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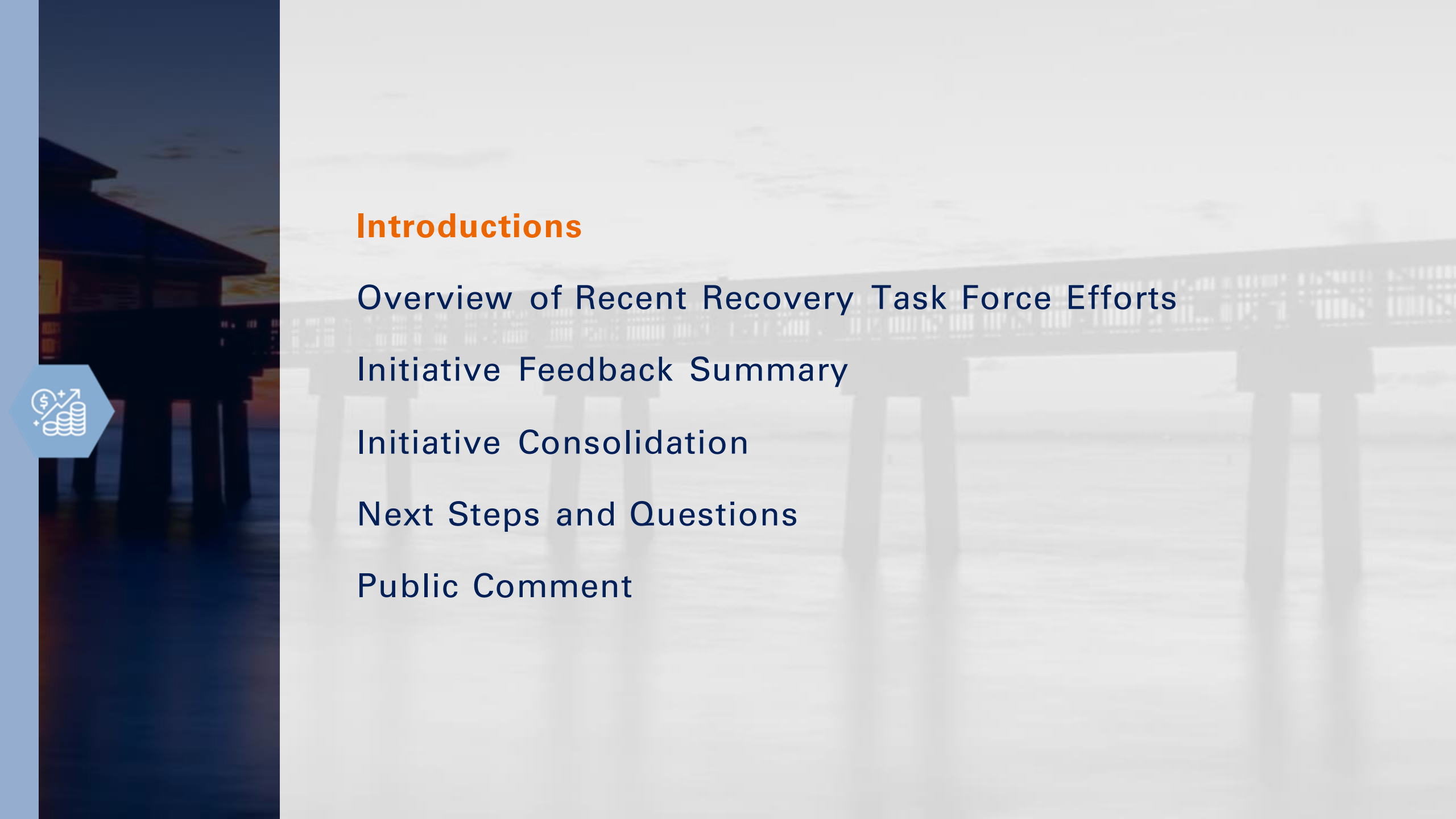
Economic Recovery Branch Meeting

