

# Current Status and Expected Outcomes of Ad-Hoc Workgroup Strategy Development

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# Presentation Outline

- Evolution of the GSAA's Strategic Direction (2009 – 2015)
- Ad-hoc Workgroup Process (brief)
- Business Post-Disaster Recovery Planning
- Improved Data and Planning for Offshore Energy Siting
- Discussion and Feedback

# GSAA Partnership Agreement (2009)

- Signed by the Governors of NC, SC, GA, & FL
- Establishes the Alliance and its Mission & Goals
- Supports regionally-based actions and solutions
- Invites active involvement of partners
- Operates by consensus and mutual benefit

# Mission Statement

Increase regional collaboration among South Atlantic states, with federal agency partners and other stakeholders, to sustain and enhance the environmental (coastal/marine), natural resource, economic, public safety, social, and national defense missions of the respective states and the South Atlantic region.

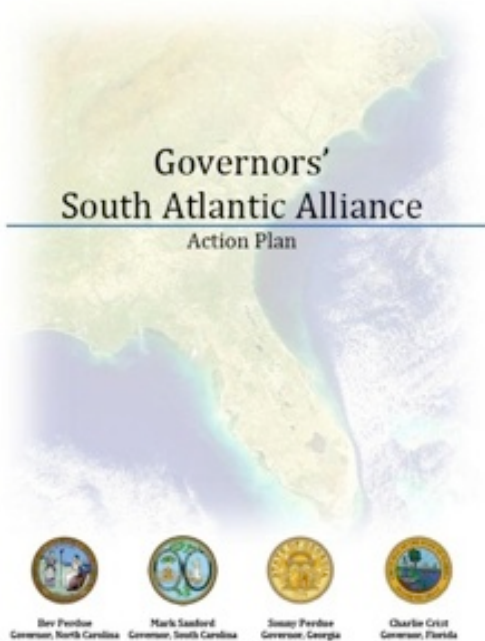


# Goals

The Alliance provides a structure and forum for collaborating, coordinating, and sharing information that will support:

- Resource sustainability
- Improved regional alignment
- Cooperative planning and leveraging resources
- Integrated research, observations, and mapping
- Increased awareness of the challenges facing the South Atlantic region
- Inclusiveness and integration at all levels

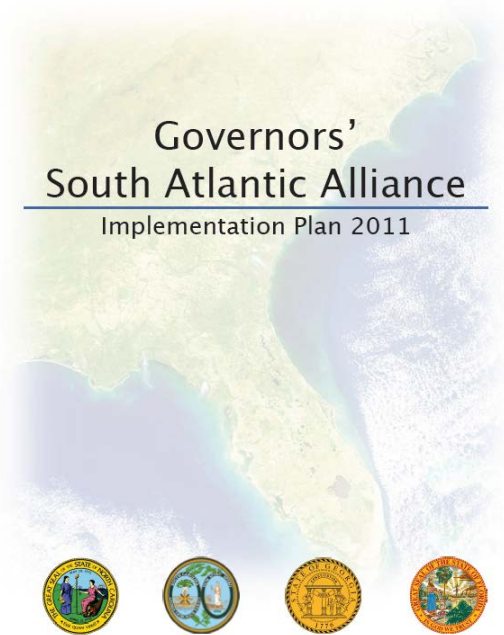
# Governors' Action Plan (2010)



- Action Plan signed by the Governors in December 2010
- The states identified a set of four priority issue areas (48 actions)
- Broad actions: “Develop opportunities and partnerships in sustainability initiatives.”

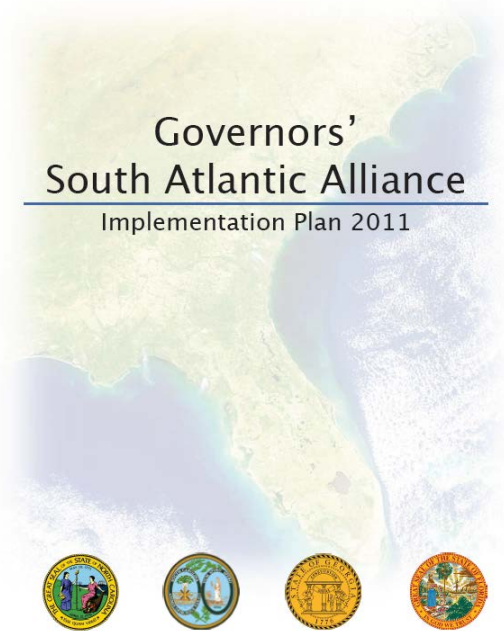
**Healthy Ecosystems  
Working Waterfronts  
Clean Coastal and Ocean Waters  
Disaster-Resilient Communities**

