

CHAPTER EIGHT

INTERGOVERNMENTAL COORDINATION ELEMENT

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Intergovernmental Coordination element is to ensure coordination between the City of Fort Pierce and relevant governmental agencies for efficient and effective implementation of the Comprehensive Plan Goals, Objectives, and Policies. Relevant government agencies include adjacent municipalities, St. Lucie County, the School Board of St. Lucie County, water management districts, regional planning agencies, state government, federal government, and utility service providers including the Fort Pierce Utility Authority.

The Data Inventory and Analysis section of this element examines the relationships between the City of Fort Pierce and other governmental agencies, including the nature of the relationship, subject of coordination, and overall effectiveness of existing coordination mechanisms and strategies. Joint planning agreements are detailed and specific coordination needs are identified in other Comprehensive Plan Elements.

The Goals, Objectives and Policies provide for interagency cooperation according to the City's needs, as required by Chapter 163, Florida Statutes, and as prescribed within 9J-5, Florida Administrative Code.

EXISTING DATA AND CONDITIONS

The City of Fort Pierce currently has either formal or informal coordination agreements, or interacts through standard operating procedures under statutory authority, with the following government agencies and jurisdictions:

Adjacent Municipalities

- Port St. Lucie
- St. Lucie Village

Adjacent Counties

- St. Lucie
- Indian River
- Okeechobee
- Martin

Local Agencies

- Council on Aging of St. Lucie, Inc.
- Fort Pierce Housing Authority
- St. Lucie County Fire District
- St. Lucie Metropolitan Planning Organization
- St. Lucie County School District

St. Lucie County Departments

- St. Lucie County Administration

St. Lucie County Board of County Commissioners
St. Lucie County Environmental Resources
St. Lucie County Emergency Medical Services
St. Lucie County Fire Rescue
St. Lucie County Housing Department
St. Lucie County Growth Management
St. Lucie County Mosquito Control District
St. Lucie County Parks and Recreation
St. Lucie County Planning Council
St. Lucie County Public Safety
St. Lucie County Property Appraiser
St. Lucie County Sheriff's Department
St. Lucie County Public Works
St. Lucie County Transportation Department

Regional Agencies

Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council
South Florida Water Management District

Florida Departments and Agencies

Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Regulation and Enforcement
Department of Community Affairs, Division of Community Planning
Department of Community Affairs, Division of Emergency Management
Department of Environmental Protection
Department of Health
Department of State, Division of Historic Resources
Department of Transportation
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

United States Departments and Agencies

Department of Commerce, Census Bureau
Department of Defense, US Army Corps of Engineers
Environmental Protection Agency
Department of Interior
Department of Transportation
United States Postal Service

Utilities

Bell South
Florida Cablevision
Fort Pierce Utilities Authority
Florida Power and Light Company

Table 8-A provides an inventory of Fort Pierce’s interagency relationships, the subject of coordination, and the overall effectiveness of coordination.

The following abbreviations are used in Table 8-A:

AE - Advise and Encourage
 CA - City Agency
 FN - Formal Notice
 OA - Outside Agencies
 TA - Technical Assistance

AP - Approval, Permit
 FA – Formal Agreement
 IN - Informal Notice
 PM - Periodic Meetings to Coordinate Programs

**TABLE 8-A
 COORDINATING AGENCIES**

Agency	Subject of Coordination	Nature of Relations	Existing and Anticipated Coordination Mechanisms	Effectiveness of Existing Coordination Mechanisms	Fort Pierce Office Primary Responsibility For Coordination
ADJACENT MUNICIPALITIES: Port St. Lucie St. Lucie Village	Land use Water service Wastewater treatment	AE, TA	Informal Coordination	Effective	Planning Department Engineering Department
LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES:	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Fort Pierce Housing Authority	Housing provision	PM	Board of Commissioners appointed by Mayor	Effective	Community Development
Council on Aging of St. Lucie, Inc.	Transit services	AE	Informal Coordination	Effective	Community Development
St. Lucie County Erosion District	Erosion, beach, and coastal issues.	AE, TA	Informal Coordination	Effective	Engineering Department Public Works
St. Lucie County Fire District	Fire protection Development review	TA	Existing Contract for Services	Effective	Planning Department