Lee County Recovery Task Force



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Introductions

Overview of Recent Recovery Task Force Efforts

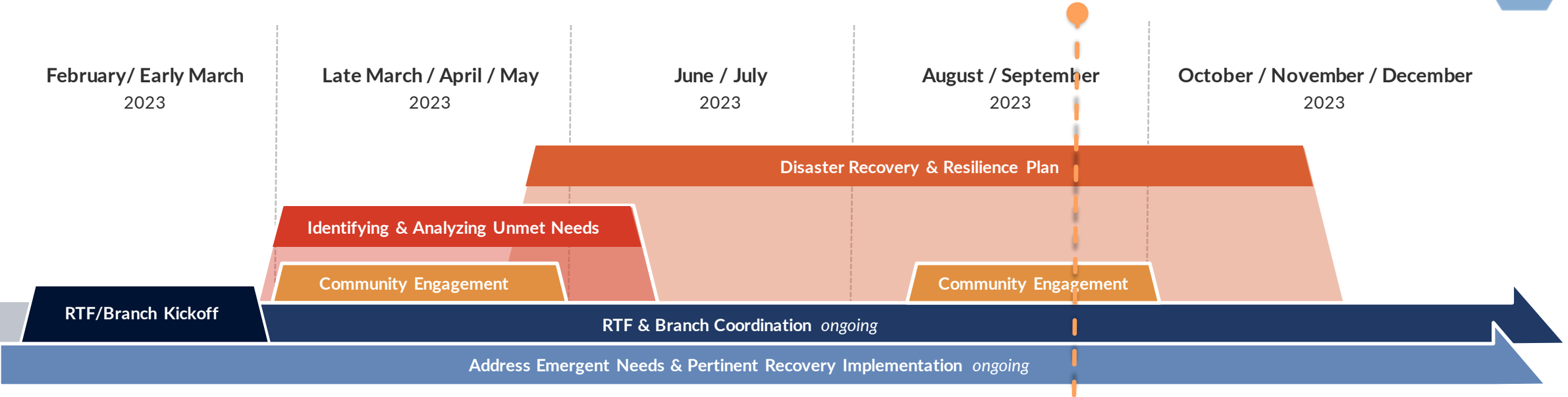
Initiative Feedback Summary

Initiative Consolidation

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Timeline for Long-term Recovery Planning



RTF / Branch Kickoff

Establish the working structure for RTF and launch branches. Identify immediate needs and goals to address.

Launch website.

RTF & Branch Coordination

Identify recovery objectives; inform impact and needs assessment; establish projects; incorporate community's priorities; inform long term planning; oversee recovery plan implementation.

Identifying & Analyzing Unmet Needs

Hurricane Ian storm impact analysis, and a cursory look at outstanding needs that will begin to shape recovery priorities.

Community Engagement

Comprehensive community outreach to inform and validate needs, identify solutions, and validate planning.

Hurricane Ian Disaster Recovery & Resilience Plan

A framework for Lee County's recovery from Hurricane Ian, including prioritized projects, funding sources, and key stakeholders.

Emergent Needs & Pertinent Recovery Implementation

Conduct recovery operations and manage recovery funding streams: short-term, intermediate, long-term.

RTF is forum to identify emergent and time sensitive needs and identifying best path forward.

Meeting Purpose



Review recent Recovery Task Force efforts.



Review Recovery Task Force and County Feedback.



Review consolidation plans and identify additional Initiatives to combine.



Review Branch next steps.

