropriate, study and implement dune restoration to provide natural barriers for storm surge, waves, and flooding.

POLICY CON 3-B-3: SEA TURTLE NESTS - All coastal construction projects, including beach restoration and renourishment, shall protect sea turtle nesting areas by limiting construction in dune and beach areas to non-nesting periods (except under emergency conditions). In historic shorebird nesting areas, construction must be completed prior to shorebird nesting. Protection zones shall be marked around sea turtle nests and shorebird nesting areas to ensure that construction activities landward of the dune and beach system are limited to the actual construction site.

POLICY CON 3-B-4: 50FT BUFFER BETWEEN STRUCTURES - The town will promote the restoration of beach and dune systems to require that lots and parcels created after the adoption of this plan shall be of sufficient size and dimension to ensure a 50-foot buffer between any structures (except dune cross-overs) and the landward edge of the primary dune. This buffer shall remain in its natural state except for the minimum disturbance necessary to accommodate dune crossovers.

POLICY CON 3-B-5: COASTAL CONSTRUCTION LINE - Any construction activity seaward of the Coastal Construction Control Line not specifically approved by the DEP. Construction of artificial shoreline hardening structures is prohibited except for the emergency use of such structures constructed in compliance with the Florida Statutes.

GOAL CON 4: MONITORING AND EDUCATION - Wetlands and the surrounding natural habitats will be protected, conserved, and monitored.

OBJECTIVE CON 4-A: MONITORING NATURAL RESOURCES - Develop policies to monitor Fort Myers Beach's natural resources.

POLICY CON 4-A-1: EVALUATING EXISTING REGULATIONS AND ENFORCEMENT - In cooperation with other jurisdictions, evaluate the effectiveness of existing regulations and enforcement techniques in preserving the bay and estuary system.

POLICY CON 4-A-2: MONITOR WATER QUALITY - In cooperation with Lee County and other agencies, encourage continued water quality monitoring and identify sources of non-point water pollution, especially those found to be occurring from within the town. Develop a program to reduce or eliminate those pollution sources that may include education, regulation, and incentives, and follow-up enforcement.

POLICY CON 4-A-3: SURFACE WATER CONTAMINATION - The Town shall comply with the requirements of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System by prohibiting the discharge of runoff, wastewater, or other potential sources of contamination into surface waters, which results in the degradation of the quality of the receiving water body below the applicable standards.

POLICY CON 4-A-4: SOIL EROSION - Conserve and protect soils to reduce water and air pollution from wind and water erosion.

POLICY: CON 4-A-5: MONITORING NATIVE SOIL AND PREVENT EROSION - The Town shall implement the following measures to ensure conservation of native soils and prevention of erosion and its polluting impacts:

- i. To reduce airborne pollutants and protect tidal waters from dust caused by wind erosion, adopt requirements for protecting cleared land during construction.
- ii. Land clearing prior to issuance of a building permit or development order.



iii. An erosion control plan shall be submitted and approved by the town prior to the issuance of a development order. Such plan shall reference the property's topography, vegetation, and hydrology and utilize the best management practices such as the use of staked hay bales or filter cloth between the development site and adjacent swales, surface waters, or wetlands; sodding, seeding, or mulching immediately after final grading; and maintenance of vegetation following development activities in order to reduce the erosion by wind or water.

POLICY CON 4-A-6: NATIVE SOILS - The town shall implement the following measures to ensure conservation of native soils and prevention of erosion and its polluting impacts:

- i. To reduce airborne pollutants and protect tidal waters and adhere to the requirements for protecting cleared land during construction.
- ii. An erosion control plan shall be submitted and approved by the town prior to the issuance of a development order and be in compliance with Fort Myers Beach code of ordinances and compliance with NPDES erosion control standards

POLICY CON 4-A-7: AIR QUALITY - Continue to meet or exceed federal air quality standards based on monitoring results from state agencies.

POLICY CON 4-A-8: INFORMATION SHARING - Share information, data, and maps with other entities involved with conservation land acquisition and management through measures such as:

- i. Cooperating with Lee County in the following activities:
 - Maintaining a central clearinghouse for environmental studies and recommendations from public and private information sources. Compiling, maintaining, and regularly updating vegetation mapping, listed species, data regarding their habitat, and water resources data.
 - Updating the Lee County Habitat Inventory Map using the county's Geographic Information System.
- ii. Cooperate with Lee County and Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission (FWC)FGFWFC in maintaining an inventory of all native communities and natural habitats to aid in land-use decision-making, development approvals, and ranking of potential acquisitions.
- iii. Recommend and evaluate such additional measures as necessary to ensure their enforcement techniques in preserving the bay and estuary systems as described per Florida Statute: Florida Legislature has declared as "aquatic preserves" certain submerged lands and associated waters that are of "exceptional biological, aesthetic, and scientific value." These preserves are "set aside forever... for the benefit of future generations". Develop a clear approach for evaluating existing regulations and its ongoing enforcement for preserving the bay and estuary system.

OBJECTIVE CON 4-B-: EDUCATION:

POLICY CON 4-B-1: CONSERVATION PROGRAMS GENERALLY - Increase education access and protection. The town will develop educational programming for allowing appropriate access, protecting natural resources, and documenting and reporting violations of laws and regulations.

POLICY CON 4-B-2: LITTLE ESTERO ISLAND CRITICAL WILDLIFE AREA - In cooperation with state agencies, the town will aid in the stewardship of the Little Estero Island Critical Wildlife Area through the following activities such as:

- i. Prohibit commercial activities within the defined boundaries of Little Estero Island.
- ii. Support legislative measures as necessary to protect the long-term future of the preserve.



iii. Inform residents and visitors of the uniqueness and fragility of the island's habitats and identify funding for measures such as designating pedestrian trails and dune walkovers, adding information and interpretive signs, producing educational brochures, and conducting seminars to encourage proper use.

iv. Sponsor a volunteer task force to work with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Game and Fish Water Fish Commission (FWC) to oversee the daily stewardship of Little Estero Island through the following activities such as:

- Identify potentially destructive practices (such as mowing or raking on the shoreline, litter, boat traffic, low flying airplanes, disturbances from vehicles and dogs, etc.) and determine appropriate methods to address them.
- Inform residents and visitors of the uniqueness and fragility of the island's habitats; plant shoreline vegetation to replace vegetation damaged by visitors or other unnatural causes; place and maintain interpretive signs; produce educational brochures; and conduct seminars to encourage proper use.
- Develop guidelines to protect the fragile environment of the preserve and, where appropriate, urge their adoption as land development regulations or part of the town's code of ordinances.

POLICY CON 4-B-3: TASK FORCE ELEMENT - Create a local task force to coordinate and reconcile efforts of various organizations, governments, and businesses to promote long-term sustainability of the estuary. The task force would make recommendations to the town regarding issues such as:

- i. Establishing restricted areas and other methods of controlling boat traffic in Estero Bay, particularly around rookery islands and seagrass beds.
- ii. Locating a suitable launching point on the Gulf for use by personal watercraft to reduce traffic on the bay side.
- iii. Adopting a ban on the commercial collection of live shells.
- iv. Recommending capital projects to improve water quality.
- v. Recommending regulations to protect local water

GOAL CON-5: WATER SUPPLY - Protect the water supply.

OBJECTIVE CON-5-A: WATER SUPPLY - The City shall protect, monitor, and address issues to ensure quality and quantity of water supply and ensure continued supplies of drinking water of sufficient quantity and quality to meet the projected demands of all consumers and the environment.

POLICY CON-5-A-1: WATER CONSERVATION - The town will cooperate with emergency water conservation measures of the South Florida Water Management District.

POLICY CON-5-A-2: PURCHASING BULK WATER - The town will continue to purchase bulk water from Lee County Utilities in lieu of providing an independent supply of potable water. Lee County Utilities considers the Town of Fort Myers Beach to be part of its potable water service area and has demonstrated its ability to expand raw water supply and treatment facilities to meet anticipated growth consistent with the 2022 Lower West Coast Water Supply Plan Update prepared by the South Florida Water Management District.

POLICY CON-5-A-3: WATER QUALITY NEW DEVELOPMENT - Maintain or improve estuarine water quality by requiring new development or redevelopment to meet the following standards:

- i. Development shall not degrade the estuarine quality of Estero Bay below those standards established by the state for Class II Outstanding Florida Waters.



ii. Development shall not degrade surface or ground water quality below state standards established in Chapter 62-302 FAC for surface water; Chapter 52-520, for ground water; and Chapter 10D-6 for bathing places.

POLICY CON-5-A-4: WATER AND WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT - Incorporate into the land development code measures applicable to new development and redevelopment to encourages year-round landscape irrigation conservation measures, and water and wastewater management such as low-volume irrigation systems, xeriscape landscaping techniques, potential hook-ups to re-use water systems, and use of other conservation and recycling techniques demands on groundwater. The Town shall regularly review and adopt any local guidelines established by the South Florida Water Management District or Lee County, which will aid the Town's efforts to conserve water.

Goal CON-6: SOLID WASTE - The Town will support solid waste management and disaster planning which protects the environment and promotes public health. The Town aspires to support conservation and local sustainability and resiliency efforts by ensuring that solid waste collection needs of the Town are reduced over time through actions that reduce the solid waste generation rate through recycling, yard waste reuse, and education.

OBJECTIVE CON-6-A: WASTE MANAGEMENT TO SUPPORT SUSTAINABILITY AND CONSERVATION - The Town shall ensure the regular collection, management, and maintenance of solid waste to protect the environment and public health.

POLICY CON-6-A-1: The Town shall ensure the collection and management of residential, multifamily and commercial solid waste through municipal, contracted or Town-licensed haulers, and ensure the adequate management of waste streams.

POLICY CON-6-A-2: The Town will provide receptacles and solid waste collection services, including recycling, on Town properties and in public places as appropriate.

POLICY CON-6-A-3: The Town shall incorporate recycling programs with the goal of achieving 75% recycling of all waste in municipal buildings and offices by 2030.

POLICY CON-6-A-4: The Town shall promote, endorse, and implement education and outreach programs on waste conservation, management, and diversion, including, as applicable, the promotion of recycling, beneficial reuse of yard waste, reuse and diversions.

POLICY CON-6-A-5: The Town shall conduct regular maintenance and code enforcement to mitigate and abate solid waste impacts from disasters, including, but not limited to regular tree canopy trimming and storm preparation of public property.

POLICY CON-6-A-6: The City will incorporate debris removal and management as a component of standard operating procedures for pre-disaster planning and post-disaster recovery efforts.

OBJECTIVE CON-6-B: WASTE REDUCTION - The Town shall promote waste reduction to support a sustainable community.

POLICY CON-6-B-1: ELIMINATING PLASTICS AND POLYSTYRENE - The Town shall consider the elimination of use of single use plastics and polystyrene by the Town, licensees operating on Town property, and users of Town facilities and at permitted events on Town property.



POLICY CON-6-B-2: CONSTRUCTION WASTE - The Town shall strive to divert municipal construction and demolition waste as feasible.

POLICY CON-6-B-3: RESIDENTIAL COMPOSTING - The Town shall assess the feasibility of implementing a residential composting program.

POLICY CON-6-B-4: COMMERCIAL WASTE - The Town shall encourage commercial waste reduction through policies or incentives, including Zero Waste programs.

OBJECTIVE CON-6-C: HAZARDOUS WASTE - The Town shall coordinate with the appropriate entities to ensure hazardous wastes are handled, collected, transported, stored, disposed of, and recycled in a manner that protects human health, safety, and the environment.

POLICY CON-6-C-1: The Town shall support programs which aims to regulate small generators of hazardous wastes and reduce the volume produced in the Town.

POLICY CON-6-C-2: The Town, in conjunction with Lee County and neighboring local governments, shall perform public outreach to inform residents of effective methods to minimize the use of, safely store, dispose of, and recycle hazardous waste products such as oils, solvents, and paints.

POLICY CON-6-C-3: The Town shall encourage residents to deposit household hazardous waste at the appropriate collection centers.

POLICY 6-B-5 ADJACENT DEVELOPMENT – Development adjacent to aquatic and other nature preserves, wildlife refuges, and recreation areas shall protect the natural character and public benefit of these areas including, but not limited to, scenic values for the benefit of future generations.

POLICY 6-B-6 RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLANS – The town will participate with other agencies in preparing and implementing water management plans such as the Charlotte Harbor Management Plan, Surface Water Improvement and Management (SWIM) plans, Estero Bay Aquatic Preserve Management Plans, and similar efforts. The town will reevaluate its policies for protecting and enhancing natural resources upon a review of newly adopted or revised plan by other agencies.

POLICY 6-B-7 INVASIVE EXOTIC PLANTS – Invasive exotic plants may not be used to meet landscaping requirements for new development. Prohibited species shall be identified in the land development regulations.

POLICY 6-B-8 SEAWALLS – The town shall encourage planting of mangroves or placement of rip-rap in artificial and natural canal systems to replace existing seawalls in need of repair. Build back of vertical seawalls will not be permitted along natural waterbodies if one or more of the following conditions exist:

- i. Build back would cause excessive shoreline erosion or endanger shorelines of surrounding properties.
- ii. Build back would threaten wetlands.
- iii. Build back would be a threat to public safety or block access to state-owned land or beaches.
- iv. Build back would be waterward of the existing seawall alignment on adjacent shorelines.



POLICY 6-B-9 ACQUISITION OF ADDITIONAL SITES – The town will strive to expand the opportunities for conservation and public appreciation of natural resources through acquisition of additional areas with rare or unique ecological or botanical features, or which provide access to such areas; through activities such as the following:

- i. Identify specific sites that would be desirable for public acquisition.
- ii. Support the efforts of other entities acquiring land that will contribute to the conservation effort (for example, aquatic preserve buffer areas, Bunche Beach, etc.)
- iii. Consider alternative means of land acquisition, such as supporting the efforts of non-profit conservation land trust or acquiring development rights in lieu of full acquisition.
- iv. Accept donations of land for nature preserves or other resource conservation areas with the following general conditions: if such lands contain ecologically valuable habitat and/or if public ownership of such lands would expand existing or provide increased preservation or resource conservation areas.
- v. When acquiring property, determine the best entity to be responsible to implement a long-range management plan.

POLICY 6-B-10 INFORMATION SHARING – Share information, data, and maps with other entities involved with conservation land acquisition and management through measures such as:

- i. Cooperating with Lee County in the following activities:
 - Maintaining a central clearinghouse for environmental studies and recommendations from public and private information sources.
 - Compiling, maintaining, and regularly updating vegetation mapping, listed species, data regarding their habitat, and water resources data.
 - Updating the Lee County Habitat Inventory Map using the county's Geographic Information System.
- ii. Cooperate with Lee County and FGFWFC in maintaining an inventory of all native communities and natural habitats to aid in land-use decision-making, development approvals, and ranking of potential acquisitions.

OBJECTIVE 6-C PROTECTED SPECIES – Increase cooperation with local, state, and federal agencies in protecting wildlife species listed as endangered, threatened, or of special concern, and conserve the habitats upon which they depend in order to maintain balanced, biologically productive ecosystems.

POLICY 6-C-1 PROTECTIVE MEASURES GENERALLY – The town shall assist in the application of state and federal regulations regarding listed species through activities such as:

- i. Provide information regarding listed species on properties undergoing development review.
- ii. Withhold development approval until such time as all applicable state and federal permits pertaining to such species have been obtained and copies provided to the town.
- iii. Cooperate with local, state, and federal agencies in developing species-specific Habitat Conservation Plans as authorize by the Endangered Species Act. Until such plans are developed, the town's criteria for approval of development proposals shall be consistent with the provisions of the listed species guidelines promulgated by the FGFWFC.
- iv. Cooperate with Lee County and other agencies in the establishment of mitigation parks and banks to allow this form of mitigation for local impacts to listed wildlife species and native communities.



v. Support public education on the value of wildlife, native communities, and other natural resources through such means as brochures, newspaper articles, public presentations and workshops, and the placement of interpretive displays and development of observation trails at appropriate park sites;

vi. Encourage and provide technical assistance to volunteer and non-profit organizations such as Turtle Time, Estero Bay Foundation, Estero Bay Buddies, and the Friends of the Matanzas Pass Preserve in their conservation efforts.

POLICY 6-C-2 BALD EAGLES – Maintain Lee County’s ordinance protecting bald eagle nesting habitat in case bald eagles begin nesting on Estero Island, and urge adherence during development activities to “Habitat Management Guidelines for the Bald Eagle in the Southern Region” prepared by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service which recommends a primary protection zone with a radius of 750 to 1500 feet around active nests in which no development should occur, and a secondary zone an additional 750 feet to a mile from the outer edge of the primary zone to remain undisturbed during the nesting seasons. Nest trees should not be touched in any way by development activities unless the nest site has been de-classified by the FGFWFC.

POLICY 6-C-3 MANATEES – Recognizing that the waters of the town provide important habitat for the endangered West Indian manatee, the town will cooperate with local, state, and federal agencies in the establishment of manatee protection programs, including restriction of activities known to adversely affect manatees. The town shall cooperate in the designation, marking, and enforcement of slow-speed manatee protection areas. The town shall cooperate with Lee County in preparing and implementing a manatee protection plan, particularly in providing educational materials and programs to inform the town’s boating population of the presence of manatees and of how to avoid destruction of manatee habitat and avoid manatee/boat collisions. The town supports the incorporation of the SWFRPC’s 1995 marina siting study into Lee County’s Manatee Protection Plan.

POLICY 6-C-4 GOPHER TORTOISES – The town’s policy is to protect gopher tortoise burrows wherever they are found. If unavoidable conflicts make on-site protection infeasible, then off-site mitigation may be provided in accordance with FGFWFC requirements.

POLICY 6-C-5 SEA TURTLES – The town shall prepare and adopt a new sea turtle ordinance by the end of 1998 to supersede Lee County’s existing Sea Turtle Protection Ordinance. The new ordinance shall provide standards for coastal uses and development and shall prohibit, during sea turtle nesting season, any point source of light or any reflective surface of a light fixture being visible from the beach; also, areas seaward of a frontal dune must not be directly, indirectly, or cumulatively illuminated. Other beach activities to be regulated include:

- i. Beach raking, scraping, and other activities that unnecessarily compact the sand and/or damage dunes or prevent the re-creation of dunes;
- ii. Unauthorized vehicular traffic on the beach;
- iii. Storage of beach furniture, cabanas, jet skis, sailboats, and other equipment on the beach that may interfere with sea turtle nesting;
- iv. Drainage of swimming pools, parking lots, and building roofs into point discharges directly onto the beach.

OBJECTIVE 6-D WETLANDS – Preserve all remaining wetlands; protect them from further degradation; and improve their condition and natural functions:

POLICY 6-D-1 Wetlands include tidal marshes, salt flats, and mangrove swamps that provide



valuable habitat, buffering from storms, shoreline stabilization, and production of food for estuarine and coastal waters. The town will cooperate with state and federal agencies in the formulation, monitoring, and enforcement of regulations restricting activities that contribute to the destruction of wetlands and/or of the adjacent upland communities that cleanse stormwater inflows. Such potentially destructive activities include construction fill that encroaches on edges of canals and bay waters, dredging of boat basins and channels, use of seawalls, rip rap, and other similar forms of shoreline stabilization, ditching for mosquito control, and any filling or removal of mangrove systems.

POLICY 6-D-2 The Future Land Use Map provides a close approximation of wetland boundaries. Wetland regulations in this plan and in the land development regulations include all wetlands, even in not specifically shown on the Future Land Use Map, that are identified as wetlands in accordance with F.S. 373.019 (17) through the use of the unified state delineation methodology described in FAC Chapter 62-340, as ratified and amended by F.S. 373.4211. If the Future Land Use Map is incorrect due to a clear factual error, an administrative process is contained in Chapter 15 to establish the precise boundary of any wetland.

POLICY 6-D-3 In accordance with F.S. 163.3184(6)(c), the town will not undertake an independent review of the impacts to wetlands resulting from development in wetlands that is specifically authorized by a state Environmental Resource Permit or exemption. However, no development approval shall be issued by the town for any project which impacts wetland resources until all requisite permits from other agencies have been obtained and provided to the town. All conditions placed on such permits shall be incorporated into the final development approval issues by the town. Violations of such conditions shall be prosecuted through the town's code enforcement procedures.

POLICY 6-D-4 The following activities in and near wetlands may be desirable and are not forbidden by this comprehensive plan:

- i. Activities necessary to prevent or eliminate a public hazard, such as elimination of a dangerous curve in a road, dredging in order to clean up a spill of hazardous waste, or removal of underwater obstructions to boat traffic.
- ii. Activities which provide a direct benefit to the public at large which would exceed any public loss as a result of the activity, such as removal of exotic species, restoration of natural hydroperiods, impacts associated with the maintenance of existing drainage works, or providing water access that is open to the public.
- iii. Resource-oriented activities such as passive recreation, outdoor education, or other uses where protection of wetland functions and values is the primary attraction.
- iv. Structures or facilities that will improve the functional value of wetlands or provide “no-impact” use for observation, education, research, or passage (walking or non-motorized boats); these could include such structures as public boardwalks, observation decks, or launching areas for non-motorized watercraft.

POLICY 6-E-1 For any beachfront development approved after the adoption of this plan and for all public beach areas within the town, state-approved dune walk-over structures shall be required at appropriate crossing points. These same structures are also encouraged wherever pedestrians will be crossing dune areas.

POLICY 6-E-2 All coastal construction projects, including beach restoration and renourishment, shall protect sea turtle nesting areas by limiting construction in dune and beach areas to non-nesting periods (except under emergency conditions). In historic shorebird nesting areas, construction must



be completed prior to shorebird nesting.

POLICY 6-E-3 The town will implement the following measures to promote the restoration of beach and dune systems:

- i. Initiate a program to recreate a dune line and plant appropriate vegetation such as sea oats wherever sand dunes have been destroyed.
- ii. Require the use of indigenous plants species for public and private dune restoration or renourishment projects.
- iii. Require that lots and parcels created after the adoption of this plan shall be of sufficient size and dimension to ensure a 50-foot buffer between any structures (except dune cross-overs) and the landward edge of the primary dune. This buffer shall remain in its natural state except for the minimum disturbance necessary to accommodate dune crossovers.
- iv. Undertake a management and maintenance program to control invasive exotic vegetation as a cooperative effort of the town and its citizenry.
- v. Consider erosion control taxing/benefit units, grants, and other cost-sharing funding mechanisms to provide funds for beach renourishment and management projects (see Coastal Management Element for strategies on beach renourishment).

POLICY 6-E-4 The following activities are prohibited to protect dunes and beaches:

- i. Removal of dune vegetation and stabilization of submerged and exposed beach by artificial means other than replenishment with compatible sand.
- ii. Excavation or destructive alteration of beach and dune systems. (Minimal disturbance necessary to accomplish approved beach restoration or renourishment activities or construct dune cross-overs is allowable under this policy.)
- iii. Operation of motor vehicles on beaches and dunes (except in association with law enforcement activities, emergency medical services, public land/resources management, state-licensed sea turtle monitoring, once-daily delivery and pickup of beach equipment, minimal cleaning of litter and of excessive accumulations of natural debris, or as necessitated by an approved restoration, renourishment, or emergency project).
- iv. Any construction activity seaward of the Coastal Construction Control Line not specifically approved by the DEP.
- v. Construction of artificial shoreline hardening structures except the emergency use of such structures constructed in compliance with Chapter 161, F.S. If a hardened structure is absolutely necessary along the beach, riprap revetments are preferred. New seawalls are not permitted.

OBJECTIVE 6-F AIR QUALITY - Continue to meet or exceed federal air quality standards based on monitoring results from state agencies:

POLICY 6-F-1 Ensure that the town's land development regulations do not include any disincentives to the use of clean alternative energy sources such as active and passive solar technology.

POLICY 6-F-2 Reduce automobile emissions through programs developed in the Transportation Element to reduce single-occupant automobile trips. Mobility alternatives include increased ridership on the trolley system; introduction of an electric tram system throughout the Island; incentives for visitors to park off-island or park once on-island, a water taxi or water shuttle system; and an interconnected system of bicycle and pedestrian paths.



