NSB | JANUARY 2024



City of New Smyrna Beach (NSB) Economic Development Newsletter



Economic Development Spotlight Volusia County Economic Development Launches Work Local Talent Recruitment Platform

Work & Local

Volusia County's Division of Economic Development, in conjunction with CareerSource Flagler Volusia, is launching a new workforce system resource that will reshape the local employment landscape by objectively connecting qualified talent with available job openings.

Powered by GoGig, WorkLocal is a free portal designed to attract talent by promoting career mobility and helping passive and active job seekers connect with hiring businesses in a process that's void of implicit bias. WorkLocal centralizes workforce systems to stimulate the entire labor force, not just the unemployed population, by providing access to job seekers who may not be on traditional job boards.

Utilizing WorkLocal, job seekers will be able to access opportunities that genuinely fit their skillsets through a resource that promotes diversity and inclusion by minimizing biases in hiring decisions and ensuring that the best candidate is matched to the best job.

For more information, please click the link below: https://www.worklocaljobs.com/getstarted

OVERVIEW:

- Economic Development Spotlight
- CRA Projects
- Private Commercial
 Development Projects
- CRA and Economic Development Incentives
- Local Business Resources
- Meeting/Event Information

DO YOU WANT TO BE IN THE LOOP?

Email: <u>cedwards@cityofnsb.com</u> with your business name and email to join our email subscription list!

NEED ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT-RELATED ASSISTANCE?

Visit the City of New Smyrna Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) and Economic Development webpages to learn more.

https://www.cityofnsb.com/500/Busi ness



Economic Development Spotlight Cont.

December 14th, the City Commission Workshop included a presentation on a proposed Innovation Park -West of I-95 and South of SR 44:

To view the Innovation Park presentation, please visit: https://cityofnsb.granicus.com/ViewPublisher.php? view_id=1



<u>City of New Smyrna Beach Economic Development</u> <u>Task Force (EDTF) held a meeting on Tuesday,</u> <u>December 19th:</u>

The EDTF plans to meet again on **Wednesday**, **February 20 at 5:30pm** in the City Commission Chambers (located at 214 Sams Avenue). The agenda will discuss the previously mentioned focused area priorities of infrastructure, business climate, land development regulations, workforce development, and commercial/industrial real estate development.

To view the December 19th EDTF Meeting, please click the city's link below:

https://cityofnsb.granicus.com/ViewPublisher.php? view_id=1

For more information about the Economic Development Task Force, please contact Chris Edwards, Director of CRA/Economic Development for the City of New Smyrna Beach.

Office/Mobile: (386) 279-2497 Email: <u>cedwards@cityofnsb.com</u>



<u>City of New Smyrna Beach partners with CGI Digital</u> to participate in their Community Showcase Video <u>Program:</u>

We are pleased to announce our partnership with CGI Digital (CGI) to implement a Community Showcase Video Program. The CGI program allows municipalities (like the City of New Smyrna Beach) to enhance their website and social media platforms by adding highdefinition video content. The program is tailored to showcase the best of what NSB has to offer prospective real estate developers, businesses, residents etc.

With a highly visible interface on our official city website homepage (<u>www.cityofnsb.com</u>) our **Community Showcase Video Tour** will allow viewers to learn more about the city's quality of life, business environment, economic development and more.

We know NSB businesses play a critical role in our city's economic vitality. As a result, this program will allow the city to launch its **"Elevate the Vision of Your Business in NSB" marketing initiative**. The marketing campaign will present a sponsorship opportunity for local businesses to enhance their online presence. In addition, the Community Showcase Video Tour will backlink to CGI's www.elocallink.tv providing increased exposure for all participants. Our businesses will also have an exclusive first look at CGI's latest product, SeeSaw[™], that accelerates businesses' existing websites through engaging and educational video content.

We encourage you to consider being a part of this completely voluntary marketing initiative. **However**, **please know that there is no obligation to participate in the program by the City of New Smyrna Beach**.

Thank you for being a part of what makes New Smyrna Beach a great place to "Elevate the Vision of Your Business".

For more information about this partnership, please contact Chris Edwards, CRA/Economic Development at (386) 279-2497 or email: <u>cedwards@cityofnsb.com</u>

To learn more about CGI, please click the following link: <u>https://cgidigital.com/</u>



Economic Development Spotlight Cont.

