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17 Years of Planning in Florida: Where Has all the Leadership Gone?

Jaap Vos

Available at: https://works.bepress.com/jaap_vos/10/
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Jaap Vos
June 22, 2012
1995, The coolest place to plan:

- Joint Center
- Fastest accredited planning program
- Strong state growth management system
- 700 people a day
- Concurrency
- Everglades
Late 90s and early 2000, Excitement:

- Brownfield redevelopment
- Eastward Ho!
- Governor’s Commission
- CERP
- Downtown revitalization
2012, Oops:

- Joint Center
- Fastest accredited planning program
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- Brownfield redevelopment
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Why is planning now so different?

- Economic downturn
- State legislature
- Distrust of government
- Or
OUR PLANNING BOAT HAD LEAKS IN IT BUT WE KEPT GOING FULL SPEED OCEAN BOUND

While plugging the holes
Jaap’s view:

- We are desperately holding on to an outdated planning system
- Planners and planning organizations are all focused on survival of themselves
- We have created crowds instead of communities
- We are making decision without any understanding of the dynamics of the region
- We have ignored external global developments
- We are becoming increasingly irrelevant both as planners and as a region
Besides moving to Idaho

ARE THERE SOLUTIONS?
WE HAVE THE PLANNING CAPACITY
WE HAVE THE PLACE
PLACES YOU COULD TRAVEL TO IN UNDER 3 HOURS

- **FORT LAUDERDALE**: 1,262 MI, **NEW YORK, NY**: ≈ 2 HOURS
- **MIAMI**: 1,495 MI, **DALLAS, TX**: ≈ 2.5 HOURS
- **PALM BEACH**: 1,580 MI, **MONTREAL, CAN**: ≈ 2.75 HOURS
- **MIAMI**: 1,266 MI, **MEXICO CITY, MX**: ≈ 2.5 HOURS
EXISTING GLOBAL CONNECTIONS

DIRECT CARGO SHIPMENTS

DIRECT PASSENGER FLIGHTS
GLOBAL OPPORTUNITIES

EXISTING CONCENTRATION OF TRANSNATIONAL ADVANCED PRODUCER FIRMS

CONCENTRATION OF FIRMS BY ZIP CODE

- 9+ 4
- 8 3
- 7 2
- 6 1
- 5

INDUSTRIES BY BUSINESS TYPE

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60+ PRODUCER FIRMS IN DOWNTOWN MIAMI ALONE.
SOME THOUGHTS ON WHAT WE MIGHT NEED

Unless you just want that Apocalypse
We need a collaborative forward thinking system that recommends paths of action based on a thorough understanding of the region and its communities.
Planners

We need planners that are proactive and see their role as creating alternative scenarios for action.
Planning organizations

We need to have planning organizations that embrace their role and those of others in the shaping of the region
The Place

...... cities are becoming ever more complex, and the tools that we fashioned both to understand them and intervene in their design ....... are no longer appropriate or even relevant.
We now live in a world in which the global and the local intersect in strange and convoluted ways, and to handle all this, we need to redefine what a city is and then respond in appropriate terms.
SOME ADDITIONAL THOUGHTS
We need to fight the crowd:

- Crowds are more likely to become mobs than communities
- Members of crowds focus on their individual survival
- Crowds make decisions based on mass hysteria not facts
- Crowds care about activities not places
We need to become a community:

- We need to instill a sense of pride to be a Southeastern Floridian.
- We need to show people what makes Southeast Florida so unique and amazing.
- We need to show people how we are all an integral part of this community and its success or failure.
Finally, we need to communicate:

- With each other
- With elected officials
- With residents within the region
- With the rest of the world