# Implementation Plan (2011)



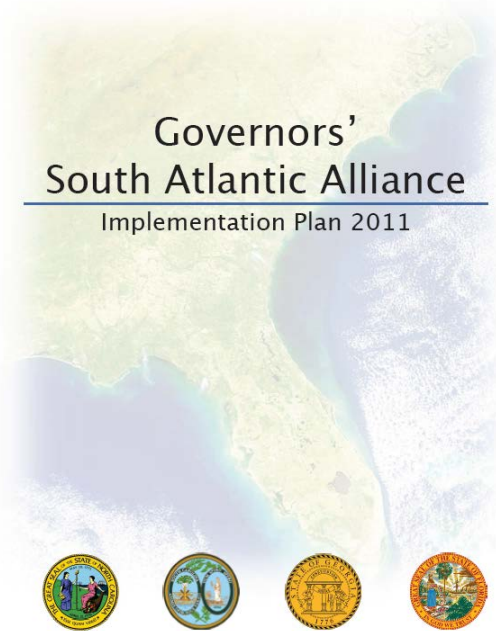
- Implementation Plan agreed by Steering Group on June 30, 2011
- Plan with specific Implementation Steps for completing the Action Plan
- Each Implementation Step outlines
  - Approximate timeline for effort
  - Potential partners
  - Deliverables
  - Related efforts
  - Resource needs
- Over 50 pages

# IATT Work Plans (2012-2014)



- Based on Implementation Plan
- IATTs identified and prioritized actions annually
- Complete with existing resources
- Request support or resources from the EPT
- Report on progress at the EPT Spring Meeting and GSAA Annual Meeting

# IATT Snapshots (2013)



- Based on Implementation Plan
- IATTs identified highest priority prospective projects, regardless of resources
- Purpose: To facilitate planning, development
- Each team developed 3 + 2 WW/DRC
- 6 snap shots are completed or in progress

# Resilience Regional Driver (2014)

## GSAA Regional Driver

Resilient South Atlantic **coastal environments, communities, and economies** can **anticipate, prepare for, and adapt to coastal hazards** common to all states and resulting threats to growing coastal populations and economic stability.



# Resilience Regional Driver (2014)

## **GSAA envisions a region that**

Withstands, responds to, and recovers rapidly from disruptions without long-term damage to the environment or economy.

Requires less government funding to recover, rebuild, and redevelop coastal communities.

Sustains the role of ecosystem services that natural systems provide.

# Resilience Regional Driver (2014)

To address this regional driver, the GSAA will

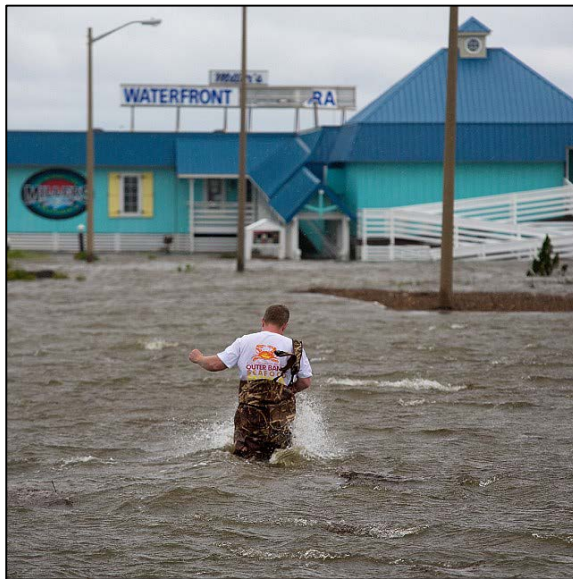
- Assist GSAA partner organizations in resilience **planning and capacity building** for coastal communities.
- Increase understanding of **current coastal and ocean resource conditions** and uses in the South Atlantic.
- Improve understanding of **potential risks and impacts** to coastal and ocean resources in order to support resilience planning and adaptive management actions.
- Develop **science-based tools and strategies** to assess vulnerabilities, mitigate potential threats, and preserve/protect coastal and ocean resources.
- Leverage resources and create efficiencies and economies of scale enabled by resilience-based **partnerships**.
- Enhance **communication** of South Atlantic priorities for resilience across the region and at the national level.