<u>CRA helping to "Revitalize NSB" and Diversify Tax Base through local business expansion and commercial property redevelopment along US 1:</u>

On February 14th, the CRA Board (City Commission) awarded a \$250,000 Adaptive Reuse Opportunity Grant to Cristal Clear Properties, LLC for a US 1 commercial facade/property improvement project **located at 501 S. Dixie Freeway in NSB**. The property will be marketed as **The Bowman Center**.

Update: New Smyrna Beach commercial property and business owner, Cristal Dongilli, is working with Tom Donatti Building & Roofing, Inc. to renovate the building at an estimated cost of over \$1 million. Additionally, the owner has purchased the former auto sales property at 511 S. Dixie Fwy. for approximately \$500,000. Currently, the owner plans to utilize that property for additional commercial space and parking. The Bowman Center will serve as an executive office for **Chase Components**, **LLC**. Chase Components is a premier distributor of board-level electronic components, peripherals and power supplies. **To date**, the owner has already pre-leased other commercial retail and flex space to the following businesses:

- Collective Design and Millworks (interior design studio and also boutique formally known as Sei Boutique)
- Wishes Skincare (healthcare and skincare)
- Coastal Retreat Salon (hair salon)
- Elite Tinting Company (specializing in commercial/residential tinting and automobiles)
- Evey K Boutique (women's apparel, accessories, home decor and personal styling)
- The Zone Nutrition (smoothie and juice bar)
- Coastal Pilates Co. (pilates studio)



The Bowman Center 501 S. Dixie Fwy-Under Renovation



511 S. Dixie Fwy- **now** part of the The Bowman Center property



The Bowman Center Vision

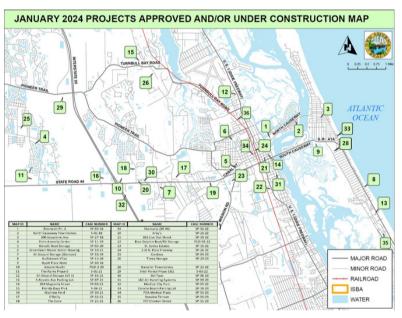


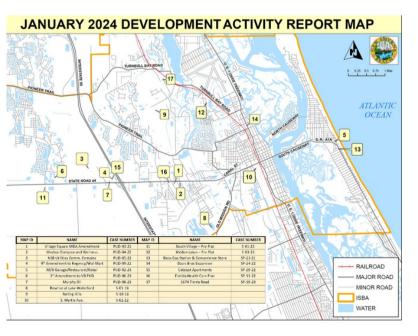
Economic Development Spotlight Cont.

January 2024 Development Activity Report (Includes Map and Corresponding Project Descriptions):

The Development Activity Report (DAR) includes <u>2</u> <u>separate maps</u> with corresponding and brief project descriptions. The green colored map exhibits approved and/or under construction development projects. The yellow map exhibits development projects that are under review.

To learn more about January 2024 Development Activities, please click the link below: <u>https://www.cityofnsb.com/151/Planning</u>



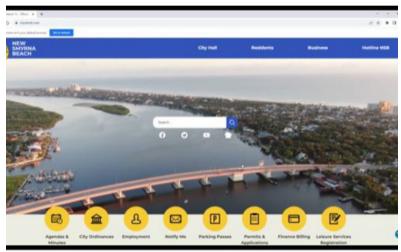


Schedule Your Pre-App Meeting Today:

To help guide you on your next development or redevelopment project plans, the City of New Smyrna Beach offers convenient Pre-App meetings with various city departments and New Smyrna Beach Utilities (NSBU) staff. During these meetings, applicants share their overall plans with City of NSB and NSBU staff and obtain <u>initial and non-binding guidance</u> pertaining to zoning, future land use, engineering, building related requirements within the City's Land Development Regulations etc. Applicants

To learn more about how to schedule a Pre-App meeting, please click the link below:

https://www.cityofnsb.com/1380/Development-Services







City/County/State Projects

Volusia County Community Development Block Grant- Disaster Recovery:



Volusia County Government was awarded \$328.9 million in Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to spearhead a comprehensive and enduring recovery initiative called Transform386. Following the significant damage caused by Hurricane Ian, this funding will be instrumental in facilitating the county's long-term restoration and revitalization.

On 10/3/23, the County Council approved the Action Plan and Budget Allocation. As a result, the Action Plan is being submitted and reviewed by HUD. An update on HUD's review should be available by January 2024.