POLICY 6-F-3 Establish criteria for any new facility that would require an air quality permit including monitoring procedures to supplement those provided by the state and enter into agreements with Lee County and other relevant agencies to ensure that the town's concerns are addressed during the permitting stages of potential point source pollution generators.

OBJECTIVE 6-G SOIL EROSION—Conserve and protect soils to reduce water and air pollution from wind and water erosion:

POLICY 6-G-1 The town shall implement the following measures to ensure conservation of native soils and prevention of erosion and its polluting impacts:

- i. To reduce airborne pollutants and protect tidal waters from dust caused by wind erosion, adopt requirements for protecting cleared land during construction.
- ii. Land clearing prior to issuance of a building permit or development order.....
- iii. An erosion control plan shall be submitted and approved by the town prior to the issuance of a development order. Such plan shall reference the property's topography, vegetation, and hydrology and utilize the best management practices such as the use of staked hay bales or filter cloth between the development site and adjacent swales, surface waters, or wetlands; sodding; seeding, or mulching immediately after final grading; and maintenance of vegetation following development activities in order to reduce the erosion by wind or water.

OBJECTIVE 6-H WATER QUALITY—Improve the water quality and economic value of the water bodies surrounding the Town of Fort Myers Beach beyond the levels existing in 1997:

POLICY 6-H-1 As an integral part of the Estero Bay estuary system, the town shall take all feasible measures in an intergovernmental effort to protect, maintain, and improve water quality in Estero Bay:

POLICY 6-H-2 No garbage or untreated sewage shall be discharged into tidal waters:

POLICY 6-H-3 Maintain or improve estuarine water quality by requiring new development or redevelopment to meet the following standards:

- i. Development shall not degrade the estuarine quality of Estero Bay below those standards established by the state for Class II Outstanding Florida Waters:
- ii. Development shall not degrade surface or ground water quality below state standards established in Chapter 62-302 FAC for surface water; Chapter 52-520, for ground water; and Chapter 10D-6 for bathing places:

POLICY 6-H-4 In cooperation with Lee County and other agencies, encourage continued water quality monitoring and identify sources of non-point water pollution, especially those found to be occurring from within the town. Develop a program to reduce or eliminate those pollution sources that may include education, regulation, and incentives, and follow-up enforcement.

POLICY 6-H-5 The town will implement the measures adopted in the Stormwater Management Element to reduce the polluting impacts of stormwater runoff.

POLICY 6-H-6 The town shall comply the requirements of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System by prohibiting the discharge of runoff, wastewater, or other potential sources of contamination into surface waters which results in the degradation of the quality of the receiving water body below the applicable standards:



OBJECTIVE 6-I WATER SUPPLY – Ensure continued supplies of drinking water of sufficient quantity and quality to meet the projected demands of all consumers and the environment.

POLICY 6-I-1 Incorporate into the land development code measures applicable to new development and redevelopment to encourage water and wastewater management such as low-volume irrigation systems, xeriscape landscaping techniques, potential hook-ups to re-use water systems, and use of other conservation and recycling techniques.

POLICY 6-I-2 The town will cooperate with emergency water conservation measures of the South Florida Water Management District.

POLICY 6-I-3 The town will continue to purchase bulk water from Lee County Utilities in lieu of providing an independent supply of potable water. Lee County Utilities considers the Town of Fort Myers Beach to be part of its potable water service area and has demonstrated its ability to expand raw water supply and treatment facilities to meet anticipated growth consistent with the 2005–2006 Lower West Coast Water Supply Plan Update (prepared by the South Florida Water Management District).

OBJECTIVE 6-J GROUNDWATER – Maintain the quality of groundwater resources and improve as necessary to meet state or federal standards.

POLICY 6-J-1 Commercial excavation and mining activities are prohibited in the Town of Fort Myers Beach due to potentially detrimental effects to groundwater, surface water, wildlife habitats, and surrounding land uses and values.

POLICY 6-J-2 The Town of Fort Myers Beach opposes offshore gas and oil exploration and excavation activities which may be reasonably expected to threaten the quality of coastal beaches and estuarine ecosystems; or would place oil or gas-related facilities on coastal beaches, islands, or wetlands; or would require the placement of oil or gas storage facilities on the island.

POLICY 6-J-3 The dredging of additional tidal canals is prohibited.

POLICY 6-J-4 The town shall support Lee County's programs to properly dispose of hazardous wastes.

POLICY 6-J-5 The town shall require connection to central water and sewer systems to eliminate demands on groundwater and reduce the potential for contamination from septic tanks.

POLICY 6-J-6 Identify any remaining septic tanks and require their use be discontinued



GOAL CM-15: To keep the public aware of the potential effects of flooding, sea-level rise, hurricanes and tropical storms and to plan a more sustainable redevelopment pattern that protects coastal resources, minimizes threats to life and property, and limits public expenditures in areas subject to destruction by storms.

OBJECTIVE CM-1 5-A: COASTAL PLANNING GENERALLY - Protect and enhance coastal resources through an on-going planning process that recognizes the advantages and limitations of living within a sensitive coastal environment. Enhancement of coastal resources can be measured by increased sea turtle nesting, improvements in estuarine water quality, and restoration of sand dunes. Important limitations on development in this coastal high hazard area include the existing over-concentration of people plus town, state, and federal policies against public expenditures that subsidize further private development.

POLICY CM-1 5-A-1: The town shall maintain and enforce building codes at least as stringent as required by Florida law to limit the potential damage of structures from hurricanes, tropical storms, and flooding. These codes shall include wind-resistance commensurate with the risk of a coastal environment and building elevation requirements that conform with federal laws and Flood Insurance Rate Maps.

POLICY CM-1 5-A-2: The maximum density of future residential development is limited to the densities described in the Future Land Use Element in recognition of natural hazards and existing population concentrations. For rebuilding of existing development, refer to the buildback policies under Objective 4-D and 4-E of the Future Land Use Element.

POLICY CM-15-A-3: When state funding is required for the relocation or replacement of infrastructure currently within the Coastal Building Zone, the capacity of the replacement structure shall be limited to maintaining required service levels, protecting existing residents, and providing for recreation and open space needs.

POLICY CM-1 55-A-4: Since the entire Town of Fort Myers Beach is within the coastal planning area and is designated as a coastal high hazard area, specific policies addressing historic buildings, phasing of infrastructure, limitations on development, and environmental resources are contained in other elements of this plan and are not repeated here.



POLICY CM-1 5-A-5: Due to the physical constraints of its coastal location, the Town of Fort Myers Beach commits to a future policy of no increase in the net development capacity (island-wide) that would be allowed by the Fort Myers Beach comprehensive plan.

POLICY CM-1 5-A-6: The entire town is located within the coastal high-hazard area, as shown on the Coastal High Hazard Area Map Figure 17 which is part of the adopted Future Land Use Map series (see Policy 4-B-2).

OBJECTIVE CM-1 5-B: NATURAL DISASTER PLANNING - Reduce the threat of loss of life and property resulting from catastrophic storms by reducing evacuation times and improving shelter capabilities from their current levels.

POLICY CM-1 5-B-1: The town shall work to improve the capability of evacuating Fort Myers Beach when a tropical storm or hurricane threatens to strike. Specific problem areas include:

- i. County officials may be reluctant to order a county-wide evacuation even though an evacuation may be warranted for low-lying coastal areas such as Fort Myers Beach. town officials should be prepared to order a local evacuation if one is warranted.
- ii. Australian pines and other trees not native to Florida situated along evacuation routes can pose a threat to evacuation routes due to decay or shallow root systems; such trees need to be identified, pruned or removed. If feasible, the removed tree shall be replaced with a Florida native-tree, following FPL best practices for Right Tree, Right pPlace, and shall be equal in diameter at breast height (DBH) or height.
- iii. In a cooperative process with Lee County, Sanibel, and the Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council, the town shall seek to improve mainland shelter capacities including private sheltering options.
- iv. The town shall work closely with Lee County and Florida DOT to maintain or improve hurricane evacuation times and procedures, including off-island traffic bottlenecks.

POLICY CM-1 5-B-2: The town shall participate fully in the federal government's National Flood Insurance Program and seek constant improvements under the Community Rating System.

POLICY CM-1 5-B-3: The town shall encourage owners of private buildings to strengthen or otherwise protect them before severe storms strike to reduce avoidable damage to life and property. Town regulations that unnecessarily interfere with this important form of hazard mitigation shall be modified as described in Policy 4-E-3 of the Future Land Use Element.

POLICY CM-1 5-B-4: The town shall develop and adopt a storm emergency plan for preparing for, responding to, and recovering from a hurricane or tropical storm. The emergency plan shall be reviewed and at minimum updated every five (5) years in conjunction with any updates to the town's roadway level of service. Hazard mitigation recommendations of local peacetime emergency plan or interagency hazard mitigation reports shall be evaluated for inclusion in the town's plans.

POLICY CM-1 5-B-5: Capital improvements to infrastructure and facilities under the town's jurisdiction that can maintain or improve evacuation times will be identified and included in the Capital Improvements Element.

POLICY CM-1 5-B-6: The town shall maintain substantial reserve funds for emergency work that will be needed immediately following a major storm.



OBJECTIVE CM-1 5-C: POST-DISASTER REDEVELOPMENT - Plan for post-disaster rebuilding that will reduce the exposure of human life and property to future disasters and improve the community in other ways during the rebuilding process.

POLICY CM-1 5-C-1: By 1999, the The town in cooperation with Lee County officials shall prepare a post-disaster redevelopment plan. Such plan shall be consistent with this comprehensive plan and use the following priorities:

- i. Activities which prevent further loss of life or that minimize public health risks;
- ii. Activities which restore the basic public infrastructure and services to support the population;
- iii. Activities which prevent further damage to public or private property; and
- iv. Activities which begin the rebuilding process as promptly as possible, including a post-storm permitting plan.

POLICY CM-1 5-C-2: By 1998, the The town shall evaluate the elevation and drainage characteristics of evacuation routes to the mainland to identify problem areas that may prematurely block evacuation. Solutions shall be sought in cooperation with agencies having jurisdiction over such facilities.

POLICY CM-1 5-C-3: Rebuilding after a natural disaster is allowed in accordance with the “buildback policy” found in Policy 4-C-7 of the Future Land Use Element.

POLICY CM-1 5-C-4: To further coordinate the redevelopment activities proposed under this plan with state and federal floodplain management programs, the town shall pursue the following activities:

- i. Pursue all potential measures to encourage corrective and preventative measures to existing houses and businesses to increase their resistance to flooding and high winds before a disaster occurs. Examples include storm shutters; shatter- proof glass; strengthening roof attachments, floors, and walls; and minor floodproofing.
- ii. Allow non-conforming buildings to be modified provided the modifications do not increase the non-conformity to current development standards in the Land Development Regulations.
- iii. Investigate the feasibility promoting pedestrian activity in some redeveloping commercial zones by raising the existing grade of roads and sidewalks one to three feet, thus allowing adjoining commercial space to remain at ground level while reducing the required height of dry floodproofing.
- iv. Explore with the Department of Environmental Protection an alternative method of controlling building intensity seaward of the Coastal Construction Control Line. The current rule allows 20% of any single building’s frontage to be enclosed at ground level. This percentage may be too high for most parts of the town, but is too low where pedestrian zones exist or are being created. An alternative means of computing the 20% rule could better meet the state’s coastal management goals and the town’s revitalization program.

POLICY CM-1 5-C-5: New publicly funded buildings within the town shall be designed to withstand major storms and be able to serve as shelters/operation centers for emergency personnel. New public buildings shall comply with State and FEMA requirements, and be encouraged to pursue LEED accreditation.

POLICY CM-1 5-C-6: Design new and replacement infrastructure to minimize damage caused by flooding and high winds:

- i. Power lines shall be relocated under-ground whenever possible.



- ii. Water and sewer systems should eliminate infiltration of flood waters and be designed to function with auxiliary power when needed.
- iii. Roads should be designed to manage minimum levels of flooding and be located where least susceptible to storm damage.

POLICY CM-1 5-C-7: Continue to inventory buildings that are repeatedly damaged by flood waters to identify those that have recorded one or more National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) flood losses of \$1,000 or more since 1978. Buildings identified as a repetitive loss by FEMA since 1978 shall be demolished and shall be permitted to be reconstructed under the town's build back policy, or current regulations.

OBJECTIVE CM-1 5-D: BEACHES AND DUNES - Conserve and enhance the shoreline of Estero Island by protecting natural areas, increasing the amount of dunes, renourishing beaches to counter natural erosion, and reducing negative man-made impacts on beaches and dunes.

POLICY CM-1 5-D-1: The town's policies on shoreline protection measures shall be as follows (see also Objective 5 and related policies in the Conservation Element of this plan):

- i. Beach renourishment will be necessary along much of the Gulf beach. The long-term recreational and economic benefits will offset the cost. The town shall work closely with Lee County, which has agreed to take the lead role in carrying out this important activity. All practical measures shall be taken to ensure that beach renourishment improves sea turtle nesting and migratory bird nesting habitats rather than interfering with it. Public access to existing and renourished beaches is an important priority of the town of Fort Myers Beach.
- ii. Sand dunes should be protected and recreated wherever they have been removed. Native dune plants should be protected and non-native exotics removed. Dune walkovers should be constructed where they do not exist and existing structures should be maintained.
- iii. The use of vehicles on any part of the beach should be severely limited in accordance with the Conservation Element Policy 6-E-4(iv).
- iv. Buildings and other structures should be located as far away from the shoreline and dune system as possible since the beach is a constantly changing environment. Beachfront development shall be protected from coastal erosion, wave action, and storms by vegetation, setbacks, and/or beach renourishment rather than by seawalls or other hardened structures which tend to hasten beach erosion, interfere with public access, and block sea turtle nesting.
- v. Development (other than minor structures) shall not be allowed seaward of the 1978 Coastal Construction Control Line. Development seaward of the 1991 Coastal Construction Control Line may be permitted provided it complies with this comprehensive plan and all state and local permitting requirements.
- vi. Where buildings are threatened by erosion that cannot be reversed by major beach renourishment, the town's priorities are (1) to allow the structure to be moved away from the beach; (2) to allow emergency renourishment (including the use of trucked-in sand); and (3) to allow rip-rap only when the previous priorities are not possible. Existing seawalls on the beach may be maintained or removed but not rebuilt.
- vii. The absolute last resort for shoreline protection is the use of hardened structures (except that terminal groins may be permitted at inlets if acceptable to state and federal permitting agencies). New beachfront buildings requiring seawalls for protection from coastal erosion shall not be permitted.
- viii. Fish kills resulting from Red Tide and other harmful algal blooms have a negative impact on the town's shoreline. The town shall manage removal and remediate impacted shoreline for



the continued enjoyment of residents and visitors. The town shall collaborate with local, state, and federal agencies, coalitions, and nonprofit organizations to support policies/programs that address the impacts of harmful algal blooms that impact the town's shoreline.

OBJECTIVE CM-1 5-E: ACCESS TO THE WATER - Increase the number of well-maintained Improve accesses to beaches, bays, and navigable waters to serve the existing and future population and visitors.

POLICY CM-1 5-E-1: Ensure the continued maintenance of existing beach access points, currently provided by Lee County with funds from the Tourist Development Council.

POLICY CM-1 5-E-2: Evaluate the need for expanded parking areas and the potential for revenue generation from metered parking as a funding source for additional public access amenities.

POLICY CM-1 5-E-3: The town encourages Lee County to continue its program of improving beach access points that are not currently marked.

POLICY CM-1 5-E-4: The town shall identify any water access points that are hidden, fenced off, or blocked by encroachments, and then ensure that appropriate public access is restored. Wayfinding shall be encouraged to be provided at key locations in town to identify and promote use of beach access points.

POLICY CM-1 5-E-5: The town shall attempt to acquire one or more beach access points at the southern end of the island.

POLICY CM-1 5-E-6: The town shall monitor the effectiveness of its ordinances regulating water activities (vessel control, water safety, personal watercraft, and parasailing), and install manatee habitat education signs at waterfront locations. In cooperation with providers and citizens, develop a program of education, interagency cooperation for enforcement, and additional regulation as needed to protect the coastal waters and the safety and welfare of residents and visitors.

POLICY CM-1 5-E-7: This plan minimizes the potential for land use conflicts between waterfront uses and other land uses through the following priorities for development/ redevelopment of the shoreline:

- i. Intense multi-family uses are limited to areas vested by previous regulations; to the rebuilding of existing sites following a natural disaster (~~see Policy 4-D-1~~); and to voluntary rebuilding of existing sites in accordance with the Future Land Use Element.
- ii. Future development or redevelopment of shoreline land uses must ensure compatibility with surrounding lands and provide proper buffering where needed.
- iii. ~~In determining applicable land uses for a site, priority~~ Site, priority shall be given to water dependent land uses in the following order:
 - Conservation uses
 - Water-dependent uses such as marinas which are available for use by the general public;
 - Recreational uses; and
 - Other uses that are compatible with the surrounding neighborhood.

OBJECTIVE CM-1 5-F: HARBOR PLANNING - Initiate a cooperative planning process for Matanzas Pass and surrounding waterways by 1998.



POLICY CM-15-F-1: The town shall take an active role in initiating and participating in the planning process for Matanzas Pass and nearby waters envisioned by Policy 94.6.3 of the Lee County Comprehensive Plan. This process would be conducted by a new entity charged with both planning and implementation. This entity would have the following characteristics:

- i. Balanced representation of competing interests such as local governments, recreational and commercial boating interests, and regional/state/federal agencies with jurisdiction over these waters;
- ii. A commitment to address and resolve competing interests for use and protection of these water, including commercial fishing and shipping, recreational boating, public anchorage, environmental protection, and protection of other shoreline users; and
- iii. The process will be public to seek the active support of all interests so that this planning process can be the first step towards long-term cooperation and protection of these valuable resources.



GOAL U-18: To improve the existing systems that provide safe drinking water, irrigation water, sewer service, and solid waste disposal in order to reduce environmental impacts on land and water while keeping costs as economical as possible.

OBJECTIVE U-1-8-A: RELATIONS WITH UTILITIES - Increase the town's role in influencing utility providers about service alternatives, facility locations, and conservation of re-sources.

POLICY U-1-8-A-1: Mandatory customer connections to water and sewer utilities shall continue to be the policy of the Town of Fort Myers Beach.

POLICY U-1-8-A-2: When considering improvements to utility systems, utility companies should expect involvement by the town Town in evaluating alternatives and seeking the best interests of utility customers and other people and resources affected by those decisions.

POLICY U-1-8-A-3: The town Town shall seek a significant role in policy matters concerning Lee County Utilities' sewer service, based on the town's Town's dual roles as a major user of this service and its location directly downstream of any effluent discharges into tidal waters.

POLICY U-1-8-A-4: The town's Town's potable water supply distribution system is supplied by Lee County Utilities under terms set forth in a bulk water agreement approved in August 2001. Lee County Utilities has a long-term expansion plan that details existing and proposed uses of traditional and alternative water supply sources, in accordance with SFWMD's Lower West Coast Water Supply Plan Update (July 2006 December 2016). Lee County Utilities' expansion plan, the Water Supply Facilities Work Plan, was last updated in July 2008 January 2016 and is incorporated herein by reference.

POLICY U-1-8-A-5: The town Town shares a common interest with Lee County government in ensuring that potable water supplies will be sufficient to meet future demands. The town Town will coordinate with Lee County on an ongoing basis on the following matters:

1. Analyzing peak season demands and providing sufficient allocations of water.
2. Using consistent population projections and level-of-service standards.
3. Conserving water by adopting a conservation rate structure (see Policy 8-C-6).



4. Implementing a leak detection program and replacing obsolete portions of the water supply system.

Policy U-1-A-6: The town shall collaborate with its utility service partners to promote green and environmentally friendly practices, fostering sustainability and environmental stewardship in the town's development.

Policy U-1-A-7: The Town shall study the feasibility of a microgrid to provide power to the island.

OBJECTIVE U-1-8-B: LEVELS OF SERVICE - Maintain minimum acceptable levels of service for potable water, sanitary sewer, and solid waste disposal.

POLICY U-1-8-B-1: The minimum acceptable level of service standards for utility services within the Town of Fort Myers Beach shall be:

- i. Ffor potable water service:

(a) Aavailable supply, treatment, and delivery capacity of 260 275 gallons per day per equivalent residential connection (ERC), and delivery of potable water at a minimum pressure of 20 40 pounds per square inch (psi) at the meter anywhere in the system.

(b) Prior to issuance of building permits, the town must obtain assurances from Lee County Utilities that an adequate bulk water supply will be available to the town's water distribution system to serve new development at these same rates.

- ii. Ffor sanitary sewer service: Compatible with Lee County's current sanitary sewer standards available capacity to collect, treat, and dispose of wastewater of 175 gallons per day per equivalent connection (ERC).

- iii. Ffor solid waste disposal service: the ability to collect and manage 7 pounds of municipal solid waste (or equivalent volume) per day per capita, pursuant to Lee Plan Policy 62.2.5 and Lee County Ordinance 17-19, per person per day.

An ERC is defined as the total number of meter equivalents using the methodology of the Florida Public Service Commission (and is synonymous with their use of the term "equivalent residential units"). ERCs are used to convert commercial and industrial water or sanitary sewer use into standard units that are based on typical rates of use in dwelling units.

POLICY U-1-8-B-2: The town Town will enforce these levels of service under the concurrency requirements of Florida law by requiring one of the following before issuance of development permits:

- i. Ddevelopment orders or building permits will be issued subject to the condition that, at the time of the issuance of a certificate of occupancy, the necessary facilities and services must be in place and available to serve the development being authorized; or
- ii. Aat the time development orders or building permits are issued, the necessary facilities and services are guaranteed to be in place and available to serve the development at the time of issuance of a certificate of occupancy through an enforceable development agreement pursuant to Section 163.3220, *Florida Statutes*, or through an agreement or development order pursuant to Chapter 380, *Florida Statutes*.

POLICY U-1-8-B-3: The concurrency management system in the town's Town's Land Development Code shall be amended to requirement the assessment of water supply capacity, in addition to treatment plant capacity, when determining compliance with the potable water level of service specified in Policy 8-B-1.

OBJECTIVE U-1-8-C: WATER CONSERVATION - Take all reasonable steps to conserve potable water supplies, aiming for a 10% per-capita reduction in water use by 2005.



POLICY U-1-8-C-1: The town shall, by resolution, encourage Lee County Utilities to expand its facilities and agreements for recycling treated wastewater for reuse as irrigation water; deep-well injection of surplus wastewater should be limited to emergency use only.

POLICY U-1-8-C-2: The town shall consult with the South Florida Water Management District to obtain suggestions on regulations to conserve water before adopting such regulations.

POLICY U-1-8-C-3: The town will use drought-tolerant vegetation, xeriscape techniques, recycled water, or other available methods for landscaping publicly owned lands, and encourages private landowners to do the same to reduce usage of potable water for irrigation purposes.

POLICY U-1-8-C-4: The town will continue to require, through its building codes, the use of water-saving plumbing fixtures in all new development and redevelopment.

POLICY U-1-8-C-5: The town will support public educational programs that encourage water conservation practices.

POLICY U-1-8-C-6: The town should consider implementing a strong conservation rate program where large water users pay a higher rate per gallon than is charged to frugal users.

OBJECTIVE U-1-8-D: SOLID WASTE - Add recycling pickup at commercial enterprises, and maintain an efficient solid waste system that stresses recycling of reusable materials plus safe and efficient disposal of that which cannot be recycled.

POLICY U-1-8-D-1: The town will ensure the routine collection of residential and commercial wastes; special collections of bulky items; separate curbside and bulk collection of recyclable materials; and separate collection of yard wastes and construction debris.

POLICY U-1-8-D-2: The town will continue its participation in Lee County's program of recycling, incineration, and disposal of solid wastes.

POLICY U-1-8-D-3: The town will seek to expand the current program to collect recyclables from motels and other tourist lodgings, and to collect and recycle additional materials.

POLICY U-1-8-D-4: The town will consider an ordinance requiring mandatory recycling of solid waste if voluntary participation does not achieve standards set by state or regional agencies.

POLICY U-1-8-D-5: The town will evaluate methods of improving the cost-effectiveness of solid waste collection, and may consider franchising the collection process independently of Lee County.

