

NEWS RELEASE

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Fort Pierce City Commission to Consider Resolution Regarding Preliminary Assessment of the Port Master Plan of Fort Pierce

Mr. Jeff Weidner, Strategic Development Manager with the Florida Department of Transportation, District Four will make a presentation at the Fort Pierce City Commission meeting on December 19, 2011, City Hall, 6:30 p.m. to discuss a preliminary assessment of the Port of Fort Pierce and potential update to the Port Master Plan.

The State of Florida through the Department of Transportation, FDOT, has funding to conduct a preliminary assessment of the Port of Fort Pierce Master Plan (Phase I) and update the 10 year old Port Master Plan (Phase II). Phase I will determine local stakeholders, market opportunities and level of investment the Port of Fort Pierce will have in the larger framework of the state's seaport system. Should the outcome be supportive from the Phase I preliminary assessment, FDOT will proceed with the Master Plan Update phase, if the City Commission wishes to proceed.

The Port of Fort Pierce is one of 14 deepwater ports in Florida and could be designated in the Strategic Intermodal System (SIS) facility which would substantially increase funding opportunities from the state and federal government. City Manager, David L. Recor, ICMA-CM stated, "The Preliminary Assessment phase of the FDOT's proposal is intended to engage the public, both locally and throughout the region, in dialogue regarding economic development and job creation strategies at the Port of Fort Pierce while recognizing and balancing the potential environmental impacts of such development on the Indian River Lagoon. Consideration of Resolution No. 11-46 does not commit the City of Fort Pierce to anything beyond the evaluation and discussion phase of this FDOT initiative where the City and community residents will have the final say in this matter."

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