For action plan updates: please click the link below https://www.transform386.org/allocation-actionplan.stml#actiontimeline



Volusia County Homeowner Recovery Program: Volusia County has received Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to offer financial support to homeowners who still need housing repairs or would like to seek reimbursement for repairs already completed due to Hurricane Ian's damage.

The program seeks to offer hope to homeowners who desire to repair their homes or regain financial stability in the aftermath of this natural disaster. The availability of these funds serves as a crucial resource to facilitate the recovery process and enhance the resilience of Volusia County residents.

Interested homeowners are advised to gather all necessary documentation before applying, as complete submissions will expedite the r

For more information, please contact: (386) 943-7029 or click the link below. https://www.transform386.org/homeownerrecovery/index.stml



City/County/ State Projects

Palm Street Sidewalk Project:

The City of New Smyrna Beach, through the funding assistance of the City's Community Development Block Grant Program and Community Redevelopment Agency is working on a plan to issue an Invitation to Bid on the construction of a new sidewalk along Palm Street (pictured below) . The Palm St. segment will include the length of Palm (Ronnoc Lane to the north and Mary Avenue to the south. The scope of work entails constructing a sidewalk along Palm Street for approximately 1004 feet. Once completed, the project aims to provide a safer pedestrian option for individuals and families.

<u>Update:</u> The project is nearing completion.

For more information, please contact: Irma Terry at 314-4849 or email: <u>iterry@cityofnsb.com</u>

SIDEWALK TO BE REPLACED ALONG PALM STREET



Palm Street Sidewalk Location Map

<u>CRA staff presents the CRA Board/City Commission</u> with a plan to hire Tetra Tech as a consultant on a Mary Avenue Septic to Sewer System Improvement Project:

In collaboration with the City and Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA), NSBU intends to implement the Septic to Sewer System Improvement Project while avoiding relocation of existing utilities, if possible. The project proposes to extend the existing sewer collection system by approximately 500 linear feet from an existing gravity sewer system to establish service to four (4) unserved Mary Avenue private properties located at 805, 809, 811, and 813 Mary Avenue in the Historic Westside Neighborhood. 805, 809, and 811 Mary Avenue are single-family residential properties. 813 Mary Avenue is owned by the Boys and Girls Club of Volusia/Flagler Counties.

Update:

At a December 12th CRA Board/City Commission Meeting, CRA received approval to hire Tetra Tech, Inc. for \$79,950. As a result, Tetra Tech will provide engineering services that will initiate the Mary Avenue Septic to Sewer System Improvement Project. The consultant's fees are approximately twenty-one percent (21%) of the project's total cost.

Total Project Cost Breakdown Summary

Consultant Cost- \$79,950 (Initial Project Phase) Public Right-of-Way Construction Cost- \$218,350 Private Property Septic Tank Decommissioning and <u>Utility Connection Cost-\$80,000</u> **Total Project Cost- \$378,300**

The project will allow the CRA to further implement its adopted US 1 CRA Master Plan. Within the master plan, there is a specific strategy that requires the CRA to construct and improve public facilities and infrastructure.



CRA Projects: Affordable Housing

Senior Affordable Housing Development NOW UNDER CONSTRUCTION in the Historic Westside Neighborhood:

The City of NSB continues its partnership with the New Smyrna Beach Housing Authority to provide affordable housing in NSB. The Greenlawn Manor Senior Housing Development Project is now under construction. Once construction is complete, the project will include 80 housing units and amenities such as offices, community rooms etc. Project funding was made possible by a U.S. Housing and Urban Development (US HUD) 9% Low Income Housing Tax Credit Award.

On October 26, 2021 the City Commission approved a **\$425,625** CRA Housing Grant to fund Greenlawn Manor infrastructure, demolition, and site work costs. **The affordable housing construction costs are approximately \$23 million.**

Click the link below to access the 2/4/22 groundbreaking ceremony YouTube video:

https://youtu.be/oEOpvEzNzJI

Construction schedule update:

• Expected completion by March 2024





Greenlawn Manor Apartments 11/21/23



Greenlawn Manor Senior Affordable Housing Development Progress as of 11/21/23. Construction is expected to be complete by March **2024.**

Multifamily Affordable Housing Development Plans in the Historic Westside Neighborhood:

On August 22, 2023, the CRA Board/City Commission approved a City of New Smyrna Beach Community Redevelopment Agency **\$460,000** Grant to the New Smyrna Beach Housing Authority for a Westside Phase II Multifamily Housing Development Project submittal to the Florida Housing Finance Corporation 9% Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) Program. n.

