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MEETING NOTICE

NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

There will be a meeting of the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council on March 27, 2014. The meeting will be held at the Lake City Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites, 213 Southwest Commerce Boulevard, Lake City, Florida. Dinner will start at 7:00 p.m. and the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

*Please call the Council at (352) 955-2200, or (800) 226-0690, or email laine@ncfrpc.org by March 24th to let us know if you will be attending the meeting. (You can call after hours and leave a message on voice mail too.) **THANK YOU.***

(Location Map on Back)

Please be advised that the Council meeting packet is posted on the Council website at <http://ncfrpc.org> (click on Upcoming Meetings and Meeting Packets, then click on North Central Florida Regional Planning Council Full Packet.)

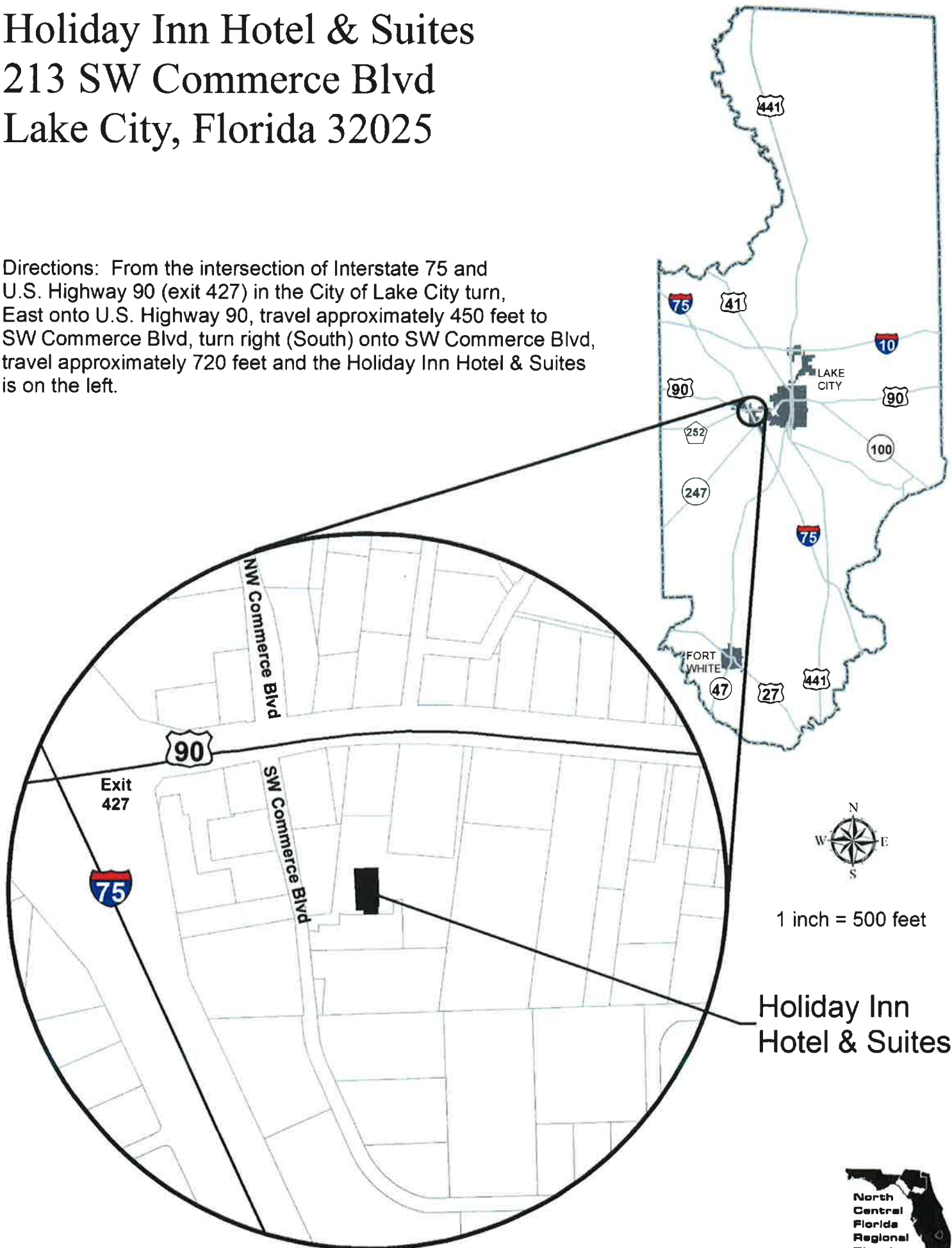
Dedicated to improving the quality of life of the Region's citizens,
by coordinating growth management, protecting regional resources,
promoting economic development and providing technical services to local governments.

Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites

213 SW Commerce Blvd

Lake City, Florida 32025

Directions: From the intersection of Interstate 75 and U.S. Highway 90 (exit 427) in the City of Lake City turn, East onto U.S. Highway 90, travel approximately 450 feet to SW Commerce Blvd, turn right (South) onto SW Commerce Blvd, travel approximately 720 feet and the Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites is on the left.





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AGENDA

NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites
213 Southwest Commerce Boulevard
Lake City, Florida

March 27, 2014
7:30 p.m.

Page

I.	INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND INTRODUCTIONS	
II.	GUEST SPEAKER - Mark Reichert, Assistant Executive Director Florida Transportation Commission	
* III.	APPROVAL OF MINUTES - February 20, 2014	5
IV.	CONSENT AGENDA	
* A.	Monthly Financial Report - February 2014	11
* B.	Amendment to Memorandum of Agreement with Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council Concerning Regional Economic Modeling, Inc.	17
* C.	U.S. Economic Development Administration Short-Term Planning and State Planning Grant Amendment	19
* D.	Florida Department of Transportation Joint Participation Agreement Amendment and Resolution	21
* V.	CHAIR'S REPORT - None	
VI.	COMMITTEE REPORTS	
* A.	Executive Committee - Transportation for America's Revenue Endorsement Resolution	23

Page

*	B.	Clearinghouse Committee	31
		<u>Committee Level Comprehensive Plan Review Items</u>	
		1. #37 - City of Hawthorne Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment	
		2. #38 - City of Newberry Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment	
*	C.	Program Committee - 2014-15 Overall Program Design	33
	VII.	EX-OFFICIO MEMBER REPORTS	
	VIII.	CITIZEN COMMENTS	
		This agenda item provides an opportunity for citizens to address the Council on any matter not included on the agenda. The comment period is limited to three minutes for each individual. Speaker forms are available at the sign-in table.	
	IX.	EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT	
*	A.	Florida Regional Councils Association Monthly Report	35
*	B.	Florida Chamber Foundation Scorecard	39
*	C.	Legislative Report	43
*	D.	North Florida Regional Water Supply Partnership	49
*	E.	Check Fraud Status Report	51

* See Attachments

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NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL
MINUTES

Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites
Lake City, Florida

February 20, 2014
7:30 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

LaBarfield Bryant, City of Jasper
Beth Burnam, Hamilton County
Jim Catron, City of Madison
Charles Chestnut IV, Alachua County
Don Cook, City of Perry
Donnie Hamlin, Lafayette County
Sandra Haas, Suwannee County
Robert Hutchinson, Alachua County
Timothy Marden, City of Newberry
James Montgomery, Columbia County
Garth Nobles, Jr., City of Live Oak
Patricia Patterson, Taylor County
DeLoris Roberts, City of Hawthorne
Wayne Smith, Union County
Carolyn Spooner, City of Starke
Lorene Thomas, Dixie County
Robert Wilford, City of Alachua
Charles Williams, Hamilton County
Stephen Witt, City of Lake City

NON-VOTING DELEGATE PRESENT

None

EX-OFFICIO MEMBER REPRESENTATIVES
PRESENT

Brian Delburn, Florida Dept. of Transportation
Jordan Green, Florida Dept. of Transportation
Carlos Herd, Suwannee River Water
Management District
Russell Simpson, Florida Department of
Environmental Protection

COUNCIL ATTORNEY PRESENT

None

MEMBERS ABSENT

Stephen Bailey, Columbia County
Susan Baird, Alachua County
Bob Barnas, City of High Springs
Susan Bottcher, City of Gainesville
Ed Braddy, City of Gainesville
Mike Byerly, Alachua County
Louie Davis, City of Waldo
Rick Davis, Madison County
Rusty DePratter, Columbia County
Thomas Hawkins, City of Gainesville
Jason Holifield, Dixie County
Frank Ogborn, City of Archer
Lauren Poe, City of Gainesville
Daniel Riddick, Bradford County
Kenrick Thomas, Gilchrist County
Wesley Wainwright, Suwannee County
Randy Wells, City of Gainesville
Mike Williams, Madison County

OTHERS PRESENT

Timothy Bennett, Madison City Manager
Taylor Brown, Trenton City Manager
Allen Cherry, Madison County Coordinator
Christian Doolin, Small County Coalition
Stew Lilker, Columbia County Observer
Ann Marshall
John Mayberry, Assistant City Manager,
City of Archer
Marge Wirth

STAFF PRESENT

Steve Dopp
Scott Koons
Carol Laine
Tony Marshall
Jean Strong

Board Members names are bolded
Gubernatorial Members names are italicized

I. INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Nobles called the meeting to order at 7:34 p.m. with an invocation given by Commissioner Catron and a pledge of allegiance to the flag. Chair Nobles stated that there was a quorum of the Council.

