

**DAYTONA REGIONAL CHAMBER
RECOMMENDED GOALS
for VOLUSIA COUNTY 2011**

Budget Control

- Begin to address the rapidly increasing cost of pensions for public employees. Examine alternatives to the existing system, including:
 - o Locking in current employees to the existing system and implementing a defined contribution program for new hires
 - o Bringing salaries and pensions in line with the private sector by adding an accepted benchmark for salary adjustments
 - o Using resources such as the State of Florida Payroll Database (<http://www.archive.org/details/StateOfFloridaPayrollDatabase2008>) to compare local salaries to other municipalities to determine reasonableness

E-Zone / Ocean Center

- Support the City of Daytona Beach's E-Zone initiative by providing economic incentives for projects which would serve the Ocean Center and fit the design criteria outlined in the Master Plan
- Explore creative public-private funding opportunities for E-Zone projects

Consolidation of Fire Services / Address EVAC Services

- Move forward with implementing the recommendations found in the 2010 Tri-Data Study and continue to explore other economies from further consolidation of services
- As a first step, develop a uniform system of reporting incidents in order to accurately determine demand on fire services
- Address the high cost of fire services, including: staffing levels, pension costs, continually rising salary levels, overtime-related issues, etc.
- Eliminate boundaries when it comes to fire/rescue service (already eliminated for ambulance service)
- Demand policy action toward a unified fire/rescue system in Volusia County even if it's only to establish a schedule with performance targets.
- Initiate an analysis of ambulance services now provided by EVAC

Economic Development

- Monitor \$333,000 pledge towards Team Volusia Economic Development Corp. and establish reasonable benchmarks for success
- Consider working with a contractor to build a public-private fiber network

throughout the county to provide business-class broadband service. Such a network could connect the sheriff's office, county administration, schools and hospitals, and use existing rights of ways along major highways/railways to run through Volusia's industrial/commercial corridors. *Providing the high-speed Internet is necessary to entice high-tech companies.* A gigabit-per-second speed could become soon the new standard (fast enough to download the Encyclopedia Britannica in one second). Chattanooga, Tenn., became the first community in the nation to offer a gigabit per second through its public utility. Lafayette, La. has leveraged its public utility to provide broadband service at highly competitive pricing.

Seek New Funding Sources for Transportation Infrastructure

- Determine new options of funding public infrastructure including: teaming up with cities and private developers to obtain federal funding for key thoroughfares, exploring the concept of an additional sales tax and/or public-private partnerships

Community Redevelopment Areas

- Explore County oversight of CRA expenditures to ensure they are being used for CRA-related purposes

Water Supply Protection

- Work with cities to assure that we have an adequate long-term water supply. The plans should emphasize conservation, interconnects, and the use of re-use water.
NOTE – water supply is important to our local economic development.