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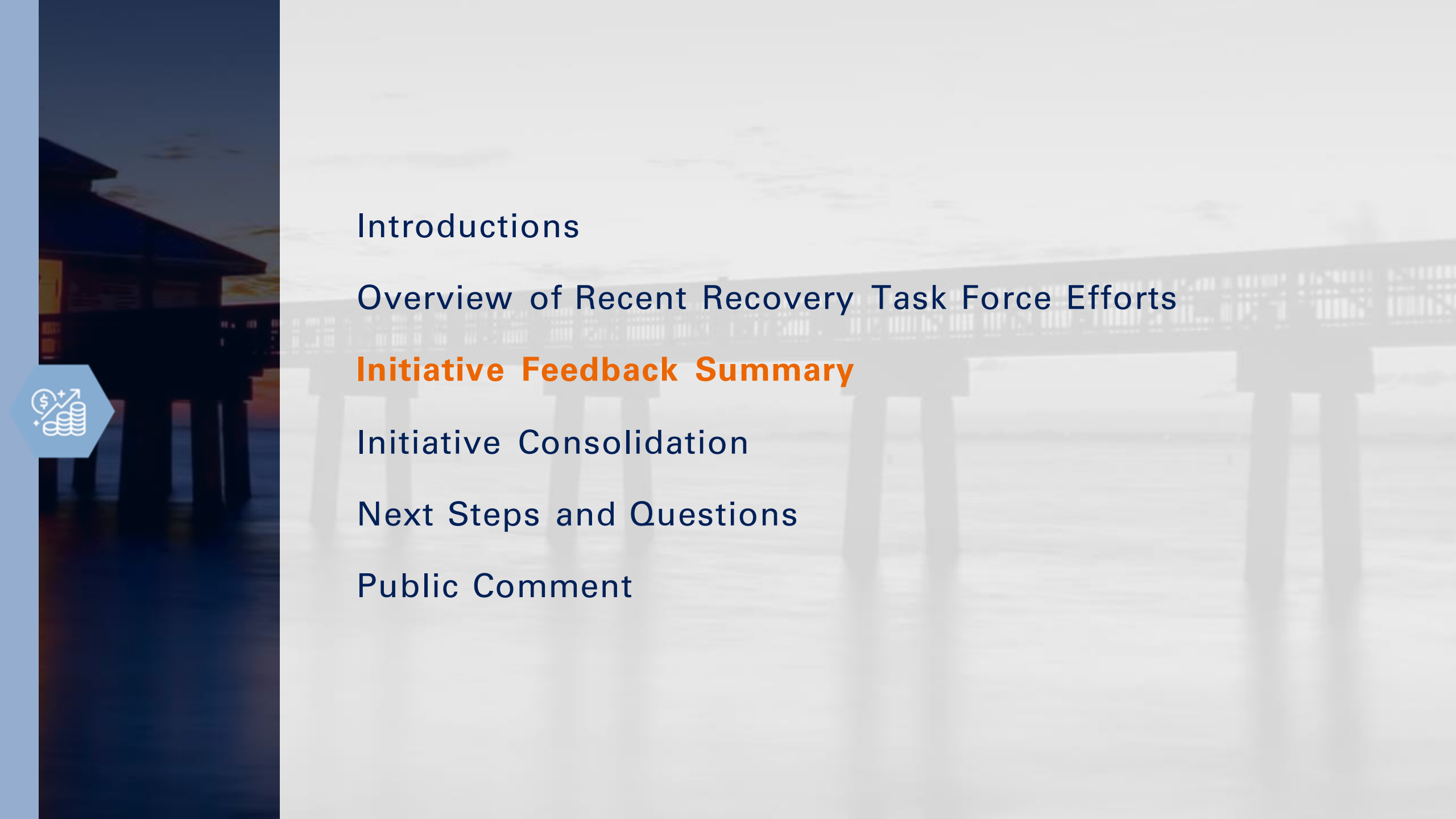
Public Comment



Overview of Recent Recovery Task Force Efforts



- Recent strategic pause to address feedback from a multitude of stakeholders and align draft Initiative Profiles with feedback and perspectives from the County Administration.
 - Hosted a series of one-on-one meetings between the ResilientLee Support Team's Lead Subject Matter Expert and Subject Matter Experts from the County Administration to review the draft Initiative Profiles for all eight Branches.
- Executed five regularly scheduled Branch Meetings in August and three outstanding meetings in September to review current draft Initiative Profiles.
 - Following recent Branch meetings, circulated an online Survey Form to Branch Members requesting their additional feedback to current draft Initiative Profiles.