Chair Nobles welcomed and introduced Allen Cherry, County Coordinator for Madison County, Timothy Bennett, City Manager for the City of Madison, Taylor Brown, City Manager for the City of Trenton, John Mayberry, Assistant City Manager for the City of Archer, Stew Lilker from the Columbia County Observer, Ann Marshall, wife of Council staff Tony Marshall and Marge Wirth, mother of Council staff Jean Strong.

II. GUEST SPEAKER - Christian Doolin, Legislative Consultant, Small County Coalition

Scott Koons, Executive Director, introduced and welcomed Chris Doolin, the primary legislative consultant to the Florida Small County Coalition. Mr. Doolin stated that the Coalition's agenda was to give small counties a collective voice when dealing with the Legislature. He then spoke about the upcoming legislative session and issues impacting local governments in the north central Florida region. Chair Nobles thanked Mr. Doolin for his comments.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - January 23, 2014

Chair Nobles asked that the minutes of the January 23, 2014 meeting be approved as written.

ACTION: Mr. Montgomery made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Smith to approve the minutes of the January 24, 2014 meeting as written. The motion carried unanimously.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Monthly Financial Report - January 2014

B. Transportation Disadvantaged Program
Planning Grant Resolution - Fiscal Year 2014-15

Chair Nobles asked if there were any questions regarding the items on the Consent Agenda and requested that these items be approved.

ACTION: Commissioner Patterson made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Catron, to approve the items on the Consent Agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

V. CHAIR'S REPORT - Employee Certificate of Service - Tony Marshall - 10 Years

Scott Koons, Executive Director, introduced Tony Marshall, who joined the Council staff on December 1, 2003. Mr. Marshall currently serves as the Council's Finance Director. Mr. Koons then introduced and welcomed Tony's wife, Ann. Chair Nobles presented a 10-year Certificate of Service and a 10-year service pin to Mr. Marshall. Mr. Koons and Chair Nobles thanked him for his dedicated service to the Council.

VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Executive Committee - Amendment to Investment Policy

Mr. Koons reported that in order to maximize yield while protecting the invested principal of the Council's retained earnings cash in excess of short-term cash needs, the Council adopted an investment policy on July 25, 2013. He stated that the investment policy delegates the authority for the management and operation of the investment program to the Executive Director and also limits authorized investments to U. S. Government securities, non-negotiable certificates of deposit and the State Board of Administration of Florida Local Government Investment Pool. He added that the policy, as adopted, limits non-negotiable certificates of deposit and other evidences of deposit as authorized investments in banks, savings banks or savings associations as defined in Section 280.02(26), Florida Statutes, as amended, that have deposit insurance under the provision of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act, as amended, and have been designated by the Chief Financial Officer of the State of Florida as a qualified public depository.

Mr. Koons stated that the Executive Committee recommended that the Council adopt an amendment to the policy providing that funds may be invested in banks, savings banks or savings associations provided that such funds are fully insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or such funds are fully insured and deposited in a qualified public depository designated by the Chief Financial Officer of the State of Florida.

ACTION: Mayor Spooner made the motion, with a second by Councilman Bryant, to adopt an amendment to the Investment Policy for the Council, Policy 2013-1, providing that funds may be invested in banks, savings banks or savings association provided that such funds are fully insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or such funds are fully insured and deposited in a qualified public depository designated by the Chief Financial Officer of the State of Florida. The motion carried unanimously.

B. Clearinghouse Committee

Chair Sandra Haas gave the Clearinghouse Committee report. She stated that the Clearinghouse Committee met earlier in the evening and reviewed one local government comprehensive plan amendment.

#33 - City of Alachua Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment

Ms. Haas stated that the Committee found that the City Comprehensive Plan, as amended, was not anticipated to result in significant adverse impacts to Natural Resources of Regional Significance, regional facilities or adjoining local governments. She stated that the Clearinghouse Committee recommended forwarding these findings to the City of Alachua and the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity as regional comment.

ACTION: Ms. Haas made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Patterson, to approve the Clearinghouse Committee recommendation concerning Item #33, City of Alachua Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment. The motion carried unanimously.

VII. EX-OFFICIO MEMBER REPORTS

Carlos Herd, Water Supply Division Director, Suwannee River Water Management District, reported that a North Florida Regional Water Supply Partnership meeting will be held on February 24, 2014 at the Florida Gateway College in Lake City to discuss the revised Recovery Strategy for the Lower Santa Fe River Basin.

Jordan Green, Rural Area Transportation Development Engineer, Florida Department of Transportation District 2, distributed copies of the Florida Department of Transportation's Transportation Trends and Conditions Guide to Council members.