POLICY U-1-8-D-6: The town will cooperate with Lee County in implementing programs to decrease the volume of solid waste requiring landfilling (e.g. source separation of material which can be reused, recycled, or disposed of in another manner). The town shall also support and assist in programs to reduce roadside litter and illegal dumping, such as Keep Lee County Beautiful's annual coastal cleanups.

POLICY U-1-8-D-7: The town will cooperate with the Lee County in educating businesses and residents on the proper management of hazardous wastes and the provision of convenient disposal opportunities for the benefit of the town's citizens and visitors. This cooperation shall include distributing written material prepared by Lee County and publicizing their regular schedule of household hazardous waste collection days.



Based on the analysis of capital improvements issues in this element, the following goals, objectives, and policies are adopted into the Fort Myers Beach Comprehensive Plan:

GOAL 11 CIE-1: To provide major public improvements that help create the safe and beautiful community envisioned in this comprehensive plan.

OBJECTIVE 11-A CIE-1-A: CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PROGRAM - ~~Adopt~~ Each year, as part of the budget process, a capital improvements program () that implements this plan, ensures the availability of services at adopted levels, and carries out the fiscal policies in this element. shall be adopted to achieve and maintain level of service standards identified in the Comprehensive Plan, correct existing deficiencies, accommodate future growth, and provide for necessary replacements, as required.

POLICY 11-A-1 CIE-1-A-1: ROLE OF THE CIP - As a part of the town's annual budget process, the town shall adopt a Capital Improvements Program every year that identifies all proposed capital expenditures for the ensuing five-year period, identifies the revenues to fund the expenditures, and describes each project's compliance CIE-1-A-3 with the criteria in Policy 11-A-4 below. The proposed CIP shall be balanced, with the proposed expenditures not greater than the amount of revenues available to fund the expenditures. ~~A list of projects that are needed, but unfunded, may be included as an attachment to the balanced CIP.~~ Once adopted, the new five-year schedule of capital improvements shall annually be incorporated into the Capital Improvements Element.

POLICY 11-A-2 CIE-1-A-2: CIP PROCESS - The Capital Improvements Program shall be prepared, adopted, and amended according to the following process:

- i. The proposed CIP shall be developed by the Town Manager in sufficient detail to include a detailed list of proposed projects with estimated costs and timelines, based on a review of existing facilities, level of service standards, current and projected deficiencies, and the capital needs as identified in this comprehensive plan.
- ii. The proposed CIP shall be reviewed by the Local Planning Agency (LPA) which shall consider the consistency of all proposed CIP expenditures with this comprehensive plan.
- iii. After reviewing the report of the LPA, the Town Council shall modify the CIP as needed and adopt it by resolution in conjunction with the annual budget.



iv. After its adoption, the CIP may be amended by resolution of the Council. All changes to the CIP must be consistent with this comprehensive plan.

POLICY 11-A-3 CIE-1-A-3: CIP FISCAL POLICIES - All projects included in the CIP should be evaluated for financial feasibility, their impact on the town's budget, and the town's ability to operate the facility. Operating costs associated with public facilities and services programmed in the CIP shall be incorporated into the town's operating budget. The capital portion of the annual budget shall be consistent with the first year of the adopted CIP. Where an amendment to the CIP affects the first year, the annual operating budget shall also be amended to remain consistent with the CIP.

POLICY 11-A-4 CIE-1-A-4: CIP PRIORITIES - The following priorities shall be used in determining which projects are included in the CIP:

- i. ~~Remove a direct and immediate threat to the public health or safety;~~ Protect public health and provide safety and remove direct and immediate threats.
- ii. Capital Improvements that Are directed by a court order or otherwise by law.
- iii. Capital Improvements that Are essential for the maintenance of existing infrastructure and associated level of service standards.
- iv. Remove an existing capacity deficiency; Capital improvements needed to correct existing deficiencies.
- v. Capital Improvements that Will accommodate new development or redevelopment anticipated by this comprehensive plan.
- vi. Capital improvements required by a County, State or federal mandate.
- vii. Capital improvement projects for which the Town has a grant agreement.
- viii. Projects that advance existing Town approved plans.
- ix. Capital improvements that provide economic benefit by reducing operating and/or maintenance costs.
- x. Projects that will address sea level rise, flooding, energy efficiency, water quality, water efficiency or other sustainability measures.

POLICY 11-A-5 CIE-1-A-5: OTHER CIP CRITERIA - For the purpose of further ranking projects that are otherwise equal, the following should be considered:

- i. Priorities found elsewhere in the comprehensive plan.
- ii. Whether the facility project is needed to satisfy a level of service standard in this plan.
- iii. Whether the project competes with other facilities that have been or could reasonably be provided by other governmental entities or the private sector.
- iv. The revenue generating potential of the project.
- v. Whether the project leverages additional benefits to the town, such as offers to donate land or services by the private sector and/or other governmental entities.

POLICY 11-A-6 CIE-1-A-6: CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT DEFINED - A "capital improvement" is a project to acquire, build or improve a major asset ~~that will have~~ in order to preserve long-term value, such as sidewalks, roads, landscaping, beach renourishment, parks, and nature preserves. Capital improvements usually have a determined value of at least \$10,000 and may include planning and design studies that will lead to a physical improvement.



For capital improvement infrastructure, “Infrastructure” means a fixed capital expenditure or fixed capital outlay, excluding the cost of repairs or maintenance, associated with the construction, reconstruction, or improvement of public facilities that have a life expectancy of at least 5 years; related land acquisition, land improvement, design, engineering, and permitting costs; and other related construction costs required to bring the public facility into service, as consistent with F.S. 163.31801. The term also includes a police department vehicle and other town vehicles as defined in F.S. 1006.25, and the equipment necessary to outfit the vehicle for its official use.

POLICY 11-A-7 CIE-1-A-7: SCHEDULE OF IMPROVEMENTS - ~~Table 11-7 of this element~~ The capital improvement plan presents the five-year schedule of capital improvements to be undertaken by the Town of Fort Myers Beach. This schedule will be updated each year through an amendment to this plan to correspond with revisions to the capital improvements program made by the town during its annual budget process

- i. To comply with the Florida Statue, the required five-year schedule of capital improvements also includes the capacity enhancing school improvements and summary of estimated revenues as presented by the Lee County School District through its Five-Year District Facilities Work Program; ~~as updated each September. For FY 2008/09 through 2012/13, the specific capacity-enhancing school improvements are listed in Table 16-7 of the Public Schools Element and the formal demonstration that those improvements meet all requirements of state law is set forth in that element.~~
- ii. To comply with § 163.3177(3)(a)5, F.S., any capital improvements that Lee County Utilities needs to construct to achieve or maintain the potable water level of service in this plan during the next five years will be included in the town’s five-year schedule of capital improvements.

OBJECTIVE 11-B CIE-1-B: LEVEL-OF-SERVICE STANDARDS - Adopt and maintain a concurrency management system that ensures that public facilities are provided in accordance with the adopted level of service (LOS) standards for potable water, sanitary sewer, solid waste, stormwater, recreation, and transportation.

POLICY 11-B-1 CIE-1-B-1: UTILITIES LOS STANDARDS - ~~(Repeated from Policy 8-B-1 of the Utilities Element):~~ The minimum acceptable level-of-service standards for utility services within the Town of Fort Myers Beach shall be:

i. For potable water service:

- (a) Available supply, treatment, and delivery capacity of ~~275~~ 260 gallons per capita day per equivalent residential connection (ERC), and delivery of potable water at a minimum pressure of ~~40~~ 20 pounds per square inch (psi) at the meter anywhere in the system.
- (b) Prior to issuance of building permits, the town must obtain assurances from Lee County Utilities that an adequate bulk water supply will be available to the town’s water distribution system to serve new development at these same rates.

ii. For sanitary sewer service:

- (a) Compatible with Lee County’s current sanitary sewer standards. available capacity to collect, treat, and dispose of wastewater of 200 175 gallons per day per capita per equivalent residential connection (ERC).

iii. For solid waste disposal service:

- (a) ~~I~~the ability to collect and manage 7 pounds of municipal solid waste per person per day.



POLICY 11-B-2 CIE-1-B-2: STORMWATER LOS STANDARDS (STORM WATER MASTER PLAN) - (Repeated from Policy 9-D-1 of the Storm-water Management Element): Until completion of the next periodic evaluation under Stormwater Management Element Policy 9-F-1 to 6, interim levels of service are hereby established for protection from flooding to be provided by stormwater and roadway facilities:

- i. During a 3-day rainfall accumulation of 13.7 inches or less (3-day, 100-year storm as defined by SFWMD), one lane of evacuation routes should remain passable (defined as less than 6 inches of standing water over the crown). Emergency shelters and essential services should not be flooded.
- ii. During a 3-day rainfall accumulation of 11.7 inches or less (3-day, 25-year storm as defined by SFWMD), all lanes of evacuation routes should remain passable. Emergency shelters and essential services should not be flooded.
- iii. During coastal flooding of up to 4.0 feet above mean sea level, all lanes of evacuation routes should remain passable. Emergency shelters should not be flooded.

POLICY 11-B-3 CIE-1-B-3: RECREATION LOS STANDARD - (Repeated from Policy 10-D-3 of the Recreation Element): The town adopts the following standard for community parks: for each 7,500 permanent residents or visitors staying at hotels, motels and resorts on the island, 1 centrally located recreation complex that includes 2 ballfields, 2 tennis courts, outdoor basketball courts, play equipment, an indoor gymnasium, and community meeting spaces. Programming shall address all age groups and encompass active recreation, physical improvement, and social, educational, and cultural activities.

- i. The Town shall adopt and maintain a measured level of service standards for parks, recreation and open space facilities upon completion of and in accordance with the Master Recreation Plan. As needed, the Town will arrange for interlocal agreements to provide additional facilities.

POLICY 11-B-4 CIE-1-B-4: TRANSPORTATION LOS STANDARD - (Repeated from Policy 7-I-2 of the Transportation Element): The peak capacity of Estero Boulevard's congested segments is 1,300 vehicles per hour. The minimum acceptable level of service standard for Estero Boulevard shall be that average monthly traffic flows from 10:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. during each month do not exceed that level for more than four calendar months in any continuous twelve-month period. Measurements from the permanent count station at Donora Boulevard shall be used for this standard.

POLICY 11-B-4-5 CIE-1-B-5: PUBLIC SCHOOL LOS STANDARD - (Repeated from Policy 16-B-1 of the Public Schools Element): The minimum acceptable level-of-service standards for public schools within the Town of Fort Myers Beach shall be:

- i. Elementary Schools: 100% of permanent capacity as adjusted by the school district annually to account for measurable programmatic changes.
- ii. Middle Schools: 100% of permanent capacity as adjusted by the school district annually to account for measurable programmatic changes.
- iii. High Schools: 100% of permanent capacity as adjusted by the school district annually to account for measurable programmatic changes.
- iv. Special Purpose Schools: 100% of permanent capacity as adjusted by the school district annually to account for measurable programmatic changes.
- v. The uniform, district-wide LOS shall be 110 percent of the permanent Florida Inventory of School Houses (FISH) capacity for each elementary, middle and high school.
- vi. "Permanent capacity" of each of the four types of schools means the combined capacity for all schools of that type that are located in the school district's South Student Assignment Zone, as depicted in Figure 3 of the Public Schools element. (Multi-zone magnet schools and special



centers are excluded.) Permanent capacity is the capacity of permanent buildings as determined by the Florida Inventory of School Houses, 2006 edition, published by the Florida Department of Education's Office of Educational Facilities. "Measurable programmatic change" means a change to the operation of a school and measurable capacity impacts including, but not limited to, double sessions, floating teachers, year-round schools, and special educational programs.

vii. Educational Facilities Plan (DEFP) shall contain a five year financially feasible schedule of capital improvements to address existing deficiencies and achieve and maintain the adopted LOS in all concurrency service areas. This financially feasible schedule shall be updated on an annual basis and annually adopted into the CIE.

OBJECTIVE CIE-1-C CONCURRENCY - The town will enforce concurrency requirements to mitigate impacts of new development on infrastructure and services.

POLICY 11-B-5 POLICY CIE-1-C-1: CONCURRENCY REQUIREMENTS - The Town will enforce these levels of service under the concurrency requirements of Florida law by:

- i. Withholding development orders or building permits that might cause the adopted levels of service to fall below the minimum standards; or by
- ii. Issuing development orders or building permits subject to the condition that, at the time of the issuance of a certificate of occupancy, the necessary facilities and services must be in place and available to serve the development being authorized (or are guaranteed to be in place through an enforceable development agreement pursuant to Section 163.320 FS or through an agreement or development order pursuant to Chapter 380 FS). However, for parks/recreation, transportation, and public schools, the following requirements will apply:
- iii. For parks and recreation, the facilities needed to serve new development must be in place or under actual construction within 1 year after issuance of a certificate of occupancy; any required acreage must meet the requirements of 163.3180(2)(b), Florida Statutes.
- iv. For transportation, the facilities needed to serve new development must be in place when a building permit is issued, or under actual construction within 3 years after issuance of a building permit that results in traffic generation if the required facility is listed in Table 11-7, is included in the Five-Year Schedule of Capital Improvements.
- v. ~~For public schools, the facilities needed to serve new development must be in place when a final site plan is issued; or under actual construction within 3 years after issuance if the required facility is listed in Table 11-7, the Five-Year Schedule of Capital Improvements; or mitigation may be accepted by the school district in accordance with the Public Schools Element of this plan. Consistent with the Interlocal Agreement, the uniform, district-wide level of service standards shall be based upon the Florida Inventory of School Houses (FISH) maintained by the Department of the Education (DOE).~~

POLICY 11-B-6 CONCURRENCY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM - ~~The town's concurrency management system shall comply with the revisions of Rule 9J-5.0055 FAC to include:~~

- i. ~~The town's commitment to maintain the adopted level-of-service standards for potable water, sanitary sewer, solid waste, stormwater, recreation, and transportation.~~
- ii. ~~The town's commitment that future CIEs and amendments to this element maintain this element's financially feasible plan to maintain these levels of service.~~
- iii. ~~A system for monitoring and ensuring adherence to the adopted level-of-service standards, the schedule of capital improvements, and the availability of public facility capacity.~~



Standards for interpreting and building permits and specifying when the test for concurrency must be met (which will be no later than issuance of a development order or permit which contains a specific plan for development, including densities and intensities):

iv. The concurrency management system shall be implemented through the Land Development Code and ensure that development orders and building permits that are issued will not result in a reduction in the levels of service below the adopted levels of service.

POLICY 11-C-2 CIE-1-C-2: ANNUAL CONCURRENCY ASSESSMENT - The town manager shall annually prepare a formal assessment of the current status of the adopted level of service standards, including existing usage of public facilities.

- i. Aavailable capacity (committed or uncommitted); and
- ii. Additional public facilities that are being planned.

Based on this assessment, the Town Council shall determine after a public hearing whether there is cause to withhold or condition building permits or development orders during the following year. Such action, as updated periodically by the Town Council, shall empower the issuance of development permits where this assessment reasonably demonstrates that sufficient capacity will be available to serve all development that is reasonably expected to occur during the period of time approved by the town council. This assessment and its conclusions shall be published by the town at least annually.

POLICY 11-B-8 CONCURRENCY SHORTFALLS - Should the annual concurrency assessment indicate problems with maintaining one or more of the adopted level of service standards during the coming year, the Town Council shall immediately take one or more of the following actions:

- i. initiate a comprehensive plan amendment to modify the adopted level of service; or determine which types of development permits will have significant impacts on service levels, direct that such permits shall not be granted or shall be granted conditionally (with occupancy dependent upon achievement of the adopted level of service), and set a schedule for the re-assessment of that level of service; or
- ii. immediately begin or accelerate capital improvements or other measures to offset any apparent deficiencies in levels of service. Examples would include upgrading potable water lines to improve water pressure; increasing sewage disposal or solid waste capacity; improving drainage or elevating evacuation routes at problem locations; adding recreational facilities; or improving public transit service, bicycle routes, and/or sidewalks to improve non-vehicular mobility.

The third alternative just listed is the preferred response of the Town of Fort Myers Beach to deficiencies in an adopted of service, provided that the minimum concurrency requirements of this plan and state law are still met.

POLICY 11-B-9 CONCURRENCY DEFERRALS AND EXEMPTIONS - The town's concurrency management system shall allow deferrals and exemptions only as follows:

- i. Some types of development applications do not contain a specific plan for development or authorize any actual development. Such applications shall not approve for concurrency compliance until a later stage of approvals where such impacts can be measured and then deducted from available capacity. The town may, however, evaluate probable concurrency impacts at these earlier stages as one factor in determining whether to approve such activities.
- ii. Development applications will be exempted from the concurrency management system only if they will create zero or insignificant impacts on public facilities; any such exemptions shall be defined in the Land Development Code.



POLICY 11-G-3 CIE-1-C-3: CONCURRENCY APPLICATION - The Town's concurrency management system shall be administered in accordance with the remainder of the Land Development Code. The preparation of the annual concurrency assessment shall be the responsibility of the Town Manager, and all decisions resulting from that assessment shall be made directly by the Town Council.

OBJECTIVE 11-D CIE-1-D: CAPITAL FINANCING POLICIES - Manage the fiscal resources of the town to ensure the equitable financing of needed public facilities and services.

POLICY 11-D-1 CIE-1-D-1: EXISTING DEVELOPMENT - Existing development shall be responsible for the costs of repairing and replacing existing public facilities and for capital improvements ~~needed to eliminate pre-1998 deficiencies~~. This responsibility shall be discharged through the payment of property taxes, utility fees, gas taxes, sales taxes, user fees, and taxes and fees.

POLICY 11-D-2 CIE-1-D-2: NEW DEVELOPMENT - New development and redevelopment shall bear a proportionate share of the cost of providing new or expanded public facilities and infrastructure required to maintain service levels through payment of impact fees, connection fees, site-related developer dedications, developer contributions, and other lawfully imposed charges.

POLICY 11-D-3 CIE-1-D-3: IMPACT FEES - Impact fees for designated public facilities shall be set to capture a substantial proportion of the full and real cost of the designated facility and shall be reviewed and updated regularly.

POLICY 11-D-4 CIE-1-D-4: GENERAL FUND - The town will develop specific policies as to the use of general governmental revenues for capital purposes, such as setting aside each year a portion of ad valorem taxes or other general revenues (such as sales taxes, gas taxes, or utility service taxes) for capital improvements.

POLICY 11-D-5 CIE-1-D-5: GRANTS - The town will actively seek grants from federal, state, and other sources where available and when appropriate for capital facility construction. Consideration will be given to limitations and restrictions involved in such grants.

POLICY 11-D-6 CIE-1-D-6: INTERNAL CONSISTENCY - Amendments and updates to the CIP and this Capital Improvements Element shall continue to support the Future Land Use Element, be consistent with all other elements of the comprehensive plan, and where appropriate, be consistent with all other state and regional plan.



GOAL IGC-14: To efficiently coordinate plans, policies, and public services among the many public and private agencies that play important community roles.

OBJECTIVE IGC-A14-A: COORDINATION OF PLANS - Ensure coordination of this comprehensive plan with comprehensive plans of Lee County and the Lee County School Board, other units of local government providing services but not having regulatory authority over the use of land, and with regional and state plans.

POLICY IGC-14-A-1: The town will coordinate planning activities called for by this comprehensive plan with other local governments, the school board, other units of local government providing services but not having regulatory authority over the use of land, the regional planning council, and the state through informal coordination, working groups, workshops, joint meetings of governing boards, participation in coordinating organizations, special task forces, and by formal interlocal agreements as the need arises.

POLICY IGC-14-A-2: In the areas where the town's comprehensive plan addresses the subject matter of the State Comprehensive Plan in Chapter 187 F.S. and/or the 1995 2002 Southwest Florida Strategic Regional Policy Plan, the town's plan has been designed to be compatible with and further these plans. Future amendments to this plan shall maintain this compatibility. The town will incorporate into the land development code appropriate regulations to further attain mutually held objectives.

POLICY IGC-14-A-3: Where conflicts with other entities cannot be resolved through discussion among those concerned or other means, the town shall consider resolution through interlocal agreements and/or the informal mediation process of the Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council.

POLICY IGC-14-A-4: Pursuant to the 1996 amendments to Chapter 163.3177 F.S., the town shall cooperate with the Lee County and other municipalities within the county, the Lee County School Board and any unit of local government providing services in the county in the following activities:

- i. Developing principles and guidelines to be used in the accomplishment of coordination of the adopted comprehensive plans;



- ii. Describing joint processes for collaborative planning and decision-making on population projections and public school siting, the location and extension of public facilities subject to concurrency, and siting facilities with countywide significance

The town will cooperate in establishing, by interlocal or other formal agreement executed by all affected entities, the joint processes described above, pursuant to the schedule to be established by the state land planning agency.

POLICY IGC-14-A-5: The town will coordinate with Lee County and the South Florida Water Management District to ~~insure~~ ensure that this Comprehensive Plan remains consistent with Lee County's Water Supply Facilities Work Plan (last updated in July 2008) and SFWMD's 2017 2005–2006 Lower West Coast Water Supply Plan Update (approved on July 12, 2006). The town commits to updating this Comprehensive Plan in accordance with statutory timeframes, ~~which in 2009 required this update within 18 months after SFWMD updates or amends its 2006 Lower West Coast Water Supply Plan Update.~~

OBJECTIVE IGC-B: COORDINATION OF SERVICES - Ensure coordination among relevant entities in establishing level-of-service standards for public facilities, providing for efficient delivery of services, monitoring progress toward goals, and constructing improvements.

POLICY IGC-14-B-1: ~~Along Old San Carlos and Estero Boulevard,~~ The town would like to see major power lines placed underground to protect the lines, to avoid interruptions to evacuation due to fallen lines, and to improve the visual experience for tourists and residents.

POLICY IGC-14-B-2: Level-of-service standards for public facilities, as specified in Policies 2-A through 2-D of the Capital Improvements Element, have been coordinated with the level-of-service standards of entities operating these facilities. Future amendments to these standards shall be similarly coordinated.

POLICY IGC-14-B-3: To foster coordination with special districts, the town shall review the annual public facilities report prepared by special districts pursuant to Section 189.415, F.S.

POLICY IGC-14-B-4: The Town Council shall appoint a committee ~~by 1999~~ to evaluate the relationship between the town and the three independent special districts and suggest whether efficiencies could be achieved through closer cooperation.

POLICY IGC-14-B-5: The town shall continue to cooperate with Lee County's process of monitoring for conflicts in level-of-service standards for public facilities, and shall help resolve any conflicts.

POLICY IGC-14-B-6: The town shall work closely with public and private service providers to coordinate expected utility improvements with roadway projects and/or become a party to the county's interlocal agreement with such entities.

POLICY IGC-14-B-7: The town shall seek a significant role in policy matters concerning Lee County Utilities' sewer service, based on the town's dual roles as a major user of this service and its location directly downstream of any effluent discharges into tidal waters.

OBJECTIVE IGC-14-C: COORDINATION OF NEW DEVELOPMENT - Work closely with Lee County in evaluating and addressing the effects of new development.



POLICY IGC-14-C-1: During 1998, ~~resolve the current~~ Resolve any ambiguity over the county's and town's roles in collecting and spending road impact fees.

POLICY IGC-14-C-2: In cooperation with Lee County, establish a process and enter into interlocal agreements as needed to address the following:

- i. Impacts of proposed new development or re-development in Lee County outside the town's boundaries which may impact the town's levels of service, natural resource standards, evacuation times, or other significant impacts.
- ii. Impacts, if any, of development proposed in the town's comprehensive plan upon development in the adjacent county area.
- iii. Resolution of annexation issues that may arise.
- iv. Implementation of joint planning areas and/or joint infrastructure service areas.
- v. Procedure for notification and exchange of information regarding changes in land use or zoning and/or other issues potentially affecting the area adjacent to the town's boundaries.

POLICY IGC-C-3: The Town will work with Lee County to explore and implement a Community Redevelopment Agency agreement; value capture agreement, including tax increment financing (TIF); or other community framework as needed to encourage future development and recovery in Fort Myers Beach.

