

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

FEBRUARY 20, 2025

A Strategic Focus Area Review Workshop was held at the Family Services Center, 21500 Gibraltar Drive, Port Charlotte, Florida.

The following members were present: Chair Tiseo, Commissioner Constance, Commissioner Deutsch, Commissioner Doherty, and Commissioner Truex. Also in attendance were: County Administrator Flores, County Attorney Knowlton, Minutes Clerk Welsh, and various County staff members. The following members were absent: None.

**The Meeting was called to order at 9:00 am**, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

County Administrator Flores highlighted Strategic Focus Area Review and introduced Dr. Herb Marlowe, Analytica Founder.

1. Review of Strategic Planning Processes

Francine Lisby, Assistant Budget Director gave a brief overview of Agenda, Stages of the Budget Process, Planning Process History, Survey Summary, Survey Elements, Trend Comparisons Over Time, Benchmark Comparisons, Citizen Priorities, Utility Infrastructure, Economic Health, Public Safety, Governance, Mobility, Fiscal Year (FY) 2025/2026 Planning Process Next Big Things: Staff Feedback, Community Feedback, FY 2025/2026 Planning Process, Challenges and Opportunities, Potential Gaps in Goals, and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Zones.

Gordon Burger, Budget and Administrative Services Director gave a brief overview of Next Big Things – Future Impacts of Artificial Intelligence (AI): Impact on Service Delivery, Open AI/Application AI/Development AI, responded to National Research Center, COVID-19 impacts, national trends, Governance, Community Feedback, Potential Gaps in Goals, projects, service delivery, decentralization, regionalization, asset management, and entitlement community.

Dr. Marlowe remarked on Agenda, Benchmark Comparisons, misinformation, elected officials, Governance, national trust levels, Community Feedback, traffic, infrastructure, fundamental strategy, integration, AI, Challenges and Opportunities, missing middle housing, market forces, Potential Gaps in Goals, states of emergency, organizational implications, uncertainty, and FEMA Zones.

**Chair Tiseo** discussed performance expectations, land development, infrastructure, staff reports, concurrency, information sharing, Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE), Clerk's Office, Comprehensive Annual Financial Review (CAFR), audits, standards, accountability, technology, Public Information Office (PIO), misinformation, social media posts and responses, Governance, public attendance and perception, population, Community Feedback, Loveland Boulevard (Blvd), apartment complexes, Florida Association of Counties (FAC) 2025 Tech Summit, transportation, Lee and Sarasota Counties, City of Venice, property rights, funding, tax payers, off-site improvements, priorities, life cycle, functionality, Open AI/Application AI/Development AI, home and rental prices and stock, affordable housing, resiliency, employee mental health impacts and appreciation program, Challenges and Opportunities, Comprehensive Plan, responsibility, Urban Service Areas, Potential Gaps in Goals, wastewater treatment, capacity limitations, expansion costs, Enterprise Funds, incremental approach, potable water, FEMA Zones, flood and insurance costs and availability, wind coverage, affordability, and limited resources. **Commissioner Constance** commented on Benchmark Comparisons,

