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# First Coast Works On A Vision For The Region

*From Northeast Florida Regional Council*

The recession has not stopped our beautiful Northeast Florida from working on a vision for growth and development in the region for the next 50 years.

Regional visioning efforts kicked off with Reality Check First Coast in May 2009. Since then, the Reality Check Lego® brick and yarn visioning exercise has been repeated in each of the seven counties of the region, as well as in a youth-only forum.

These exercises resulted in six Guiding Principles, recommended to guide how we develop and grow for the next 50 years, and four Growth Patterns, that could describe the way that we grow.

Since then, a lot has been happening. Region First 2060, the partnership that put on Reality Check First Coast, is committed to implementing the Guiding Principles, and sponsored a "Sustainable First Coast Workshop" in May 2010 and co-sponsored the St. Johns River Summit in September.

Two additional events will be

the seven County First Coast region for the next 50 years. Using data from Reality Check First Coast and other sources, Regional Community Institute committees are recommending what to measure, the goals and objectives for a vision for 2060, and what that vision might look like.

In order to determine what residents see as the future of the region, polling is underway on citizen's values and possible growth patterns. At the end of 2010, the committee drafts of goals and objectives for First Coast Vision will be available for public input.

First Coast Vision is projected to be complete by Fall 2011. The Northeast Florida Regional Council will consider the vision as it updates the plan for the region, the Strategic Regional Policy Plan, which is also its guiding document.

The region came together in August 2010 to file an application for a HUD Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant. While we were not funded, we did form First Coast Consortium, a diverse

military is needed!

Getting the input of as many residents of the region as possible is important to the Regional Community Institute and to creating a First Coast Vision that we all can believe in.

The military is important to Northeast Florida, and the input of military personnel is needed to ensure that First Coast Vision recognizes the issues important to them.

Two surveys are currently being conducted. One asks for preferences on growth pattern for the region. Examples of the patterns are to the left. The other survey, Grow Smart 2.0 is a citizen's values survey that can help us to understand what is important to those who live and work in the region.

We need your input, and that of your friends and neighbors. Please take both surveys at: <http://www.firstcoastvision.com/Survey.html> and help us to spread the word!