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Feedback Summary



Branch

- Branch member feedback further defined the Initiative concepts in descriptions and implementation steps.

Recovery Task Force

- RTF member comments highlighted the need for a regional approach.

County

- County feedback provided technical details in ongoing County work to include.
- Feedback also indicated Initiative realignment and consolidation suggestions.

ER01: Affordable Insurance Rates



Branch Feedback	RTF Feedback	County Feedback
• Implementation Steps: These residential programs also need to include commercial insurance. • Suggestion is that best practices be considered in the implementation steps. • Request for lessons learned in Bay County to be applied to this Initiative Profile.	• Highlight importance of insurance industry performance. • Include technical approaches on best practices for resilient building to increase insurability.	• Context: The Economic Development Office funds a grant program for technical assistance on 504 eligibility assessments – 250 businesses. • Current gap: There is a lack of civic infrastructure. • Recommend reference to existing microenterprise programs in opportunity zones. • Current gap: funding for business insurability (similar to the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)).

ER02: Business Resiliency



Branch Feedback	RTF Feedback	County Feedback
• Communication strategy and an of inventory existing purchasing programs throughout industries are needed. • Noted that bulk purchasing of materials to aid in purchasing adds value to organizational joint purchasing. • Gaps could be identified for joint purchasing through the Chambers of Commerce to reduce costs. This would include an inventory of joint purchasing programs.	• Include pre-planning for businesses to ease recovery and reduce insurance challenges.	• Suggest partnering with the Horizon Council – the Business Issues Task Force is developing a guide for businesses with post-storm resources. • Recommend including a robust Business Re-Entry (BRE) program to strengthen communications with local businesses. • Suggest partnering with Small Business Development Centers (SBDC), SCORE Southwest Florida, Sector Risk Management Agency (SRMA), Tech Partnerships, Chamber of Commerce, and Lee Building Industry Association (BIA). • Recommend marketing support programs: Foreign-Trade Zones (FTZ), Opportunity Zone, HUBZone, CDFL Architects + Engineers, and the Community Development Block Grant- Disaster Relief (CDBG-DR). • Continue work on establishing a central resources hub. • Suggest a philanthropy management plan. • Context: Existing social mobility tools track displacement.

ER03: Mixed-Use Zoning & Facilities



Branch Feedback	RTF Feedback	County Feedback
• Include redevelopment. • Downtown Bonita Springs utilized a form-based code to create opportunities for higher density.	• Concerns with the Live Local Act and new building heights along coastlines and on barrier islands.	• Context to consider: Cape Coral is implementing mixed-use development. • Consideration: Mixed-use may not help housing challenges at a regional level. • Suggest a council or organization to bring mixed-use partners together. • Consider study/assessment on planned mixed-use locations. • Context to consider: Only urban county in the state without a vertical mixed-use development.

ER04: Technology Advancements



Branch Feedback	RTF Feedback	County Feedback
• Recommendations for connectivity and broadband access should include how this encourages economic development. This would rely on communication infrastructure, other branches, and connectivity access. • The economic importance of connectivity to the people in Lee County should be included. • Members suggested that this is more of an infrastructure-related Initiative.		• Suggest leveraging research universities (University of Florida/Florida Gulf Coast University) and nonprofits. • Recommend a reference to recent system outages to define the overall challenge. • Recommend conducting a cybersecurity gap assessment. • Suggest adding details to broadband and how expansion would work.