OBJECTIVE IGC-14-D: COORDINATION OF IMPLEMENTATION - Promote cooperative solutions to multi-jurisdictional problems and opportunities through active participation in coordinating entities, strengthening coordination mechanisms, leading by example (particularly through timely implementation of the policies of the town's comprehensive plan), and fostering community involvement in implementing this plan.

POLICY IGC-14-D-1: The town shall continue to participate actively in the Lee County Metropolitan Planning Organization and ~~intends to join~~ the Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council.

POLICY IGC-14-D-2: The town shall continue to participate in relevant coordinating entities sponsored by the regional planning council such as:

- i. Southwest Florida Chief Administrative Officers
- ii. Regional Harbor Board
- iii. Estero Bay Agency on Bay Management
- iv. Beach Restoration working group convened by WCIND, SWFRPC, and Lee County Coastal Advisory Council
- v. Southwest Florida Issues Group of the Governor's Commission for a Sustainable South Florida
- vi. Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program

POLICY IGC-14-D-3: The town shall continue to foster close cooperation among WCIND, SFWMD, DEP, FGFWFC, DCA, other state and federal agencies as appropriate, Lee County, local task forces, non-profit organizations and volunteer groups to implement the policies of the town's comprehensive plan.



POLICY IGC-14-D-4: The town shall actively participate in efforts that promote the consistent and coordinated management of bays, estuaries, and harbors that fall under the jurisdiction of more than one local government through the entities described in Policies 5-D-1/2/3 and specifically by implementing Policy 5-F-1 of the Coastal Management Element initiating a cooperative planning process for Matanzas Pass and surrounding waterways by 1998.

POLICY IGC-14-D-5: The town shall coordinate implementation of the comprehensive plan with the programs and permitting requirements of all relevant regional, state, and federal agencies and shall support the regulatory and enforcement efforts of those agencies by requiring applicants for development orders to obtain approval from these other agencies prior to the city's authorizing commencement of development activities.

POLICY IGC-14-D-6: The town will continue cooperating with Lee County over appropriate long-term responsibilities, cost sharing, and the transition process for county-owned facilities within the jurisdictional boundaries of the town, formalizing resolution of these matters through interlocal agreements.

POLICY IGC-14-D-7: The town shall continue to coordinate informally with the Fort Myers Beach Elementary School and the Fort Myers Beach Library District to address mutual needs.

POLICY IGC-14-D-8: The town will exchange information with the Fort Myers Beach Fire Control District and solicit input from the fire district on development proposals.

POLICY IGC-14-D-9: The town will consider joining the Lee County Regional Water Supply Authority.

POLICY IGC-14-D-10: Should the need for a new permanent dredge spoil disposal site arise, the town will coordinate with Lee County and the West Coast Inland Navigational District and resolve conflicts between the town and a public agency seeking a dredge spoil disposal site through the Coastal Resources Interagency Management Committee's dispute resolution process.



GOAL PR-1: The Town of Fort Myers Beach will make decisions with respect for property rights and with respect for people’s rights to participate in decisions that affect their lives and property.

OBJECTIVE PR-1-A: The Town of Fort Myers Beach will respect judicially acknowledged and constitutionally protected private property rights.

POLICY PR-1-A-1: The Town of Fort Myers Beach will consider in its decision-making the right of a property owner to physically possess and control his or her interests in the property, including easements, leases, or mineral rights.

POLICY PR-1-A-2: The Town of Fort Myers Beach will consider in its decision-making the right of a property owner to use, maintain, develop, and improve his or her property for personal use or for the use of any other person, subject to state law and local ordinances.

POLICY PR-1-A-3: The Town of Fort Myers Beach will consider in its decision-making the right of the property owner to privacy and to exclude others from the property to protect the owner’s possessions and property.

POLICY PR-1-A-4: The Town of Fort Myers Beach will consider in its decision-making the right of a property owner to dispose of his or her property through sale or gift.

MEMORANDUM

Date: July 23rd, 2024

To: Town of Fort Myers Beach Town Council & LPA

Via: Town of Fort Myers Beach Community Development Department

From: The Corradino Group

Subject: Response to "Objections, Recommendations & Comments" from "Expedited State Review" of Comprehensive Plan Amendments under Ordinance No. 24-10

This memo outlines the review process for the Town's Comprehensive Plan amendments transmitted to the Florida Department of Commerce under Ordinance No. 24-10. It includes responses to comments received from state agencies based on their review of the transmittal package.

1. Local Planning Agency Review:

The Town's Local Planning Agency reviewed the proposed amendments during a public special meeting on March 14, 2024.

2. Town Council Hearing and Approval:

A public hearing was held by the Town Council on May 6, 2024, where the first reading of Ordinance No. 24-10 was approved for transmittal of the proposed amendments.

3. Transmittal Process:

After the first reading, the Town of Fort Myers Beach transmitted the proposed amendments along with supporting data and analyses to the Florida Department of Commerce and reviewing agencies, as required by 163.3184(3)(b)1, Florida Statutes. The transmittal occurred on May 17, 2024, under the State Expedited Review process.

4. Reviewing Agencies:

The proposed Comprehensive Plan Amendment Package (CPAP) was sent concurrently to the following agencies for review and response:

- Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council
- Lee County, Florida
- Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP)
- Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT)

- South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD)
- Florida Department of State
- Florida Department of Education

5. Responses Received:

- **Florida Department of Environmental Protection:** No provisions of the CPAP were found that would result in adverse impacts to the state resources under the Department's jurisdiction.
- **Florida Department of Transportation, District 1:** Provided technical assistance and determined that the amendments are not anticipated to have significant adverse impacts on state transportation resources or facilities.
- **South Florida Water Management District:** No regionally significant water resource issues were identified; however, advisory comments were provided.

6. Technical Comments:

Please refer to the attached table for responses to the technical comments received from the South Florida Water Management District and FDOT District 1.

Attachments

1. Table of responses to technical comments from SFWMD and FDOT District 1.
2. Updated elements: Community Design, Conservation, and Transportation.

TABLE OF RESPONSES TO COMMENTS

ORIGINAL TEXT	AGENCY	COMMENT	RESPONSE	UPDATES TO ORIGINAL TEXT
<i>Community Design Element</i>				
POLICY CD-1-A-1 MIX OF USES Provide a complementary mix of land uses with design characteristics that provide: i. Uses that meet the daily needs of residents ii. A variety of affordable housing types	FDOT	Pg. 1 Mixed-Use: In addition to supplying a mix of uses, please take into account the difference between multiple uses and 'mixed use', which is vertically mixing uses within one building. This also will help with congestion and is encouraged in urban, walkable areas.	In our context, mixed-use includes both horizontal and vertical integration of uses. This approach promotes flexibility, functionality, and walkability in various urban settings.	None
OBJECTIVE CD-1-D MASTER PLANNED DEVELOPMENT Provide mechanisms to incentivize master planning large parcels and land assemblies for mixed-use development.		Pg. 4 Infill/Reuse: Promote traditional scale incremental development through infill development with streamline[d] processes, waiver of fees, maximization of administrative variances and waivers, and normalization of by-right approvals. Consider density or other incentives to encourage infill development.	Currently, the Town is not considering promoting traditional scale incremental development through these specific measures.	None
OBJECTIVE CD-1-F STREET FRONTAGES AND PARKING LOTS Develop policies to limit parking lots fronting main streets in the Land Development Regulations.		Pg. 5 Parking: In addition to strategies list here in policies, consider: - Setting parking maximums instead of parking minimums, consider context-based parking requirements allowing for a better-match of parking supply and demand than use-based requirements. - Shared-parking agreements and provide language to developers to enter into agreements. - Establish policies for in-lieu parking fees and centralized parking allowing for developers to pay a fee instead of providing in-site parking and use the revenue to fund public parking facilities or multimodal transportation improvements. - Establish requirements for short-term and long-term bicycle parking based on use and proximity to shared use path. - Establish parking cash-out programs for municipal employees and incentives such as transit passes or electric bicycle rebates. - Explore Demand Based Pricing / Dynamic Pricing for lots.	Revision made to new policy CD1-F-5 to include clarification of parking supply definition. Additional recommendations will be explored during the development of the Transportation and Mobility Master Plan under policy T-17-H-3.	POLICY CD-1-F-5 PARKING SUPPLY <u>Evaluate parking supply needs by conducting a parking supply study and determine parking solutions including shared parking, structured parking that meets the character of the Island and parking management practices like centralized parking and offsite parking for employees.</u> <u>For the purposes of this policy, parking supply shall mean vehicular, bicycle, and any future micromobility options.</u>
POLICY CD-1-F-3 PARKING STANDARDS FOR NEW DEVELOPMENT IN MIXED-USE COMMERCIAL DISTRICTS Within the Mixed-Use Commercial Districts, new development shall locate and design off-street parking areas in a manner that does not detract from the character by providing standards in the Land Development Regulations, such as locating parking to rear of buildings, limiting curb cuts, and landscaping and façade requirements.		Pg. 5 Parking Design: Consider minimum widths for standard spaces as low as 8.5 ft. To discourage lots along Estero Blvd, adopt minimum front street to parking setbacks to encourage placement behind buildings.	This will be addressed in the updates to the Land Development Regulations.	None
OBJECTIVE CD-3-A COMPLETE STREETS AND BICYCLE INFRASTRUCTURE		Pg. 11 Complete Streets: Adopt a local roadway context classification system which defines what makes roadways 'complete' based on their context (including land use) and likely users and integrate into land developments regulations and comprehensive plan.	Noted, the Town will explore this approach during the development of the Transportation & Mobility Master Plan under policy T-17-H-3.	None

ORIGINAL TEXT	AGENCY	COMMENT	RESPONSE	UPDATES TO ORIGINAL TEXT
Provide for comfortable streets, street grid and interconnected paths that includes designated spaces for walking, biking, cars and transit that seamlessly connect to mixed-use commercial districts.				
POLICY CD-3-A-3 MAINTAIN PEDESTRIAN CIRCULATION Maintain the pedestrian circulation plan: i. Bayside sidewalk and streetscape improvements for Estero Boulevard within the Core area with underground utilities and improved sidewalks. ii. Sidewalks (5' wide minimum sidewalk) along all streets in the Core Area. iii. Bike path along Estero Boulevard utilizing Crescent Street to Third Street across to Old San Carlos and then connecting back to Estero Boulevard and north to Bowditch Point. iv. Old San Carlos as a pedestrian spine linking Times Square and the marina by implementing public sidewalks and major crosswalks designed to work in conjunction with arcades or plazas located on private property. v. A new public pedestrian plaza at the east of Old San Carlos. vi. New on-street parking and side- walk on the south side of Crescent Street. vii. Third and Fourth Streets with on-street parking and sidewalks on both sides of the street. Proposed improvements with the pedestrian, parking, mass transit, and traffic circulation concepts in the Transportation Element of this plan.		Pg. 11 Multimodal Infrastructure Implementation: FDOTs Highway Safety Grant Program Subgrants May be awarded to assist in addressing pedestrian and bicycle safety deficiencies. Adopt Transit Buffer Zones or Overlays for reduced parking requirements and enhances pedestrian and bike infrastructure contributions. This may be integrated with Transit Oriented Development district/overlay which allows for more intense development. Consider Pedestrian Overlay Districts with standards for widening sidewalks and enhancing streetscape, ground-floor retail, and active uses. These may also be called Pedestrian Priority Zones.	Noted. The Town will explore measures and policy to adopt that enhance pedestrian and bike infrastructure during the development of the Transportation & Mobility Master Plan under policy T-17-H-3.	None
<i>Future Land Use</i>	<i>Element</i>			
POLICY FLU-1-C-8 AUXILIARY DWELLING UNITS FOR COMMERCIAL PROPERTIES: The Town shall evaluate and provide for Land Development Codes that provide auxiliary dwelling units in existing commercial structures, while maintaining commercial uses on the ground floor. The Town shall explore density transfer of existing transient units in properties designated Commercial, to facilitate the development of auxiliary dwelling units on properties with a land use designation of Commercial.	FDOT	Pg. 18 Accessory Dwelling Unit: Explore codes from City of Tampa, City of DeLand, Clay County for Accessory Dwelling Unit policies.	The Town will explore these codes for potential updates to the Land Development Regulations.	None
<i>Transportation Element</i>				

ORIGINAL TEXT	AGENCY	COMMENT	RESPONSE	UPDATES TO ORIGINAL TEXT
POLICY T-17-H-3 RESERVED TRANSPORTATION MASTER PLAN: The Town shall maintain and regularly update a Transportation Master Plan or a Transportation Design Standard/Manual, using context-sensitive approaches to enhance safety and improve multimodal infrastructure and connectivity for residents and businesses. The Master Plan/Design Standard will at minimum create a standard approach to the design of Estero Boulevard, including, but not limited to, considerations of sidewalk width, pedestrian crossings, pedestrian bridges, landscaping and barriers as appropriate, beachfront access locations, trolley/bus stops, bicycle facilities, and micromobility options. Any Master Plan for the Town will consider parking locations on and off-island, as well as the necessary transit improvements to alleviate single-occupant vehicle usage.	FDOT	Pg. 6 Transportation Plan: Consider enhancing Plan into Mobility Plan which could direct funding Mobility Fees to go towards road improvements, transit services, pedestrian, and bike facilities (similar to what was mentioned for Transportation Plan). Florida municipalities have the authority to tailor these fees to support local objectives within the bounds established in Statute 163.31801.	Updates to the policy clarify that the master plan encompasses both transportation and mobility.	POLICY T-17-H-3 RESERVED-TRANSPORTATION & MOBILITY MASTER PLAN: The Town shall maintain and regularly update a <u>Transportation & Mobility Master Plan</u> or a <u>Transportation & Mobility Design Standard/Manual</u> , using context-sensitive approaches to enhance safety and improve multimodal infrastructure and connectivity for residents and businesses. The Master Plan/Design Standard will at minimum create a standard approach to the design of Estero Boulevard, including, but not limited to, considerations of sidewalk width, pedestrian crossings, pedestrian bridges, landscaping and barriers as appropriate, beachfront access locations, trolley/bus stops, bicycle facilities, and micromobility options. Any Master Plan for the Town will consider parking locations on and off-island, as well as the necessary transit improvements to alleviate single-occupant vehicle usage.
<i>Conservation Element</i>				
	SFWMD	The Conservation goals, objectives, and policies are lacking in substantive conservation policies and strategies throughout. The District recommends the Town consider the following items to substantiate the Town’s commitment to water conservation: Inclusion of indoor or outdoor water conservation programs in the Conservation goals, objectives, and policies.		None
<u>POLICY CON 4-B-1: Conservation Programs Generally</u> <u>Increase education access and protection. The town will develop educational programming for allowing appropriate access, protecting natural resources, and documenting and reporting violations of laws and regulations.</u>		Policy Con 4-B-1 states the town will develop educational programming and that they will support public educational programs that encourage water conservation practices but does not explain the specific water conservation programs or how these conservation programs might be implemented.	POLICY CON-5-A-4 has been updated to ensure the Town adheres to established guidelines and procedures for water conservation. The Town will support and disseminate educational resources on water conservation created by the County, the SFWMD, or the Town, making them available to the public in both digital and paper formats.	None changes to policy CON 4-B-1. Refer to policy CON-5-A-4 for updated text. <u>POLICY CON-5-A-4: Water and Wastewater Management</u> <u>Incorporate into the land development code measures applicable to new development and redevelopment to encourages year-round landscape irrigation conservation measures, and water and wastewater management such as low-volume irrigation systems, xeriscape Florida Friendly landscaping techniques, potential hook-ups to re-use water systems, and use of other conservation and recycling techniques demands on groundwater. The Town shall regularly review and adopt any local guidelines established by the South Florida Water Management District or Lee County, which will aid the Town’s to conserve water.</u>

ORIGINAL TEXT	AGENCY	COMMENT	RESPONSE	UPDATES TO ORIGINAL TEXT
		The Town should consider developing a website page dedicated to Water Conservation, which provides information on the Town’s conservation education and outreach program, as well as links to educational water conservation information throughout the state.	Noted.	None
		Include a description of how the Town has been implementing the District’s Mandatory Year-Round Landscape Irrigation Conservation Measures, as detailed in Chapter 40E-24, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.), which restricts the times and number of days landscape irrigation is allowed.	Updates to the Land Development Regulations will include language to ensure consistency with the mandatory year-round landscape irrigation conservation measures outlined in Chapter 40E-24 of the Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.).	None
<u>POLICY CON-5-A-2: Purchasing Bulk Water</u> <u>The town will continue to purchase bulk water from Lee County Utilities in lieu of providing an independent supply of potable water. Lee County Utilities considers the Town of Fort Myers Beach to be part of its potable water service area and has demonstrated its ability to expand raw water supply and treatment facilities to meet anticipated growth consistent with the 2017 Lower West Coast Water Supply Plan Update prepared by the South Florida Water Management District.</u>		Policy CON-5-A-2: References to the 2017 Lower West Coast (LWC) Water Supply Plan should be updated to be the 2022 LWC WSP throughout the comprehensive plan.	Corrected to “2022”.	<u>POLICY CON-5-A-2: Purchasing Bulk Water</u> <u>The town will continue to purchase bulk water from Lee County Utilities in lieu of providing an independent supply of potable water. Lee County Utilities considers the Town of Fort Myers Beach to be part of its potable water service area and has demonstrated its ability to expand raw water supply and treatment facilities to meet anticipated growth consistent with the 2017 2022 Lower West Coast Water Supply Plan Update prepared by the South Florida Water Management District.</u>
<u>POLICY CON-5-A-4: Water and Wastewater Management</u> <u>Incorporate into the land development code measures applicable to new development and redevelopment to encourage water and wastewater management such as low-volume irrigation systems, xeriscape landscaping techniques, potential hook-ups to re-use water systems, and use of other conservation and recycling techniques demands on groundwater.</u>		Policy CON-5-A-4: The term 'xeriscape landscaping techniques' is dated language that has been replaced by Florida-Friendly Landscaping. The District recommends that the Town update this language to reflect current Florida Statutes.	Updated the terminology to 'Florida-Friendly Landscaping' to align with current Florida Statutes. Additionally, we have included language to ensure that any established Lee County guidelines for water and wastewater management are incorporated and applied, ensuring consistency with the SFWMD and county's conservation efforts.	<u>POLICY CON-5-A-4: Water and Wastewater Management</u> <u>Incorporate into the land development code measures applicable to new development and redevelopment to encourages year-round landscape irrigation conservation measures, and water and wastewater management such as low-volume irrigation systems, xeriscape Florida Friendly landscaping techniques, potential hook-ups to re-use water systems, and use of other conservation and recycling techniques demands on groundwater. The Town shall regularly review and adopt any local guidelines established by the South Florida Water Management District or Lee County, which will aid the Town’s to conserve water.</u>
		Fort Myers Beach is required to revise its Water Supply Facilities Work Plan (Work Plan) within 18 months after approval of the LWC Water Supply Plan Update by the District’s Governing Board. The District’s Governing Board approved the 2022 LWC Water Supply Plan Update in December 2022. Therefore, the Town’s Work Plan needed to be updated and adopted by June 2024.	Noted.	None

UPDATED ELEMENTS

Town of FMB: Community Design Element

EXISTING		PROPOSED	
GOAL 1	To continually improve the appearance and functioning of transportation corridors, commercial areas, and links to natural and recreational areas.	<u>GOAL CD-1</u>	<u>GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT</u> <u>Accommodate growth while preserving the island's beachfront character by providing an alternative growth pattern that addresses traffic congestion, promotes a compatible mix of uses and encourages a variety of housing types and affordability to rejuvenate the existing fabric of the community and community character.</u>
OBJECTIVE 1-A	ESTERO BOULEVARD — Improve the functioning and appearance of Estero Boulevard as the premier public space and primary circulation route of Fort Myers Beach.	<u>OBJECTIVE CD-1-A</u>	<u>NEIGHBORHOOD SERVING COMMERCIAL CORES</u> <u>Identify mixed-use commercial districts throughout the island that provide neighborhood serving commercial uses and lifestyle retail around clusters of residential uses.</u>
POLICY 1-A-1	Changes along Estero Boulevard should improve on the characteristics that make it a boulevard in character and not just in name: safe and interesting to walk along, impressive landscaping, and scaled to people rather than high-speed traffic.	<u>POLICY CD-1-A-1</u>	<u>MIX OF USES</u> <u>Provide a complementary mix of land uses with design characteristics that provide:</u> i. <u>Uses that meet the daily needs of residents</u> ii. <u>A variety of affordable housing types</u>
POLICY 1-A-2	The town should develop a sidewalk and streetscape plan for all of Estero Boulevard that builds on the design theme of the 1997 improvements from Times Square and to the Lani Kai. This plan should recreate the historic “Avenue of Palms” concept by adding appropriate palm trees such as coconuts on both sides between the sidewalk and new curbs. This plan should also address related needs such as parking and trolley pull-offs, and should be sufficiently detailed to estimate costs and suggest potential phases of construction. Priorities should include positive impacts on: i. stimulating revitalization consistent with the town's overall vision in this comprehensive plan ii. completing pedestrian and bike path linkages from one end of the island to the other; iii. managing traffic flow; iv. improving pedestrian crossings; including push button (demand) lights; textured materials to emphasize crossings to drivers; and covered seating areas and other “oasis”	<u>POLICY CD-1-A-2</u>	<u>CREATE THE TIMES SQUARE MIXED-USE DISTRICT.</u> <u>The Times Square Mixed-Use District is the main tourist/entertainment district which will accommodate the most growth in terms of height and density with a predominance of residential uses on the east side of Estero Boulevard and hotel lodging and commercial uses on the west side. It is the main gateway to the island. Entertainment and tourist supporting commercial uses should be clustered here to reduce the need to drive throughout the island and to encourage walking.</u>

	amenities at trolley stops and beach accesses; v. lowering construction and maintenance costs from the original design; vi. correcting drainage problems; vii. coordinating with utility undergrounding; and viii. working within new and available sources of funds. After completing that plan, the town shall establish a phased schedule of capital improvements to complete this network.		
POLICY 1-A-3	In commercial and mixed-use areas, the town shall identify specific portions of Estero Boulevard where changes in land development regulations could work towards a more coherent “framing” of the Boulevard. New regulations should accomplish the following design goals over time through infill and redevelopment: i. bringing buildings closer to the side- walk; ii. encouraging or requiring compatible means of meeting the mandatory flood elevation requirements (for example; using dry-floodproofing techniques, or designs such as the old hardware store which is built close to the street with outside steps up, but with added steps up inside to reach the flood elevation); iii. locating most parking to the rear of buildings, limiting curb cuts, and promoting shared parking areas; iv. facilitating pedestrian and bicycle access and contributing to the interconnected- ness of the circulation system; v. adopting design guidelines that encourage architecture and urbanism along Estero Boulevard that contributes to the human scale and “beach cottage character” (such as the Huston Studio or Hussey tourist information center).	Policy CD-1-A-3	<u>CREATE THE CIVIC CENTER MIXED-USE DISTRICT</u> <u>Civic Center Mixed-Use District is a commercial district with residential on the east side of Estero Boulevard and commercial on the west. A strong mixed-use core is envisioned on the east side of Estero Boulevard as a redevelopment site. The core will support a mix of housing options and neighborhood serving retail uses for the immediate residential cluster.</u>
OBJECTIVE 1-B	OTHER PUBLIC SPACES — Beautify public spaces throughout the island.	POLICY CD-1-A-4	<u>CREATE THE CENTER ISLAND MIXED-USE DISTRICT</u> <u>The Center Island Mixed-Use District will support the nearby marina uses and provide lifestyle retail uses like cafes with outdoor dining and neighborhood serving retail for the surrounding residential neighborhood.</u>

