

Expand to Embrace an Integrated Regional Focus: Core Value Chapter Synopsis

INTRODUCTION • Strengthen our connection to Bluffton– not as a competitor, but as a part of the same ecosystem, collaborate for shorter term solutions to workforce, housing, and education. • Embrace “Arc of Innovation” – emerging cluster of innovation in Savannah, tap into this to bring creative thinking and innovation to challenges, partner with regional firms on problem solving projects. • Becoming a regional player - two-way transaction approach, HHI brings perspective and ideas to the table.

ISSUES/ EXISTING CONDITIONS/ CONSTRAINTS • Ensure commitment from other regional governments/partners. • Recognize workforce housing as a regional need that may not be met on the island. • Evaluate opportunities for employees to have staggered work hours.

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DEMONSTRATION ONLY



Regional Work Group (RWG)

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1. Planning

Enable innovation and excellence in regional planning and coordination for the Town of Hilton Head Island as a built-in part of the everyday process.

Keyword: Regional Planning. Elements: Natural Resources, Housing, Community Facilities, Economic Development, Land Use, Transportation... About this Goal: • The desire for this goal was to encourage all government entities to think regionally on day-to-day activities.

1.1. Communication & Participation

Collaborate with nearby jurisdictions on a regional effort to increase communication and participation between Hilton Head Island and regional municipal, county, and state governments.

Stakeholder(s):

Nearby Jurisdictions

Beaufort County

Regional Municipal Governments

State of South Carolina

Town of Bluffton

State of Georgia

Regional County Governments

1.1.1. Legislative Issues

Increase advocacy efforts related to legislative issues that affect the region.

1.1.2. Workshops & Retreats

Encourage attendance at annual workshops and/or retreats of other government agencies.

Stakeholder(s):

Government Agencies

1.1.3. Working Groups

Establish collaborative working groups to seek greater integration of planning and public investment.

1.2. Partnerships

Participate and share in the leadership of the development of strong partnerships within Beaufort County and the region.

Stakeholder(s):

Beaufort County

1.2.1. Emergencies

Coordinate with regional partners on emergency planning, response, evacuation, and communication.

1.2.2. SOLOCO

Continue to participate in meetings and serve as a member on the Southern Lowcountry Regional Board (SOLOCO).

Stakeholder(s):

Southern Lowcountry Regional Board

1.3. Regional Plan

Create a Regional Plan with adjacent jurisdictions to define regional needs, priorities, and funding to accomplish the plan.

1.4. Relationships

Build new and strengthen existing relationships with regional economic development partners.

Stakeholder(s):

Regional Economic Development Partners

1.4.1. Innovation

Begin building links to innovative research institutions and industry groups in the Savannah Region.

Stakeholder(s):

Savannah Region

Industry Groups

Research Institutions

1.5. Private Sector

Develop programs and policies to encourage the private sector to become involved in addressing issues such as housing, climate change, environmental protection, and education.

Stakeholder(s):

Private Sector

2. Workforce Housing

Increase supply of workforce housing on Hilton Head Island and in the region within a reasonable commute.

Keyword: Workforce Housing. Elements: Housing, Land Use, Transportation... See Connected Strategy 4.3, Economy Strategy 6.1, Inclusive Strategy 3.3, Infrastructure Strategy 6.1

2.1. Cooperation

Pursue regional cooperation of public, private and nonprofit agencies in meeting area housing needs.

Stakeholder(s):

Public Agencies

Nonprofit Agencies

Private Entities

2.2. Regional Solutions

Work toward regional solutions to workforce housing issues that result in the construction of quality workforce housing.

2.3. Employer Assisted Housing

Support employer assisted housing programs to encourage more employees of various professions (teachers, police officers, firemen, etc.) to live within the Town limits or within Beaufort County.

See Inclusive Strategy 3.5

Stakeholder(s):

Employers

Police Officers

Employees

Firemen

Teachers

Beaufort County

2.4. Housing Trust Fund

Evaluate and consider participation in a Regional Housing Trust Fund.

3. Transportation

Increase access between Hilton Head Island and the region through a viable multimodal transportation system.

Keyword: Transportation. Elements: Community Facilities, Economic Development, Transportation, Priority Investment.

3.1. Transportation Infrastructure

Improve/expand transportation infrastructure to connect the Island's multimodal system to the rest of the region.

See Infrastructure Strategy 1.8

3.1.1. Safety

Coordinate with the State and County to seek funding for safety improvements to provide for a safe, efficient and well-maintained regional transportation network and to protect the capital investment in the transportation system through adequate maintenance of facilities and roadways.