national trends, Charlotte County Transit, improvements, Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), technology, autonomous vehicles, life quality, Governance, misinformation, public views and relations, Communications Director Brian Gleason, press releases, social media posts and responses, information sharing, County website, Community Feedback, Kia of Port Charlotte, Project Development and Environment (PD&E), zoning classification, apartment buildings, traffic impacts and flow, final capacity, life quality, priorities, housing market and stock, density clusters, geographic information system (GIS) map, survey date, flooding events, resiliency, funding, environmental threats, Open AI/Application AI/Development AI, independent agents, parameters, efficiency, Florida Local Government Information Systems Association (FLGISA), bedroom community, City of North Port, Arcadia, adaptation, storm recovery, reimbursements, projects, infrastructure, debris removers, Reserves, staff support, Port Charlotte Beach Complex, vulnerability, greenspace, preservation lands, Lake Okeechobee, growth corridors, General Development, West Port Water Reclamation Facility (WRF), FEMA Zones, evacuation routes and plans, shelter locations, affordability, financial lending challenges, insurance premiums and costs, elevation, and flood coverage. **Commissioner Deutsch** mentioned political impacts, Benchmark Comparisons, survey results, citizen feedback, Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), Charlotte County Fire Department, family values, overtime hours, Challenges and Opportunities, salaries, housing cost comparisons, resiliency, hurricane damage and recovery, Englewood, City of Punta Gorda, Port Charlotte Beach Complex, weather events, states of emergency, traffic, development, vacant land, buildable lots, autonomous vehicles, storm surge, elevation, and flood insurance policy costs and protections. **Commissioner Doherty** noted Benchmark Comparisons, Charlotte County Transit, Charlotte Rides mobile app, demographics, community outreach, Governance, communication techniques, social media participation, planning, growth rate, road improvements, May 22, 2025 Focus Area Workshop – Infrastructure, Capital Improvement Projects (CIP), Metro Forecasting, priorities, Potential Gaps in Goals, weather event frequency and concerns, organizational plan and challenges, expectations, new residents, funding, General Development Corporation, coastal areas, West Port WRF design contract, and advanced wastewater treatment (AWT). **Commissioner Truex** spoke to infrastructure, misinformation responses, perception, Governance, transparency, public information, State Road (SR) 776 expansion, traffic flow, growth, Community Feedback, affordable and workforce housing, compact living, housing market, economy, transportation, apartment complexes, Boca Grande, SR 771, Harborview Road, Flamingo/Edgewater Widening, Kings Highway, funding sources, commercial and residential development, needs, population, road improvements, priorities, Open AI/Application AI/Development AI, technology, protections, Challenges and Opportunities, Charlotte County Sheriff's Office (CCSO), City of North Port, bedroom community, stress, negativity, Potential Gaps in Goals, resiliency, projects, complications, Hurricanes Charley and Ian, environmentally sensitive lands, parks, property uses and acquisitions, Port Charlotte Golf Course, Placida parcel, Comprehensive Plan, Port Charlotte Town Center, density caps, West Port WRF, flooding, FEMA Zones, insurance premiums, quote comparisons, and flood policies and zones.

Deputy County Administrator Emily Lewis replied to Charlotte Rides mobile app, Governance, Strategic Communications Plan, staffing needs, misinformation challenges, service levels, apartment and condominium housing, affordability, City of North Port, infrastructure and employee resiliency, recovery, and states of emergency.

John Elias, Public Works Director replied to March 6, 2025 Board Workshop, functional classifications, failure areas, projects, infrastructure, challenges, and development layout.

County Administrator Flores responded to Challenges and Opportunities, onboarding process, expectations, service levels, staffing requests and support, resources, Community Services Director Tommy Scott, amenities, FEMA and insurance reimbursements, tax payer dollars, and misinformation.

Assistant County Administrator Claire Jubb replied to missing middle housing, Metro Forecasting, zoning patterns, bedroom community, Comprehensive Plan, updates, Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) Vulnerability

Assessment, critical infrastructure, planning process, West Port WRF, Personally Identifiable Information (PII) and mortgage requirements, and homeowners and flood insurance policies.

Shaun Cullinan, Planning and Zoning Official responded to Urban Service Areas.

Dave Watson, Utilities Director replied to West Port WRF design contract and timeframe.

**RECESS: 9:55 am – 10:09 am**

## 2. Focus Area Reviews

Economic & Community Development

Infrastructure

Public Services

Efficient & Effective Government

Ms. Lisby gave a brief overview of Economic and Community Development – Bold Goals, Economic and Community Development Potential Revisions, Infrastructure - Bold Goals, Infrastructure Potential Revisions, Public Services – Bold Goals, Public Services Potential Revisions, Efficient and Effective Government – Bold Goals, and Efficient and Effective Government Potential Revisions.