Agency	Subject of Coordination	Nature of Relations	Existing and Anticipated Coordination Mechanisms	Effectiveness of Existing Coordination Mechanisms	Fort Pierce Office Primary Responsibility For Coordination
St. Lucie Metropolitan Planning Organization	Long range transportation planning	AE,AP,PM, TA	Technical Advisory Committee	Effective	Engineering Department Public Works
St. Lucie County School District	Maintenance, facility planning, recreation opportunities	PM, TA, FN	Interlocal agreement for facilities planning, Existing contract for construction of portable classrooms and permanent schools	Effective	Planning Department
St. Lucie County Sheriff's Office	Law Enforcement	FA	Interlocal agreement	Effective	City Manager
COUNTY AGENCIES:	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
St. Lucie County Administration	Administrative duties	PM	Interlocal agreements	Effective	City Manager
St. Lucie County Board of County Commissioners	Annexations Port Management	FN, IN	County Comprehensive Plan Joint Planning Agreement Port Master Plan	Effective	City Manager Planning Department
St. Lucie County Department of Growth Management	Development of regional impact Land use plan Amendment, plats, annexations	AP	St. Lucie County Land Development Code, Comprehensive Plan	Effective	Planning Department
St. Lucie County Department of Environmental Resources	Natural area management and protection of native species	AP	Land Development Code	Effective	Engineering Department
St. Lucie County Engineering	Transportation Stormwater	AE, AP, PM, TA	Permitting, Informal coordination	Effective	Engineering Department Public Works

Agency	Subject of Coordination	Nature of Relations	Existing and Anticipated Coordination Mechanisms	Effectiveness of Existing Coordination Mechanisms	Fort Pierce Office Primary Responsibility For Coordination
St. Lucie County Library	Library Services/Cultural programming	AE, PM	Informal coordination	Effective	City Manager
St. Lucie County Mosquito Control District	Impoundment Management	AE, TA	Informal Coordination	Effective	Engineering
St. Lucie County Parks and Recreation	Recreation facilities	FA, AE, TA	Interlocal agreement	Effective	Public Works
St. Lucie County Property Appraiser	GIS data Tax Revenues	PM, TA	Interlocal agreement	Effective	Finance Planning Department
St. Lucie County Public Safety	Emergency management	AE, TA	Informal coordination	Effective	City Manager
St. Lucie County Tax Collector	Ad valorem collection	OA	Interlocal agreement	Effective	Finance
FLORIDA DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES:	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Agriculture, Bureau of Regulation and Enforcement	Various licenses	AP	Permitting	Effective	City Manager
Community Affairs, Division of Community Planning	Planning activities	AP, TA	Oversight of comprehensive plan, regulation of land development code	Effective	Planning Department
Community Affairs, Bureau of Emergency Management	Mutual Aid Agreement	OA, TA	Informal coordination	Effective	City Manager
Environmental Protection	Water quality Natural resource protection	AP	Permitting Informal coordination	Effective	Engineering Department
Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission	Conservation	AE, TA	Informal coordination	Effective	Planning Department

Agency	Subject of Coordination	Nature of Relations	Existing and Anticipated Coordination Mechanisms	Effectiveness of Existing Coordination Mechanisms	Fort Pierce Office Primary Responsibility For Coordination
Florida Housing Finance Corporation	State Housing Initiative Program (SHIP)	AP	Interlocal agreement	Effective	Community Development
Florida Atlantic University	Education	OA	Informal coordination	Effective	City Manager
Health	Water resources, septic tank permitting, health inspections	AE	Informal coordination	Effective	Engineering Department Building Department
Indian River Community College	Education	OA	Informal Coordination	Effective	City Manager
Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council	General planning Mediation	TA,AE,AP	Review of comprehensive plan, developments of regional impact	Effective	Planning Department
South Florida Water Management District	Stormwater management Wetlands Mitigation Water Use	TA,AE,AP	Water Well Permitting Wellhead protection Informal coordination	Effective	Engineering Department
State, Division Of Historic Resources	Historic Lands & Buildings	TA/AE	Informal coordination	Effective	Planning Department
Transportation	Transportation planning	AE, AP, PM, TA	Informal coordination	Ineffective	Engineering Department
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES:	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Department of Commerce, Census Bureau	Decennial census	TA	Informal coordination	Effective	Planning Department
Department of Defense/ US Army Corps of Engineers	Cut and Fill (Wetland mitigation)	TA, AP	Permitting Informal coordination	Effective	Engineering Department
Department of Environmental Protection Agency	Cut and Fill (Wetland mitigation)	TA, AP	Informal coordination	Effective	Engineering Department
Department of Homeland Security/ US Coast Guard	Public Safety/ Natural Resource Protection	IN	Informal coordination	Effective	City Manager