ER05: Improved Transportation Systems



Branch Feedback	RTF Feedback	County Feedback
• Include widening critical roadways that are used to connect large numbers of homes to large employment centers in Lee County.		• Suggest reference to RSW expansion: Terminal Expansion/Gate Expansion/Second Runway from RSW Master Plan Update (1/22). • Suggest reference to existing Economic Development Office work with LeeTran, private sector, research and assessments, and planned efforts.

ER06: Disaster Focused Loans and Grants



Branch Feedback	RTF Feedback	County Feedback
• Create a website or a central contact person that can connect possible investors/private lenders that would be willing to help businesses that need help after a storm event.	• Consider a private sector approach to expedite SBA loans and allow for more flexibility in loan terms.	• Context to consider: Grants are favored over loans due to underwriting and collateralizing difficulties. • Recommend disaster assistance financing be moved away from federal organizations to local banking networks that are better equipped to manage loans. • Enhanced communication and targeted assistance strategies may be more effective than a loan fund managed by the County. • Context to consider: Less than 11% of businesses received a Small Business Administration (SBA) loan; the program has continuity issues.

ER07: Diversifying the Economy



Branch Feedback	RTF Feedback	County Feedback
	Highlight existing work from the Horizon Council and its Foundation.	- Recommend reference to collective County work on business retention outreach. - Recommend reference to Visitor and Convention Bureau marketing efforts and the recovery campaign. - Current challenge: Natural resources access is limited due to parking. - Context: The Economic Development Office assists businesses with site selection, relocation, and expansion plans. - Suggest quantifying the current status. - Suggest working with the Horizon Council and FGCU to attract new industries. - Recommend reference to the B-2-B strategy. - Context: Growing advanced manufacturing sector. - Current need: Micro credentialing programs for new emerging sectors.