POLICY 1-B-1	Create Estero Boulevard gateways or entry features at the south end near Big Carlos Pass and near the touchdown of the Matanzas Pass bridge.	<u>POLICY CD-1-A-5</u>	<u>CREATE THE THEATRE & ARTS MIXED-USE DISTRICT</u> The Theatre & Arts Mixed- Use District is envisioned with arts and theatre related uses like cafes, art galleries, art studios, and restaurants. Existing views to the water here should be preserved.
POLICY 1-B-2	Improve the appearance of the town throughout by landscaping public property and rights-of-way with native vegetation.	<u>POLICY CD-1-A-6</u>	<u>CREATE THE SANTINI VILLAGE MIXED-USE DISTRICT</u> Santini Village Mixed-Use District is the tallest and most dense district on the island with tourist supporting uses and commercial. It is also envisioned as a redevelopment opportunity with more entertainment, tourist and neighborhood commercial uses as the southern gateway to the island.
POLICY 1-B-3	Identify potential mechanisms to implement and maintain special amenities such as entry features, monuments, or other special land- scape projects.	<u>OBJECTIVE CD-1-B</u>	<u>TRANSITION ZONES AND CONSERVATION DISTRICTS</u> Create language to prevent commercial intrusion into the residential neighborhoods by providing transitions from commercial to residential uses. Use Conservation Districts to maintain the scale, massing and character of Fort Myers Beach and new construction.
POLICY 1-B-4	Monitor the effectiveness of the county's pro- gram for removing trash and debris from the beachfront and Bay accesses.	<u>POLICY CD-1-B-1</u>	<u>TRANSITION ZONES</u> New development on properties abutting single family homes and one and two story multi-family homes shall provide a building profile that matches the height of the abutting property as prescribed in the land development codes, to create an incremental transition in height.
POLICY 1-B-5	Develop a program for placing utilities underground that addresses both public and private sector development.	<u>POLICY CD-1-B-2</u>	<u>CREATE CONSERVATION DISTRICTS</u> Develop specific standards for the Conservation District. Use Conservation Districts to maintain the scale, massing and character of Fort Myers Beach and new construction. New buildings and additions should match the height and bulk of existing building form, with architectural treatments and building articulation that are consistent with the existing building vernacular.
POLICY 1-B-6	Conduct regular and adequate street cleaning (sweeping or vacuuming) throughout the town. Evaluate effective methods to keep streets and drainage systems clean despite the abundance of blown sand and the absence of curbs.	<u>OBJECTIVE CD-1-C</u>	<u>Workforce Housing Through Density and Height Bonus</u>
GOAL 2	To upgrade residential neighbor- hoods throughout Estero Island.	<u>POLICY CD-1-C-1</u>	<u>Each of the mixed-use districts may provide for additional bonus height for developments that provide a workforce housing component.</u>
OBJECTIVE 2-A	HIDDEN PATHS — Create an additional interconnected system of pedestrian and bicycle pathways throughout the island to improve mobility and promote community inter- action.	<u>POLICY CD-1-C-2</u>	<u>The Town shall determine the minimum requirements for the workforce housing component as a policy in the land development regulations.</u>

POLICY 2-A-1	The town should encourage a community- sponsored program to identify and build a system of existing and potential “hidden paths” parallel to but behind Estero Boulevard. A local foundation or community land trust could identify and acquire existing vacant lots or easements to gradually complete the network. These parcels could be transferred back to the town for long-term maintenance.	<u>OBJECTIVE CD-1-D</u>	<u>MASTER PLANNED DEVELOPMENT</u> <u>Provide mechanisms to incentivize master planning large parcels and land assemblies for mixed-use development.</u>
POLICY 2-A-2	The town shall adopt changes to the land development regulations to allow small portions of existing lots to become a part of the hidden-path network without diminishing future uses of those lots.	<u>POLICY CD-1-D-1</u>	<u>The Town may consider and approve requests for Master Planned Developments. Assembled parcels that exceed four (4) acres can be master planned such that the applicant can propose new building scale, massing and uses from the underlying zoning.</u>
POLICY 2-A-3	The town shall ensure coordination between efforts to develop this hidden-path network and its new streetscape plan for Estero Boulevard.	<u>POLICY CD-1-D-2</u>	<u>Assembled parcels that exceed seven (7) acres must have a workforce housing and housing component to enjoy the benefits of changing the underlying zoning to be determined by the Town.</u>
OBJECTIVE 2-B	SIDE STREETS — Encourage residents to achieve a higher ambition for their residential streets, improving their walkability, comfort, beauty, inter- connectedness, and safety.	<u>POLICY CD-1-D-3</u>	<u>Assembled parcels that exceed seven (7) acres must provide a master plan for approval by the Town at a public hearing.</u>
POLICY 2-B-1	The town strongly supports the planting of regularly spaced street trees in public rights- of-way on residential streets. The selection of specific trees shall be guided by public input and the following criteria: i. amount of shade provided, especially during the summer months; ii. the amount of water and other regular maintenance that will be required (such as types of leaves, fronds, and fruit); iii. potential damage from extensive root systems or other characteristics of specific trees; iv. variety and beauty, including flowering characteristics; v. the potential for wildlife utilization; vi. a strong preference for native trees such as live oak, gumbo limbo, sea grape, cabbage palm, mastic, Jamaica dog- wood, mahogany, black olive, strangler fig, pigeon plum, and buttonwood; and vii. a prohibition on the use of invasive trees such as Australian pine, Brazilian pepper, melaleuca, and Java plum.	<u>OBJECTIVE CD-1-E</u>	<u>PRESERVING BUILDING SCALE BY ADAPTIVE REUSE OF EXISTING BUILDING STOCK</u> <u>Encourage conversions from vacation rentals and motels to condominiums to provide affordable housing options for Fort Myers Beach’s workforce.</u>

POLICY 2-B-2	The town should develop a residential streets program that provides guidelines and technical assistance to neighborhoods that wish to improve their public spaces as civic projects. The program could include the following elements: i. assistance in developing a workable approach on a street-by-street basis, consistent with the island-wide concept; ii. volunteer local arborists to provide specific advice and technical assistance; iii. assistance in preparing a planting plan for street trees; iv. financial assistance for planting street trees; v. a booklet describing the characteristics of desirable street trees for Fort Myers Beach; vi. a guidebook for tree planting, irrigation, and pruning methods; vii. a plan for short- and long-term maintenance of planted areas and street trees; viii. a current list of contact persons and a description of the process for requesting street repairs and maintenance and for reporting code violations; and ix. information on how to form a street lighting district.	POLICY CD-1-E-1	<u>ADAPTIVE REUSE</u> <u>Encourage the adaptive reuse of existing structures located within mixed-use and commercial land use designations, particularly those that were originally established as motels or vacation rentals are over 50 years old, by providing incentives, such as relief in the Land Development Regulations, grants to facilitate retrofitting or rehabilitation, etc.</u>
GOAL 3	To revitalize and improve specific transitional neighborhoods.	POLICY CD-1-E-2	<u>INCENTIVES FOR ADAPTIVE REUSE</u> <u>Develop an incentives package in the Land Development Regulations that encourage adaptive reuse of motels and vacation rentals to convert to condominiums to maintain the historic character and development pattern over time.</u>
OBJECTIVE 3-A	HEART OF THE ISLAND — Redevelop the School/Library/Bay Oaks area as the new “heart of the island.”	OBJECTIVE CD-1-F	<u>STREET FRONTAGES AND PARKING LOTS</u> <u>Develop policies to limit parking lots fronting main streets in the Land Development Regulations.</u>
POLICY 3-A-1	The complex of civic activities in the Bay Oaks area is a key community asset. Its access and significance would be enhanced by creating a main entryway; School Street could become a walkable palm-lined street of restored and infill cottages that announce the entry to this center of civic activity.	POLICY CD-1-F-1	<u>RESTRICTING PARKING AS A PRIMARY USE ON ESTERO BOULEVARD</u> <u>Parking lots shall not be encouraged as a primary use on Estero Boulevard.</u>
POLICY 3-A-2	A prominent civic structure benefits the community most when its location serves the public conveniently and when its design helps shape the surrounding public spaces and provides a new and symbolic vista from other public places.	POLICY CD-1-F-2	<u>RESTRICTING PARKING FRONTAGE LENGTH ON ESTERO BOULEVARD</u> <u>Parking lot frontages shall ideally be limited in size to one fourth the lot width on Estero Boulevard.</u>

POLICY 3-A-3	If the town ever decides to build a Town Hall rather than renting office space, a new building, even if modest in size, should help complete a center of public activity and should be visually prominent as a showcase of urban design.	<u>POLICY CD-1-F-3</u>	<u>PARKING STANDARDS FOR NEW DEVELOPMENT IN MIXED-USE COMMERCIAL DISTRICTS</u> <u>Within the Mixed-Use Commercial Districts, new development shall locate and design off-street parking areas in a manner that does not detract from the character by providing standards in the Land Development Regulations, such as locating parking to rear of buildings, limiting curb cuts, and landscaping and façade requirements.</u>
POLICY 3-A-4	A “heart of the island” plan should be prepared to coordinate the public and private actions needed to fully implement this concept, including identifying the sequence of actions, responsibilities for implementation, and potential funding sources. Initial actions should include: i. develop a design concept consistent with the new streetscape plan for Estero Boulevard, identifying approximate costs, potential funding sources, and suggested phasing; ii. refine regulations that would allow a compatible mix of uses such as residential, live-work spaces such as studios or galleries, and small-scale specialty retail uses consistent with the historic theme, including eased setback and parking regulations to accommodate the unique needs of renovations of existing and move-on cottages; and iii. prepare architectural guidelines for cottage renovations and for infill development.	<u>POLICY CD-1-F-4</u>	<u>PARKING STANDARDS IN TIMES SQUARE</u> <u>Improve the current parking situation near Times Square through the means outlined in the Transportation Element of this plan.</u>
POLICY 3-A-5	Provide in the new Land Development Code a pre-approved option for the future redevelopment of the Red Coconut/Gulfview Colony properties consistent with the town’s vision of traditional neighborhoods — neighborhoods that recreate a small-town feel; which are pedestrian and bicycle friendly with an internal circulation system that makes it possible to walk or bicycle to schools and services without always using Estero Boulevard; which retain the psychological connection and views to both the Bay and the beach; and which offer a variety of housing types and opportunity for mixed uses.	<u>POLICY CD-1-F-5</u>	<u>PARKING SUPPLY</u> <u>Evaluate parking supply needs by conducting a parking supply study and determine parking solutions including shared parking, structured parking that meets the character of the Island and parking management practices like centralized parking and offsite parking for employees.</u> <u>For the purposes of this policy, parking supply shall mean vehicular, bicycle, and any future micromobility options.</u>
POLICY 3-A-6	In accordance with Policies 4-E-1 and 4-F-2 of the Future Land Use Element, evaluate any alternative redevelopment concepts for any portion of the Gulfview Colony/ Red Coconut properties as to the following design principles:	<u>OBJECTIVE CD-1-G</u>	<u>DESIGN STANDARDS FOR PRESERVING BEACHFRONT CHARACTER</u> <u>Develop building design standards to preserve and enhance the existing beachfront character.</u>

	i. retains and/or creates water views through street layout, site design, and architectural design; ii. provides a variety of housing types rather than uniformity; iii. locates the more durable housing types and mix of uses along the Bay side of Estero Boulevard; iv. new streets create a highly connected network which includes mid-block paths or alleys; v. streets have sidewalks and street trees; vi. local streets are interconnected from Donora and Shell Mound through to the north.		
OBJECTIVE 3-B	NEAR-TOWN NEIGHBORHOODS — Revitalize older residential areas using traditional neighborhood techniques for renovations and infill.	<u>POLICY CD-1-G-1</u>	<u>NEIGHBORHOODS AND MIXED-USE DISTRICTS</u> Maintain design standards in the Land Development Regulations for neighborhoods and districts which protect and enhance their unique character through building setbacks, building footprint, massing and scale. These can be enhanced through Conservation District language to protect the Fort Myers Beach building vernacular and encourage adaptive reuse for motels and vacation rentals.
POLICY 3-B-1	The town shall prepare and adopt land development regulations to apply to the older “near-town neighborhoods” that will encourage renovations and compatible infill development, using the following types of techniques: i. modifying lot size, setback, and parking requirements where the current regulations hinder redevelopment; ii. adding design guidelines to encourage front porches, decks, and other elements from the cottage design tradition to help frame public spaces and define private areas; iii. modifying permitted uses to accommodate quiet home offices and possibly other mixed uses; iv. modifying current limitations on the number of guests and/or length of stays to protect residential areas from excessive intrusion by poorly regulated short- term rentals.	<u>POLICY CD-1-G-2</u>	<u>ESTERO BOULEVARD</u> Continue to make improvements to Estero Boulevard in terms of the eclectic character of building design with incentives in the Land Development Regulations.
OBJECTIVE 3-C	SANTINI “MAIN STREET” — Redevelop the Villa Santini Plaza and its environs as a “Main Street” town center for the south end of the island.	<u>POLICY CD-1-G-3</u>	<u>GUIDELINES FOR BUILDING COMPATIBILITY WITH FLOOD REGULATIONS</u> Encourage or require compatible means of meeting the mandatory flood elevation requirements (for example, using

			<u>dry-floodproofing techniques, having maximum allowable floor to ceiling height that match adjacent structures especially for buildings that need to be elevated at grade level and using gradual inclines for grade changes on commercial properties.</u>
POLICY 3-C-1	The town wishes to convert, over time, the existing Villa Santini Plaza and surrounding land from its current configuration of auto- oriented commercial uses. The desired plan would create a new “Main Street” shopping and civic center to serve residents of the south end of Estero Island and visitors to the state park on Black Island and Lovers Key (see Policy 4-F-2(ii) of the Future Land Use Element). To accomplish this goal, the town wishes to structure a public/private partner- ship agreement that provides for the following: i. outlines the public improvements necessary to implement the concept, and identifies the agencies and entities in- volved and their respective roles; ii. provides the town’s design criteria to guide the preparation of the development plan by the property owners; and iii. sets forth the process for the partner- ship, identifies responsibilities, areas of commitment, timing and process, order of magnitude costs, fiscal impacts/bene- fits, and any reimbursements.	<u>GOAL CD-2</u>	<u>COMMUNITY CHARACTER OF PUBLIC SPACES</u> <u>Improve the physical appearance of the island’s public spaces, paths, streets and streetscape to achieve a unified small town character which balances the needs of both residents and tourists.</u>
POLICY 3-C-2	The town shall adopt new development regulations for this area to bring about the desired redevelopment pattern in the Villa Santini area. Along the nearby section of Estero Boulevard, buildings being constructed or renovated shall extend closer to the street and provide front access to pedestrians and on-street parking. Internal site layouts shall be reconfigured to accommodate a central green/plaza area for overflow parking and a trolley transfer point generally consistent with the 1997 design concept pre- pared by Dover, Kohl & Partners.	<u>OBJECTIVE CD-2-A</u>	<u>PUBLIC SPACES AND VIEWS TO THE WATER</u> <u>Use urban design standards to reinforce walkable streets, public and private spaces and a sense of community through the public realm.</u>
OBJECTIVE 3-D	TIMES SQUARE — Stimulate the revitalization of the downtown core area (near Times Square) as the nucleus of commercial and tourist activities.	<u>POLICY CD-2-A-2</u>	<u>OPEN SPACE AND LAND USE</u> <u>Beautify public spaces throughout the island and preserve and protect natural areas that serve and benefit the public.</u>
POLICY 3-D-1	The town shall create a Downtown Redevelopment Agency to assist the Main Street pro- gram in revitalizing downtown as a lively, inviting, comfortable, and safe public environment.	<u>POLICY CD-2-A-3</u>	<u>VIEW CORRIDORS</u> <u>Maintain existing public rights-of-way that provide view corridors to water bodies and, whenever possible, provide features such as benches, landscaping, and trash receptacles to enhance the areas as pocket parks, and</u>

			<u>develop a process and criteria for identifying specific scenic resources, view corridors, and vistas that should be preserved or enhanced as new development and redevelopment occurs.</u>
POLICY 3-D-2	Downtown revitalization shall be based on the concepts in the Core Area Master Plan prepared for the Estero Island CRA Commit-tee in 1993-94, as refined during the continuing implementation of that plan. Those concepts are summarized in the following policies.	<u>POLICY CD-2-A-4</u>	<u>ENTRY GATEWAYS</u> <u>Create Estero Boulevard gateways or entry features at the south end near Big Carlos Pass and near the touchdown of the Matanzas Pass bridge.</u>
POLICY 3-D-3	Continue with sidewalk improvements: i. Standard sidewalk widths should be provided by the public sector and/or private developers in each development project as it is implemented. Consider a program for private sidewalk reservation through dedication or easement, particularly along Old San Carlos. ii. Use selected materials in public rights-of-way and private property improvements adjacent to sidewalks, such as in plazas or building setbacks. iii. Provide special design treatment (e.g. continuation of sidewalk paving patterns) at major intersections of the primary pedestrian streets to create a visual link and distinguish the pedestrian surface from the vehicular right-of-way.	<u>OBJECTIVE CD-2-B</u>	<u>STREETSCAPE</u> <u>Enhance the existing paths and sidewalks and streetscape to foster a more appealing environment for walking and biking.</u>
POLICY 3-D-4	Implement the pedestrian circulation plan: i. Complete the Bay-side sidewalk and streetscape improvements for Estero Boulevard within the Core area with underground utilities and improved sidewalks. ii. Construct sidewalks (5' wide minimum sidewalk) along all streets in the Core Area. iii. Provide a bike path along Estero Boulevard utilizing Crescent Street to Third Street across to Old San Carlos and then connecting back to Estero Boulevard and north to Bowditch Point. iv. Promote the function of Old San Carlos as a pedestrian spine linking Times Square and the marina by implementing public sidewalks and major crosswalks designed to work in	<u>POLICY CD-2-B-1</u>	<u>COMMERCIAL STREETSCAPE</u> <u>Improve the appearance of the town throughout by developing land development regulations for landscaping public property and rights-of-way with native vegetation and ensuring sidewalks are six (6) feet wide in residential zones and up to twelve (12) feet wide in mixed-use commercial districts.</u>

	conjunction with arcades or plazas located on private property. v. Work with the private sector to establish a site for a new public pedestrian plaza at the east of Old San Carlos. vi. Provide new on-street parking and side-walk on the south side of Crescent Street. vii. Reconfigure Third and Fourth Streets with on-street parking and sidewalks on both sides of the street. viii. Coordinate all proposed improvements with the pedestrian, parking, mass transit, and traffic circulation concepts in the Transportation Element of this plan.		
POLICY 3-D-5	Improve the current parking situation near Times Square through the means outlined in the Transportation Element of this plan. Suggestions from the Core Area Master Plan include: i. Implement parking management practices that create a positive experience for visitors and business operations. ii. Encourage the private sector to build and operate expanded parking areas, using public sector assistance if needed for land assembly and regulatory relief. iii. Expand the supply of shared on-street parking with 165 new parallel and angled spaces. iv. If the new supply of parking will be inadequate and a parking garage must be built, appropriate locations would be to the rear of new storefronts facing Old San Carlos.	<u>POLICY CD-2-B-2</u>	<u>LANDSCAPE FEATURES</u> <u>Identify potential mechanisms to implement and maintain special amenities such as entry features, monuments, or other special landscape projects through a formal landscape planning process.</u>
POLICY 3-D-6	Design and construct streetscape improvements for Old San Carlos, Crescent Street, Center Street, and First through Fifth Street. These include on-street parking, new side-walks, buried utilities, and landscaping.	<u>POLICY CD-2-B-3</u>	<u>STREET CROSSINGS</u> <u>Improve pedestrian crossings; including push button (demand) lights; textured materials to emphasize crossings to drivers; and covered seating areas and other “oasis” amenities at trolley stops and beach accesses that are consistent with the Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices and the Florida Design Manual as applicable.</u>
POLICY 3-D-7	Continue to implement the stormwater management plan (an exfiltration system that integrates the existing storm sewer pipe system and inlets with exfiltration trenches under Estero Boulevard). Similar systems can be installed for private development under parking lots or open space.	<u>POLICY CD-2-B-4</u>	<u>RESIDENTIAL STREETScape</u> <u>Develop a landscape plan in the Land Development Regulations for residential streets. The plan should consider regularly spaced street trees in public rights-of-way on residential streets which provide adequate shade, color and</u>

			interest, are low maintenance, with root systems that will not damage sidewalks, accommodate wildlife, are non-invasive.
POLICY 3-D-8	Provide technical assistance regarding dry flood proofing methods and design to individuals seeking to develop or improve their properties.	POLICY CD-2-B-5:	<u>RESIDENTIAL STREET PROGRAM</u> The town should develop a residential streets program to implement the landscape plan. The Program can provide: i. assistance in developing a workable approach on a street-by-street basis, consistent with the island-wide concept. ii. volunteer local arborists to provide specific advice and technical assistance. iii. financial assistance for planting trees. iv. a booklet describing the characteristics of desirable street trees for Fort Myers Beach. v. a guidebook for tree planting, irrigation, and pruning methods. vi. a plan for short- and long-term maintenance of planted areas and street trees.
POLICY 3-D-9	Enhance Lynn Hall Park with continuing beach renourishment, beach volleyball areas, and possibly a performance pavilion (in the southeast corner of the park next to Times Square). Include a pedestrian path linking the beach and the northern portion of Estero Boulevard.	GOAL CD-3	<u>CONNECTIVITY AND MOBILITY TO REDUCE TRAFFIC IMPACTS</u> Plan for interconnected streets and pedestrian paths that connect to mixed-use commercial districts to enhance mobility options.
		OBJECTIVE CD-3-A	<u>COMPLETE STREETS AND BICYCLE INFRASTRUCTURE</u> Provide for comfortable streets, street grid and interconnected paths that includes designated spaces for walking, biking, cars and transit that seamlessly connect to mixed-use commercial districts.
		POLICY CD-3-A-1	<u>INTERCONNECTED PATHS</u> Create an additional interconnected system of pedestrian and bicycle pathways throughout the island to improve mobility and promote community interaction that connects to mixed-use commercial districts behind Estero Boulevard.
		POLICY CD-3-A-2	<u>STREET CONNECTIVITY</u> Preserve, enhance, and provide connectivity for the downtown character and neighborhoods while fostering complete streets initiatives. Maintain and enhance the tightly gridded, interconnected street network that facilitates the dispersal of traffic and contributes to the character of Fort Myers Beach.
		POLICY CD-3-A-3	MAINTAIN PEDESTRIAN CIRCULATION

			<u>Maintain the pedestrian circulation plan:</u> i. <u>Bayside sidewalk and streetscape improvements for Estero Boulevard within the Core area with underground utilities and improved sidewalks.</u> ii. <u>Sidewalks (5' wide minimum sidewalk) along all streets in the Core Area.</u> iii. <u>Bike path along Estero Boulevard utilizing Crescent Street to Third Street across to Old San Carlos and then connecting back to Estero Boulevard and north to Bowditch Point.</u> iv. <u>Old San Carlos as a pedestrian spine linking Times Square and the marina by implementing public sidewalks and major crosswalks designed to work in conjunction with arcades or plazas located on private property.</u> v. <u>A new public pedestrian plaza at the east of Old San Carlos.</u> vi. <u>New on-street parking and side- walk on the south side of Crescent Street.</u> vii. <u>Third and Fourth Streets with on-street parking and sidewalks on both sides of the street.</u> viii. <u>Proposed improvements with the pedestrian, parking, mass transit, and traffic circulation concepts in the Transportation Element of this plan.</u>
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CONSERVATION ELEMENT

GOAL CON-1 6:

~~To protect the natural resources in and around the town from further damage and improve their future health and sustainability through regulations, education, enforcement, timely management, public improvements, and cooperation with other entities with similar goals.~~

Maintain and improve the Town of Fort Myers Beach's coastal resources with ongoing commitment through regulations, education, land acquisition and preservation, evaluation, programs, and for cooperation with the federal and county governments and related agencies.

OBJECTIVE CON 1-6-A: ESTUARIES AND BAYS

Improve the condition and function of estuaries and bays surrounding Estero Island, including their components such as seagrass meadows, tidal flats, soft bottoms, oyster bars, tidal creeks, and open water. Improve the viability of existing native coastal and upland habitats and establish additional areas for nature preserve and conservation uses to expand habitat areas and improve the conditions of estuaries and bays surrounding Estero Island.

