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Media Contact: Warren Richardson, 941-861-5325, cell 941-232-5388, wrichardson@scgov.net

Project Contact: Brian Beatty, 941-861-5139, bbeatty@scgov.net

Community meeting to review preliminary results for major employment center study

The public phase of Sarasota County's major employment center (MEC) study will continue with a community meeting at 6 p.m. Tuesday, March 20, at the Venice Community Center, 326 S. Nokomis Ave., Venice.

The purpose of this second meeting is to provide an update on the planning process and summarize the analysis completed since the study began last October. Participants will discuss preliminary strategies to improve how MECs function as locations for future employment growth and the economic development. The discussion will also consider land use issues surrounding current and future MECs.

Major Employment Centers (MECs) are planned or existing concentrations of industrial, manufacturing, wholesale and office employment in Sarasota County identified in the county's future land use plan to promote economic development. MECs should be located near major transportation routes with convenient access for the working population.

The county's future land use plan identifies 14 MEC sites currently.

The MEC study is being conducted by the Atlanta branch of EDAW Inc., an international planning and landscape architecture firm, hired by the county. The study is expected to be completed in July 2007.

For more information, visit the county's Web page at www.scgov.net/MEC and click on the link for MEC Land Use Study under the Conduct Business column or call Sarasota County Planning Services at 941-861-5232.

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