



Happy Valentine's Day!

# Economic Views

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SERVING CHARLOTTE, COLLIER, GLADES, HENDRY, LEE AND SARASOTA COUNTIES SINCE 1973

## Margaret Wuerstle - New SWFRPC Executive Director

FORT MYERS, FL – (January 10, 2012) – The Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council has hired Margaret Wuerstle to be the Council's Executive Director. She will begin on Feb. 1, 2012.

Ms. Wuerstle has more than 30 years experience in a variety of urban and regional planning positions. She is currently the Chief Planner and Zoning Hearing Examiner for the City of Cincinnati, Ohio. Her experience includes seven years with an Atlantic City law firm, three years with an environmental consulting firm, three years as Director of Zoning for the City of Rochester, New York, five years in county government and three terms as the Mayor of Dunkirk, New York. Ms. Wuerstle is a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners and a Licensed Professional Planner in New Jersey. She has been an adjunct instructor at the University of Cincinnati and the University of Louisville teaching courses in Land Use Controls, Zoning, Social Justice and Comprehensive Planning.

Hendry County Commissioner Karson Turner, SWFRPC Council Chair, is pleased to welcome Ms. Wuerstle as the new Executive Director, "Ms. Wuerstle clearly understands our Council and is the leader to carry the Council forward."

The Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council was created in 1973 by an interlocal agreement between Charlotte, Collier, Glades, Hendry, Lee and Sarasota counties. In accordance with Florida Statutes, the agency is directed by members who live in the six counties that participate in the Council. Members include 25 county commissioners and municipal elected officials, 10 gubernatorial appointees, including an elected school board member. Five ex-officio (non-voting) gubernatorial appointees represent the Florida Department of Transportation, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, statewide economic development interests and water management districts.

The SWFRPC mission is to work together across neighboring communities to consistently protect and improve the unique and relatively unspoiled character of the physical, economic and social worlds we share for the benefit of our future generations. The Council is a regional information clearinghouse, conducts research to develop and maintain regional goals, objectives and policies, and assists in implementing a number of local, state and federal programs. The Council serves as an advocate for the Region with State and Federal agencies, including the Legislature and Congress. In support of the SWFRPC mission, the SWFRPC is the local host for the Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program. Visit [www.swfrpc.org](http://www.swfrpc.org) to learn more about the Council.