How Does LIHTC Work?

The LIHTC Program is a federal government program that provides for-profit and nonprofit organizations with a dollar-for-dollar reduction in federal tax liability in exchange for providing equity financing for the new construction of low and very low-income rental housing units. The tax credits are allocated by the federal government to state agencies such as the Florida Housing Finance Corporation through a competitive process. A housing credit allocation to a development can be used for 10 consecutive years once the development is placed in service and is designed to subsidize **70 percent (the 9 percent tax credit)** of the low-income unit costs in a development.

The Westside Phase II application presents a plan to construct a new multifamily housing development project consisting of (3) three-story buildings with (24) units per building for a minimum total of 72 housing units and a clubhouse for recreational and other resident activities at 500 Brooks St. The project is expected to cost approximately \$27.6 million. CRA funds would be utilized for development cost such as: development fees, hard and soft cost etc. If the project proceeds as proposed, an August 2023 Economic Impact Analysis report reveals an approximate \$87.7 million-dollar economic impact to New Smyrna Beach.

For more information, please email Chris Edwards at <u>cedwards@cityofnsb.com</u>

CRA Projects: Affordable Housing



Westside Phase II Aerial Map

ULI Real Estate Diversity Initiative Program provides strategic ideas for Housing Authority's Live Oak properties:

Last year, the Housing Authority lost 40 units of public housing units near the Julia and Washington St area due to impacts of Hurricane Ian. The units are pictured in the aerial map below.





Picture from ULI REDI's New Smyrna Beach Presentation in Orlando on November 30th.

From August to November, the Urban Land Institute (ULI) Central Florida Real Estate Diversity Initiative (REDI) Program collaborated with the CRA/Economic Development Director and Housing Authority Executive Director to conduct a NSB redevelopment case study project for the REDI Program's 3rd annual cohort. The cohort is focused on the Live Oak Housing properties that are located in the Historic Westside neighborhood. The program is designed to help participants learn more about what it takes to put together a successful development plan through a combination of curriculum and case study work.

<u>Update:</u>

At the conclusion of the three-month program in November 2023, the cohort team produced (4) version of a development plan, pro-forma, and marketing plan that the CRA and community partners are currently evaluating for redevelopment strategies.



NSB CRA Commercial Facade/Property Improvement Grant Programs:

CRA Commercial Facade/Property Improvement (CFPI) Grants- Inquire and Apply Today:

The City of NSB Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA), in partnership with Volusia County, is accepting applications for (3) CRA Commercial Facade/Property Improvement Grants (EXTERIOR ONLY):

- Adaptive Reuse Opportunity Grant (up to \$250,000/ per approved applicant)
- Small Scale Commercial Facade/Property Improvement Grant (up to \$20,000 per approved applicant)
- Large Scale Commercial Facade/Property Improvement Grant (up to \$100,000 per approved applicant)

For more grant program details, please click on the link below:

U.S. 1 CRA Grant Program Details | New Smyrna Beach, FL - Official Website (cityofnsb.com)

To learn if your property is eligible for grant consideration, please enter the property address in the CRA Grants Targeted Area Interactive Map:

https://nsb.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html ?id=6c26906020484c68b2f60b7f2c53ad53

To learn about the CRA and other programs, please click the link below: <u>https://www.cityofnsb.com/1286/Community-</u><u>Redevelopment</u>





The following images depict (2) examples of CRA funded and completed Commercial Facade/Property Improvement projects over the past 2 years in New Smyrna Beach. The projects included improvements such as: exterior only painting, facade, and monument signage enhancements.



CRA Small Scale CFPI Grantee: SSE & Associates, Inc. 569 Canal St.-Before Improvements (2022)



CRA Small Scale CFPI Grantee: SSE & Associates, Inc. 569 Canal St.-After Improvements (2022)



CRA Small Scale CFPI Grantee: JARS Holdings New Smyrna, Inc. 646 N Dixie -Before Improvements (2021)



CRA Small-Scale CFPI Grantee: JARS Holding New Smyrna, Inc. 646 N Dixie Fwy- After Improvements (2021) **9**

NSB Economic Development Incentives

Site Availability Search: City staff will assist business prospects in finding a site that addresses all the firm's needs.