# Annual Strategic Issues (2015)

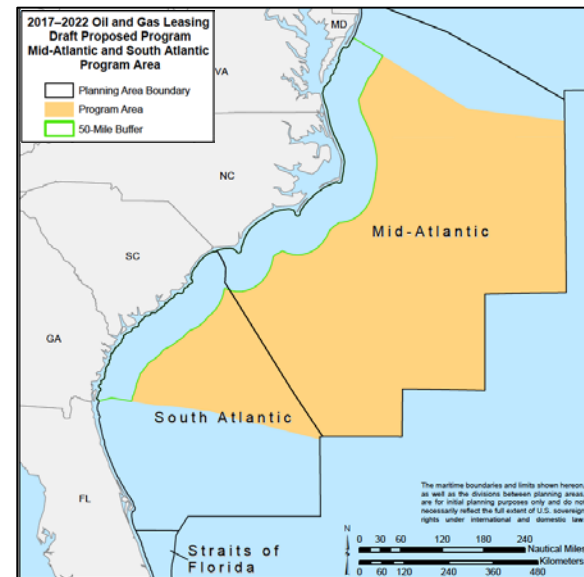
- Based on specific challenges/problems in the region
- Responsive to the Resilience regional driver
- Relevant to or actionable by the Steering Group and/or Governors
- Reviewed annually and adjusted based on needs/new challenges

# Annual Strategic Issues

Selected for 2015



Business Post-Disaster  
Recovery Planning



Improved Data and Planning  
for Offshore Energy Siting

# Problem Statement

**Businesses in the South Atlantic region are vulnerable to disruptions from storms like Hurricanes Sandy and Katrina.**

Hurricane Sandy caused billions in economic disruption in NY and NJ alone, much of which could have been avoided by better planning for preparation and recovery. **Businesses in the South Atlantic region have the opportunity to be better prepared and experience less disruption through implementation of FEMA's National Disaster Recovery Framework. The GSAA can help by advocating for the resources needed to implement the NDRF in our region.**

# Problem Statement

**The siting of future offshore energy facilities in the South Atlantic region remains somewhat unpredictable due to the potential for conflicts with existing ocean activities and sensitive resource areas.** This could ultimately lead to delays in permitting or extensive litigation. In order to support prudent, efficient decision-making for onshore and offshore energy (alternative and traditional) exploration and production facilities, investments are needed both in policy analysis and data collection. **By joining with ocean industry leaders in the region, the GSAA can help synthesize existing data, fill data gaps, identify potential use conflicts with military (using the DoD provided offshore wind and oil/gas related military mission footprints) and other ocean operations, improve understanding and mapping of sensitive resources areas, and streamline permitting.** Investing in collecting and organizing the data and information (bathymetry, geographic features, existing/future uses, physical and ecological processes, and potential conflicts and impacts) necessary to address questions regarding suitability and ecological impacts will improve development opportunities as well as limit negative impacts.

# Strategic Issue Statement

- Statement of the Challenge (brief – 1 line)
- Description of the Challenge
  - Expand as necessary on the Problem Statement
- GSAA Strategies for 2015
  - GSAA cooperative or collaborative efforts
  - Research, data, and information needs
  - Proposed changes in government policies or programs

# Strategic Issue Statement

- Strategies
  - Not necessarily time limited
  - Tie directly back to the Problem Statement
  - Address specific regional needs
- Actions
  - Time limited – 1 year
  - May be no actions available for a particular strategy, or several
  - Tied to what can be done with the GSAA framework

# Guidelines

- Positive, constructive dialogue
- Present opportunities and solutions, not barriers/challenges
- Strive for consensus
- No one is an “observer” – all volunteers are invited and expected to participate

