

Open For Business

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In The Beginning

- Open For Business was the brainchild of MyRegion.Org.
- The East Central Florida Region includes 7 counties and 86 cities serving a population of more than 3.8 million people.
- This region is the 19th largest economy in the U.S. and is projected to grow to 7 million people by 2050.

In The Beginning

- Starting in 2011, the initial goal of Open For Business was *“to collaboratively identify, analyze and seek correction to current regulatory and other economic barriers that prevent or complicate economic recovery in Central Florida”*.

In The Beginning

- Through regional discussions with 150 different groups, first project chosen was to streamline permitting and development.

Challenge

- Florida has a state building code; however, the region had 93 unique paths for approval.
- Many of those in the development industry do business in more than one city and county.
- *The Challenge:* How could counties and cities come together to provide a similar business experience to our development customers?

Streamlined Permitting Initiative

- MyRegion.Org facilitated discussions and used the 7 County Managers as the Leadership Council.
- The administrative approach was deemed to be faster and more pragmatic than using a council of elected officials.
- *A Key to Success:* The county managers know each other and work well together as a team.

Streamlined Permitting Initiative

- Consistent Base Standards
- Proactive Attitude
- Pre-application Reviews
- Establish Ombudsman Role
- Establish Timelines for Project Approvals

Streamlined Permitting Initiative

- Minimize Approval Steps
- Evaluate Processes Regularly
- Seek Customer Feedback and Make Changes

Brevard County's Experience

- Ahead of the Game
 - Space Coast Economic Development Commission Certifies and re-certifies County/City Governments for Streamlined Permitting
 - Customer Education Program on Permitting

Brevard County's Experience

- Ahead of the Game
 - One Stop Shop for Site Plan, Subdivision, and Permits
 - Mobile Technology
 - Third Party Advisory Groups

Brevard County's Experience

- Work In Progress
 - Electronic Submissions
 - Master File Program
 - Centralize Document Repository for Contractor Licenses

Brevard County's Experience

- Work In Progress
 - Customer Service
 - Feedback
 - Training

Key Factors For Success

- Understand and support concept of Regional Success.
- Pull together a team that works.
- Develop broad base of support.
- Implement what you can now.

Key Factors For Success

- Communicate, communicate, communicate!
- Celebrate and tell your story.
- Keep the team together.

For additional information,
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<http://www.openforbusinesscfl.com>



For additional information,
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Questions & Answers

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