POLICY CON 1-6-A-1: Protecting Marine Habitats/Resources:

~~Estuaries are the ecological transition between fresh and saltwater systems. They provide extensive habitat for fish and WILDLIFE including the feeding, breeding, and nursery ground for most of the commercially important fish and shellfish and many species of local and migratory birds, while offering a broad array of recreational opportunities. The Town of Fort Myers Beach will take all feasible steps to protect its marine and estuarine habitats and finfish/shellfish resources to ensure their long-term viability and productivity for scientific, commercial, sport, and recreational purposes. The town shall take a leadership role in enacting ordinances and facilitating resolution of jurisdictional problems.~~

The Town of Fort Myers Beach will take all feasible steps to protect its marine and estuarine habitats and finfish/shellfish resources to ensure their long-term viability with enacting ordinances and facilitating resolution will cooperation with other governmental agencies.

~~POLICY 6-A-2 The town will cooperate closely with other governmental agencies in formulating, monitoring, and enforcing regulations to protect the healthy functioning of the estuary, including but not limited to:~~

- ~~i. Marking existing channels crossing through seagrass beds to help boaters avoid damaging them (and their boats);~~ ii.
(i). Establishing permitting criteria for activities within the Town's 1000-foot jurisdiction beyond Estero Island to protect seagrass beds, oyster bars, soft bottoms, and other benthic communities from damage from docks, boat ramps, navigation channels, etc. These criteria would be coordinated with other regulatory agencies to prevent damage and to ensure that every effort is

~~made to protect marine habitats to locate these facilities away from valuable environmental resources. If permits are issued without concurrence from the town, the town may choose to withhold local building permits if a better location or technique could avoid damage to seagrass beds, oyster bars, or other sensitive benthic communities.~~

- ~~(ii) Controlling point and non-point sources of pollution including drainage, sewage pollution, and stormwater runoff.~~
- ~~(iii) Providing hardened shoreline stabilization such as seawalls;~~
- ~~iii. maintaining proper quality and timing of freshwater inputs.~~
- ~~(iv.) Protecting habitats from dredge-and-fill activities.~~
- ~~(v.) protecting sea grasses from “prop scarring” and excessive shading from docks; and protecting important uplands adjacent to wetlands.~~

~~POLICY 6-A-3 In cooperation with other jurisdictions, evaluate the effectiveness of existing regulations and enforcement techniques in preserving the bay and estuary system. Recommend and support such additional measures as necessary to ensure their sustainability, such:~~

- ~~i. Marking existing channels crossing through seagrass beds to help boaters avoid damaging them (and their boats);~~
- ~~ii. Establishing permitting criteria for activities within the town’s 1000-foot jurisdiction beyond Estero Island to protect seagrass beds, oyster bars, soft bottoms, and other benthic communities from damage from docks, boat ramps, navigation channels, etc. These criteria would be coordinated with other regulatory agencies to ensure that every effort is made to locate these facilities away from valuable environmental resources. If permits are issued without concurrence from the town, the town may choose to withhold local building permits if a better location or technique could avoid damage to seagrass beds, oyster bars, or other sensitive benthic communities.~~

~~POLICY 6-A-4 Encourage the organization of a local task force to coordinate and reconcile efforts of various organizations, governments, and businesses to promote long-term sustainability of the estuary. Potential perspectives include eco-tourism, water quality, habitat protection, commercial and recreational uses, and economic development. The task force would promote cooperative activities, assess needs, and recommend methods of coordinating reporting and enforcement of violations. The task force would make recommendations to the town regarding issues such as:~~

- ~~i. Establishing restricted areas and other methods of controlling boat traffic in Estero Bay, particularly around rookery islands and seagrass beds.~~
- ~~ii. Locating a suitable launching point on the Gulf for use by personal watercraft to reduce traffic on the bay side.~~
- ~~iii. Adopting a ban on the commercial collection of live shells.~~
- ~~iv. Recommending capital projects to improve water quality.~~
- ~~v. Recommending regulations to protect local waters.~~

POLICY CON 1-6-A-5: Improve Water Quality:

~~Maintain or improve estuarine water quality in accordance with policy under Objective 8 below, and economic value of the water bodies surrounding the Town of Fort Myers Beach.~~

~~POLICY 6-A-6 Regularly examine activities that may be within the town's jurisdiction to determine whether more stringent regulations or other actions are needed to ensure the functioning and long-term viability of natural systems.~~

OBJECTIVE CON 1-6-B: COASTAL LANDS

Develop policies to improve and protect coastal lands.

~~POLICY 6-A-7 CON 1-B-1: PARTICIPATION IN EFFORT TO IMPROVE ESTERO BAY~~

~~Participate actively in the Agency on Bay Management, the Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program, The Estero Bay Management Plan and other entities attempting to improve the environmental health of Estero Bay.~~

~~POLICY 6-A-8 CON 1-B-2: PURCHASE 16,000 ACRES FOR ESTERO BAY PRESERVE~~

~~Actively encourage the purchase of the full 16,000 mainland acres adjoining Estero Bay to become an expanded Estero Bay State Buffer Preserve.~~

~~OBJECTIVE 6-B WILDLIFE AND NATIVE HABITATS — Improve the viability of existing native coastal and upland habitats and establish additional areas for nature preserve and conservation uses.~~

~~POLICY 6-B-1 CONSERVATION PROGRAMS GENERALLY — The town will cooperate with local, state, and federal regulatory agencies in establishing and managing natural reserves, preserves, and critical wildlife areas. This cooperation will include increasing public awareness, allowing appropriate access, properly protecting natural resources, and documenting and reporting violations of laws and regulations.~~

~~POLICY 6-B-2 LITTLE ESTERO ISLAND CRITICAL WILDLIFE AREA — In cooperation with state agencies, the town will aid in the stewardship of the Little Estero Island Critical Wildlife Area through activities such as:~~

- ~~i. Prohibit commercial activities within the defined boundaries of Little Estero Island.~~
- ~~ii. Support legislative measures as necessary to protect the long-term future of the preserve.~~
- ~~iii. Inform residents and visitors of the uniqueness and fragility of the island's habitats and identify funding for measures such as designating pedestrian trails and dune walkovers, adding information and interpretive signs, producing educational brochures, and conducting seminars to encourage proper use.~~
- ~~iv. Sponsor a volunteer task force to work with the Florida Game and Fish Water Fish Commission to oversee the daily stewardship of Little Estero Island through activities such as:~~
 - ~~• Identify potentially destructive practices (such as mowing or raking on the shoreline, litter, boat traffic, low flying airplanes, disturbances from vehicles and dogs, etc.) and determine appropriate methods to address them.~~
 - ~~• Inform residents and visitors of the uniqueness and fragility of the island's habitats; plant shoreline vegetation to replace vegetation damaged by visitors or other unnatural causes;~~

~~place and maintain interpretive signs; produce educational brochures; and conduct seminars to encourage proper use.~~

- ~~• Promote voluntary enforcement and possible citizen “volunteer patrols” to educate residents and visitors of the rules of the island and why they are needed.~~
- ~~• Develop guidelines to protect the fragile environment of the preserve and, where appropriate, urge their adoption as land development regulations or part of the town’s code of ordinances.~~

POLICY ~~6-B-9~~ CON 1-B-3: Acquisition of Additional Sites:

The town will strive to expand the opportunities for conservation and public appreciation of natural resources through acquisition of additional areas with rare or unique ecological or botanical features, or which provide access to such areas, through activities such as the following:

- i. Identify specific sites that would be desirable for public acquisition.
- ii. Support the efforts of other entities acquiring land that will contribute to the conservation effort (for example, aquatic preserve buffer areas, Bunche Beach, etc.)
- iii. Consider alternative means of land acquisition, such as supporting the efforts of nonprofit conservation land trust or acquiring development rights in lieu of full acquisition.
- iv. Accept donations of land for nature preserves or other resource conservation areas with the following general conditions: if such lands contain ecologically valuable habitat and/or if public ownership of such lands would expand existing or provide increased preservation or resource conservation areas.
- v. When acquiring property, determine the best entity to be responsible to implement a long-range management plan.

POLICY ~~CON 1-6-B-4~~: Matanzas Pass Preserve:

Prepare for the transition of the long-term maintenance responsibility of the Matanzas Pass Preserve from Lee County to a partnership among the county, the town, and a local non-profit organization such as the Friends of the Matanzas Pass Preserve.

- ~~i. Reinforce and support the efforts of the non-profit organization to expand the voluntary community-based portion of the operation and maintenance of the preserve. Assist their efforts to implement the restoration plan (which includes site preparation, revegetation, and long term management) and future improvements including new foot trails, repairing and extending boardwalks, providing a canoe/kayak access point, and adding a fishing pier/observation deck. This assistance may take the form of seeking grant funds, lending technical assistance, providing equipment (either directly or through leases with the county), or partial funding.~~
- ~~ii. Negotiate an agreement with the county that assigns responsibilities for the long term maintenance, restoration, and improvement of the preserve, that reflects its status as both a county-wide and local amenity and its importance as natural habitat.~~

POLICY ~~CON 1-6-B-5~~: Upland Habitat:

Preserve all remaining coastal strand and hammocks and improve the existing habitat through removal infestations of exotic plants and replanting with native species. ~~When these habitats are in private ownership.~~

- ~~i. Land uses must not result in the degradation of the values and functions of adjoining and nearby wetlands.~~
- ~~ii. Beaches seaward of the 1978 Coastal Construction Control Line are designated on the Future Land Use Map as "Recreation" to preclude their use for further urban development.~~
- ~~iii. Known remaining coastal hammocks are designated on the Future Land Use Map as "Recreation" to preclude their use for further urban development.~~

OBJECTIVE CON 1-C: PROTECTING RESOURCES FROM NON-DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

Develop policies to protect natural resources from non-development activities.

POLICY CON 1-C -1: Wetlands Improvements

Structures or facilities that will improve the functional value of wetlands or provide "no-impact" use for observation, education, research, or passage shall include such structures as public boardwalks, observation decks, or launching areas for non-motorized watercraft shall be conditionally permitted, as appropriate, in the land development regulations.

In accordance with Florida Statutes, the Town will not undertake an independent review of the impacts to wetlands resulting from development in wetlands that is specifically authorized by a state Environmental Resource Permit or exemption. However, no development approval shall be issued by the Town for any project which impacts wetland resources until all requisite permits from other agencies have been obtained and provided to the Town. All conditions placed on such permits shall be incorporated into the final development approval issues by the Town. Violations of such conditions shall be prosecuted through the Town's code enforcement procedures.

POLICY CON 1-C 2: Prohibitions On Excavation and Mining

Commercial excavation and mining activities are prohibited in the Town of Fort Myers Beach due to potentially detrimental effects to groundwater, surface water, wildlife habitats, and surrounding land uses and values.

POLICY CON 1-C-3: Offshore Gas and Oil Exploration

The Town of Fort Myers Beach opposes offshore gas and oil exploration and excavation activities which may be reasonably expected to threaten the quality of coastal beaches and estuarine ecosystems; or would place oil- or gas-related facilities on coastal beaches, islands, or wetlands; or would require the placement of oil or gas storage facilities on the island.

POLICY CON 1-C -4: Dredging Tidal Canals

The dredging of additional tidal canals is prohibited.

POLICY CON 1-C -5: Water and Sewer Connections and Septic Tanks

The Town shall require connection to central water and sewer systems. No permits shall be issued for new septic tanks within the Town of Fort Myers Beach.

GOAL CON 2: HEALTHY WILDLIFE HABITAT:

OBJECTIVE CON 2-A: PROTECTED SPECIES

The Town of Fort Myers Beach will protect and ensure the management of designated protected species in cooperation with local, state, and federal agencies.

POLICY CON 2-A-1: Additional Protections:

The Town shall assist in the application of state and federal regulations regarding listed species through activities such as:

- i. Prohibit unmitigated development in and around areas designated as habitats, nesting areas, or feeding sites for wildlife listed as endangered or threatened.
- ii. Provide information regarding listed species on properties undergoing development review.
- iii. Withhold development approval until such time as all applicable state and federal permits pertaining to such species have been obtained and copies provided to the town.
- iv. Cooperate with Lee County and other agencies in the establishment of mitigation parks and banks to allow this form of mitigation for local impacts to listed wildlife species and native communities.
- vi. Support public education on the value of wildlife, native communities, and other natural resources through such means as brochures, newspaper articles, public presentations and workshops, and the placement of interpretive displays and development of observation trails at appropriate park sites.
- vii. Encourage and provide technical assistance to volunteer and non-profit organizations such as Turtle Time, Estero Bay Foundation, Estero Bay Buddies, and the Friends of the Matanzas Pass Preserve in their conservation efforts.

POLICY CON 2-A-2: Bald Eagles:

Maintain Lee County's ordinance protecting bald eagle nesting habitat in case bald eagles begin nesting on Estero Island, and urge adherence during development activities to "Habitat Management Guidelines for the Bald Eagle in the Southern Region" prepared by the U.S. Fish and WILDLIFE Service which recommends a primary protection zone with a radius of 750 to 1500 feet around active nests in which no development should occur, and a secondary zone an additional 750 feet to a mile from the outer edge of the primary zone to remain undisturbed during the nesting seasons.

POLICY CON 2-A-3: Manatees:

Recognizing that the waters of the Town provide important habitat for the endangered West Indian manatee, the Town will cooperate with local, state, and federal agencies in the establishment of manatee protection programs, including designation, marking, enforcement of slow-speed manatee protection areas and restriction of activities known to adversely affect manatees. The Town waters or portions of Town waters, as properly marked and permitted through the Florida

Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, are hereby established as all year slow speed manatee protection zones:

- i. All waters of Matanzas Pass and Estero Bay east of a line that bears 360° from the northernmost tip (approximate latitude 26°27'56" North, approximate longitude 81°58'04" West) of Estero Island, and west and southwest of a line 1,000 feet east and northeast of and parallel to the general contour of the east and northeastern shorelines of Estero Island, and west of a line beginning at a point (approximate latitude 26°24'34" North, approximate longitude 81°53'03" West) on the eastern shoreline of Estero Island and bearing 36° to a point (approximate latitude 26°24'40" North, approximate longitude 81°53'00" West) on the southern shoreline of Coon Key, but excluding the portions of the marked North-South channel in northern Estero Bay from Green Channel Marker "37" (approximate latitude 26°26'02" North, approximate longitude 81°54'29" West) to Green Channel Marker "57" (approximate latitude 26°25'08" North, approximate longitude 81°53'29" West).
- ii. All waters of Buccaneer Lagoon at the southern end of Estero Island.

POLICY CON 2-A-4: Gopher Tortoises:

The town's policy is to protect gopher tortoise burrows wherever they are found. If unavoidable conflicts make on-site protection infeasible, then off-site mitigation may be provided in accordance with FGFWFC requirements.

POLICY CON 2-A-5: Sea Turtles:

To protect nesting and hatchling sea turtle on the beaches in the Town of Fort Myers Beach ("Town") by ensuring that their nesting habitat is not degraded by artificial light. The objective is to ensure artificial light does not interfere with sea turtle nesting and hatching events through the appropriate design and implementation of coastal lighting systems. In order to further the objective of full implementation, this article also includes provisions designed to educate residents and beach users in the town on the benefits of appropriate coastal lighting and provides for weekly inspections to ensure compliance with the acceptable lighting standards.

GOAL CON 3: GUIDELINES FOR NEW DEVELOPMENT

Development adjacent to aquatic and other nature preserves, wildlife refuges, and recreation areas shall protect the natural character and public benefit of these areas including, but not limited to, scenic values for the benefit of future generations.

OBJECTIVE CON 3-A: WETLANDS PROTECTION

Protect wetlands from development activities.

POLICY CON 3-A-1: Wetlands Definition:

Wetlands include tidal marshes, salt flats, and mangrove swamps that provide valuable habitat, buffering from storms, shoreline stabilization, and production of food for estuarine and coastal waters. The town will cooperate with state and agencies in the formulation, monitoring, and enforcement of regulations restricting activities that contribute to the destruction of wetlands and/or of the

adjacent upland communities that cleanse stormwater inflows. Such potentially destructive activities include construction fill that encroaches on edges of canals and bay waters, dredging of boat basins and channels, use of seawalls, rip rap, and other similar forms of shoreline stabilization, ditching for mosquito control, and any filling or removal of mangrove systems.

POLICY CON 3-A-2: Wetland Boundaries

The Future Land Use Map provides a close approximation of wetland boundaries. Wetland regulations in this plan and in the land development regulations include all wetlands, even in not specifically shown on the Future Land Use Map, that are identified as wetlands in accordance per Florida Statute “Through the use of the unified state delineation methodology described, as ratified and amended by Florida Statue. If the Future Land Use Map is incorrect due to a clear factual error, an administrative process is contained to establish the precise boundary of any wetland.

OBJECTIVE CON 3-B: Protecting Dunes

Protect, maintain and improve dunes and beaches as recreation areas, valuable habitat, protection from storms, and areas of high scenic and aesthetic value. The effect of the town’s efforts may be a noticeable transition from today’s manicured and compacted beach towards a naturally appearing and functioning beach. This transition will be accomplished through education, regulation, and assistance in physical restoration activities.

POLICY CON 3-B-1: Dune Walkover Structures

For any beachfront development approved after the adoption of this plan and for all public beach areas within the town, state-approved dune walk-over structures shall be required at appropriate crossing points. These same structures are also encouraged wherever pedestrians will be crossing dune areas. Minor structures includes, but is not limited to, pile- supported elevated dune and beach walkover structures; beach access ramps and walkways; stairways; pile-supported elevated viewing platforms

POLICY CON 3-B-2: Additional Protections for Dunes and Beaches

The following activities are prohibited to protect dunes and beaches:

- i. Removal of dune vegetation and stabilization of submerged and exposed beach by artificial means other than replenishment with compatible sand.
- ii. Excavation or destructive alteration of beach and dune systems. (Minimal disturbance necessary to accomplish approved beach restoration or renourishment activities or construct dune crossovers is allowable)
- i. Plant appropriate vegetation such as sea oats wherever sand dunes have been destroyed.
- ii. Undertake a management and maintenance program to control invasive exotic vegetation.
- iii. Removal of dune vegetation and stabilization of submerged and exposed beach by artificial means other than replenishment with compatible sand.
- iv. Excavation or destructive alteration of beach and dune systems. (Minimal disturbance necessary to accomplish approved beach

restoration or renourishment activities or construct dune crossovers is allowable.)

POLICY CON 3-B-3: Sea Turtle Nests

All coastal construction projects, including beach restoration and renourishment, shall protect sea turtle nesting areas by limiting construction in dune and beach areas to non-nesting periods (except under emergency conditions). In historic shorebird nesting areas, construction must be completed prior to shorebird nesting. Protection zones shall be marked around sea turtle nests and shorebird nesting areas to ensure that construction activities landward of the dune and beach system are limited to the actual construction site.

POLICY CON 3-B-4: 50ft Buffer Between Structures

The town will-promote the restoration of beach and dune systems to require that lots and parcels created after the adoption of this plan shall be of sufficient size and dimension to ensure a 50-foot buffer between any structures (except dune cross- overs) and the landward edge of the primary dune. This buffer shall remain in its natural state except for the minimum disturbance necessary to accommodate dune crossovers.

POLICY CON 3-B-5: Coastal Construction Line

Any construction activity seaward of the Coastal Construction Control Line not specifically approved by the DEP. Construction of artificial shoreline hardening structures is prohibited except for the emergency use of such structures constructed in compliance the Florida Statute

GOAL CON 4: MONITORING AND EDUCATION

Wetlands and the surrounding natural habitats will be protected, conserved, and monitored.

OBJECTIVE CON 4-A: Monitoring Natural Resources

Develop policies to monitor Fort Meyers Beach's natural resources.

POLICY CON 4-A-1: Evaluating Existing Regulations and Enforcement

In cooperation with other jurisdictions, evaluate the effectiveness of existing regulations and enforcement techniques in preserving the bay and estuary system.

POLICY CON 4-A-2: Monitor Water Quality

In cooperation with Lee County and other agencies, encourage continued water quality monitoring and identify sources of non-point water pollution, especially those found to be occurring from within the town. Develop a program to reduce or eliminate those pollution sources that may include education, regulation, and incentives, and follow-up enforcement.

POLICY CON 4-A-3: Surface Water Contamination

The Town shall comply the requirements of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System by prohibiting the discharge of runoff, wastewater, or other potential sources of contamination into surface waters which results in the degradation of the quality of the receiving water body below the applicable standards.

POLICY CON 4-A-4: Soil Erosion

Conserve and protect soils to reduce water and air pollution from wind and water erosion.

POLICY: CON 4-A-5: Monitoring Native Soil and Prevent Erosion

The Town shall implement the following measures to ensure conservation of native soils and prevention of erosion and its polluting impacts:

- i. To reduce airborne pollutants and protect tidal waters from dust caused by wind erosion, adopt requirements for protecting cleared land during construction.
- ii. Land clearing prior to issuance of a building permit or development order.
- iii. An erosion control plan shall be submitted and approved by the town prior to the issuance of a development order. Such plan shall reference the property's topography, vegetation, and hydrology and utilize the best management practices such as the use of staked hay bales or filter cloth between the development site and adjacent swales, surface waters, or wetlands; sodding, seeding, or mulching immediately after final grading; and maintenance of vegetation following development activities in order to reduce the erosion by wind or water.

POLICY CON 4-A-6: Native Soils

The town shall implement the following measures to ensure conservation of native soils and prevention of erosion and its polluting impacts:

- i. To reduce airborne pollutants and protect tidal waters and adhere to the requirements for protecting cleared land during construction.
- ii. An erosion control plan shall be submitted and approved by the town prior to the issuance of a development order and be in compliance with Fort Myers Beach code of ordinances and compliance with NPDES erosion control standards

POLICY CON 4-A-7: Air Quality

Continue to meet or exceed federal air quality standards based on monitoring results from state agencies.

POLICY CON 4-A-8: Information Sharing

Share information, data, and maps with other entities involved with conservation land acquisition and management through measures such as:

- i. Cooperating with Lee County in the following activities:
 - Maintaining a central clearinghouse for environmental studies and recommendations from public and private information sources. Compiling, maintaining, and regularly updating vegetation mapping, listed species, data regarding their habitat, and water resources data.
 - Updating the Lee County Habitat Inventory Map using the county's Geographic Information System.

ii. Cooperate with Lee County and FGFWFC in maintaining an inventory of all native communities and natural habitats to aid in land-use decision-making, development approvals, and ranking of potential acquisitions

iii. Recommend and evaluate such additional measures as necessary to ensure their enforcement techniques in preserving the bay and estuary systems as described per Florida Statute: Florida Legislature has declared as “aquatic preserves” certain submerged lands and associated waters that are of “exceptional biological, aesthetic, and scientific value.” These preserves are “set aside forever... for the benefit of future generations”. Develop a clear approach for evaluating existing regulations and its ongoing enforcement for preserving the bay and estuary system.

OBJECTIVE CON 4-B-: EDUCATION:

POLICY CON 4-B-1: Conservation Programs Generally

Increase education access and protection. The town will develop educational programming for allowing appropriate access, protecting natural resources, and documenting and reporting violations of laws and regulations.

POLICY CON 4-B-2: Little Estero Island Critical Wildlife Area

In cooperation with state agencies, the town will aid in the stewardship of the Little Estero Island Critical WILDLIFE Area through activities such as:

i. Prohibit commercial activities within the defined boundaries of Little Estero Island.

ii. Support legislative measures as necessary to protect the long-term future of the preserve.

iii. Inform residents and visitors of the uniqueness and fragility of the island’s habitats and identify funding for measures such as designating pedestrian trails and dune walkovers, adding information and interpretive signs, producing educational brochures, and conducting seminars to encourage proper use.

iv. Sponsor a volunteer task force to work with the Florida Game and Fish Water Fish Commission to oversee the daily stewardship of Little Estero Island through activities such as:

- Identify potentially destructive practices (such as mowing or raking on the shoreline, litter, boat traffic, low flying airplanes, disturbances from vehicles and dogs, etc.) and determine appropriate methods to address them.

- Inform residents and visitors of the uniqueness and fragility of the island’s habitats; plant shoreline vegetation to replace vegetation damaged by visitors or other unnatural causes; place and maintain interpretive signs; produce educational brochures; and conduct seminars to encourage proper use.