# Workgroup Meeting Plan

**Mondays and Tuesdays @2pm**

Week 1 – Review Problem Statement and Brainstorm Additional Background

Week 2 – Brainstorm Strategies

Week 3 – Refine Strategies

Week 4 – Refine Strategies

Week 5 – Brainstorm Actions

Week 6 – Refine Actions

**EPT Meeting and Industry Forum  
April 7-8**

Week 7 – Refine Actions

Week 8 – Finalize Strategy

# Ad-hoc Workgroup for Business Post-Disaster Recovery Planning

# A Foundation for Resilience

- Post-Disaster Recovery Planning
  - Long-term Recovery Planning Summit (July 2012)
  - 2013 APA Conference Webinar (April 2013)
- Tools and Technical Resources
  - GSAA Coast and Ocean Portal
  - Hazard Vulnerability Assessment

# Long-term Recovery Planning Summit

- Participants: federal, state and local governments, non-profit organizations, researchers and private industry
  - Implementation of the National Disaster Recovery Framework
  - Post-Disaster Recovery Planning initiatives in Florida and at the local level
  - Opportunities for public-private partnerships and role of non-profit organizations
- Summary available on the GSAA website

# A Foundation for Resilience

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- Tools and Technical Resources
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# Key Products

## GSAA Coast and Ocean Portal



[ABOUT THE PORTAL](#) ▸

[VISIT GSAA](#)

[FEEDBACK](#)



**Port  
maintenance  
& expansion**

[Learn more ▸](#)

### LEARN

Understanding the range of regional ocean planning needs ▸

### EXPLORE

Access our most current data ▸

### VISUALIZE

Launch our map and tools ▸



Providing regional coastal and ocean planning tools to support the Governors' South Atlantic Alliance (GSAA).

#### LEARN MORE ABOUT US

[OUR PARTNERS](#) ▸

[OUR FUNDERS](#) ▸

#### GET IN TOUCH

Please e-mail inquiries about the GSAA Portal to the regional information management system coordinator.

Email [gsaaportal@gmail.com](mailto:gsaaportal@gmail.com)

# Key Products

# Hazard Vulnerability Assessment



[ABOUT THE PORTAL](#) [VISIT GSAA](#) [FEEDBACK](#) [Q](#)

## LEARN

[Beach Renourishment](#)  
[Port Maintenance and Expansion](#)  
[Habitat Conservation](#)

## EXPLORE

## VISUALIZE

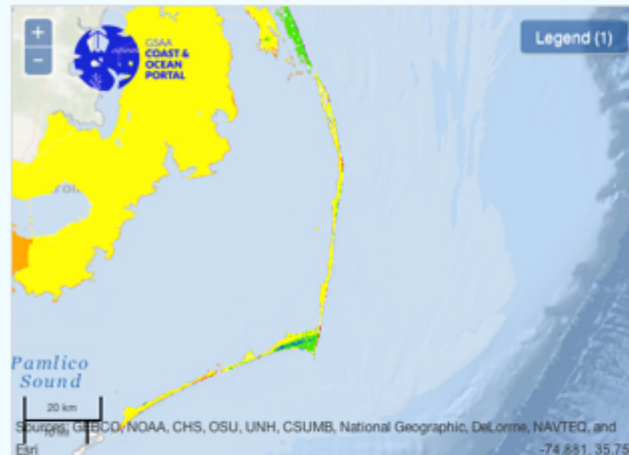
### HAZARD VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT

The southeastern US has an extensive, low-lying coastal region with important ecosystems, sizeable populations and widespread infrastructure. This region is at risk from strong storms which bring intense rain, wind and powerful waves and water surges. The Hazard Vulnerability Assessment (HVA) tool was developed to aid decision makers before, during, and after severe weather events, by providing a better understanding of coastal change and risk areas. HVA testing has occurred in NC, SC, GA, and FL.

HOW THE PORTAL CAN BE USED:

#### DARE COUNTY, NC

Dare County, North Carolina Much of the famous Outer Banks of North Carolina is situated in Dare County, and this area serves as an important economic engine for the State. In 2008, the value of direct expenditures by beach recreationalists was estimated to be \$625.7 million, with annual total impact over \$1 billion (BIMP, 2012). In the map of a popular recreation community, the HVA tool illustrates that the greatest risk areas are largely restricted to narrow corridors along estuarine and oceanfront shorelines. You can learn more about the HVA tool and obtain software for quantifying vulnerability and shoreline change at HVA web site. To view HVA results and learn more about coastal issues in NC and GA, visit the North Carolina Coastal Atlas and the Georgia Coastal Hazards Portal, respectively.