Dr. Marlowe remarked on Economic and Community Development Potential Revisions, Infrastructure Potential Revisions, Economic and Community Development Potential Revisions, Public Services Potential Revisions, Efficient and Effective Government Potential Revisions, and priorities.

**Chair Tiseo** discussed Infrastructure Potential Revisions and AI. **Commissioner Constance** commented on February 14, 2025 MPO Joint Meeting with Lee County, interstate interchanges, City of North Port, road categorizations, Bermont and Jones Loop Roads, City of Punta Gorda, elected officials, neighboring counties, Efficient and Effective Government Potential Revisions, planning, Comprehensive Plan, environmental stresses, and accelerated growth. **Commissioner Deutsch** mentioned Economic and Community Development Potential Revisions, Myakka and Peace River crossings, River Road, Sarasota County, timeframe, City of Punta Gorda, growth, Infrastructure Potential Revisions, and prioritization. **Commissioner Doherty** spoke to Economic and Community Development Potential Revisions, Metro Forecasting, classification systems, collector and gas tax roads, traffic related issues, Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) District Secretary LK Nandam, February 14, 2025 MPO Joint Meeting with Lee County, Yorkshire/Raintree Interchange Planning, City of North Port, partnership, Comprehensive Plan, coordination, staff efforts, community transition, tropical events, complexities, reimbursements, CIP, needs versus wants, and affordability. **Commissioner Truex** noted Economic and Community Development Potential Revisions, River Road, public awareness and education options, PIO, staff morale, misinformation, information distribution, capital needs and projects, inflation, and material costs.

Carrie Walsh, Human Services Director responded to U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Area Median Income (AMI), and affordable and workforce housing classification.

Assistant County Administrator Jubb replied to Economic and Community Development Potential Revisions, and industrial development.

Deputy County Administrator Lewis responded to Infrastructure Potential Revisions, long-term operating costs and recovery, capital projects, March 6, 2025 Board Workshop, capacity, transportation planning and system, traffic statistics and studies, growth, institutional knowledge, and Efficient and Effective Government Potential Revisions.

County Administrator Flores replied to Public Services Potential Revisions, road classifications, prioritization, Efficient and Effective Government Potential Revisions, AI, and service delivery.

### 3. Next Steps

Ms. Lisby gave a brief overview of Next Steps, discussed budget process, and February 18, 2025 Board Workshop.

County Administrator Flores discussed planning, communication, challenges, opportunities, phased approach, and staff efforts.

Chair Tiseo mentioned community representation, mission, goals, elected officials, correspondence, social media, constituents, hurricane cleanup and recovery, facilities, programs, amenities, and public services.

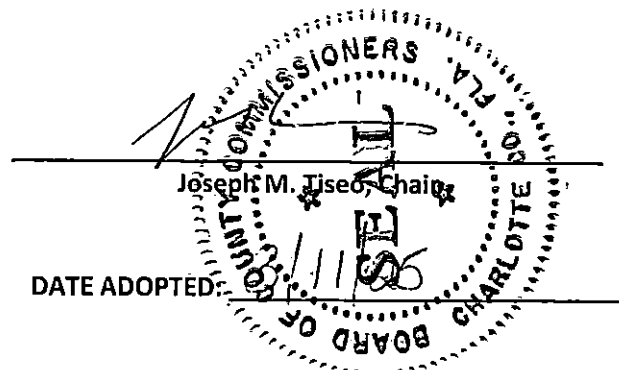
Kay Tracy, Economic Development Director responded to Economic and Community Development Potential Revisions and diversified community.

**AA. County Administrator Comments - None**

**BB. County Attorney Comments - None**

**CC. Commissioner Comments - None**

**ADJOURNED: 11:31 am**



**ATTEST:**

**ROGER D. EATON, CLERK  
OF THE CIRCUIT COURT AND  
EX-OFFICIO TO THE BOARD  
OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

BY:   
Deputy Clerk