Agency	Subject of Coordination	Nature of Relations	Existing and Anticipated Coordination Mechanisms	Effectiveness of Existing Coordination Mechanisms	Fort Pierce Office Primary Responsibility For Coordination
Housing and Urban Development	Community Development Block Grant	AP	Oversight of CDBG grants	Effective	Community Development
Department of the Interior	Grant applications	AP,TA	Informal coordination	Effective	Engineering Department
U.S. Postal Service	Address development, mail delivery	OA	Informal coordination	Effective	City Manager
Department of Transportation	Transportation planning	AE, AP, PM, TA	Informal coordination	Ineffective	Engineering Department
REGULATED UTILITIES:	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Bell South	Telephone service	OA	Informal coordination	Effective	Engineering Department
Florida Cablevision	Cable services Underground utilities	OA	Informal coordination	Effective	Engineering Department
Fort Pierce Utility Authority	Electric, water and sewer service	FA	Interlocal agreement	Effective	City Manager Engineering Department
Florida Power and Light Company	Underground utilities	OA	Informal coordination	Effective	Engineering Department
North St. Lucie Hospital District	Medical service	OA	Informal coordination	Effective	City Manager

Source: City of Fort Pierce Planning Department, 2006.

ANALYSIS

Evaluation of Existing Coordination Mechanisms

The current process of coordination amongst the identified agencies and the City of Fort Pierce has proven to be generally effective. Like other cities on the Treasure Coast, Fort Pierce is experiencing a number of complex development-related issues.

In addition to growth within the City boundary, the City plans to expand its boundaries to the Fort Pierce Utility Authority's service boundary by way of annexation by 2030. Increases in population will create greater demands on roadways, parks, schools, other components of the City's physical infrastructure and the natural environment.

Outside the City boundary, large developments like Tradition in Port St. Lucie, Cloud Grove, and the designated Towns Villages, and Countryside area in unincorporated St. Lucie County will affect the demand on facilities and the regional character of the area. The City should coordinate with the County and adjacent municipalities in order to anticipate countywide development issues.

Also, although the Port of Fort Pierce lies substantially within the city limits of Fort Pierce, management of the Port of Fort Pierce falls under the St. Lucie County Board of County Commissioners. Increased coordination through frequent written and verbal communication on topics such as, but not limited to annexation, the Port of Fort Pierce, transportation, parks and recreation, would greatly benefit the City.

Joint Planning Areas

The City of Fort Pierce is party to several interlocal agreements that establish procedures and mechanisms for intergovernmental coordination. These agreements include:

- An interlocal agreement with the St. Lucie County School District, Port St. Lucie, and St. Lucie County for coordination of comprehensive plan land uses and school facilities planning in October 2003;
- St. Lucie County Fire District for fire and emergency medical services;
- Interlocal agreements with St. Lucie County for park administration, road improvements, revenues and joint planning of annexation areas; and
- Fort Pierce Utility Authority for water and wastewater treatment.

Comparison with Regional Policy Plan

The Treasure Coast Regional Policy Plan (1995) has been reviewed and considered during the process of writing this comprehensive plan. The Comprehensive Plan conforms to the Regional Policy Plan.

Specific Coordination Issues in Each Element

Each Comprehensive Plan element was reviewed for interagency coordination needs. These needs are described below.

Future Land Use

Increasing population due to substantial residential development has lead to overcrowded schools and extended commute times for students. The City should increase coordination with the St. Lucie County School District during facility planning periods and assist with the development of school concurrency to meet new statutory requirements.

Transportation

Many roadways in the City of Fort Pierce and the outlying future annexation areas remain unpaved. Also, a number of roadways will not be able to maintain their adopted level of service during forthcoming periods of rapid development. Increased coordination with the St. Lucie Metropolitan Planning Organization through informal meetings or technical advisory groups will improve coordination, thereby sustaining the quality and function of the City's transportation network.

Housing

Coordination with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Florida Finance Corporation is generally effective and satisfactory.

Infrastructure

Rapid growth has created a need for greater coordination in the areas of water resource supply, service and management. The City is a participant of the St. Lucie County Utility Regionalization Task Force, which is currently coordinating a regional approach to water and wastewater needs. The City will also coordinate with FPUA and the South Florida Water Management District on alternate water supply sources as described in the Upper East Coast Water Supply Plan.