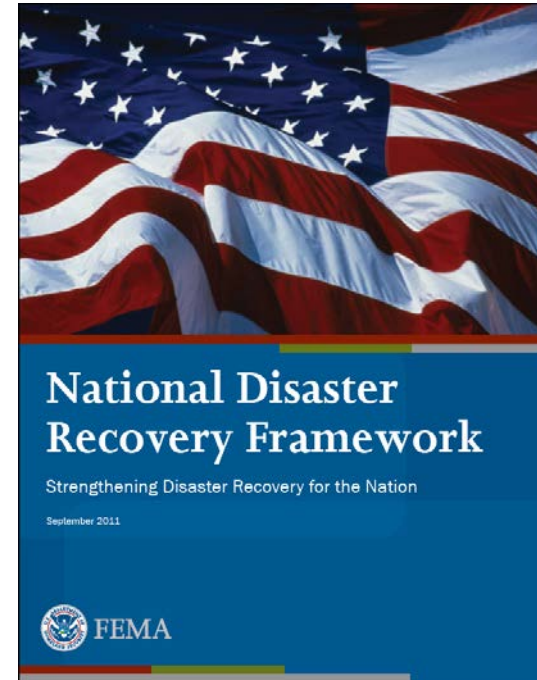
[Visualize](#)

#### RELATED DATASETS

<a href="#">HVA Data (NC, SC, GA, FL)</a>	<a href="#">Visualize</a>	<a href="#">Explore Data Catalog</a>
<a href="#">Shoreline (1933 - 1952)</a>	<a href="#">Visualize</a>	<a href="#">Explore Data Catalog</a>
<a href="#">Shoreline (1972 - 1984)</a>	<a href="#">Visualize</a>	<a href="#">Explore Data Catalog</a>
<a href="#">Shoreline (2002 - 2012)</a>	<a href="#">Visualize</a>	<a href="#">Explore Data Catalog</a>

# Description of the Challenge

- South Atlantic coast is vulnerable
- Disasters impact economy in short and long-term
- NDRF provides a framework for long-term recovery planning
- Focus: Economic RSF
- Key economic recovery challenges:
  - Adequate financial resources
  - Adequate knowledge and information
- Complicated network of planning efforts



# Strategies/Needs

## **GSAA cooperative or collaborative efforts**

Strategy: Businesses that better understand risk management and advanced planning for disaster events and other coastal hazards.

Strategy: Accessible financial (e.g. business tax credits) and non-financial (recognitions, awards) incentives for businesses to prepare or develop a post-disaster recovery plan.

Strategy: Targeted or tailored business education programs that include seasonal employers and their unique needs to ensure all employees (including seasonal/temporary) are informed and prepared to protect property and assets.

Strategy: Local communities and governments that are able to assist businesses when they have not adequately prepared for disaster events.

Strategy: Coordinated and integrated planning between the business community and emergency managers and other planning efforts by community leaders (development plans, public health, etc.).

# Strategies/Needs

## **Research, data, and information needs**

Strategy: Easy access to accurate information for businesses, targeted to their specific needs before, during and after disaster events.

Strategy: Accurate data to identify the most vulnerable communities where business recovery is likely to lag behind.

## **Proposed changes in government policies or programs**

Strategy: Programs that facilitate quick recovery of businesses in the short-term to build resilience early and provide a better opportunity for long-term recovery

Strategy: Policies that motivate businesses to prepare for post-disaster recovery, both incentives for resilient businesses and dis-incentives for those that fail to prepare.

# Expected Outputs/Outcomes

Output: Strategic Issue Statement on Business Post-Disaster Recovery Planning

Next Steps: Review and approval by the GSAA Executive Planning Team and Steering Group

Following adoption, definitive action with partners to implement the strategy

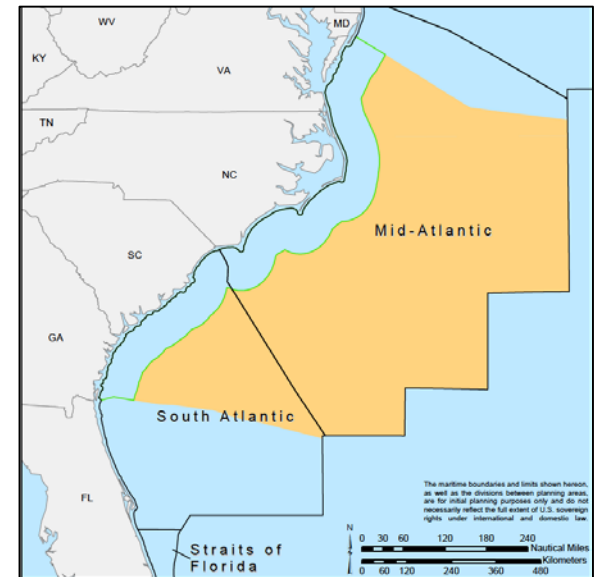
## Expected Outcomes:

