

INTERGOVERNMENTAL COORDINATION

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CHARTING
PORT ST. LUCIE

DATA & ANALYSIS

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Contents

CHAPTER 6. INTERGOVERNMENTAL COORDINATION 6-1
I. Introduction 6-1
II. Inventory of Existing Intergovernmental Coordination Mechanisms 6-1
A. Specific Coordination Issues 6-2
B. Other Coordination 6-4
III. Future Considerations 6-5

List of Tables

Table 6 - 1. Intergovernmental Coordination Agreements 6-1

CHAPTER 6. INTERGOVERNMENTAL COORDINATION

I. Introduction

The purpose of the Intergovernmental Coordination Element, as identified by Chapter 163, Florida Statutes, F.S., is to identify relationships and procedures with local, regional and state agencies to implement the goals, objectives, and policies of the Comprehensive Plan. Port St. Lucie strongly believes that a well-developed communication network among applicable public and quasi-public entities will enhance the long-range growth and prosperity of the City. The effective implementation of federal, state, regional and local planning policies requires to:

1. Assess and analyze the existing interlocal agreements established between the City and its local, regional, state, and federal partners, and
2. Explore potential opportunities for new agreements that could enhance the community's health, safety, and welfare.

This element provides an overview of the intergovernmental coordination mechanisms currently in place and seeks to accomplish these objectives through a systematic identification and analysis of current and future intergovernmental coordination issues. Each analysis addresses deficiencies and determines actions to improve coordination. Ultimately the refinement of this process should allow Port St. Lucie to coordinate comprehensive planning with other entities, assuring compatible development and adequate public services across jurisdictional boundaries. The coordination process is continuous and should provide for effective monitoring systems. The Element concludes with a discussion of additional efforts that could strengthen the delivery of public services within Port St. Lucie.

II. Inventory of Existing Intergovernmental Coordination Mechanisms

To ensure the adequate provision and coordination of services within and adjacent to the City's corporate city limits, it is imperative that Port St. Lucie continue to coordinate with its public and private partners. **Table 6-1** identifies the interlocal agreements currently in place between the City and its public and private sector partners.

Table 6 - 1. Intergovernmental Coordination Agreements

Agency	Subject Coordination	Year last amended	Expiration date
MUNICIPALITIES & COUNTY:			
Martin County	2-Way Water Interconnection for Emergency Use	1994	Ongoing
	Direct water service by PSL to Martin Correctional Facility (State Prison)	2010	2029
St. Lucie County	Road Impact Fees	2022	2027
	Fire/EMS Impact Fees	2005	Ongoing
	Cost share agreement relating to improvements for a stormwater treatment area for Hog Pen Slough	2024	Ongoing
	Joint Planning Agreement	2007	Ongoing
	HUD Home Investment Partnership Act Program Consortium	2018	Ongoing
	Use of St. Lucie County Baling and Recycling Facility	2010	2030

Agency	Subject Coordination	Year last amended	Expiration date
St. Lucie Village, Fort Pierce, and St. Lucie County	Distribution of local option fuel tax levies	2015	2015
St. Lucie County, St. Lucie County Sheriff, City of Fort Pierce, and City of Port St. Lucie	CAD System Shared Network	2013	Continuing Services
	Public safety emergency communications center and 911 Board of Governors	2024	Active
SCHOOLS:			
St Lucie County School Board	Interlocal Agreement (ILA) for Public School Facility Planning	2008	Active
	Mutual use of facilities	2012	Active
	Supplement to ILA for mutual use of facilities for summer programs	2025	Active
UTILITY AGENCIES			
St. Lucie West Services District	2-Way Water Interconnection for Emergency Use	2005	2025
Fort Pierce Utilities Authority	2-Way Water Interconnection for Emergency Use	1994	Ongoing
Fort Pierce Utilities Authority & City of Fort Pierce	Resolution of Service Area Boundary Dispute	2013	Ongoing
OTHER:			
FCC Environmental Services	Solid Waste Service	2022	2029
Housing and Urban Development	Community Development Block Grants	2024	Ongoing (Annual)

Source: City of Port St. Lucie, 2025.

A. Specific Coordination Issues

Through the adoption and continued improvement of interlocal agreements, the City of Port St. Lucie, in cooperation with St. Lucie County, is able to provide more efficient and effective services to their constituents. The following is a summary of the interagency coordination services associated with each element of the Comprehensive Plan.

1. Future Land Use

Significant issues include coordination of future City annexations with the County. The City and County have a current agreement on notification procedures for upcoming annexations and site plan reviews. In order to better address future annexations, the City recently completed a Planning and Infrastructure Study to address challenges with development around City boundaries. The City and County will continue and/or to pursue additional coordination on future annexations to ensure compatibility of economic development and land use goals.