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## ♥ FESTIVALS & EVENTS ♥

<p>January 20-February 3, 2012 <b>SPECKLE PERCH FESTIVAL</b> Okeechobee Contact: (863) 763-9972, Ext. 500</p> <p>January 20, 2012 <b>3rd ANNUAL MOTE MARINE LABORATORY GOLF TOURNAMENT</b> Sarasota Contact: (941) 388-4441, Ext. 309</p> <p>January 21-22, 2012 <b>THE 21ST ANNUAL TOUR DE CAPE 2012</b> Cape Coral Contact: (239) 573-3125</p> <p>January 21, 2012 <b>SNOWMAN SHUFFLE WALK-A-THON TO BENEFIT SPECIAL POPULATIONS</b> Cape Coral Contact: (239) 574-0574</p> <p>January 21-22, 2012 <b>MEDIAEVAL FAIRE</b> Lakes Regional Park, Fort Myers Contact: (239) 369-6881</p> <p>January 21-22, 2012 <b>15TH ANNUAL PUNTA GORDA SULLIVAN STREET CRAFT FESTIVAL</b> Punta Gorda Contact: (561) 746-6615</p> <p>January 22, 2012 <b>9TH ANNUAL CALOOSAHATCHEE CELTIC FESTIVAL</b> Centennial Park, Fort Myers Contact: (941) 625-8544 or (239) 321-7530</p>	<p>♥ <b>EDISON FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS</b> ♥ January 14 - February 19</p> <p>January 22, 2012 <b>TASTE OF PINE ISLAND 2012</b> Phillips Park, Pine Island Center Bokeelia Contact: (239) 283-0777</p> <p>January 28, 2012 <b>BUCKHEAD RIDGE WINTER FESTIVAL</b> Buckhead Ridge Contact: (863) 467-8220</p> <p>January 28-29, 2012 <b>9TH ANNUAL ST. ARMANDS CIRCLE ART FESTIVAL</b> Sarasota Contact: (561) 746-6615</p> <p>January 28-29, 2012 <b>BAYSHORE FESTIVAL OF THE ARTS</b> Naples Contact: (239) 775-2800</p> <p>February 3-5, 2012 <b>EVERGLADES SEAFOOD FESTIVAL</b> Everglades City Contact: (239) 825-5762</p> <p>February 4, 2012 <b>ANTIQUA CAR SHOW-EDISON FORD WINTER ESTATES</b> Fort Myers Contact: (239) 334-2999</p>	<p>February 4-5, 2012 <b>18TH ANNUAL SIESTA KEY CRAFT FESTIVAL</b> Sarasota Contact: (954) 472-3755</p> <p>February 5, 2012 <b>ANNUAL ALL HAZARD PREPAREDNESS DAYS</b> LaBelle Contact: (863) 674-5400</p> <p>February 11-12, 2012 <b>JAMMIN IN THE HAMMOCK 5TH ANNUAL BLUEGRASS FESTIVAL</b> Naples Contact: (239) 394-3397</p> <p>February 11-12, 2012 <b>CENTER FOR THE ARTS OF BONITA SPRINGS FINE ARTS &amp; CRAFTS FESTIVAL</b> Bonita Springs Contact: (561) 746-6615</p> <p>February 11-12, 2012 <b>6TH ANNUAL COCONUT POINT ART FESTIVAL</b> Estero/Bonita Springs Contact: (561) 746-6615</p> <p>February 11-12, 2012 <b>3RD ANNUAL DOWNTOWN BRADENTON CRAFT FESTIVAL</b> Sarasota Contact: (561) 746-6615</p> <p>February 12, 2012 <b>EDISON FESTIVAL OF LIGHT JUNIOR PARADE</b> Fort Myers Contact: (239) 334-2999</p>
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Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council



# Economic Views

SERVING CHARLOTTE, COLLIER, GLADES, HENDRY, LEE AND SARASOTA COUNTIES SINCE 1973

## AIRPORT ACTIVITY

Airport passenger activity for the Southwest Florida Region increased 28.9% in November 2011 from October 2011. Airport passengers visiting and leaving the region totaled 751,332 as compared to 582,954 in the previous month. All three airports reported an increase in passenger activity from the previous month.

In November 2011, total airport activity for the region decreased 4.3% from the previous year. Charlotte County airport was the only one to report an increase in passenger activity from the previous year.

## UNEMPLOYMENT

The regional unemployment rate for November 2011 was 10.3%, which was lower than the revised rate of 10.7% for October 2011. Hendry County at 15.1%, had the highest unemployment rate in the six-county region, with Lee second at 10.5%. Glades County had the lowest unemployment rate at 8.1%. The November 2011 regional unemployment rate of 10.3% was higher than the state at 9.8%. The regional unemployment rate decreased by 89.7% from November 2010 to November 2011, while the state rate decreased by 90.2% during the same time period.

### AIRPORT PASSENGERS

AIRPORT					% CHANGE
		NOV. 11	OCT. 11	NOV. 10	OCT. 11/ NOV. 11
S.W. Fla. Int'l	ARRIVALS	300,838	243,942	322,116	32.0%
	DEPARTURES	311,632	225,203	330,667	38.4%
	ARRIVALS	55,087	49,914	56,434	10.4%
Sarasota/ Bradenton	DEPARTURES	56,611	46,112	58,282	22.8%
Charlotte	ARRIVALS	13,752	8,991	9,112	53.0%
County	DEPARTURES	13,412	8,792	8,459	52.5%

AIRPORT TOTALS = ARRIVALS + DEPARTURES

				% CHANGE	% CHANGE
	NOV. 11	OCT. 11	NOV. 10	OCT. 11/ NOV. 11	NOV. 10/ NOV. 11
S.W. Fla. Int'l	612,470	469,145	652,783	30.6%	-6.2%
Sarasota/Brad.	111,698	96,026	114,716	16.3%	-2.6%
Charlotte County	27,164	17,783	17,571	52.8%	54.6%
REGION	751,332	582,954	785,070	28.9%	-4.3%

SOURCE: Local Airport Authorities.