- Coastal communities in the South Atlantic are better prepared for the long-term economic impacts of storms, hurricanes, and other hazards
- Investments leveraged from multiple sources to support the PDRP activities the South Atlantic is undertaking

# Ad-hoc Workgroup on Improved Data and Planning for Offshore Energy Siting

# Description of the Challenge

- South Atlantic offshore energy activities gaining momentum
  - BOEM Draft Proposed Program
  - Wind Energy Areas
  - Hydrokinetic Energy Testing
- Potential for conflict that could lead to delays in development
- Lack of resources for collaborative framework that could reduce conflict
- Data, information coming from many sources, lacks coordination



# Strategies/Needs

## **GSAA cooperative or collaborative efforts**

Strategy: Informed political leaders and stakeholders across the region on the environmental and economic challenges, impacts, and benefits from offshore energy siting.

Strategy: Framework for information that supports decision-making so that each siting decision does not start from “scratch” on data needs.

Strategy: Collaboration among industry, government, and other stakeholders on decisions regarding scientifically-driven baseline environmental monitoring needs.

Strategy: Coordination across South Atlantic academic institutions with expertise in energy research/data/information.

# Strategies/Needs

## Research, data, and information needs

Strategy: Data and information for hub-height offshore wind resources in the South Atlantic region

Strategy: Improved data on human uses (commercial, recreational, and cultural) of the South Atlantic, to support conflict management for offshore energy development.

Strategy: Available, accurate data on known sensitive habitats in the South Atlantic region through the GSAA Coast and Ocean Portal.

Strategy: Baseline environmental data identifying areas in need of additional data and monitoring to fully understand ecological impacts that may result from oil spills or other anthropogenic disturbances along the Atlantic seaboard.

Strategy: Reduced uncertainty for industry through standardized collection and submission protocols for data needs (spatially, temporally, species level, etc.) that would be necessary for the states to review bottom disturbing and pelagic actions/projects proposed for offshore. This would allow industry to know what each state requires beforehand, and if projects straddle two or more states, allows for more efficient data collection and distribution.

# Strategies/Needs

## **Proposed changes in government policies or programs**

Strategy: Understand existing BOEM stipulations to determine which, if any, are applicable to the South Atlantic, or if new stipulation(s) may be needed.

# Expected Outputs/Outcomes

Output: Strategic Issue Statement on Improved Data and Planning for Offshore Energy Siting

Next Steps: Review and approval by the GSAA Executive Planning Team and Steering Group

Following adoption, definitive action with partners to implement the strategy

## Expected Outcomes:

- Coordinated and collaborative approaches to collecting and organizing data and information needed for prudent, efficient decision making on offshore energy development
- Practical framework for communication to reduce conflict among ocean and coastal uses and users
- Investments leveraged from multiple sources to support the planning activities the South Atlantic is undertaking

# Facilitated Discussion

# Discussion and Feedback

- Improved Data and Planning for Offshore Energy Siting
  - Scope of “all” offshore energy activities too large?
  - Debate around need for comprehensive baseline and monitoring data vs. specific data needs for permitting decisions
- General
  - Questions or clarifications?
  - Does the Description of the Challenge adequately capture the “problem” in the region?
    - What’s missing?
    - What resonates with you?
  - Do the strategies tie back directly to the Challenge?
  - Do the strategies reflect the needs of the region?
  - Do the strategies appear to be relevant to or actionable by the Steering Group and/or Governors?

# Discussion and Feedback

- Business Post-Disaster Recovery Planning
  - Debate around focus on long-term vs. short term needs of business following disaster
  - Scope of GSAA partners in Strategies and Actions
- General
  - Questions or clarifications?
  - Does the Description of the Challenge adequately capture the “problem” in the region?
    - What’s missing?
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