- Develop guidelines to protect the fragile environment of the preserve and, where appropriate, urge their adoption as land development regulations or part of the town’s code of ordinances.

POLICY CON 4-B-3: Task Force Element

Create a local task force to coordinate and reconcile efforts of various organizations, governments, and businesses to promote long- term sustainability of the estuary. The task force would make recommendations to the town regarding issues such as:

- i. Establishing restricted areas and other methods of controlling boat traffic in Estero Bay, particularly around rookery islands and seagrass beds.
- ii. Locating a suitable launching point on the Gulf for use by personal watercraft to reduce traffic on the bay side.
- iii. Adopting a ban on the commercial collection of live shells.
- iv. Recommending capital projects to improve water quality.
- v. Recommending regulations to protect local water

GOAL CON-5: WATER SUPPLY

Protect the water supply.

OBJECTIVE CON-5-A: Water Supply

The City shall protect, monitor, and address issues to ensure quality and quantity of water supply and ensure continued supplies of drinking water of sufficient quantity and quality to meet the projected demands of all consumers and the environment.

POLICY CON-5-A-1: Water Conservation

The town will cooperate with emergency water conservation measures of the South Florida Water Management District.

POLICY CON-5-A-2: Purchasing Bulk Water

The town will continue to purchase bulk water from Lee County Utilities in lieu of providing an independent supply of potable water. Lee County Utilities considers the Town of Fort Myers Beach to be part of its potable water service area and has demonstrated its ability to expand raw water supply and treatment facilities to meet anticipated growth consistent with the 2022 Lower West Coast Water Supply Plan Update prepared by the South Florida Water Management District.

POLICY CON-5-A-3: Water Quality New Development

Maintain or improve estuarine water quality by requiring new development or redevelopment to meet the following standards:

- i. Development shall not degrade the estuarine quality of Estero Bay below those standards established by the state for Class II Outstanding Florida Waters.
- ii. Development shall not degrade surface or ground water quality below state standards established in Chapter 62-302 FAC for surface water; Chapter 52-520, for ground water; and Chapter 10D-6 for bathing places.

POLICY CON-5-A-4: Water and Wastewater Management

Incorporate into the land development code measures applicable to new development and redevelopment to encourages year-round landscape irrigation conservation measures, and water and wastewater management such as low-volume irrigation systems, xeriscape landscaping techniques, potential hook-ups to re-use water systems, and use of other conservation and recycling techniques

demands on groundwater. The Town shall regularly review and adopt any local guidelines established by the South Florida Water Management District or Lee County, which will aid the Town's efforts to conserve water.

Goal CON-6: Solid Waste

The Town will support solid waste management and disaster planning which protects the environment and promotes public health. The Town aspires to support conservation and local sustainability and resiliency efforts by ensuring that solid waste collection needs of the Town are reduced over time through actions that reduce the solid waste generation rate through recycling, yard waste reuse, and education.

Objective CON-6-A: Waste Management to Support Sustainability and Conservation

The Town shall ensure the regular collection, management, and maintenance of solid waste to protect the environment and public health.

Policy CON-6-A-1: The Town shall ensure the collection and management of residential, multifamily and commercial solid waste through municipal, contracted or Town-licensed haulers, and ensure the adequate management of waste streams.

Policy CON-6-A-2: The Town will provide receptacles and solid waste collection services, including recycling, on Town properties and in public places as appropriate.

Policy CON-6-A-3: The Town shall incorporate recycling programs with the goal of achieving 75% recycling of all waste in municipal buildings and offices by 2030.

Policy CON-6-A-4: The Town shall promote, endorse, and implement education and outreach programs on waste conservation, management, and diversion, including, as applicable, the promotion of recycling, beneficial reuse of yard waste, reuse and diversions.

Policy CON-6-A-5: The Town shall conduct regular maintenance and code enforcement to mitigate and abate solid waste impacts from disasters, including, but not limited to regular tree canopy trimming and storm preparation of public property.

Policy CON-6-A-6: The City will incorporate debris removal and management as a component of standard operating procedures for pre-disaster planning and post-disaster recovery efforts.

OBJECTIVE CON-6-B: Waste Reduction

The Town shall promote waste reduction to support a sustainable community.

Policy CON-6-B-1: Eliminating Plastics and Polystyrene

The Town shall consider the elimination of use of single use plastics and polystyrene by the Town, licensees operating on Town property, and users of Town facilities and at permitted events on Town property.

Policy CON-6-B-2: Construction Waste

The Town shall strive to divert municipal construction and demolition waste as feasible.

Policy CON-6-B-3: Residential Composting

The Town shall assess the feasibility of implementing a residential composting program.

Policy CON-6-B-4: Commercial Waste

The Town shall encourage commercial waste reduction through policies or incentives, including Zero Waste programs.

Objective CON-6-C: Hazardous Waste

The Town shall coordinate with the appropriate entities ensure hazardous wastes are handled, collected, transported, stored, disposed of, and recycled in a manner that protects human health, safety, and the environment.

Policy CON-6-C-1: The Town shall support programs which aims to regulate small generators of hazardous wastes and reduce the volume produced in the Town.

Policy CON-6-C-2: The Town, in conjunction with Lee County and neighboring local governments, shall perform public outreach to inform residents of effective methods to minimize the use of, safely store, dispose of, and recycle hazardous waste products such as oils, solvents, and paints.

Policy CON-6-C-3: The Town shall encourage residents to deposit household hazardous waste at the appropriate collection centers.

~~POLICY 6-B-5 ADJACENT DEVELOPMENT — Development adjacent to aquatic and other nature preserves, wildlife refuges, and recreation areas shall protect the natural character and public benefit of these areas including, but not limited to, scenic values for the benefit of future generations.~~

~~POLICY 6-B-6 RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLANS — The town will participate with other agencies in preparing and implementing water management plans such as the Charlotte Harbor Management Plan, Surface Water Improvement and Management (SWIM) plans, Estero Bay Aquatic Preserve Management Plans, and similar efforts. The town will reevaluate its policies for protecting and enhancing natural resources upon a review of newly adopted or revised plan by other agencies.~~

~~POLICY 6-B-7 INVASIVE EXOTIC PLANTS — Invasive exotic plants may not be used to meet landscaping requirements for new development. Prohibited species shall be identified in the land development regulations.~~

~~POLICY 6-B-8 SEAWALLS — The town shall encourage planting of mangroves or placement of rip-rap in artificial and natural canal systems to replace existing seawalls in need of repair. Build back of vertical seawalls will not be permitted along natural waterbodies if one or more of the following conditions exist:~~

- ~~i. Build back would cause excessive shoreline erosion or endanger shorelines of surrounding properties.~~
- ~~ii. Build back would threaten wetlands.~~
- ~~iii. Build back would be a threat to public safety or block access to state-owned land or beaches.~~
- ~~iv. Build back would be waterward of the existing seawall alignment on adjacent shorelines.~~

~~POLICY 6-B-9 ACQUISITION OF ADDITIONAL SITES — The town will strive to expand the opportunities for conservation and public appreciation of natural resources through acquisition of additional areas with rare or unique ecological or botanical features, or which provide access to such areas, through activities such as the following:~~

- ~~i. Identify specific sites that would be desirable for public acquisition.~~
- ~~ii. Support the efforts of other entities acquiring land that will contribute to the conservation effort (for example, aquatic preserve buffer areas, Bunche Beach, etc.)~~
- ~~iii. Consider alternative means of land acquisition, such as supporting the efforts of non-profit conservation land trust or acquiring development rights in lieu of full acquisition.~~
- ~~iv. Accept donations of land for nature preserves or other resource conservation areas with the following general conditions: if such lands contain ecologically valuable habitat and/or if public ownership of such lands would expand existing or provide increased preservation or resource conservation areas.~~
- ~~v. When acquiring property, determine the best entity to be responsible to implement a long-range management plan.~~

~~POLICY 6-B-10 INFORMATION SHARING — Share information, data, and maps with other entities involved with conservation land acquisition and management through measures such as:~~

- ~~i. Cooperating with Lee County in the following activities:

 - ~~• Maintaining a central clearinghouse for environmental studies and recommendations from public and private information sources.~~
 - ~~• Compiling, maintaining, and regularly updating vegetation mapping, listed species, data regarding their habitat, and water resources data.~~
 - ~~• Updating the Lee County Habitat Inventory Map using the county's Geographic Information System.~~~~
- ~~ii. Cooperate with Lee County and FGFWFC in maintaining an inventory of all native communities and natural habitats to aid in land-use decision-making, development approvals, and ranking of potential acquisitions.~~

~~OBJECTIVE 6-C PROTECTED SPECIES — Increase cooperation with local, state, and federal agencies in protecting wildlife species listed as endangered, threatened, or of special concern, and conserve the habitats upon which they depend in order to maintain balanced, biologically productive ecosystems.~~

~~POLICY 6-C-1 PROTECTIVE MEASURES GENERALLY —~~

~~The town shall assist in the application of state and federal regulations regarding listed species through activities such as:~~

- ~~i. Provide information regarding listed species on properties undergoing development review.~~
- ~~ii. Withhold development approval until such time as all applicable state and federal permits pertaining to such species have been obtained and copies provided to the town.~~
- ~~iii. Cooperate with local, state, and federal agencies in developing species-specific Habitat Conservation Plans as authorize by the Endangered Species Act. Until such plans are developed, the town's criteria for approval of development proposals shall be consistent with the provisions of the listed species guidelines promulgated by the FGFWFC.~~
- ~~iv. Cooperate with Lee County and other agencies in the establishment of mitigation parks and banks to allow this form of mitigation for local impacts to listed wildlife species and native communities.~~
- ~~v. Support public education on the value of wildlife, native communities, and other natural resources through such means as brochures, newspaper articles, public presentations and workshops, and the placement of interpretive displays and development of observation trails at appropriate park sites.~~
- ~~vi. Encourage and provide technical assistance to volunteer and non-profit organizations such as Turtle Time, Estero Bay Foundation, Estero Bay Buddies, and the Friends of the Matanzas Pass Preserve in their conservation efforts.~~

~~POLICY 6-C-2 BALD EAGLES — Maintain Lee County's ordinance protecting bald eagle nesting habitat in case bald eagles begin nesting on Estero Island, and urge adherence during development activities to "Habitat Management Guidelines for the Bald Eagle in the Southern Region" prepared by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service which recommends a primary protection zone with a radius of 750 to 1500 feet around active nests in which no development should occur, and a secondary zone an additional 750 feet to a mile from the outer edge of the primary zone to remain undisturbed during the nesting seasons. Nest trees should not be touched in any way by development activities unless the nest site has been de-classified by the FGFWFC.~~

~~POLICY 6-C-3 MANATEES — Recognizing that the waters of the town provide important habitat for the endangered West Indian manatee, the town will cooperate with local, state, and federal agencies in the establishment of manatee protection programs, including restriction of activities known to adversely affect manatees. The town shall cooperate in the designation, marking, and enforcement of slow-speed manatee protection areas. The town shall cooperate with Lee County in preparing and implementing a manatee protection plan, particularly in providing educational materials and programs to inform the town's boating population of the presence of manatees and of how to avoid destruction of manatee habitat and avoid manatee/boat collisions. The town supports the incorporation of the SWFRPC's 1995 marina siting study into Lee County's Manatee Protection Plan.~~

~~POLICY 6-C-4 GOPHER TORTOISES — The town's policy is to protect gopher tortoise burrows wherever they are found. If unavoidable conflicts make on-site protection infeasible, then off-site mitigation may be provided in accordance with FGFWFC requirements.~~

~~POLICY 6-C-5 SEA TURTLES — The town shall prepare and adopt a new sea turtle ordinance by the end of 1998 to supersede Lee County's existing Sea Turtle Protection Ordinance. The new ordinance shall provide standards for coastal uses and development and shall prohibit, during sea turtle nesting season, any point source of light or any reflective surface of a light fixture being visible from the beach; also, areas seaward of a frontal dune must not be directly, indirectly, or cumulatively illuminated. Other beach activities to be regulated include:~~

- ~~i. Beach raking, scraping, and other activities that unnecessarily compact the sand and/or damage dunes or prevent the re-creation of dunes;~~
- ~~ii. Unauthorized vehicular traffic on the beach;~~
- ~~iii. Storage of beach furniture, cabanas, jet skis, sailboats, and other equipment on the beach that may interfere with sea turtle nesting;~~
- ~~iv. Drainage of swimming pools, parking lots, and building roofs into point discharges directly onto the beach.~~

~~OBJECTIVE 6-D WETLANDS — Preserve all remaining wetlands; protect them from further degradation; and improve their condition and natural functions.~~

~~POLICY 6-D-1 Wetlands include tidal marshes, salt flats, and mangrove swamps that provide valuable habitat, buffering from storms, shoreline stabilization, and production of food for estuarine and coastal waters. The town will cooperate with state and federal agencies in the formulation, monitoring, and enforcement of regulations restricting activities that contribute to the destruction of wetlands and/or of the adjacent upland communities that cleanse stormwater inflows. Such potentially destructive activities include construction fill that encroaches on edges of canals and bay waters, dredging of boat basins and channels, use of seawalls, rip rap, and other similar forms of shoreline stabilization, ditching for mosquito control, and any filling or removal of mangrove systems.~~

~~POLICY 6-D-2 The Future Land Use Map provides a close approximation of wetland boundaries. Wetland regulations in this plan and in the land development regulations include all wetlands, even in not specifically shown on the Future Land Use Map, that are identified as wetlands in accordance with F.S. 373.019 (17) through the use of the unified state delineation methodology described in FAC Chapter 62-340, as ratified and amended by F.S. 373.4211. If the Future Land Use Map is incorrect due to a clear factual error, an administrative process is contained in Chapter 15 to establish the precise boundary of any wetland.~~

~~POLICY 6-D-3 In accordance with F.S. 163.3184(6)(c), the town will not undertake an independent review of the impacts to wetlands resulting from development in wetlands that is specifically authorized by a state Environmental Resource Permit or exemption. However, no development approval shall be issued by the town for any project which impacts wetland resources until all requisite permits from other agencies have been obtained and provided to the town. All conditions placed on such permits shall be incorporated into the final development approval issues by the town. Violations of such conditions shall be prosecuted through the town's code enforcement procedures.~~

~~POLICY 6-D-4 The following activities in and near wetlands may be desirable and are not forbidden by~~

~~this comprehensive plan: —~~

- ~~i. Activities necessary to prevent or eliminate a public hazard, such as elimination of a dangerous curve in a road, dredging in order to clean up a spill of hazardous waste, or removal of underwater obstructions to boat traffic.~~
- ~~ii. Activities which provide a direct benefit to the public at large which would exceed any public loss as a result of the activity, such as removal of exotic species, restoration of natural hydroperiods, impacts associated with the maintenance of existing drainage works, or providing water access that is open to the public.~~
- ~~iii. Resource-oriented activities such as passive recreation, outdoor education, or other uses where protection of wetland functions and values is the primary attraction.~~
- ~~iv. Structures or facilities that will improve the functional value of wetlands or provide “no impact” use for observation, education, research, or passage (walking or non-motorized boats); these could include such structures as public boardwalks, observation decks, or launching areas for non-motorized watercraft.~~

~~POLICY 6-E-1 For any beachfront development approved after the adoption of this plan and for all~~

~~public beach areas within the town, state-approved dune walk-over structures shall be required at appropriate crossing points. These same structures are also encouraged wherever pedestrians will be crossing dune areas.~~

~~POLICY 6-E-2 All coastal construction projects, including beach restoration and renourishment, shall~~

~~protect sea turtle nesting areas by limiting construction in dune and beach areas to non-nesting periods (except under emergency conditions). In historic shorebird nesting areas, construction must be completed prior to shorebird nesting.~~

~~POLICY 6-E-3 The town will implement the following measures to promote the restoration of beach and dune systems:~~

- ~~i. Initiate a program to recreate a dune line and plant appropriate vegetation such as sea oats wherever sand dunes have been destroyed.~~
- ~~ii. Require the use of indigenous plants species for public and private dune restoration or renourishment projects.~~
- ~~iii. Require that lots and parcels created after the adoption of this plan shall be of sufficient size and dimension to ensure a 50-foot buffer between any structures (except dune cross-overs) and the landward edge of the primary dune. This buffer shall remain in its natural state except for the minimum disturbance necessary to accommodate dune crossovers.~~
- ~~iv. Undertake a management and maintenance program to control invasive exotic vegetation as a cooperative effort of the town and its citizenry.~~
- ~~v. Consider erosion control taxing/benefit units, grants, and other cost sharing funding mechanisms to provide funds for beach renourishment and management projects (see Coastal Management Element for strategies on beach renourishment).~~

~~POLICY 6-E-4 The following activities are prohibited to protect dunes and beaches:~~

- ~~i. Removal of dune vegetation and stabilization of submerged and exposed beach by artificial means other than replenishment with compatible sand.~~
- ~~ii. Excavation or destructive alteration of beach and dune systems. (Minimal disturbance necessary to accomplish approved beach restoration or renourishment activities or construct dune cross-overs is allowable under this policy.)~~
- ~~iii. Operation of motor vehicles on beaches and dunes (except in association with law enforcement activities, emergency medical services, public land/resources management, state-licensed sea turtle monitoring, once-daily delivery and pickup of beach equipment, minimal cleaning of litter and of excessive accumulations of natural debris, or as necessitated by an approved restoration, renourishment, or emergency project).~~
- ~~iv. Any construction activity seaward of the Coastal Construction Control Line not specifically approved by the DEP.~~
- ~~v. Construction of artificial shoreline hardening structures except the emergency use of such structures constructed in compliance with Chapter 161, F.S. If a hardened structure is absolutely necessary along the beach, riprap revetments are preferred. New seawalls are not permitted.~~

~~OBJECTIVE 6-F AIR QUALITY—Continue to meet or exceed federal air quality standards based on monitoring results from state agencies.~~

~~POLICY 6-F-1 Ensure that the town's land development regulations do not include any disincentives to the use of clean alternative energy sources such as active and passive solar technology.~~

~~POLICY 6-F-2 Reduce automobile emissions through programs developed in the Transportation Element to reduce single-occupant automobile trips. Mobility alternatives include increased ridership on the trolley system; introduction of an electric tram system throughout the Island; incentives for visitors to park off island or park once on island; a water taxi or water shuttle system; and an interconnected system of bicycle and pedestrian paths.~~

~~POLICY 6-F-3 Establish criteria for any new facility that would require an air quality permit including monitoring procedures to supplement those provided by the state and enter into agreements with Lee County and other relevant agencies to ensure that the town's concerns are addressed during the permitting stages of potential point source pollution generators.~~

~~OBJECTIVE 6-G SOIL EROSION—Conserve and protect soils to reduce water and air pollution from wind and water erosion.~~

~~POLICY 6-G-1 The town shall implement the following measures to ensure conservation of native soils and prevention of erosion and its polluting impacts:~~

- ~~i. To reduce airborne pollutants and protect tidal waters from dust caused by wind erosion, adopt requirements for protecting cleared land during construction.~~
- ~~ii. Land clearing prior to issuance of a building permit or development order.....~~

~~iii. An erosion control plan shall be submitted and approved by the town prior to the issuance of a development order. Such plan shall reference the property's topography, vegetation, and hydrology and utilize the best management practices such as the use of staked hay bales or filter cloth between the development site and adjacent swales, surface waters, or wetlands; sodding, seeding, or mulching immediately after final grading; and maintenance of vegetation following development activities in order to reduce the erosion by wind or water.~~

~~OBJECTIVE 6-H WATER QUALITY—Improve the water quality and economic value of the water bodies surrounding the Town of Fort Myers Beach beyond the levels existing in 1997.~~

~~POLICY 6-H-1 As an integral part of the Estero Bay estuary system, the town shall take all feasible measures in an intergovernmental effort to protect, maintain, and improve water quality in Estero Bay.~~

~~POLICY 6-H-2 No garbage or untreated sewage shall be discharged into tidal waters.~~

~~POLICY 6-H-3 Maintain or improve estuarine water quality by requiring new development or redevelopment to meet the following standards:~~

- ~~i. Development shall not degrade the estuarine quality of Estero Bay below those standards established by the state for Class II Outstanding Florida Waters.~~
- ~~ii. Development shall not degrade surface or ground water quality below state standards established in Chapter 62-302 FAC for surface water; Chapter 52-520, for ground water; and Chapter 10D-6 for bathing places.~~

~~POLICY 6-H-4 In cooperation with Lee County and other agencies, encourage continued water quality monitoring and identify sources of non-point water pollution, especially those found to be occurring from within the town. Develop a program to reduce or eliminate those pollution sources that may include education, regulation, and incentives, and follow-up enforcement.~~

~~POLICY 6-H-5 The town will implement the measures adopted in the Stormwater Management Element to reduce the polluting impacts of stormwater runoff.~~

~~POLICY 6-H-6 The town shall comply the requirements of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System by prohibiting the discharge of runoff, wastewater, or other potential sources of contamination into surface waters which results in the degradation of the quality of the receiving water body below the applicable standards.~~

~~OBJECTIVE 6-I WATER SUPPLY—Ensure continued supplies of drinking water of sufficient quantity and quality to meet the projected demands of all consumers and the environment.~~

~~POLICY 6-I-1 Incorporate into the land development code measures~~ applicable to new development and

~~redevelopment to encourage water and wastewater management such as low volume irrigation systems, xeriscape landscaping techniques, potential hook ups to re-use water systems, and use of other conservation and recycling techniques.~~

~~POLICY 6-I-2 The town will cooperate with emergency water conservation measures of the South Florida Water Management District.~~

~~POLICY 6-I-3 The town will continue to purchase bulk water from Lee County Utilities in lieu of providing an independent supply of potable water. Lee County Utilities considers the Town of Fort Myers Beach to be part of its potable water service area and has demonstrated its ability to expand raw water supply and treatment facilities to meet anticipated growth consistent with the 2005-2006 Lower West Coast Water Supply Plan Update (prepared by the South Florida Water Management District).~~

~~OBJECTIVE 6-J GROUNDWATER—Maintain the quality of groundwater resources and improve as necessary to meet state or federal standards.~~

~~POLICY 6-J-1 Commercial excavation and mining activities are prohibited in the Town of Fort Myers Beach due to potentially detrimental effects to groundwater, surface water, wildlife habitats, and surrounding land uses and values.~~

~~POLICY 6-J-2 The Town of Fort Myers Beach opposes offshore gas and oil exploration and excavation activities which may be reasonably expected to threaten the quality of coastal beaches and estuarine ecosystems; or would place oil or gas related facilities on coastal beaches, islands, or wetlands; or would require the placement of oil or gas storage facilities on the island.~~

~~POLICY 6-J-3 The dredging of additional tidal canals is prohibited.~~

~~POLICY 6-J-4 The town shall support Lee County's programs to properly dispose of hazardous wastes.~~

~~POLICY 6-J-5 The town shall require connection to central water and sewer systems to eliminate demands on groundwater and reduce the potential for contamination from septic tanks.~~

~~POLICY 6-J-6 Identify any remaining septic tanks and require their use be discontinued~~

TRANSPORTATION ELEMENT

GOAL ~~7~~ T-1: To improve ~~peak-season~~ mobility without reducing the permeability of Estero Boulevard to foot traffic or damaging the small-town character of Fort Myers Beach. The town seeks to reduce speeding, improve evacuation capabilities, and improve mobility through balanced transportation improvements such as a continuous system of sidewalks and bikeways, a network of trolleys and water taxis/ferries linked to off-island systems, and parking options matched to road capacity.

OBJECTIVE T-17-A DEFINING THE PROBLEMS — Through this plan, the Town of Fort Myers Beach will address its three major transportation problems: congestion (by supporting public transit and pedestrian improvements), parking (by improving public parking near Times Square), and speeding (through passive traffic calming on Estero Boulevard).

POLICY T-17-A-1 CONGESTION: ~~Every winter~~ During peak times Estero Boulevard can ~~becomes so~~ crowded that traffic backs up, sometimes for miles in both directions. Much of this congestion is caused by visitors, who will continue to frequent the beaches regardless of development levels on Estero Island. Despite the road congestion, the town welcomes visitors and intends to provide mobility alternatives as described in this plan.