### LABOR FORCE FIGURES

COUNTY	LABOR FORCE		EMPLOYMENT		UNEMPLOYMENT	
	NOV. 11	OCT. 11	NOV. 11	OCT. 11	NOV. 11	OCT. 11
CHARLOTTE	69,436	68,985	62,272	61,695	7,164	7,290
COLLIER	143,221	140,447	128,887	125,413	14,334	15,034
GLADES	6,010	6,063	5,525	5,581	485	482
HENDRY	16,881	16,916	14,338	14,190	2,543	2,726
LEE	273,958	273,848	245,295	244,631	28,663	29,217
SARASOTA	160,351	160,288	144,292	143,649	16,059	16,639
REGION	669,857	666,547	600,609	595,159	69,248	71,388
STATE	9,209,000	9,258,000	8,304,000	8,325,000	905,000	933,000

### UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

COUNTY	% CHANGE*				
	NOV. 11	OCT. 11	NOV. 10	OCT. 11/ NOV. 11	NOV. 10/ NOV. 11
CHARLOTTE	10.3%	10.6%	12.4%	-1.7%	-89.6%
COLLIER	10.0%	10.7%	12.3%	-4.7%	-90.0%
GLADES	8.1%	7.9%	11.9%	0.6%	-89.3%
HENDRY	15.1%	16.1%	18.2%	-6.7%	-84.9%
LEE	10.5%	10.7%	12.9%	-1.9%	-89.5%
SARASOTA	10.0%	10.4%	11.9%	-3.5%	-90.4%
REGION	10.3%	10.7%	12.6%	-3.0%	-89.7%
STATE	9.8%	10.1%	11.6%	-3.0%	-90.2%

Note: Sum of detail may not equal totals due to rounding.

\* Calculation of percent change is by actual revised numbers.

Source: Agency for Workforce Innovation.

# Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council



# Economic Views

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## CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

The Consumer Price Index (CPI-U) for all urban consumers measures the cost of items in several specific categories and is used as an indicator of the general rate of inflation through time. The CPI-U during November 2011 decreased 0.1% from October 2011. The CPI-U for November 2011 was 226.2, an increase of 3.4% from November 2010.

### CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

GROUP	% CHANGE				
	NOV. 11	OCT. 11	NOV. 10	NOV. 11	NOV. 11
	OCT. 11/ NOV. 10/				
	NOV. 11	OCT. 11	NOV. 10	NOV. 11	NOV. 11
ALL ITEMS	226.2	226.4	218.8	-0.1%	3.4%
FOOD & BEVERAGES	230.7	230.9	221.0	-0.1%	4.4%
HOUSING	220.0	220.1	215.8	-0.1%	1.9%
APPAREL	127.3	127.6	121.5	-0.2%	4.8%
TRANSPORTATION	211.4	212.1	195.7	-0.3%	8.0%
MEDICAL CARE	404.9	403.4	391.7	0.4%	3.4%
RECREATION	113.2	113.2	112.8	0.0%	0.4%
EDUCATION/ COMMUN.	132.8	132.8	130.9	-0.0%	1.4%
OTHER GOODS/SVCS	390.8	389.1	383.6	0.4%	1.9%

Purchasing power of the consumer dollar.

1982-1984= \$1.00 NOV 11=0.442  
1967= \$1.00 NOV 11=0.148

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Labor

## SALES ACTIVITY

Sales activity in Southwest Florida is measured by gross and taxable sales for each county. For November 2011, gross and taxable sales in the region totaled approximately \$3.3 million and \$1.8 million, respectively. This is a 6.3% increase in gross sales and a 5.2% increase in taxable sales from November 2010. All counties reported an increase in gross and taxable sales this month as compared to the previous year.