ER08: Increased Public Access to Natural Resources

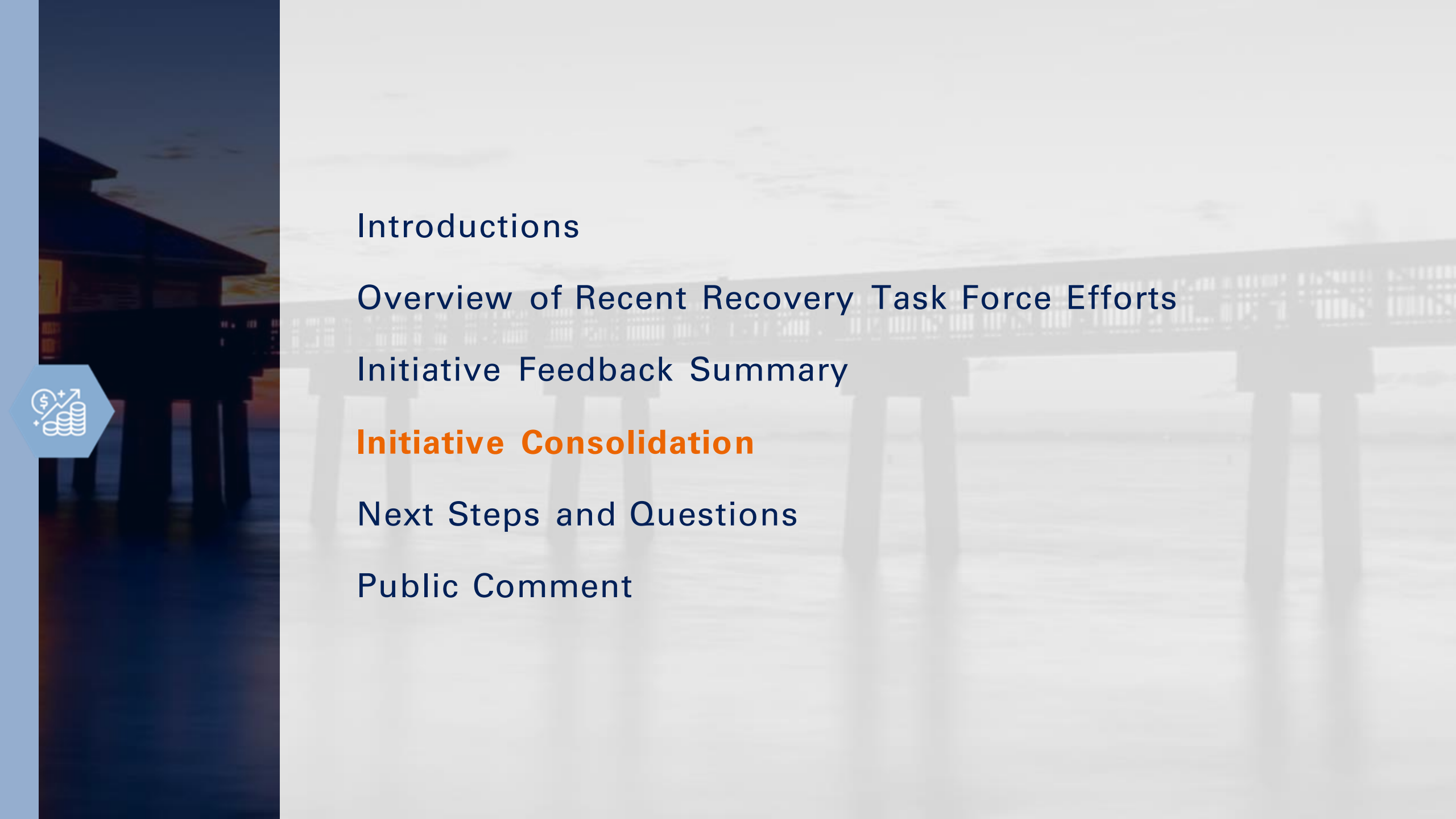


Branch Feedback	RTF Feedback	County Feedback
Keep public access to beaches by encouraging commercial uses of the beaches.		- Existing efforts: Beach Park and Ride attempts to help with parking issues along with the Tourist Development Tax (TDT)-funded tram on Fort Myers Beach. - Suggest TDT-funded beach access maintenance on Sanibel and Fort Myers Beach. - Consider a communications plan for peak periods and provide useful messaging to local residents. - Context: Sports and medical tourism becoming more popular than beaches. - Suggestion: More recreation needed – parks and civic infrastructure. - Suggest connecting with the Florida Greenways and Trails System. - Context to consider: Water quality is an issue.

ER09: Education & Workforce Pipeline



Branch Feedback	RTF Feedback	County Feedback
• Important for college students throughout the country to have access to employment opportunities in Lee County. Internships and entry-level job opportunities are critical to bringing so many motivated and hard-working college graduates to Lee County for the first time or back to Lee County after they leave for college. • There needs to be a large job fair and employment office that can facilitate connecting college students from around the country with job opportunities here in Lee County.		• Recommend reference to CareerSource. • Lee County Economic Development Office strongly supports Initiatives that expand or add to current workforce training programs. • Context to consider: Workforce often doesn't have the protection of a degree or certificate in an economic downturn. • Current efforts: Horizon Council works with businesses gaining insights into business community needs. • Recommend reference to the workforce's current state. • Recommend expanding existing programs over creating new programs.