Southeast Volusia Manufacturing & Technology Coalition (SVMTC): A partnership with the Southeast Volusia Chamber of Commerce, the Cities of New Smyrna Beach, Edgewater and Oak Hill to recruit aerospace, aviation, manufacturing, and technology based industry related businesses that create more value-added job opportunities in Southeast Volusia. www.sevolusia.com

Expedited Permitting: The City's Planning Director and the City's Building Official have

received high marks for working with developers and contractors to conduct reviews and issue permits in the shortest amount of time possible. We know that the most helpful incentive we can provide is a short amount of time for permitting in order to get the business up and running as quickly as possible!

City Property Tax Exemption: Per Florida Statute 196.1995, this City property tax exemption program (adopted by City Ordinance 73-14) is designed for businesses creating jobs. The program has many requirements and tax exemptions must be approved on a case by case basis by the City Commission.



The tax exemption is only eligible for "...up to 100 percent of the assessed value of improvements to real property made by or for the use of a new business and of all tangible personal property of such new business, or up to 100 percent of the assessed value of all added improvement to real property made to facilitate the expansion of an existing business and of the new increase in all tangible personal property acquired to facilitate such expansion of an existing business..." The exemption does not apply to land or existing CRA/Economic buildings. The Development Director will help eligible businesses apply for the exemption.

County and State Programs: The CRA/Economic Development Director can coordinate applications for Economic Development Incentives through City of NSB partnerships with Team Volusia EDC, Volusia County Economic Development, Southeast Volusia Manufacturing and Technology Coalition, Inc. and Enterprise Florida.

Referrals to Business Resource Agencies: The City of NSB partners with a number of business resource agencies that offer a variety of services at no charge. These services include employee recruitment and screening, business planning, determining the best financing options, and access to grant funds.

Business Planning Information: In addition to incentives, the CRA/Economic Development Director can provide business planning information including the latest traffic counts for arterial roads in the city limits, as well as "ring data" – demographic data for households within 1–3–5 mile rings from a certain commercial address.

NSB Economic Development Incentive: Brownfield Grant Program

Southeast Volusia Corridor Improvement Coalition



BROWNFIELDS ASSESSMENT PROGRAM









TRANSFORM THE PAST. BUILD THE FUTURE. U.S. EPA Brownfield Program- Now Available in Southeast Volusia-SEV (i.e. Cities of New Smyrna Beach, Edgewater, and Oak Hill)

EPA awarded the SEV Cities a \$600,000 Brownfields Assessment Coalition Grant. Community-wide grant funds will be used to conduct 32 Phase I and 10 Phase II environmental site assessments and prepare 10 cleanup plans. Grant funds also will be used to prepare reuse plans and conduct community engagement activities. Assessment activities will focus on the Southeast Volusia County Corridor along US 1.

EPA's Brownfield Program empowers states, communities, and other stakeholders to work together to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield site is real property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant.

Stantec (formerly Cardno) is the consultant firm that SVCIC is working with to implement the program. The City of New Smyrna Beach is the lead contact for the program.

For more information, please contact Irma Terry, Community Resource Coordinator, at (386) 314-4849 or email: <u>iterry@cityofnsb.com</u>



Brownfield Program Website:

Please Click the Link Below Southeast Volusia Corridor Improvement Coalition | New Smyrna Beach, FL - Official Website (cityofnsb.com)

Local Business Resources

HOW TO START YOUR BUSINESS IN NSB YOUTUBE VIDEO LINK BELOW:

https://youtu.be/LGVz9izKAgY



City of New Smyrna Beach: Free NSB Ready pre-application meetings with the City's development review team; information on residents in 1-3-5 mile rings needed for business plan preparation; traffic counts on county and state roads, and other useful business information. Contact: Christopher Edwards (contact info below).

SCORE: This organization of certified mentor volunteers offers FREE business training workshops & individual confidential business mentoring. Contact: Lillian Conrad, SE Volusia Liaison and Certified Mentor at (386) 409-7881 or Email: lillian.conrad@scorevolunteer.org Website: volusiaflagler.score.org

Second Wednesday Club:

A networking club for local small business founders, entrepreneurs, and professionals.