Gross sales in the region between November 2011 and October 2011 decreased 1.6%. Taxable sales increased 10.5% during the same period. By incorporating the change in the cost of living (3.40%) and the average annual population growth rate (2.3%) for the same time period, real gross sales increased 0.6% per capita. Real taxable sales decreased 0.5%.

### SALES ACTIVITY

COUNTY	% CHANGE				
	NOV. 11	OCT. 11	NOV. 10	OCT. 11/ NOV. 2010/	NOV. 2011
	NOV. 11 NOV. 2011				
	(PRELIM)	(PRELIM)	(REVISED)	NOV. 11	NOV. 2011
CHARLOTTE	258,477	263,504	250,384	-1.9%	3.2%
COLLIER	811,409	783,792	761,209	3.5%	6.6%
GLADES	5,954	7,041	5,812	-15.4%	2.4%
HENDRY	110,861	97,079	107,982	14.2%	2.7%
LEE	1,275,601	1,304,601	1,171,310	-2.2%	8.9%
SARASOTA	828,354	887,934	799,905	-6.7%	3.6%
REGION	3,290,656	3,343,951	3,096,602	-1.6%	6.3%

COUNTY	% CHANGE				
	NOV. 11	OCT. 11	NOV. 10	OCT. 11/ NOV. 2010/	NOV. 2011
	NOV. 11 NOV. 2011				
	(PRELIM)	(PRELIM)	(REVISED)	NOV. 11	NOV. 2011
CHARLOTTE	145,267	131,015	142,729	10.9%	1.8%
COLLIER	452,212	382,399	429,394	18.3%	5.3%
GLADES	2,092	2,308	1,926	-9.4%	8.6%
HENDRY	24,261	18,757	18,540	29.3%	30.9%
LEE	722,463	666,133	683,610	8.5%	5.7%
SARASOTA	426,461	404,267	408,958	5.5%	4.3%
REGION	1,772,756	1,604,879	1,685,158	10.5%	5.2%

SOURCE: Florida Department of Tax Research.

## LEPC INFORMATION

For information on upcoming LEPC Courses and Training, please contact John Gibbons at [jgibbons@swfrpc.org](mailto:jgibbons@swfrpc.org).

## SWFRPC MEETING SCHEDULE

Regional Planning Council	Third Thursday of each month
Lee County MPO	Monthly
Technical Advisory Committee	Monthly
Citizen Advisory Committee	Monthly
CEDS Committee	Quarterly
LEPC	Quarterly
Disaster Preparedness	Thursday after LEPC meeting
Lee Trans. Disadvantaged	Quarterly
Glades/Hendry Trans. Disadvantaged	Quarterly
Brownfields Committee	Quarterly

Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council



# Economic Views

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## BUILDING PERMITS

Residential building activity is measured by the number of single-family and multi-family building permits issued during a given month. In November 2011, 219 residential permits were issued in Southwest Florida. This is 9 less permits than were issued in November 2010. The number of units covered by these permits decreased by 92 from 333 in November 2010 to 241 in November 2011. Compared with the figures reported for October 2011, the number of units for November 2011 decreased by 27. From October 2011 to November 2011, permits issued decreased by 33.

The region reported a residential building valuation of \$63,876,893, in November 2011. This is a decrease of 53.6% compared to the valuation of residential permits issued in November 2010, which totaled \$137,774,706.