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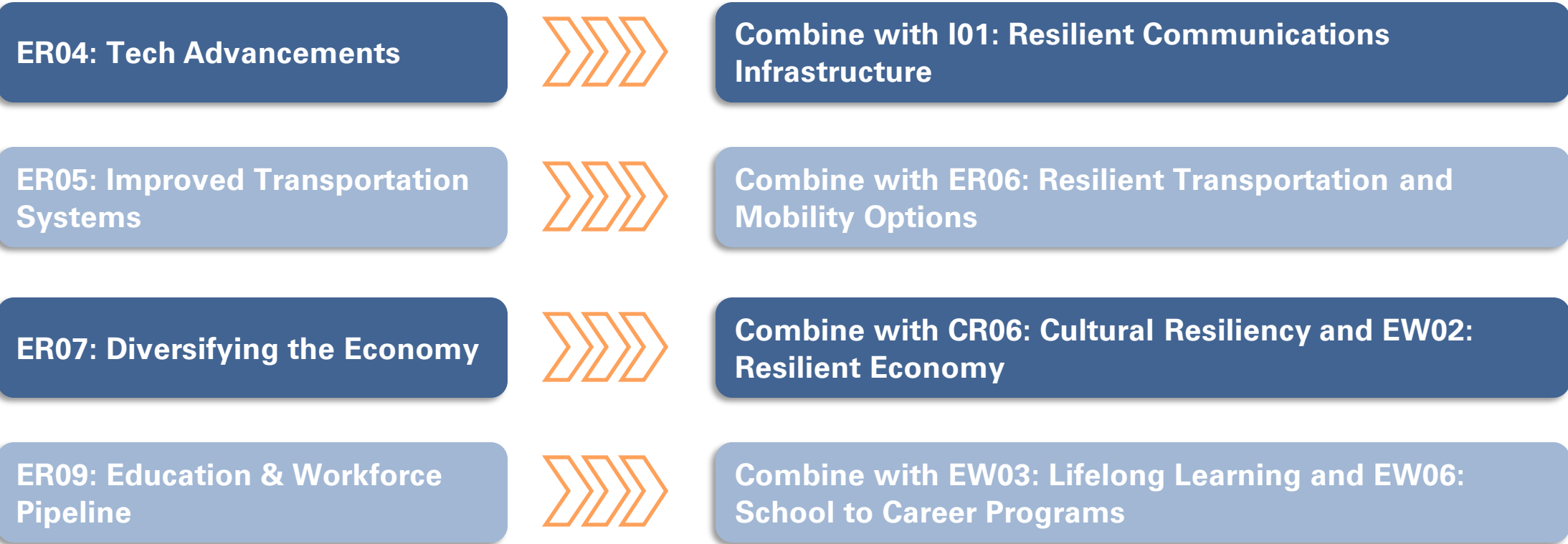