POLICY T-17-A-2 PARKING: ~~Even though existing parking lots are not used to capacity, parking is not abundant at Fort Myers Beach. The welcome rebirth of commercial activity near Times Square will increase the demand for parking.~~ The Town of Fort Myers Beach will address parking shortages through the methods outlined in this plan and other appropriate initiatives.

POLICY T-17-A-3 SPEEDING: Despite the virtual crawl of traffic on parts of Estero Boulevard, speeding is also a problem. ~~If motorists didn't speed on Estero Boulevard, many more people would get out of their own cars.~~ The town will protect the pedestrian environment along Estero Boulevard and will ~~not widen travel lanes or discourage~~ encourage safe pedestrian movement across the boulevard and throughout the Town.

OBJECTIVE T-17-B CONVENTIONAL SOLUTIONS — The usual response to traffic congestion is widening roads or building alternate routes. Estero Island's long narrow shape, frequent navigable canals, sensitive environmental, and highly urbanized character preclude these solutions. Congestion management at Fort Myers Beach must aim to reduce delay and improve safety, not just for motorists but for pedestrians and bicyclists as well.

POLICY T-17-B-1 DELAY AND SAFETY: The town recognizes that many efforts to reduce delay and improve safety for motorists have the opposite effect on pedestrians. Creative solutions will be required to address both concerns, particularly for pedestrians.

POLICY T-17-B-2 WIDENING: Under no circumstances shall conventional four-laning of Estero Boulevard be considered as a desirable means of improving traffic circulation on Estero Island.

POLICY T-17-B-3 IMPROVEMENTS TO ESTERO BOULEVARD: The Town of Fort Myers Beach shall initiate additional pedestrian and streetscape improvements along Estero Boulevard ~~beginning in 1999~~, and shall negotiate with Lee County for additional appropriate right-of-way

~~improvements, the turnover of responsibility for its maintenance if necessary to carry out these improvements or to further other town policies.~~

OBJECTIVE T-17-C EVACUATION ROUTE — Estero Boulevard's critical function as the sole evacuation route for Fort Myers Beach shall be considered in all planning and development activities.

POLICY T-17-C-1 EVACUATION CAPACITY: Evacuation routes do not need to be designed as high-speed roadways. The critical factor is the total number of cars that can evacuate in a given period of time. The town shall evaluate all efforts by Lee County or by the town to reduce speeding on Estero Boulevard during the design phase to ensure that these efforts will not hinder an effective evacuation.

POLICY T-17-C-2 FLOODING: The town shall analyze actual flooding of evacuation routes ~~that occurs due to tropical storms or hurricanes~~, and shall initiate physical improvements that can avoid future flooding at those locations.

OBJECTIVE T-17-D VARIETY OF TRAVEL MODES — The Town of Fort Myers Beach shall make efforts every year to improve mobility for its residents and visitors, striving for a balanced transportation system that allows safe movement ~~even during peak periods of traffic congestion of pedestrians and vehicles.~~ These efforts may include further subsidies to improve the trolley system, the use of impact fees to improve sidewalks, and creation of critical links on the hidden-path system.

POLICY T-17-D-1 ARRIVE WITHOUT A CAR: Fewer vehicles would be driven to Fort Myers Beach if scheduled airport shuttle service were available. The town shall encourage this service and the designation of a central drop-off point that could include a trolley stop and taxi stand. The Town will encourage businesses to develop creative programs that incentivize visitors and employees to arrive without a car.

POLICY T-1-D-2 REDUCE NEED OF CAR: Promote compact development, enhance pedestrian realm, and promote modes of transportation other than single occupancy vehicles.

POLICY T-1-D-3 OFF-ISLAND PARKING: Work with Lee County to secure off-island land for the purposes of extended parking. Continue to encourage or incentives visitors to park off the island to reduce number of vehicles.

POLICY T-17-D-24 IMPROVE TROLLEY SERVICE: Trolley ridership increases when service is more frequent and when fares are low or free, yet no long-term funding or operational plan has been developed for providing higher service levels. Practical measures to improve trolley usage include:

- i. Recurring subsidies from tourism sources so that service can be enhanced and congestion minimized during heavy seasonal traffic;

- ii. Pull-offs at important stops along Estero Boulevard so that passengers can safely board and traffic is not blocked excessively; these pull-offs could be built during other improvements to Estero Boulevard or required by the Land Development Code during the re-development process.
- iii. Clear signs at every stop with full route and fare information;
- iv. Bus shelters at key locations, with roofs, benches, and transparent sides;
- v. Replacement of the existing trolley buses with clean-fuel vehicles so that businesses won't object to having trolleys stop at their front doors; and
- vi. Accommodation of the special needs of the transportation disadvantaged.

POLICY ~~T-17-D-35~~ ALTERNATE TRAVEL MODES: The town shall support alternatives to car travel to free up road capacity for trips that do require a car. Public funding sources shall include county/state gasoline taxes and road impact fees. The town shall modify its road impact fee ordinance ~~by 1999~~ to allow these fees to be spent (within legal limits) on capital improvements that relieve road congestion, such as better sidewalks, trolley improvements, and off-island parking areas. ~~The town seeks to at least double the usage of the trolley system by the year 2001 (from its 1996 total ridership level of 238,754).~~

POLICY ~~T-17-D-46~~ ENCOURAGE WATER TAXI TRANSPORTATION: Fort Myers Beach has great potential for water transportation, with its canals, natural waterways, and high levels of tourism. To encourage the private sector to provide this service, the town shall ease regulations or provide assistance, as deemed appropriate by the Town Council, that require a water taxi to provide dedicated parking spaces at every stop and shall encourage restaurants, motels, and marinas to provide dockage for water ~~taxis~~ transportation. Where possible, water ~~taxi~~ transportation drop-off sites should avoid areas of high manatee concentration, or use protective measure such as propeller guards, jet propulsion, or electric motors.

POLICY ~~T-17-D-57~~ HIDDEN-PATH SYSTEM: The town shall support the creation of a quiet network of "hidden paths" running on the Bay side parallel to Estero Boulevard. This network would provide an alternative to walking and cycling along Estero Boulevard (as described further in the Community Design Element). ~~Initial land acquisition shall begin in 1999.~~

T-1-D-8 Coordination with Lee County: The town shall collaborate with Lee County to expand the LeeTran route on Estero Island.

OBJECTIVE ~~T-17-E~~ UPGRADE ESTERO BOULEVARD — As part of its ~~congestion avoidance strategy to enhance pedestrian amenities and reduce the use of single occupancy vehicles~~, the town shall methodically upgrade Estero Boulevard to reduce speeding and encourage walking, as higher traffic speeds and car-oriented businesses are antithetical to its pedestrian character. ~~(If a suitable partnership to this end cannot be achieved with Lee County, the town may consider taking on maintenance responsibility for Estero Boulevard.)~~

POLICY ~~T-17-E-1~~ TIMES SQUARE STREETSCAPE: The town shall ~~begin work by 1999~~ toward extending southward the curbs, colorful sidewalks, and street trees installed by the Estero Island CRA in 1996. Similar side- walks should be placed on both sides of Estero Boulevard as far south as the public library, including drainage, lighting, and trolley improvements. ~~Unspent funds from the Estero Island CRA should be sought from Lee County toward this end.~~ Generous urban sidewalks should also be built in the future around the Villa Santini Plaza as part of its redevelopment (as described in the Community Design Element).

POLICY T-17-E-2 TRAFFIC CALMING: The town shall support two types of traffic calming to reduce speeding, which endangers lives and diminishes the quality of the pedestrian environment of Fort Myers Beach:

- i. The first is “active” or traditional traffic calming along residential streets, using physical techniques such as speed humps, narrowed lanes, landscaping, traffic diverters, jogs, or traffic circles at intersections, where appropriate.
- ii. Preferred method is ~~The second~~ is “passive” traffic calming along Estero Boulevard, to control speeding without reducing the number of vehicles that can use the road. Techniques include full curbs and sidewalks separated by street trees; buildings nearer the road; interesting vistas for drivers; and avoidance of overly wide travel lanes or intersections.

POLICY T-17-E-3 BUILDINGS CLOSE TO THE STREET: ~~Where pedestrian levels are high, buildings~~ Buildings should adjoin the sidewalk rather than be separated by parking spaces. Front walls of stores, offices, and restaurants should have large windows rather than blank walls, preferably shaded by awnings or canopies. Access to parking areas shall be off side streets wherever possible. The town’s Land Development Code shall implement these concepts ~~beginning in 1999~~.

POLICY T-17-E-4 SIDEWALKS AND BIKEWAYS: The town shall work toward major expansion of sidewalks and bikeways. In addition to the next phase of Estero Boulevard sidewalks (see Policy 7-E-1 above), the town shall support the following projects:

- i. Support Lee County’s imminent plans to fill the gaps from Buccaneer to Estrellita Drive and from the Villa Santini Plaza to Bay Beach Lane using federal funds;
- ii. Initiate extensive improvements ~~by 1999~~ to Old San Carlos and Crescent Street in conjunction with parking improvements (see Policy T-1-F-2 ~~7-F-2~~);
- iii. Initiate engineering studies ~~by 1999~~ for bikeways and additional sidewalks on the second side of Estero Boulevard and improved pedestrian crossings, including consideration of a pedestrian overpass at Times Square.

POLICY T-1-E-5: PARTNERSHIPS FOR PEDESTRIAN BRIDGES: The Town will evaluate partnerships between development projects that are across from each other along Estero Boulevard to incentivize pedestrian bridge crossings provided as a public benefit. Collaboration with property owners and the Town shall also be encouraged to provide pedestrian safety and walkability through the implementation of pedestrian bridges.

OBJECTIVE T-17-F OPTIMIZE THE PARKING SUPPLY — Off-island parking facilities served by convenient public transportation should be provided to meet peak-season demands. For year-around demand, the town shall provide additional on-island public parking spaces, based in part on a new peak- season occupancy survey of existing public parking spaces.

POLICY T-17-F-1 ENCOURAGE SHARED PARKING LOTS: Parking lots serving a variety of land uses require much less space than separate on-site lots for each business. Shared lots waste

less land and encourage walking because businesses aren't separated by large parking lots. The town shall encourage shared parking lots when businesses are relatively small, are clustered together, and have different busy periods.

POLICY ~~T-17-F-2~~ SHARED PARKING NEAR TIMES SQUARE: ~~The town shall strive to alleviate parking congestion and enhance accessibility for visitors and residents near Time Square by supporting or encouraging the development of shared parking facilities or a parking garage. The Estero Island CRA recommended a reservoir of shared parking behind businesses along Old San Carlos and adding 165 on-street parking spaces near Times Square (although some of these spaces would merely replace spaces lost to new recreational facilities at Lynn Hall Park). The town shall investigate the feasibility of this concept in 1998-1999 and proceed toward implementation, or create an alternate plan that may include a parking garages near Times Square.~~

POLICY ~~T-17-F-3~~ BETTER PARKING LOTS: Large parking lots or garages are usually more cost-efficient to build and maintain, but may not be the best solution for Fort Myers Beach. Disadvantages of large lots include high capital costs; the possibility of providing more parking than is needed or can be handled by the road system; and the unsightliness of most large parking lots and garages.

POLICY ~~T-1-4 7-F-4~~ DIRECT VISITORS TO AVAILABLE PARKING: Many visitors are unaware of existing parking lots; others would be dissuaded from driving if they were aware of the shortage of parking. Variable message signs can aid both situations. The town should encourage Lee County and FDOT to install these signs with information about all major parking areas, including the state park at Lovers Key.

OBJECTIVE ~~T-17-G~~ THE FUTURE OF THE BRIDGES — Match bridge capacity to Estero Island with the capacity of Estero Boulevard.

~~POLICY 7-G-1 ADEQUACY OF THE SKY BRIDGE: There is little evidence that traffic congestion at Fort Myers Beach is caused by any inadequacy of the Matanzas Pass Sky Bridge, which unlike Estero Boulevard has no interference from intersecting streets, parking spaces, or pedestrians crossing the street.~~

POLICY ~~T-1-G-1 7-G-2~~ CHANGES TO THE SKY BRIDGE: If parking lots at Bowditch Point or Times Square greatly increase demand for north-bound turns at the foot of the bridge, striping a third lane on the existing bridge might be considered, as might a reversible third lane during the peak season.

POLICY ~~T-1-G-2 7-G-3~~ RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE SKY BRIDGE: FDOT may be willing to turn over responsibility for the Sky Bridge to the Town of Fort Myers Beach. This would be advantageous to the town only if part of a congestion management system with peak-period tolls, off-island parking lots, and improved mass transit .

POLICY ~~7-G-4~~ ADDITIONAL BRIDGE CAPACITY: Additional bridge capacity should not be directed to Times Square (except for the potential re-striping in Policy-~~7T-1-D-2~~). New lanes to Old San Carlos or Crescent Street would also be undesirable, as most congestion is caused by conditions on Estero Boulevard south of Times Square. Previously proposed bridges from Winkler

Road or Coconut Road are infeasible from environmental and financial standpoints and need not be considered further.

OBJECTIVE T-17-H EXPERIMENT WIDELY — The town shall constantly search for innovative solutions to long-standing traffic problems and to new problems as they develop, and shall coordinate its efforts with those of the Lee County Metropolitan Planning Organization. The town shall serve as a catalyst for traffic engineering experiments that would evaluate minor improvements that might improve traffic flow at Fort Myers Beach. Some potential improvements are described in the following policies.

POLICY T-17-H-1 PEDESTRIAN OVERPASSES: ~~Although pedestrian overpasses are often ignored by pedestrians, The Town will encourage development of an overpasses throughout the Town that providing a panoramic view of the Gulf might be attractive enough to reduce at-grade crossings at Times Square without discouraging foot traffic in this highly congested area. Even without an overpass, the p~~Pedestrian-actuated stop lights may be replaceable with a flashing caution lights crosswalk beacons may be appropriate where pedestrian overpasses are not warranted to minimize effects of the crossing on traffic flow.

POLICY T-17-H-2 SAN CARLOS BOULEVARD: The five-laning of San Carlos Boulevard has created severe problems near the approach to the Sky Bridge. Creative experiments are needed to discourage drivers from using the right- hand lane, or side streets on San Carlos Island, to bypass the line of cars waiting to enter the bridge.

POLICY T-17-H-3 RESERVED-TRANSPORTATION & MOBILITY MASTER PLAN: The Town shall maintain and regularly update a Transportation & Mobility Master Plan or a Transportation & Mobility Design Standard/Manual, using context-sensitive approaches to enhance safety and improve multimodal infrastructure and connectivity for residents and businesses. The Master Plan/Design Standard will at minimum create a standard approach to the design of Estero Boulevard, including, but not limited to, considerations of sidewalk width, pedestrian crossings, pedestrian bridges, landscaping and barriers as appropriate, beachfront access locations, trolley/bus stops, bicycle facilities, and micromobility options. Any Master Plan for the Town will consider parking locations on and off-island, as well as the necessary transit improvements to alleviate single-occupant vehicle usage.

POLICY T-17-H-4 VARIABLE MESSAGE SIGNS: These signs could advise motorists of congestion delays as well as available parking. The town should urge the detailed study of this concept by Lee County, FDOT, and the Metropolitan Planning Organization.

POLICY T-17-H-5 ORIGIN/DESTINATION DATA: Better data is needed on the origins and destinations of motorists during the peak season, and the town supports the MPO's efforts to obtain this data.

POLICY T-17-H-6 TRANSPORTATION DEMAND MANAGEMENT: This part of a congestion avoidance strategy reduces the number of single-occupant vehicles during peak traffic periods, either by eliminating some trips completely, or by accommodating existing trips in fewer vehicles, or by moving some trips before or after the most congested periods. This strategy may alleviate peak-season traffic congestion if implemented aggressively in cooperation with area businesses.

POLICY T-17-H-7 DELIVERY VEHICLES: To avoid interference with traffic and pedestrian flow, the town shall develop a strategy to limit commercial deliveries during peak traffic periods.

Redevelopment plans shall require loading plan with preference to off-street loading. No on-street loading permitted on Estero Blvd.

POLICY T-17-H-8 FLOODING: During periods of minor flooding, the town shall monitor the performance of roadside drainage systems on and off Estero Island to identify areas where an evacuation could be prematurely halted.

POLICY T-17-H-9 PROFESSIONAL ASSISTANCE: The town may wish to retain a creative traffic engineer to provide advice on these experiments on a continuing basis.

POLICY T-17-H-10 CONNECTIONS TO ESTERO BOULEVARD: An excessive number of streets and driveways have direct access to Estero Boulevard, reducing its ability to handle peak-season traffic. The town shall take advantage of any suitable opportunities to consolidate street connections into fewer access points onto Estero Boulevard.

POLICY T-1-H-11 TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES: The Town will establish within its development standards, as appropriate, measures and requirements of transportation alternatives for new developments, including transportation technologies and approaches that will impact travel patterns, signalization, curb management, cycling, pedestrian travel, parking, loading/unloading demand, supporting infrastructure, and roadway design. The Town will establish, as appropriate, community-oriented solutions and benefits to alleviate traffic impacts from tourist-based industries, including hotels/motels, such as voucher or shuttle programs for visitors and workforce transportation, among other transportation demand management techniques.

Policy T-1-H-12: EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES: The Town will continue to evaluate emerging transportation technologies including, but not limited to autonomous vehicles, traffic signalization, parking information, enhanced real time communication, and artificial intelligence in relation to the impacts these advancements will have on transportation, land use, and the mobility options. This evaluation will also include best practices and methods for the safe and context sensitive implementation of shared mobility and micromobility solutions, such as microtransit, dockless bicycle share, dockless scooters, and e-bikes as appropriate for the Town.

OBJECTIVE T-17-I LEVEL-OF-SERVICE STANDARD — Maintain minimum acceptable levels of service for the transportation system.

POLICY T-17-I-1: Traffic congestion is a serious problem at Fort Myers Beach, caused by a combination of high tourism demand for its beaches and past over-building relative to road capacity. Neither factor is within the control of the Town of Fort Myers Beach, although its residents must tolerate congestion every winter. This comprehensive plan seeks to manage congestion levels and encourage alternate means of mobility including walking, bicycling, and trolleys.

POLICY T-17-I-2: The peak capacity of Estero Boulevard's congested segments is 1,300 vehicles per hour. The minimum acceptable level-of-service standard for Estero Boulevard shall be that average monthly traffic flows from 10:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. during each month do not exceed that level for more than four calendar months in any continuous twelve-month period. Measurements from the permanent count station at Donora Boulevard shall be used for this standard.

POLICY T-17-I-3: Figure 18 of this element is hereby adopted as the future transportation map of the Town of Fort Myers Beach.

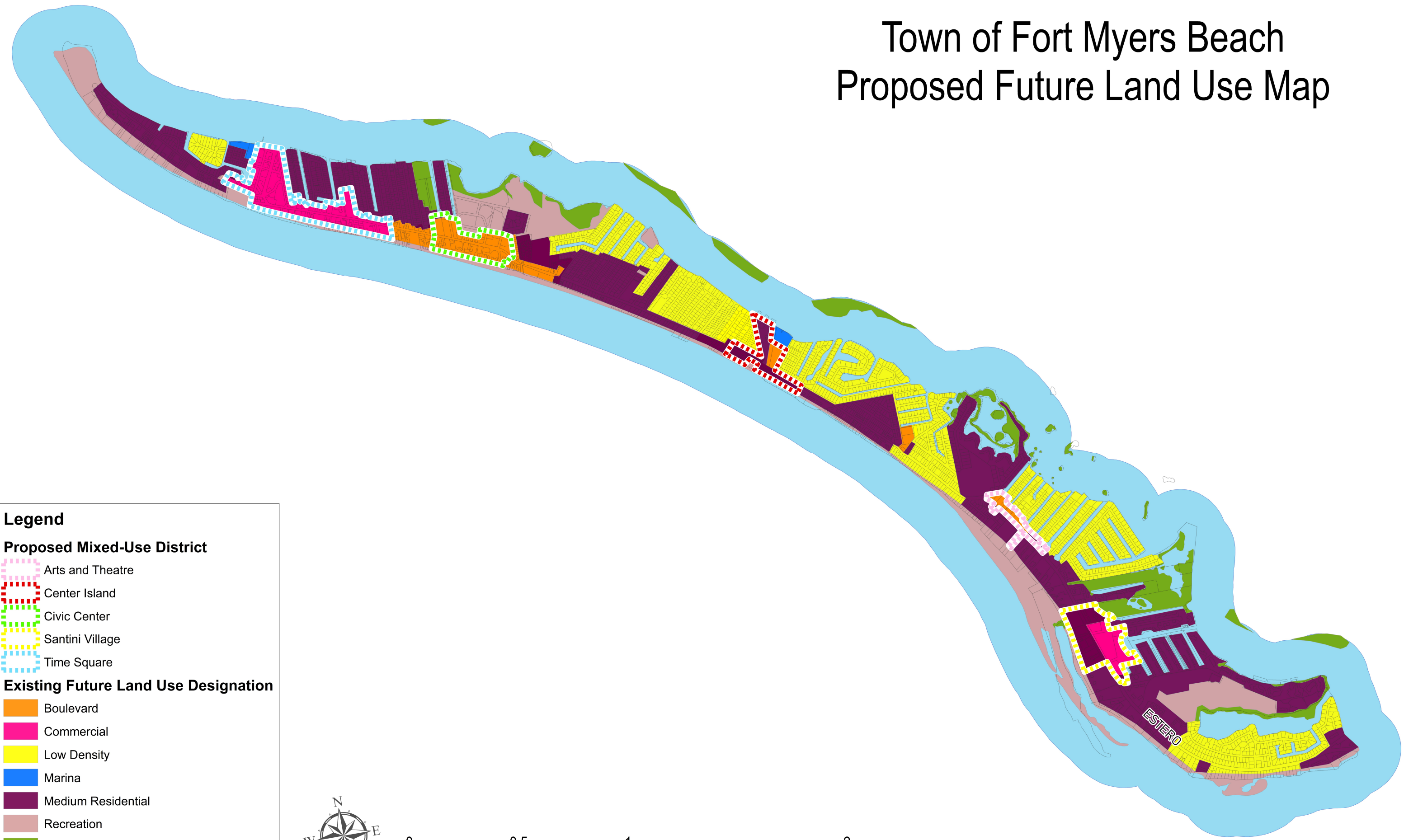
OBJECTIVE ~~T-17-J~~ PROTECTING PUBLIC ACCESS — Although no future right-of-way needs have been identified, some existing town and county rights-of-way are substandard and few are wider than needed. The town shall review requests to not vacate or acquiesce in the vacation of existing rights-of-way, and shall make efforts to ensure no recognized public access is negatively impacted by vacating the ~~except where no public purpose would be served by retaining the right-of-way.~~

POLICY ~~T-17-J-1~~ RIGHTS-OF-WAY: Town and county rights-of-way are needed for the undergrounding of utilities; for the expansion of sidewalks and bike paths; for water accesses; for on-street parking; for public transit and road improvements; and for other public purposes. The town shall ~~strictly limit~~ consider limiting vacations of rights-of-way and easements to preserve future access for these purposes.

POLICY ~~T-17-J-2~~ TRAFFIC IMPACT ANALYSES: A thorough traffic impact analysis is currently required only for major rezonings and very large development orders. The town shall amend its Land Development Code ~~during 2010~~ to:

- i. decrease the thresholds for requiring traffic impact analyses;
- ii. require them to study the cumulative impacts of potential development; and
- iii. use the results in assessing whether impacts are acceptable, and whether an improved design could offset some of the impacts.

Town of Fort Myers Beach Proposed Future Land Use Map



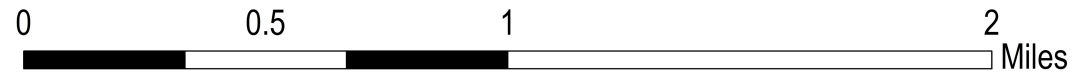
Legend

Proposed Mixed-Use District

- Arts and Theatre
- Center Island
- Civic Center
- Santini Village
- Time Square

Existing Future Land Use Designation

- Boulevard
- Commercial
- Low Density
- Marina
- Medium Residential
- Recreation
- Wetlands
- Tidal Water



May 1, 2024