2. Transportation

The St. Lucie Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) is responsible for the planning and programming of State and Federal funding for transportation improvements for the City of Fort Pierce, City of Port St. Lucie, St. Lucie Village, and the unincorporated areas of St. Lucie County. The organization works with local governments, the U.S. Department of Transportation, and the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), the TPO conceives, plans, prioritizes, and funds projects which address the mobility needs of the TPO area.

The City works with St. Lucie County, the City of Fort Pierce, the TPO, Martin County, and FDOT to coordinate the implementation of the Long Range Regional Transportation Plan, and transit planning including the Regional Transit Development Plan for the Port St. Lucie Urbanized Area. Additionally, the City also participates in the St. Lucie TPO Advisory Committee to improve coordination of multimodal transportation improvements with St. Lucie County, the City of Fort Pierce, FDOT, and USDOT. Interagency coordination with FDOT is also required for the development of FDOT's annual Work Program. Further, the City partners with St. Lucie County's Transit Department, the cities of Fort Pierce, Port St. Lucie, St. Lucie Village, and St. Lucie County to provide Area Regional Transit (ART) services. ART is a fare-free transit service offering buses, paratransit, micro transit, and direct connection transportation services for participating jurisdictions.

3. Housing

The City coordinates with U.S. Housing and Urban Development to coordinate Community Development Block Grants and administration of the Neighborhood Stabilization Program. The City also works with the Florida Housing Finance Corporation on State Housing Initiatives Partnership (SHIP) program funding (when available) intended to produce and preserve affordable homeownership and multifamily housing. The City also coordinates with the Fort Pierce Housing Authority.

4. Infrastructure

The City of Port St. Lucie maintains utility partnerships with a number of agencies and municipalities in the region. Through strategic planning partnerships with the City of Fort Pierce, St. Lucie County, and the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD), water and sewer services are administered, reviewed, and maintained. The SFWMD is the largest of the five (5) regional agencies responsible for water quality, flood control and water conservation in the state. Serving 16 counties within south Florida and over 9 million residents, the agency maintains regulatory control over all water-based resources within the region, including (but not limited to) wetland conservation, water supply planning, aquifer water withdrawals, stormwater treatment, and policy coordination.

The City continues to coordinate with the South Florida Water Management District and potable water providers on implementation of the 10-Year Water Supply Facilities Work Plan and development of alternate water supplies. There have also been instances of direct partnership with federal agencies like the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on specific projects, like the C-23/C-24 Stormwater Treatment Area and Hog Pen Slough Stormwater Treatment Area.

Port St. Lucie also coordinates with private companies to provide essential services to its residents. The City contracts with FCC Environmental Services to provide waste management services for over 82,000 households and 1,300 commercial customers. The contract was executed in 2022 and has a term of 7 years, expiring in 2029.

5. Parks and Recreation

Most parks and recreation services are handled by the City's Parks and Recreation Department. However, ongoing work with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and its oversight of Savannas Preserve State Park located within the City continue. In 2012, the School Board of St. Lucie County and the City of Port St. Lucie entered into an Interlocal Agreement to allow mutual use of each

other's indoor and outdoor facilities for events and programs that serve the public. Facility use is coordinated through designated contacts, with the City working through the Superintendent to reach school staff and the School District working through the City Manager to coordinate with the Parks and Recreation Director. A supplemental agreement was approved in April 2025 to enable the City and the School Board to provide summer youth programs (the "Summer Program") for public school children using School Board facilities.

6. Conservation and Coastal Management

The City shall continue to coordinate with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD), and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on natural resource protection. Coastal concerns and emergency management shall continue to be coordinated with the Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA), Florida Division of Emergency Management and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

7. Capital Improvements

The City continues to coordinate with the entities that provide and monitor public facilities affecting concurrency such as the St. Lucie West Services Department, The Reserve, Florida Department of Transportation, the St. Lucie Transportation Planning Organization, St. Lucie County, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, and the South Florida Water Management District.

8. Economic Development

Economic development is a high priority in the City, and the City works continuously with St. Lucie County, the Economic Development Council, the St. Lucie County Chamber of Commerce, and Enterprise Florida on attracting new businesses and encouraging the expansion of new businesses in Port St. Lucie.

9. Public School Facilities

The City continues to coordinate with the St. Lucie School Board on school concurrency through implementation of the interlocal agreement.

B. Other Coordination

1. Regional Coordination

To effectively manage issues at the regional level, the City of Port St. Lucie continues to coordinate with several regional partners. These agencies include the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council, St. Lucie Transportation Planning Organization, and the South Florida Water Management District.

The Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council (TCRPC) is the regional forum for elected and appointed officials to discuss complex regional issues and build consensus for accomplishing regional goals. TCRPC is made up of nineteen elected officials and nine gubernatorial appointees. TCRPC is one of the 10 regional planning councils in the state of Florida and consists Indian River, St. Lucie, Martin, and Palm Beach counties along with 52 participating municipalities. Port St. Lucie works with TCRPC to, among other things, develop formal dispute resolution practices, utilize cost-sharing and minimize

duplicative services, assure compliance with state and federal requirements, and respond to local government requests for assistance on strategic planning efforts.

2. State Coordination

In addition to the agencies with which the City has formal agreements, as noted in Table 6-1 and Section A above, the City also coordinates—formally or informally—with the following agencies on matters related to state grants, programs, resources, and regulations.

- Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS)
- Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation (DBPR)
- Florida Department of Children and Families (DCF)
- Florida Department of Corrections (DOC)
- Florida Department of Commerce
- Florida Department of Health (DOH)
- Florida Department of State (FDOS)
- Florida Department of State, Division of Historical Resources (DHR)
- Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FFWCC)

3. Federal Coordination

In addition to State of Florida agencies, the City of Port St. Lucie also coordinates with several federal partners for grant, program, resource, and regulation-related purposes. These agencies include:

- United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)
- United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
- United States Fish and Wildlife Service (FWC)
- United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)

4. Other Coordination Efforts

a. Fire Services

The City's Code of Ordinances outlines the St. Lucie County Fire District's procedures for development review related to fire rescue services.

b. Law Enforcement/Emergency Management Service

The City of Port St. Lucie currently has a mutual aid agreement in place with the Governor's Office and Division of Emergency Management for providing law enforcement and emergency management services.

c. Geographic Information Systems

Port St. Lucie works with St. Lucie County's Property Appraiser to track and publish GIS data and tax assessments for parcels in the City's planning area.

III. Future Considerations

The City of Port St. Lucie, like much of the Treasure Coast, is undergoing significant and transformative growth. As one of Florida's fastest-growing cities, this momentum presents both opportunities and challenges in

planning for infrastructure, services, and sustainable development. Effectively managing this growth will require the City to regularly assess and refine its intergovernmental agreements and coordination strategies with both public and private sector partners. Collaborative frameworks ensure that public services, including transportation, utilities, emergency response, and housing, are delivered equitably and efficiently to meet the evolving needs of residents.

- **Addressing Cross-Boundary Development Challenges**. A key emerging challenge involves coordination between the City and St. Lucie County over large-scale residential and industrial developments in the County's western areas. While these developments are outside city limits, they raise concerns about their potential impacts on infrastructure. City leaders have expressed concerns about the strain on roads, utility systems, and other public services, particularly when developers are not required to contribute to the necessary cost of infrastructure improvements. To address this concern, the City conducted a Planning and Infrastructure Study in 2024 to evaluate the potential impacts of development in the area west and northwest of the City. The study analyzed the fiscal implications of development in this region and presented three scenarios: no annexation, annexation under existing planning and policy frameworks, and annexation guided by updated planning strategies and fiscal impact analysis. The study offered policy recommendations aimed at reducing the financial burden on the City when development utilizes municipal infrastructure but occurs outside City limits. Strengthening coordination between the City and County will be essential to mitigate these challenges and impacts. Establishing clear frameworks for addressing cross-boundary developments can ensure infrastructure investments are equitably shared. Proactively negotiating agreements on infrastructure funding, service delivery, and development standards will support balanced growth across jurisdictional boundaries
- **Enhancing Intergovernmental Agreements and Dispute Resolution**. A proactive review and update of existing interlocal agreements, especially those related to transportation planning, utility service areas, and development review procedures, will prevent service inefficiencies. Clear, collaborative agreements will provide a foundation for responsible growth management. Furthermore, establishing or updating dispute resolution mechanisms can promote constructive dialogue and resolution when conflicts arise. Ensuring that comprehensive planning goals are aligned between the City and the County will also foster mutual understanding and cooperation, particularly in transition areas.
- **Building on Collaboration**. Port St. Lucie has a strong foundation of cooperation with local, regional, and state partners, demonstrated through successful partnerships in transportation planning, stormwater management, and economic development. As the region continues to grow, maintaining and expanding these partnerships will be key to ensuring that future growth enhances the quality of life for residents. The City will continue to engage with local, regional, and state partners to pursue shared goals, secure funding opportunities, and implement projects that benefit the entire Treasure Coast. Maintaining open lines of communication and seeking innovative, cooperative solutions will allow Port St. Lucie to navigate growth challenges while ensuring long-term resilience and prosperity.