Recreation and Open Space

Multiple residential developments are slated for construction between the western City boundary and I-95. The increase in the number of residents in the Fort Pierce area will cause increased pressure on existing park facilities. This is especially true of Lawnwood Sports Complex, which is a County park. Many of these new residential developments will eventually be annexed into the City of Fort Pierce. Greater coordination with the County is needed to facilitate the development of an urban-district park that can serve new and existing residents in order to maintain adopted park levels of service.

Coastal Management

While the Port of Fort Pierce is managed by St. Lucie County, the City of Fort Pierce maintains authority over land development decisions pertaining to the Port. Increased coordination with the St. Lucie County Board of County Commissioners will be necessary to fully implement the Port of Ft. Pierce Master Plan and reduce any potential conflicts.

Hurricanes have critically eroded certain sections of Fort Pierce's beaches. Greater coordination with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on beach renourishment programs is needed to ensure repair of these coastal areas.

Conservation

Protection of sea turtles and manatees has been identified as a priority for the City. The City should coordinate with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission to achieve greater protective measures.

The Indian River Lagoon is the subject of several studies in relationship to the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Program (CERP). Agencies involved in preserving the health of the Indian River lagoon include the South Florida Water Management District, the South Indian River Lagoon Water Control District and the Florida Inland Navigation District.

Capital Improvement

Coordination with the St. Lucie County Property Appraiser is effective and satisfactory.

Areas of Critical State Concern

There are no areas of critical state concern in the City of Fort Pierce.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL COORDINATION ELEMENT GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND POLICIES

Goal 8

To provide accessible, effective and frequent intergovernmental coordination opportunities to achieve consistency among all government agencies that implement plans and programs which affect the City of Fort Pierce.

8.1 *Objective:*

Continue and improve coordination activities among government agencies with planning and impact assessment duties that affect the City, as listed in Table 8A; with other units of local government that provide services but have no regulatory authority over the use of land; and with the comprehensive plans of adjacent municipalities, the county and adjacent counties.

8.1.1 Policy:

Maintain an active program of monitoring and communication with agencies operating under the provisions of the Local Government Comprehensive Planning and Land Development Act, Chapter 163 F.S.

8.1.2 Policy:

The City's Comprehensive Plan will be consistent, where feasible and practical, with the State of Florida Strategic Plan, Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council Regional Policy Plan, St. Lucie County Comprehensive Plan, the Port of Ft. Pierce Master Plan, the Comprehensive Plans of adjacent local governments, applicable regional water supply plan(s), and applicable campus master plans pursuant to F.S. 1013.30.

8.1.3 Policy:

Administer community workshops and participate in the Regional Planning Council's informal mediation process as mechanisms to provide an open forum for communication and coordination of programs involving the Comprehensive Plan, and to resolve conflicts with other local governments.

8.1.4 Policy:

The City of Fort Pierce shall coordinate with St. Lucie County and the Fort Pierce Utility Authority on matters of growth management, comprehensive planning, land development regulations, and provision of public services within proposed annexation areas as provided in the joint planning agreement.

- 8.1.5 Policy:
The City shall coordinate future annexations with St. Lucie County, St. Lucie Village, and Port St. Lucie where appropriate in order to form a compact City boundary.
- 8.1.6 Policy:
The City of Fort Pierce shall coordinate with local, county, state, and federal agencies on management of the Indian River Lagoon.
- 8.1.7 Policy:
Cooperatively pursue the resolution of development and growth management issues having impacts that transcend the City's current political jurisdiction including issues of federal, regional, and state significance with the appropriate agencies. Issues to be addressed include, but are not limited to, the following:
- a) Impacts of development on roadway level of service standards.
 - b) Pavement of unimproved roadways within and in the vicinity of existing and future development.
 - c) Impacts of development on school capacity and school facilities planning.
 - d) Creation of a new urban-district park within the utility service boundary (future annexation area).
 - e) Needed infrastructure to support services provided by the St. Lucie County Fire District.
 - f) Beach renourishment programs related to critically eroded areas of Fort Pierce's coastline.
 - g) Preservation of historic resources of local, regional, and national significance.
- 8.1.8 Policy:
The City shall continue participation in the St. Lucie MPO's technical advisory committee in order to improve coordination of transportation improvements with St. Lucie County, FDOT and USDOT.
- 8.1.9 Policy:
The City shall exchange information on current development projects with St. Lucie County, Port St. Lucie, St. Lucie Village in order to anticipate impacts of development from other communities on the City of Fort Pierce.

