

RAIL STAKEHOLDER ADVISORY COMMITTEE
THEMES, GOALS AND OBJECTIVES
WORKSHEET

The worksheet contains vision themes based on those identified by Committee members at the first meeting. Under each theme are the issues Committee members also identified at the first meeting. For background, the last page of the worksheet packet presents the themes as originally identified by Committee members, as well as considerations that Committee members agreed should be weighed during discussions of all the themes.

“Example goals” and “example objectives” are included for the first two themes. These are provided only to illustrate format and the relationship of goals and objectives to the themes. They are not intended to reflect all of the issues related to the theme, and are not intended as drafts.

Instructions

On the first day of the August meeting, we will briefly review the themes and refine them, if necessary, to serve as a framework for drafting goals and objectives. In preparation, please review the material and consider whether there are major additional topics and issue areas that should be added, or whether other refinements may be needed. Please remember that the themes are intended only as a framework for developing more specific statements about goals and objectives. A key question for this discussion is, “Are there any important issues or topics that cannot be discussed under at least one of the current themes?”

On the second day of the meeting, you will be asked to form breakout groups and assigned four of the following themes. Each breakout group will work with a facilitator to guide discussion. In preparation for these group discussions, please think about possible goals and objectives that you would like the full Committee to consider as recommendations. The following guidelines may be helpful in developing goals and objectives.

Goals – Broad statements of desired outcomes. You may develop one or more than one goal per theme, as seems appropriate.

Objectives – Specific actions, measurable whenever possible, that will result in progress towards the goal. You may develop as many objectives for each goal as seems appropriate.

Please use this worksheet to prepare for discussion, and bring it with you to the meeting. You do not need to return it before then.

A. Increased emphasis on the role of rail in transportation

(This theme was suggested by the facilitators and accepted by Committee members at the first meeting.)

- Level the playing field on allocating state dollars to regions
- Investigate all types of passenger and freight rail systems:
 - Commuter rail
 - Light rail
 - BRT systems
 - Intercity
 - Freight
- Evaluate the environmental impact of rail investment
- Review growth management, climate change and energy objectives
- Economic impact of rail investments
- Interconnectivity of modes
- Rail Safety
- Cost-effectiveness of rail investment

Example goal: A statewide rail system that provides seamless interconnected passenger and freight mobility

Example objective: Support investments that enhance connectivity between commuter rail and intercity service.

Please use this space for notes or drafts of other possible goals.

B. Maximized use of existing infrastructure

(This theme was suggested by the facilitators and accepted by Committee members at the first meeting.)

- Transit oriented development
- No free freight
- Adopt technology improvements
- Rail within right of way of other facilities or utilities
- Shared corridors
- Investments to allow compatibility
- Connectivity

- Consideration of private investments
- Leveraging public/public dollars
- Preservation of freight rail capacity without cost to private railroads
- Incentives to even out peak travel times

Example goal: Maximum use of existing infrastructure

Example objective: Require that all road and rail studies assess possibilities for shared corridor use.

Please use this space for notes or drafts of other possible goals.

C. Better system integration (operations), and coordination (design and project development) – state and regional levels

- Relationship of rail with other modes
- System integration with support from private investors
- Economy of scale
- Technology
- Dialogue between authorities – better planning
- How well coordinated the Strategic Intermodal System with regional initiatives
- Political cooperation
- Smooth transition between modes

Please use this space for notes or drafts of possible goals.

D. Increased private/public and public/public partnerships to improve competitiveness and efficiencies

- Streamlining permitting process. Emulating state clearinghouse process
- Matching funds and requirements
- Economic benefits from rail investments to the state

- Adopt a Fast-Track funding program that would allow public transportation projects that have not been or are under funded to receive priority consideration for accelerated funding in the first year of the Department's Work Program.
- Political and public support
- Transparency of information sharing
- Incentives for creating partnerships
- Appropriate allocation of costs and benefits among partners
- Consideration of private competitiveness

Please use this space for notes or drafts of possible goals.

E. Appropriate funding levels

- Lack of a regional funding sources
- Commit multi-year funding to support rail needs
- Develop mechanism to identify and allocate funding
- Promote short-term investment strategies in rail
- Change the mindset of the public to support rail and mass transit investments. Rail and mass transit should not be expendable.
- Develop a methodology for educating the public on the benefits from investing in rail transportation
- Develop a methodology for identifying rail needs
- Identify new sources to replace or supplement gas tax
- Dedicate sources for matching grants
- Review new starts local funding strategies
- Review existing systems operating funding strategies

Please use this space for notes or drafts of possible goals.

F. Appropriate land use decisions at state and local levels

- Better integration of land use and transportation planning
- Reform the current transportation concurrency system

- Support Regional land use strategies and longer-term visions
- Eliminate State law impediments in order to improve smart land use
- Consideration for conservation lands
- Consideration of alternative structures for coordinating land use and transportation planning

Please use this space for notes or drafts of possible goals.

G. Flexibility to respond to opportunities and changing conditions

- Expedite permitting process
- Support efficient design and build of rail system
- Streamline planning process
- Support flexibility in programming funding
- Promote and support better communication between Florida Department of Transportation modal offices and Metropolitan Planning Organizations

Please use this space for notes or drafts of possible goals.

H. Environmental sustainability

- Benefits of shifting to rail
- Measure the carbon footprint of alternative mixes of transportation
- Broaden the spectrum of how we think of environmental impacts
- Look into congestion mitigation strategies

Please use this space for notes or drafts of possible goals.

Initial Articulation of Themes

Below is the initial list of themes suggested by members based their vision discussion. They form the basis of the themes as they appear in the previous pages of the worksheet.

- System integration
- Improved coordination between the state and the regions
- Increased public/private and public/public partnerships
- Appropriate funding levels
- Better understanding of economic drivers and cost-benefit considerations. Creation of an environment that provides more choices in response to them
- Consumer affordability
- Florida's private sector competitiveness nationally and globally
- Timely systems implementation
- A Vision that recognizes the reality on the ground, and builds on the state's strengths that are available today
- Shared use of rail corridors to achieve the intended goals of both private railroad and the public sector
- A successful vision through legislative action
- Appropriate land use decisions at the state and local levels.

These themes were then regrouped during subsequent discussions and after the meeting to form the themes used in this worksheet.

Considerations when addressing all Themes and Issues

The following thoughts were also offered during the visioning discussions. Participants agreed that they should be considered when drafting goals and objectives related to any of the themes.

- Safety and Security
- Energy Policy
- High speed rail policy
- Recommendations and deliberations should be guided by a overarching sense of rail transportation as a means of serving the needs of the public
- Better understanding of the economic drivers, and cost-benefit considerations. Creation of an environment that provides more choices in response to them
- Consumer affordability
- Florida's private sector competitiveness nationally and globally
- Timely systems implementation
- A vision that recognizes the reality on the ground, and build on the state's strengths that are available today
- Shared use of rail corridors to achieve the intended goals of both private railroad and the public sector
- A successful vision through legislative action