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Thomas F. Gustafson, Jr.

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Tom Gustafson serves in the FIU Office of Finance and Administration as the Director, Research Programs. Mr. Gustafson received a B.A. degree from University of Notre Dame in 1971 and a J.D. from University of Florida in 1974. He has been a featured speaker on many topics that deal with the community growth and sustainability.

Mr. Gustafson is a recognized authority on innovative transportation funding and development opportunities that relate to sustainable, mobile, higher education-linked, and livable communities. He has also been extensively involved in policy and program development for research, analysis, and reporting of ocean and coastal conditions and processes including hurricane research priorities, coastal ocean observation systems governance, and coastal community development and transportation related matters. Mr. Gustafson is the author of many reports for various agencies and companies. He has served as an expert witness for insurance and health care regulatory issues and has been frequently involved in public policy development that has been codified in Florida law.

Public Policy Development

Topics :Transportation, including the Florida Transportation Code, Florida High Speed Rail and the Florida Turnpike Enterprise; tourist development tax; governmental boards statutory sunset process; endangered and threatened plants protections; insurance; medical malpractice; health care; tort law reform; criminal justice; safe neighborhood districts; constitutional public meeting requirements; hurricane research priorities; coastal ocean observing systems priorities; community development requirements for economic growth; and, many others.

Mr. Gustafson undertook the development of public policy and the crafting and passage of many state laws and state constitutional provisions during the 14 years he served in the Florida House of Representative. While at the University of Florida College of Law, he undertook the initial research initiatives at the newly formed Center for Governmental Responsibility that became reports submitted to the United States Senate during the Watergate Hearings regarding the limits of power of the President of the United States and reports regarding Mississippi property taxes inequities.

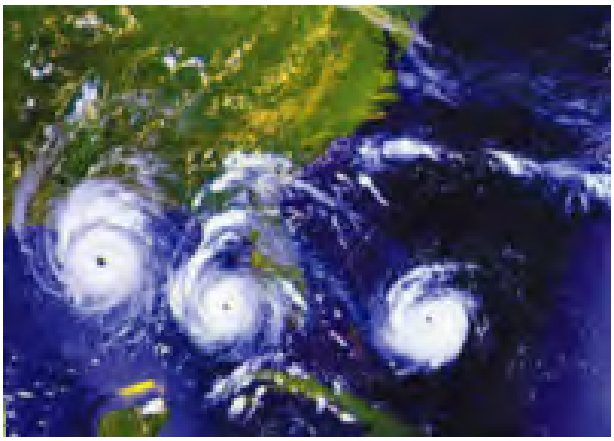
On October 9, 2004, with Dr. Jack Pinkowski, a Nova Southeastern University professor and 2008-2009 Fulbright Scholar, Mr. Gustafson completed an article entitled ***Transportation Renaissance: Community-Based, Pedestrian-Oriented Intermodal Facilities (Defining Community Intermodal Systems as a Tool for Economic Development and Redevelopment).*** This was followed by the **MIAMI AT MIDNIGHT** report prepared by Mr. Gustafson on December 30, 2004, the ***Funding Strategies Final Report for St. Lucie County Research and Education Park*** on June 28, 2005 with Jack Pinkowski and others, and the ***Proposal for a FIU CIS Conceptual Plan Project*** dated February 28, 2006.

The drafting of a treatise entitled **TheNewCommunityParadigm:** ***Pedestrian-oriented, intermodal systems within the environments of urban centers*** has been underway since 2006 and an article entitled ***Growing the New American Economy*** that provides recommendations to the Obama-Biden Administration was completed on February 12, 2009.

