

Planning Department Programs

- **Perform Comprehensive Planning for the County**
- **Staff the Local Planning Agency LPA**
- **Develop and Process Plans and Amendments to Plans**
- **Maintain Land Development Regulations LDRs**
- **Staff MPO Program**
- **Administer Zoning Program**
- **Staff Countywide Planning Authority CPA**
- **Administer County Function for Community Redevelopment Agencies/TIFs**

Planning Department active projects

- ◉ **Alternative Analysis for Rail– agreements/scopes**
- ◉ **Livable Communities Policies –TOD--initiating**
- ◉ **Land Development Regulation LDR - update**
- ◉ **Post Disaster Plan– initiating committees**
- ◉ **Evaluation and Appraisal Report EAR-- startup**
- ◉ **Mobility Fee/Plan– drafting/coordinating**
- ◉ **Nonconforming uses evaluation--completing**
- ◉ **GIS realignment project--continuing**
- ◉ **Hometown Democracy Initiative—preparing**
- ◉ **GIS software foundation modification--initiating**

Overview of Reductions

- 8 positions were eliminated
- MPO – two positions– a Planner and a Technician
- Secretarial/technical support – one sec/tech
- Zoning – one Analyst
- GIS/Mapping/Graphics Function – three technicians
- General Planning – one Planner

Impacts to the Public

- public referred to the MPO website rather than direct assistance
- public outreach MPO meetings reduced from 5 to 1 for the year
- daily update to the MPO website reduced to weekly
- communication use of the MPO website scaled back
- stopped practice of providing crash data analysis to public /local agencies
- public/agencies referred to the MPO website system for data and analysis
- reduce the support to special citizen based programs –keep their own records and minutes –doing their own report writing
- reduced public information based on fieldwork for zoning cases, special studies, and Board of Adjustment cases
- converting from mail to email procedures with less convenient notice to public
- terminating public outreach workshops on zoning proposals

Impacts to the Public cont.

- updating GIS data increased from two days to seven days
- other GIS data not maintained with the result that less information is available to the public or the public will not be utilizing correct data
- discontinued Pinellas Indicators Website—social/health factors used by service agencies resulting in lost service to the public
- delayed development of the Post-Disaster Plan—could hinder recovery following a disaster
- reduced assistance to communities concerning revitalization plans, community plans and overlays—workload transferred to citizen groups
- discontinued housing data collection so this data is no longer available to the community
- GIS system only maintaining basic files on Land Use, Zoning, Municipal Boundaries, and parcels of land for public access
- postponed code amendments for consistency with Countywide Plan Rules with minor impact to the public
- Reduced public outreach on major planning initiatives(example LDR update)

Operational Changes

- ◉ Planning staff learning functions such as graphics absorbed from the deleted positions
- ◉ Technical staff retooling/ learning tasks of the other deleted technical positions
- ◉ Dealing with logistics issues of multitasking by staff
- ◉ Finding new ways to respond to the public inquiries with limited resources

Unintended Consequences

- **Staff reductions required other staff to pickup tasks they were not familiar with which reduced productivity on the original tasks**
- **Public expectation on responsiveness has not changed**
- **Other agencies desire more support due to their reductions**

LESSONS LEARNED

- Be prepared for unanticipated consequences in program changes
- The public will accept some changes more readily than others
- The situations that we have in the budget are both unique to Pinellas County and universal to all
- Solutions are not always obvious—sometimes the obvious is delayed
- A proposed solution can have unperceived complications