### BUILDING PERMIT ACTIVITY

COUNTY	NOVEMBER 2011*			RESIDENTIAL VALUE	OCTOBER 2011**			RESIDENTIAL VALUE
	SINGLE FAMILY PERMITS	MULTI-FAMILY PERMITS	UNITS		SINGLE FAMILY PERMITS	MULTI-FAMILY PERMITS	UNITS	
CHARLOTTE	25	0	0	\$2,997,802	13	0	0	\$1,624,230
COLLIER	62	2	16	\$26,304,112	79	1	4	\$27,754,609
GLADES	0	0	0	\$0	0	0	0	\$0
HENDRY	0	0	0	\$0	1	0	0	\$120,700
LEE	86	2	8	\$18,727,410	106	2	15	\$30,730,437
SARASOTA	42	0	2	\$15,847,569	50	0	0	\$14,716,971
REGION*	215	4	26	\$63,876,893	249	3	19	\$74,946,947

COUNTY	NOVEMBER 2010***			RESIDENTIAL VALUE	UNIT CHANGE		% CHANGE OF VALUE	
	SINGLE FAMILY PERMITS	MULTI-FAMILY PERMITS	UNITS		NOV. 11/NOV. 10/ OCT. 11	NOV. 11/ OCT. 11	NOV. 10/ NOV. 11	NOV. 10/ NOV. 11
CHARLOTTE	25	0	0	\$3,557,315	12	0	84.6%	-15.7%
COLLIER	76	3	15	\$49,749,289	-5	-13	-5.2%	-47.1%
GLADES	0	0	0	\$0	0	0	n/a	n/a
HENDRY	0	0	0	\$0	-1	0	n/a	n/a
LEE	65	15	108	\$69,597,373	-27	-79	-39.1%	-73.1%
SARASOTA	44	0	0	\$14,870,729	-6	0	7.7%	6.6%
REGION*	210	18	123	\$137,774,706	-27	-92	-14.8%	-53.6%

\* Data does not include Hendry County, Bonita Springs and Fort Myers Beach for November 2011.  
 \*Data does not include the total valuation figure for Collier County, not available due to system upgrade.  
 \*\*Data does not include Fort Myers Beach, Hendry County & LaBelle for October 2011  
 \*\*\*All data is reported for 2010.

Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council



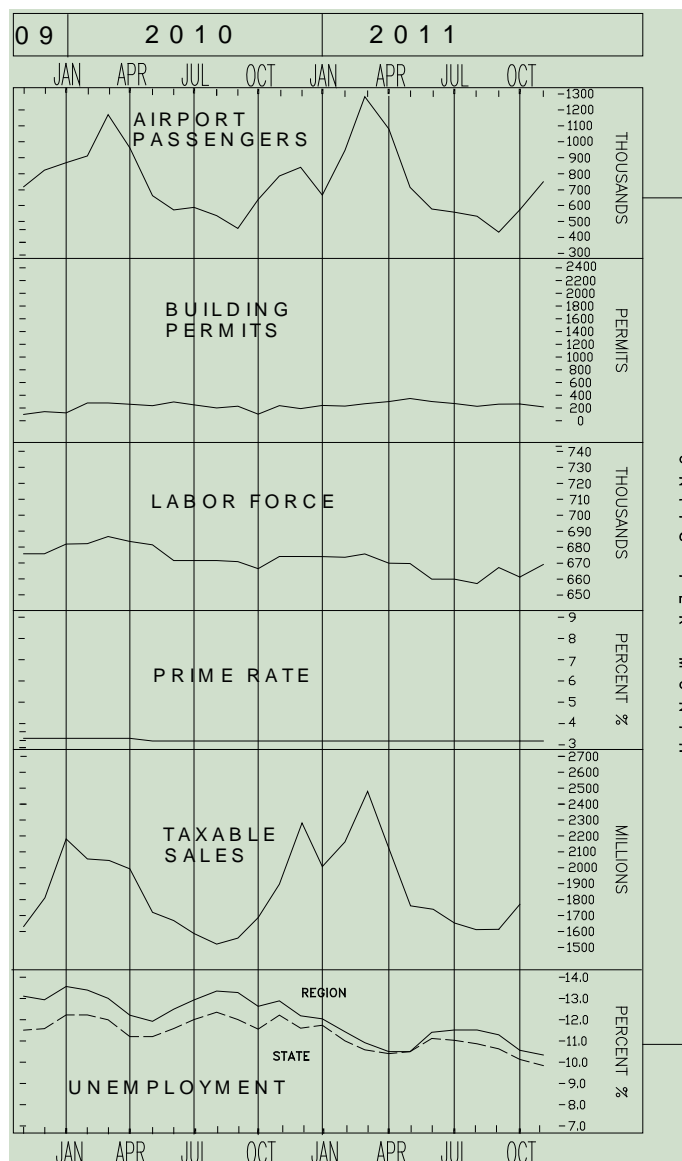
# Economic Views

SERVING CHARLOTTE, COLLIER, GLADES, HENDRY, LEE AND SARASOTA COUNTIES SINCE 1973

## SUMMARY ECONOMIC INDICATORS

## ECONOMIC INDICATORS

INDICATORS	NOVEMBER 2011	NOVEMBER 2010	% CHANGE
	(PRELIM)	(REVISED)	
<b>UNEMPLOYMENT</b>			
State	9.8%	11.6%	-90.2%
Region	10.3%	12.6%	-89.7%
County			
Charlotte	10.3%	12.4%	-89.6%
Collier	10.0%	12.3%	-90.0%
Glades	8.1%	11.9%	-89.3%
Hendry	15.1%	18.2%	-84.9%
Lee	10.5%	12.9%	-89.5%
Sarasota	10.0%	11.9%	-90.4%
<b>LABOR FORCE</b>			
State	9,209,000	9,204,000	0.1%
Region	669,857	677,813	-1.2%
<b>EMPLOYED</b>			
State	8,304,000	8,143,000	2.0%
Region	600,609	588,902	2.0%
<b>UNEMPLOYED</b>			
State	905,000	1,061,000	-14.7%
Region	69,248	88,911	-22.1%
<b>AIRPORT PASSENGERS</b>			
Region	751,332	784,918	-4.3%
S. W. Int'l Airport	612,470	652,783	-6.2%
Sarasota/Bradenton	111,698	114,564	-2.5%
Naples	27,164	17,571	54.6%
<b>BUILDING PERMITS</b>			
Regional	219	228	-3.9%
Single Family	215	210	2.4%
Multi-Family	4	18	-77.8%
<b>TOTAL VALUE</b>			
Residential	\$63,876,893	\$137,774,706	-53.6%
All Permit Activity	\$146,764,189	\$196,609,520	-25.4%
<b>REGIONAL SALES (\$000)</b>			
Taxable Sales	\$1,772,756	\$1,685,158	5.2%
Gross Sales	\$3,290,656	\$3,096,602	6.3%
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX	226.2	218.8	3.4%
PRIME INTEREST RATE	3.25%	3.25%	0.0%





# Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council



# Economic Views

SERVING CHARLOTTE, COLLIER, GLADES, HENDRY, LEE AND SARASOTA COUNTIES SINCE 1973

## Lykes Bros. and A. Duda & Sons Join Forces with Cushman & Wakefield for Master-Planned International Logistics Center The 4,700-acre center will support 30 million square feet of manufacturing and distribution facilities

Moore Haven, Fla., December 6, 2011 – Florida landowners Lykes Bros., Inc. and A. Duda & Sons, Inc. will implement a master-planned international logistics center on 4,700 acres in central southern Florida and have named the international commercial real estate firm of Cushman & Wakefield to begin marketing the facility. Planned for 30 million square feet of manufacturing and distribution facilities, the center will serve as an integrated logistics hub for trade within the Americas and with Asia and Western Europe.

“We chose Cushman & Wakefield to partner with us on this project because of their well-established expertise in both real estate and logistics, as well as their significant presence internationally,” said David J. Duda, president and CEO of A. Duda & Sons. “We believe in this project and see it being of tremendous value to the region and the state.”

Cushman & Wakefield is the industry leader in the integration of real estate and supply chain services. Having developed the practice in 1999, the company became the first in the industry to bring this integrated model to the market, and now possesses the leading expertise, experience, and talent within the discipline.