Prior to working for NSU, Mr. Gustafson had completed transit greenway planning and urban mobility reports for numerous local governments including: Monroe County, FL; Lake Park, FL; Fort Pierce, FL; St. Augustine, FL; Fort Lauderdale Downtown Development Authority, FL; and other communities as part of his law practice. Thirteen transit greenway projects were approved and funded by the 1999 Florida Legislature, but the funding was vetoed by Governor Jeb Bush. In 2001 as part of a grant provided by the Florida Attorney General to NSU, Mr. Gustafson directed the writing effort of a report entitled, ***Moving in All the Right Directions***, which explained the rationale and status of transit greenway efforts as of that date.

In addition, Mr. Gustafson helped to organize the scientists who proposed the Hurricane Intensity Forecast Improvements and Impacts Projections (HiFi) and authored the HiFi Funding Strategy dated October 11, 2006 and A HiFi and Florida COOS Executive Summary dated December 12, 2006.

Further, Mr. Gustafson helped to organize the Florida Coastal Ocean Observing System Caucus



(Florida COOS Caucus) beginning in 2005 and the Florida Coastal Ocean Observing System Consortium beginning in 2006. He organized the collaborative efforts to draft the Florida COOS Caucus White Paper entitled, A Coastal Ocean Observing System (Florida COOS) dated January 13, 2006. Mr. Gustafson remains involved in regional coastal ocean observing system efforts through occasional advisory activities involving the Southeast Coastal Ocean Observing Regional Association.

Mr. Gustafson provided advice to the FIU College of Engineering and Computing Dean, faculty, and staff on government and transportation policy matters, issues, and concerns at the Lehman Center until September 2011 and now provides advice and support to FIU Senior Vice President/CFO Kenneth A. Jessell and his staff at the Office of Finance and Administration.

Selected laws and constitutional provisions authored and subsequently enacted

Preservation of Native Flora of Florida & Endangered Plant Advisory Council (1978)
Florida Sundown Act (1978)
Florida Insurance Code (1982)
Broward County Expressway Authority Law (1983)
Florida Transportation Code (1984)
Florida High Speed Rail Transportation Commission Act (1984)
Medical Malpractice Reform Act (1985)
Florida Tort Reform Act (1986)
Florida Safe Neighborhoods Act (1987)
Omnibus Criminal Justice Act (1987 and 1988)
Tri-County Commuter Rail Authority Act (1989)
Florida Constitution, Article III, Section 4 (e) regarding public meetings provisions (1990)

Previous employment, positions, honors and awards:

Employment:

2011 to present – Director, Research Programs, FIU Office of Finance & Administration
2009 to 2011 - Director of Government and Transportation Policy, Lehman Center for Transportation Research, College of Engineering and Computing, Florida International University, 10555 West Flagler Street, Miami, Florida 33174

2006 – 2009 - Director of Government and Ocean Policy, NSU Oceanographic Center, Nova Southeastern University, 8000 North Ocean Drive, Dania Beach, FL 33004-3078
2003 - 2006 - Director of Government Relations, Institute of Government and Public Policy, H. Wayne Huizenga School of Business and Entrepreneurship, Nova southeastern University, 3301 College Avenue, Fort Lauderdale-Davie, FL 33314-7796
1976 - 1990 - State Representative, Florida House of Representatives, Tallahassee, FL
1974 - 2003 - Attorney and Partner, including Thomas F. Gustafson. P.A. Law Firm and other firms and partnerships, Fort Lauderdale, FL

Positions, Honors and Awards:

Florida Trust for Historic Preservation (2009)
Florida Public Transportation Association Hall of Fame (2006)
Speaker of the House, Florida House of Representatives (1988 – 1990)
Chairman, Criminal Justice Committee, Florida House of Representatives (1986 – 1988)
Chairman, Heath and Insurance Committee, Florida House of Representatives (1984 – 1986)
Chairman, Transportation Committee, Florida House of Representatives (1982 – 1984)
Chairman, Insurance Committee, Florida House of Representatives (1980 – 1982)
Majority Whip, Florida House of Representatives (1978 – 1980)
John Michael Stratton Award for Outstanding Senator, University of Florida Student Senate (1974)