Meets monthly at 5:30pm, Second Wednesdays at Half Wall Restaurant, 1889 SR 44

For more information contact Kelly Laub at

victoriameetingcenter@gmail.com

The Southeast Volusia Chamber of Commerce:

Provides many valuable opportunities for training, networking, and special events. Contact: Stephanie Ford, 428-2449, sford@sevchamber.com; <u>www.sevchamber.com</u> The City of New Smyrna Beach Economic Development Dept. is an Affiliated Partner with Volusia Business Resources (VBR). To get more information about VBR, please use your mobile device and scan the QR Code below or Click the link below to visit: <u>volusiabusinessresources.com</u>



New Smyrna Beach Visitor's Bureau: The bureau is the tourism marketing office. It's also known as the Destination Management Organization for Southeast Volusia. Businesses in the hospitality industry or tourism focused businesses that serve visitors are automatically partners and can take advantage of some great opportunities.

- Free listing in our annual destination guide that is printed and is our fulfillment piece for all Visit Florida Welcome Centers, as well as requests by potential visitors from any of our advertising and marketing initiatives.
- Free listing on www.visitnsbfl.com
- Free opportunity to place your flyer, rack card, coupons, or information for the visitor in our Visitor Center located at 2238 State Road 44, NSB, FL 32168. We also have a virtual visitor center that these would be uploaded to as well.
- Free opportunity to host a travel writer from major publications, influencers and bloggers. Your chance to provide an in-kind meal, golf, attraction ticket or any other opportunity that we would add to their itinerary while they are in town. Most opportunities provide the ability to get free press from the journalist.
- Free social media mentions add the hashtag #LoveNSB and if we can, we will repost your photo or have it feed into our website Instagram feed.

Public Meeting Information

On Tuesday, January 16th at 5:15, the City Commission and Utilities Commission will hold a joint meeting in the City Commission Chambers- 214 Sams Avenue, New Smyrna Beach:

To view the agenda or watch the meeting, please click the following link:

https://cityofnsb.granicus.com/ViewPublisher.php?view_id=1



Joint City Commission and Utilities Commission Tuesday, January 16, 2024 at 5:15 PM

214 Sams Avenue New Smyrna Beach, Florida 32168

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

III. SPECIAL MEETING

- III.A Septic-to-Sewer Discussion
- III.B NSBUS Headquarters Building and Western Complex Plans

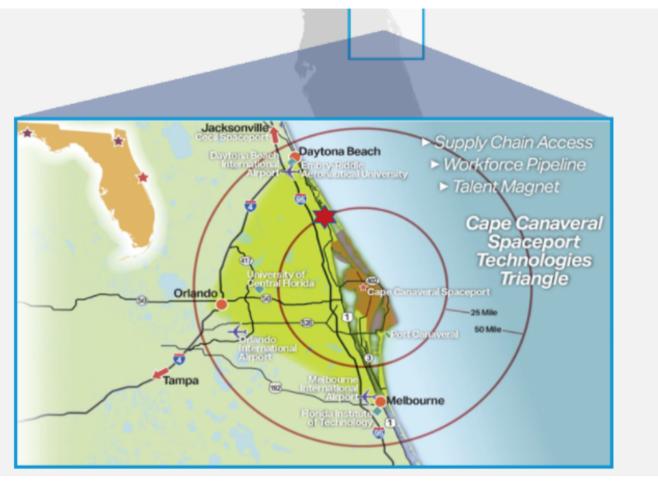
IV. COMMISSION COMMENTS

V. ADJOURNMENT

Pursuant to Florida Statutes 286.0105, if an individual decides to appeal any decision made by the board, agency or commission of the City of New Smyrna Beach with respect to any matter considered at this meeting, a record of the proceedings will be required and the individual will need to ensure that a verbatim transcript of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is based. Such person must provide a method for recording the proceedings.

NSB Did You Know?

Southeast Volusia (i.e. Cities of New Smyrna Beach, Edgewater, and Oak Hill) is located in the threshold of what is known as Florida's High-Tech Corridor and just north of Kennedy Space Center and the Space Coast. For more information, please visit <u>www.sevolusia.com</u>





City of NSB CRA/Economic Development Contact Information: Christopher (Chris) Edwards, MBA CRA/Economic Development Director Email: <u>cedwards@cityofnsb.com</u> Office/Mobile: 386-279-2497 <u>www.cityofnsb.com</u> "I look forward to meeting your Economic Development and CRA needs"