



May 12, 2009

Lee County Board of County Commissioners
P. O. Box 398
Fort Myers, FL 33902-0398

Re. Recruiting an Effective County Manager

Dear Commissioners:

Reconnecting Lee County is an informal association of private and public sector individuals focused on connecting communities through a range of transportation and transit-oriented development options to accommodate future growth through a strong and sustainable economy and a well-protected natural environment. We believe that after 20+ years, it is time for the Lee Plan to be revisited and perhaps reinvented into a model that better reflects today's economy and the twin drives for green initiatives and more walkable communities.

To accomplish this, the next Lee County Manager needs to be an effective budget and personnel manager, but much more than that. This individual needs to provide visionary, innovative leadership and a willingness to nurture "outside the box" thinking to carry Lee County into a strong and sustainable future. The new manager will need to have the skills to handle population growth levels that are still expected to nearly double over the next 20-30 years.

As you instruct your search team to describe the traits you are seeking in the next County Manager, we ask that you add a clear statement that Lee County is seeking a County Manager who demonstrates a strong understanding of high-growth areas and a passion for nurturing creative ideas to deal with this growth in ways that strengthen the long-term viability and vitality of our community.

We are entering a new era for transportation—there are simply not enough dollars to continue our current course of road widening as the main means of managing growth. We urge you to carefully consider a proactive leader who has the vision and skill set to see the true potential of Lee County and to creatively embrace all viable solutions.

We invite you to visit our website at www.reconnectinglee.org for more information about our mission and our desire to partner with the County and all of Lee's communities.

Thank you for your time and consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

Merri Beth Farnham

On behalf of: Reconnecting Lee County

