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Last week: It was encouraging to hear the president discuss his plan to address America's infrastructure crisis. The plan, as described, will streamline the regulatory review process and raise \$1.5 trillion from a combination of federal, local and private sector investments. If the plan is crafted fairly and projects can start quickly, it will stimulate the overall economy as well as that of small towns and rural communities, areas of the country where growth has been on a steady decline. Let's hope America gets a makeover soon!

Looking ahead: Things are looking brighter for Miami-Dade. This week Miami-Dade County announced a partnership with Florida Power & Light. They'll work together on several innovative energy and environmental initiatives. The plan includes adding one million solar panels across the county and building an advanced reclaimed water plant that will treat and reuse up to 60 million gallons a day of wastewater and reuse it to cool natural gas units and cooling canals instead of taking water from the natural system. These are positive steps toward carbon reduction and water conservation and an excellent example of a proactive public-private partnership.