

Resiliency and Sustainability

- Environment inextricably linked to economy
- Address economic implications of flooding, sea level rise, impacts to groundwater and drinking water supplies
- Flood risks occur due to Florida's flat topography, increased impacts due to storm surge, rainfall, sea level rise and lack of adequate drainage
- Community-wide mitigation strategies such as beach renourishment, sand dune raising, constructing new seawalls, and implementing flood proofing building structures
- Investments in resilient infrastructure provide considerable protection to the region's assets



Incentives

- Enhance the capacity of cities to prepare, respond, recover, adapt and grow in the face of environmental shocks and stresses from a changing climate
- Benefit-Cost Ratio Incentive: Tampa region ROI \$2.27 for every \$1 spent¹
- Without infrastructure adaptation, the region can face close to **\$82B in losses**
- A multi-scalar approach is crucial to define problems and opportunities for resilience projects across jurisdictional boundaries



2.27

BENEFIT-COST RATIO

Beach Renourishment

- One natural line of defense against flooding is the state's beaches
- Impacts from hurricanes have beach erosion at decades high levels with sand dunes completely wiped out in many areas
- Work to strengthen natural protection along coast with beach renourishment in critical areas



Our Legislative Focus 2024

Water quality

- Water is vital not only to our health and well-being, but to Florida's growing economy and way of life.
- Providing clean and reliable drinking water is a public health and safety top priority
- The Florida Aquifer serves as a natural filter as water moves through it



- Tampa Bay's water supply is a blend of interconnected sources of treated groundwater, river water and seawater
- Along with local and state ordinances and best management practices, the Tampa Bay Region has a healthy watershed and is protecting drinking water sources for future generations



Key Takeaways

- Prioritize planning and response with **strategic mitigation measures**
- Build **greater regional resiliency** to help to ensure long-term sustainability of region
- Recognize doing nothing is just buying time: **spend \$13B now or lost \$82B later**
- Eventually, large areas of communities could see flooding so frequently that they will no **longer be affordable or desirable places to live**
- Continue to **focus on water quality**



Spend **13B** now or lose **82B** later

Bills to Watch in 2024 related to Resiliency and Sustainability

CS/HB 321

SB 298

SB 1360

The Suncoast League of Cities

PO Box 47058 • Tampa FL 33646 • 813.857.8801