Cushman & Wakefield joins the project’s existing team which includes Institute St. Onge, a leading supply chain investment advisory, consulting and engineering company; Ware Malcomb, one of the world’s largest industrial master planning and architectural firms; and Rockefeller Group Foreign Trade Zone Services.

“While there are other logistics projects moving forward in Florida, we chose to work on this one because it has so much going for it,” said James Underhill, CEO-Americas for Cushman & Wakefield. “From the standpoint of supply chain cost, transportation, and network strategy, it is positioned to be a major facilitator of not only goods coming into the U.S. through Florida’s ports, but also as a key component in serving the rising demand for U.S. and Florida exports to Latin America and Asia.”

On the outskirts of Moore Haven, Fla., the 4,700-acre tract offers a number of significant locational advantages for logistics companies.

The center is situated to supply more than eight million consumers within the southwest, Heartland and southeast regions of Florida -- from Sarasota and Fort Pierce to the north, and Naples and Miami to the south -- a number that is expected to grow to 9.5 million by 2020. Planned to capture and enhance the growing trade between North America and South America, Western Europe and Asia, the center will include a combination of distribution centers, warehouses, manufacturing facilities, mixing centers, refrigeration facilities, transload and cross docks, and related logistics uses.

With its central location, the site is rail and road served to several ports, including the Port of Miami, Miami International Airport, Port Everglades, Port Manatee, Southwest Florida International Airport and the Port of Palm Beach. Rail service is provided by CSX and FEC via SCFE.

“Rail service to these major ports is a very important advantage,” said Jamie Kishel, director of operations-National Industrial Services for Cushman & Wakefield. “The site is also ideally located for trucking transportation, with easy access to major U.S. and Florida highways.

“The location has great access to competitive labor and distribution markets. Yet companies will be able to move goods in and out efficiently, bypassing Florida’s congested coastal residential and tourist areas,” said Kishel. “This center is going to play a critical role as an industrial hub and economic driver in Florida’s global supply chain infrastructure.”

The center will provide users with intermodal opportunities and diverse sustainable transportation and business solutions. The location will additionally benefit from the widening of the Panama Canal, which will open Florida to large Asian container ships.

“All of these factors create an outstanding opportunity for this strategic site to become a key component of Florida’s global supply chain infrastructure,” said Howell Ferguson, Chairman and CEO of Lykes Bros. “We are very pleased to have an international company like Cushman & Wakefield on board to promote this effort.”

<http://www.duda.com/news-detail.php?newsid=46&newstype=press>

## BROADBAND FLORIDA

The Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council (SWFRPC) has entered into a collaborative effort with Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council (TBRPC), and the Central Florida Regional Planning Council (CFRPC). The Florida Broadband Planning Project is a two-year project that will develop a structured, comprehensive process for a regional broadband plan, particularly for areas that have been traditionally underserved. The plan will develop and implement regional planning process, toolkits and training that can be integrated into the current work of the RPCs to assist regions to develop broadband plans. The project will inventory and document local broadband assets and broadband demand through an inclusive process that draws residents and institutional actors to develop a comprehensive regional plan.

### Meeting Information

Local Advisory Committee:  
March 9, 2012 | 9:00am – 12:00pm  
The Lutgert College of Business, FGCU

Local Advisory Committee:  
June 18, 2012 | 9:00am – 12:00pm  
The Lutgert College of Business, FGCU

Local Advisory Committee:  
October 12, 2012 | 9:00am – 12:00pm  
The Lutgert College of Business, FGCU




Visit the "Project Portal" for more information:  
[www.swflregionalvision.com/BB.html](http://www.swflregionalvision.com/BB.html)

Next Meeting Date:  
March 9, 2012 | 9:00am – 12:00pm  
The Lutgert College of Business, FGCU

Jennifer Pellechio  
[jpellechio@swfrpc.org](mailto:jpellechio@swfrpc.org)  
(239) 338-2550 x218

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