

# Resolution

*Northeast Florida Regional Council*

2015-05

**Supporting the green mobility program WHEELS  
November 11-15, 2015 in Miami-Dade County**

**WHEREAS**, transportation forecasts for urban northeast Florida predict steadily growing population and traffic, with proportionately less funding available for roadway and other corridor improvements; and

**WHEREAS**, the largest available but vacant supply of housing exists in downtown Jacksonville; and

**WHEREAS**, new housing is rising in the Brooklyn neighborhood, and soon may in the Shipyards and along the south bank of the St. Johns River; and

**WHEREAS**, these trends indicate the likelihood of access to employment centers that will allow for more people to travel for short distance by walking, bicycling, riding transit and using multi-use paths; and

**WHEREAS**, studies show that resistance to getting people out of their cars in favor of green mobility chiefly results from a cultural mindset that "this isn't for me," which precludes even the consideration that it might be; and

**WHEREAS**, these trends and factors are most pronounced in South Florida where governments and private sector now view roadway congestion as a brake on economic and job growth; and

**WHEREAS**, in response, government, private, nonprofit and philanthropic sectors have joined together in a pilot program called WHEELS that for five days, November 11-15, will motivate south Floridians through a seven county region to pursue at least limited use of green mobility choices instead of sole reliance on their cars; and

**WHEREAS**, motivation will occur in part through a combination of free transit passes for people with bikes, through instructional video, and through one-on-one mentoring by peers who have already chosen combinations of green mobility as against sole reliance on their cars; but also through a declaration of principles for creating green mobility-friendly workplaces; and

**WHEREAS,** WHEELS will produce a conference of speakers that include Ryan Gravel for the Atlanta Beltline, Dan Burden for Walkable Communities/Blue Zones, Andy Clarke for the League of American Bicyclists, Dennis Markatos-Soriano for the East Coast Greenway Alliance and Dale Allen for the Florida Greenways Foundation, all addressing how the shift from sole reliance on travel by car in favor of green mobility is occurring elsewhere around America; and

**WHEREAS,** WHEELS will also include at least 20 safety-focused, guided and self-guided trail rides, a bike-in street party; and homage paid to Florida's First Bicycling Hero; and

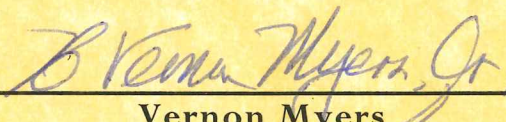
**WHEREAS,** sponsors of WHEELS include the Florida Department of Transportation, Natural Resources Defense Council, the Florida Bicycle Association, Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council, Human-Powered Delray, South Florida Regional Transportation Authority, Miami-Dade Transit, Miami Dade Public Schools, Miami-Dade Department of Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces, Green Mobility Network, all the affiliations of aforementioned presenters, Baptist Health South Miami, and Dover, Kohl & Partners, already among a growing roster; and


**WHEREAS,** although Northeast Florida lacks commuter rail, WHEELS in its many aspects addresses issues everywhere applicable to political will and popular adoption of green mobility; now

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the policy body of the Northeast Florida Regional Council hereby endorse the concept of WHEELS, recognize the widespread applicability of its program and also commit to the use of all media at its disposal to draw further attention to WHEELS, all in confidence that its success will best be measured through greater commitment to, and use of, green mobility choices.

*Unanimously adopted by the Northeast Florida Regional Council in a regular meeting assembled in the City of Jacksonville, on the first day of October, 2015.*



  
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**Vernon Myers**  
President

  
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**Brian D. Teeple**  
CEO