See Infrastructure Tactic 1.4.3

Stakeholder(s):

State of South Carolina

Beaufort County

3.1.2. Pathways

Coordinate with Beaufort County to enhance the Island's pathway network by providing a link from the Town's multi-use pathways to pathway systems on the mainland.

See Infrastructure Tactic 1.9.5

Stakeholder(s):

Beaufort County

3.1.3. Traffic Modeling

Coordinate traffic modeling with regional partners for use in future critical, regional transportation projects to develop a regional transportation vision that identifies critical transportation deficiencies that should be addressed.

3.1.4. Public Transit

Complement public transit operations such as those of the Palmetto Breeze (LRTA), by connecting transit stops with employment destinations and tourist destinations.

See Economy Tactic 1.2.3

Stakeholder(s):

Palmetto Breeze

3.1.5. Marine Transportation

Support coordination of regional partners to assess potential marine-based transportation to serve Hilton Head Island, Beaufort and Savannah.

See Economy Strategy 1.3

Stakeholder(s):

Hilton Head Island

Savannah

Beaufort

3.1.6. Evacuation Routes

Coordinate and work with appropriate agencies to plan for, evaluate, and implement evacuation routes away from the coast of South Carolina and Georgia for safety, efficiency, and capacity.

3.1.7. Roadways

Work with appropriate agencies, including SCDOT, Town of Bluffton and Beaufort County, to provide input on roadway improvements along the US 278 corridor and projects such as the widening of I-95 and I-16, as well as the secondary road system in southern Beaufort County.

Stakeholder(s):

SCDOT

Beaufort County

Town of Bluffton

3.1.8. Transportation & Land Use

Promote regional transportation and land use planning for all of southern Beaufort County by working with the Town of Bluffton and Beaufort County.

Stakeholder(s):

Town of Bluffton

Beaufort County

3.1.9. Public Transit

Support the coordination of regional public transit to serve the mainland and the Island for workers and visitors, including the potential for public transit to and from the Savannah-Hilton Head International Airport.

See Economy Tactics 1.2.2 and 6.4.2

Stakeholder(s):

Savannah-Hilton Head International Airport

Visitors

Workers

3.1.10. Bridges & Causeways

Coordinate with appropriate agencies for the protection and routine maintenance of the bridges and causeways that provide the only ground transportation link from the Island to the mainland.

4. Environmental Protection

Lead the region in environmental protection and eco-friendly practices.

Keyword: Environmental Protection. Elements: Natural Resources, Community Facilities, Land Use, Recreation.

4.1. Resiliency

Develop regional approaches to promote resiliency to climate change and sea level rise.

4.2. Environmental Education

Partner regionally on environmental education by initiating and maintaining partnerships with other Island, county, state and federal agencies for environmental education purposes.

4.2.1. Workshops & Seminars

Host workshops and seminars in Beaufort County for the general public's information on environment issues and regulations.

Stakeholder(s):

Beaufort County

4.3. Land Acquisition

Partner on land acquisition to preserve open space or serve the needs of region for parks and recreation.

4.3.1. Parks & Recreation

Coordinate with various agencies including Beaufort County Rural & Critical Lands Board and property owners to identify and purchase undeveloped property for parks and recreation or preservation as needed.

Stakeholder(s):

Beaufort County Rural & Critical Lands Board

Property Owners

4.3.2. Natural Resource & Habitat

Coordinate conservation of regional environmental assets and plans for natural resource and habitat preservation by acquiring conservation and park land to preserve natural and cultural resources for education, interpretive, and passive recreation uses.

4.4. Recycling & Waste Management

Cooperate with Beaufort County and appropriate agencies to seek funding sources to increase the capacity and level of service for recycling and waste management on the Island.

Stakeholder(s):

Beaufort County

4.5. Development & Re-Development

Promote environmental protection through regulation and eco-friendly practices during the development and redevelopment processes in the region.

See Environment Goal 2

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5. Tourism

Expand tourism focus in order to promote diverse offerings across the region.

Keyword: Tourism. Elements: Cultural Resources, Natural Resources, Population, Economic Development... About this Goal: • Intended to encourage regional partnering and marketing of tourism as well as collaborating on attracting new businesses to the region.

5.1. Marketing

Partner across the region to identify and market our collective strengths, unique qualities, and cultural/heritage tourism in order to identify, develop and leverage the region's comparative advantages.

5.2. Tourism

Attract businesses that can diversify the region's tourism industry, such as technology and sustainability.

5.3. Assets

Identify and encourage the conservation of regional assets that bring people to the area/region.