8.2 *Objective:*

Ensure that the impacts of development, proposed in the City's Comprehensive Plan, upon development in adjacent municipalities, the County, adjacent counties, the region and the State are addressed through coordination mechanisms.

8.2.1 Policy:

The review of development proposals shall include findings that indicate relationships of such proposed developments to the comprehensive plans of adjacent local governments.

8.2.2 Policy:

The City shall utilize the following procedures to identify and implement joint planning areas (JPAs) for the purpose of addressing issues related to annexation and mutual infrastructure service areas:

1. Coordinate planning activities mandated by the various elements of the Fort Pierce Comprehensive Plan with local governments, the School District of St. Lucie County, other governmental units providing services but not having regulatory authority over the use of land, the region, and the state;
2. Use the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council's informal mediation process to resolve conflicts with other local governments, when agreed to by all affected parties;
3. Work cooperatively with St. Lucie County to facilitate the annexation of unincorporated areas with consistent joint meetings or work groups, and other mechanisms;
4. Demographic and social-economic information and services shall be readily available for county, school board and municipal planning activities.

8.2.3 Policy:

The City shall utilize the following process when considering the location and extension of public facilities that are subject to concurrency and when siting facilities with countywide significance, including locally unwanted land uses such as solid waste disposal facilities that are established within a formal agreement between local, county and state governments and agencies:

1. The site plan procedure, which considers the future impact of a proposed site plan on the facilities and services provided by Fort Pierce and those of adjacent local governments, if any;
2. The goals, objectives and policies contained within the comprehensive plans of adjacent local governments, when

reviewing proposed site-specific map amendments to the Future Land Use map.

3. Joint processes such as participation in intergovernmental task forces.

8.3 *Objective:*

Special emphasis shall be placed on maintaining effective lines of communication with county, regional, and state agencies when setting levels-of-service and/or permitting requirements, and initiating maintenance and capital improvement projects located within the City of Fort Pierce.

8.3.1 Policy:

The City Manager or an appointed designee shall prepare and review the annual level-of-service monitoring report contained within the adopted concurrency management system. The purpose of this report is to provide affected entities with timely and accurate information in order to evaluation and coordinate levels-of-service.

8.3.2 Policy:

In situations where other public or private entities are providing a public facility or service such as roads, sewer, drainage, parks, or solid waste within the City, the City shall coordinate its adopted level of service standard with the applicable entity and within the financial parameters allowed by the Capital Improvement Element of this Plan.

8.3.3 Policy:

Coordination with Federal, State, and County authorities shall continually be practiced and refined to ensure that the City receives a proportionate share of revenue allocations, facilities and service improvements.

8.4 *Objective:*

Ensure coordination in the designation of new dredge spoil disposal sites located within the Fort Pierce city boundary.

8.4.1 Policy:

The City of Fort Pierce shall coordinate with St. Lucie County, Florida Inland Navigational District, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to identify and regulate all existing and future spoil dredge sites within the City's municipal boundary.

8.4.2 Policy:

The City shall resolve conflicts related to dredge spoil disposal sites with the public agencies referenced in Policy 8.4.1 through a dispute resolution process.

8.5 *Objective:*
Ensure coordination with the St. Lucie County School District to establish concurrency requirements for public school facilities.

8.5.1 Policy:

The City of Fort Pierce, in cooperation with appropriate local, county and state governments and agencies, shall utilize the following collaborative planning process to reach decisions on population projections and public school siting:

1. Employ compatibility and public school impact procedures, which consider land use compatibility and public school impacts through the use of flexibility provisions included in the Fort Pierce Comprehensive Plan;
2. Provide the St. Lucie County School District with population projections and other demographic and socio-economic data to assist the School Board with public school siting;
3. Provide professional support to the School Board Superintendent's site review committee;
4. Involve the St. Lucie County School District during the review process for residential Land Use Plan Amendments, Plats and Developments of Regional Impact.
5. The procedures shall be coordinated in a manner that conforms to the interlocal agreement between the City and the School District and any future amendments to this agreement.
6. The City shall coordinate with the St. Lucie County School District to establish concurrency requirements for public school facilities.