The METROPOLE Project is an international collaboration between Brazil, the United Kingdom, and the United States designed to evaluate local decision making processes and to provide feedback to local urban managers on possible actions toward adaption to sea level rise (SLR). The goal of the project is to help coastal communities better understand factors that facilitate or hinder their intrinsic, local decision-making processes related to planning for adaptation to risk. The test used case sea level rise to develop case studies on long-term planning by local government and society as a means to gauge the of municipalities in different settings to address possible future risks. The framework was designed by an interdisciplinary team that incorporated social and natural scientists from these three nations, and which included local government officials. This paper focuses on some of the factors that affect decision-making in the coastal city of Santos, in the state of Sao Paulo in southeastern Brazil, and provides insight on possible actions that a coastal city, such as Santos, can do to prepare for impacts of SLR.