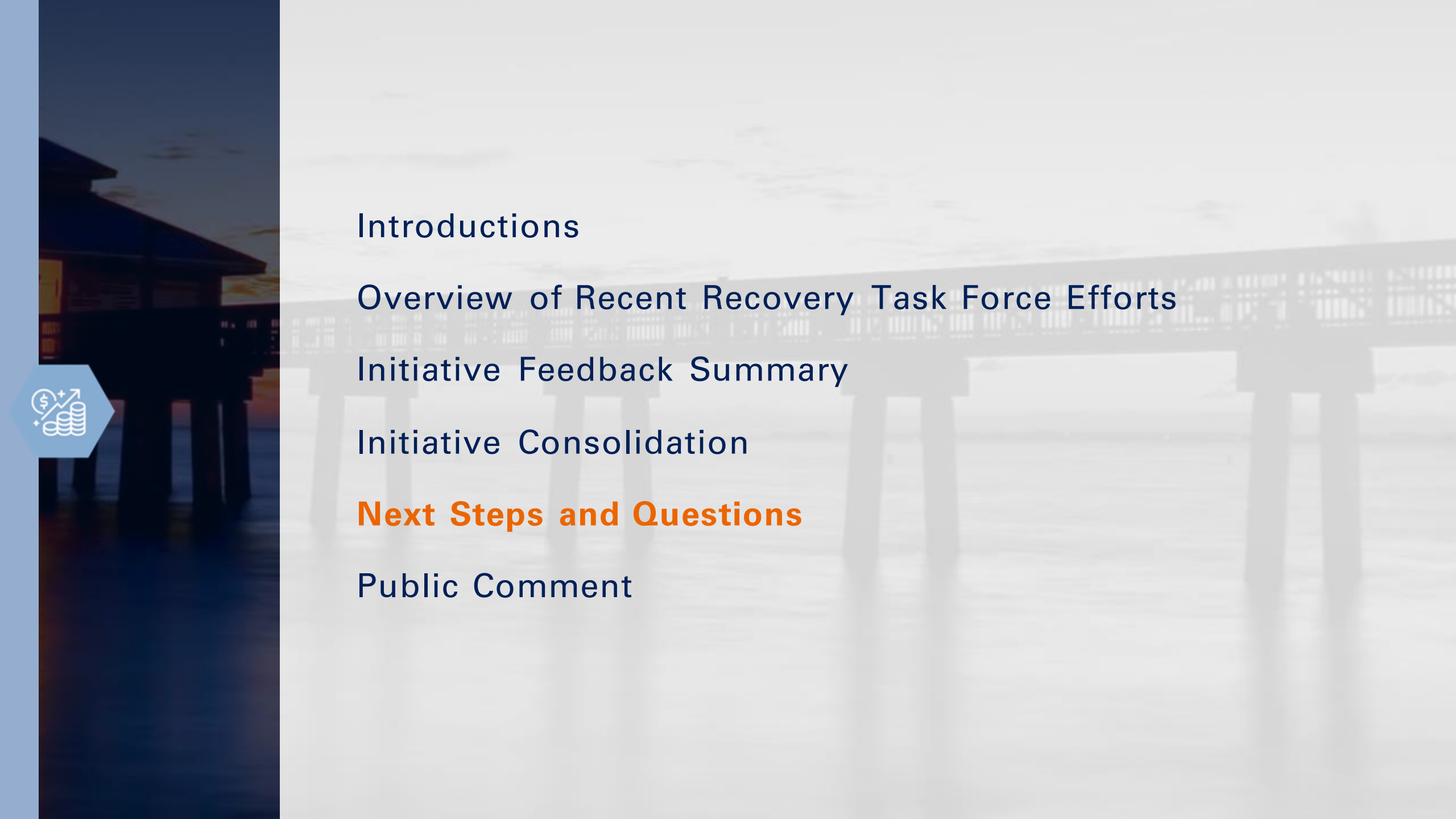
- Feedback suggests consolidation within and across Branch Initiatives.
 - Some Branch Initiatives are similar to other existing Branch Initiatives – these can be combined and redefined with new elements making current objectives more robust.
 - Initiatives aligned with other Branch priorities may become more powerful and **address more than one community challenge**.
 - Final Initiatives will be organized by **tying emerging themes from multiple Branches** and highlighting impacts in adoption.

Themes intersect in a similar fashion to Workshop Sessions.



Initiative Consolidations





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Next Steps



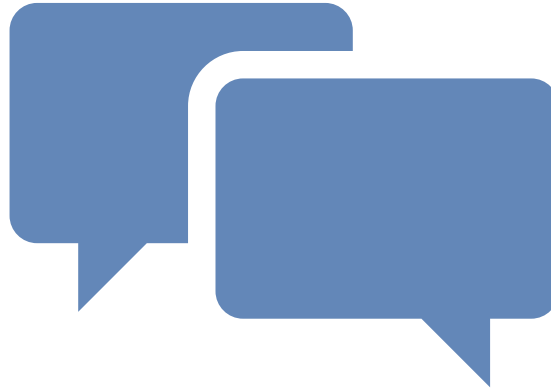
Draft Initiative Profile Development:

- The Support Team will continue:
 - Integrating feedback from implementing governments and stakeholders.
 - Consolidating draft Initiative Profiles within and across Branches.

Next Process Steps:

- The next versions of draft Initiative Profiles that Branch Members will receive will become the new baseline.
- Branch Meetings will be hosted in October 2023 to review updated draft Initiative Profiles.
- As the project continues, final Plan development will begin.

Public Comment





Adjourn

Email: info@resilientlee.org

Economic Recovery Branch



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