Russell Simpson, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, stated that the Department continues to streamline the regulatory permitting process. He stated that assistance can be obtained by contacting his office.

VIII. CITIZEN COMMENTS

There were no citizen comments.

IX. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

A. Legislative Report

Mr. Koons reported that the 2014 regular Legislature session will convene on March 4, 2014 and adjourn on May 2, 2014. He stated that the budget for Fiscal Year 2014-15 submitted by the Governor to the Legislature did not include any appropriation request for all 11 regional planning councils. He then reported on several bills of interest filed to date.

B. Florida Regional Councils Association Monthly Activity Report

Mr. Koons reported that the Florida Regional Councils Association is the statewide organization of the 11 regional planning councils. The Association strengthens Florida's regional planning councils, partners with government and the business community to enhance regional economic prosperity and improves the consistency and quality of regional planning councils programs to ensure they add value to state, regional and local initiatives. He stated that the accomplishments of the Association's Director of Intergovernmental Affairs, Sheri Coven, are reported each month to the Council. He also highlighted several of the accomplishments listed in the January 2014 monthly activity report included in the Council meeting packet.

C. Florida Chamber Foundation Scorecard™

Mr. Koons stated that the Florida Chamber Foundation has developed the Florida Scorecard™ to provide Florida leaders the metrics needed to secure Florida's future. The Florida Chamber Foundation's objective to develop a 20-year, statewide strategic plan requires a commitment to measuring our current status and progress toward the stated goals of the Six Pillars 20-year Strategic Plan. He further stated that the Scorecard reports metrics for each of the Six Pillars benchmarked to the other 49 states. The Six Pillars are Talent Supply and Education, Innovation and Economic Development, Infrastructure and Growth Leadership, Business Climate and Competitiveness, Civic and

Governance Systems and Quality of Life and Quality Places. He reviewed the February 2014 Scorecard™ included in the Council meeting packet.

D. Economic Development District Grantee Performance Report
For the Period January 1, 2013 to December 31, 2013

Mr. Koons stated that the Council is a federally designated economic development district by the U. S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration. Each year, the Council reports on job creation/retention, private sector investment and public sector investment for projects funded by the U. S. Economic Development District or other sources that implement the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy adopted by the Council. Mr. Koons reported that an estimated 1,095 jobs were either created or retained, an estimated \$276,000,000 in private investment was leveraged and an estimated \$13,700,000 in public investment occurred on nine projects that implement the Strategy for the reporting period.

E. North Florida Regional Water Supply Partnership

Mr. Koons reported that in September 2011, the St. Johns River Water Management District, the Suwannee River Water Management District and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection entered into an agreement that formalizes the coordination of water resource management in north Florida and establishes the North Florida Regional Water Supply Partnership. He stated that ensuring sustainable water supplies and protecting north Florida's waterways and natural systems is a collaborative effort among the water management districts, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, local elected officials and area stakeholders.

Mr. Koons reported that the Partnership met on January 27, 2014 and identified and forwarded comments and recommendations to both the Suwannee River Water Management District and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection regarding the Lower Santa Fe River Basin Draft Recovery Strategy Rule.

F. Check Fraud Status Report

Mr. Koons reported that on March 20, 2013, a fraudulent check in the amount of \$49,523.00 that was written on the Council's bank account was processed and paid by Wells Fargo. Also on March 20, 2013, Council staff filed an affidavit of check fraud concerning this matter with Wells Fargo. On March 25, 2013, Council staff filed a crime report concerning this matter with the Gainesville Police Department. On April 18, 2013, the Council Attorney sent a letter to Wells Fargo requesting that Wells Fargo remit to the Council within 30 days the unauthorized \$49,523.00 released by Wells Fargo from the Council's account. He added that on June 3, 2013, attorneys for Wells Fargo responded via letter stating that Wells Fargo will not reimburse the Council for the \$49,523.00 released from the Council's account by Wells Fargo.

Mr. Koons stated that at their meeting on July 25, 2013, the Council authorized the Council Attorney to file a lawsuit against Wells Fargo to recover the unauthorized \$49,523.00, to engage Stanley Cushman from the law firm of Scruggs and Carmichael to serve as co-counsel for the lawsuit and to designate Scott Koons, Executive Director, as the Council's representative concerning all matters related to such lawsuit. He stated that

on August 6, 2013, a lawsuit was filed against Wells Fargo to recover the Council's funds.

Mr. Koons further reported that on September 9, 2013, Wells Fargo responded to the complaint by filing a Motion to Compel Arbitration. Council Attorney Wershow and Co-Counsel Cushman responded to the motion stating that arbitration does not apply to the dispute and have filed a motion for a hearing on the motion to compel arbitration. A hearing originally scheduled for October 30, 2013 in the Circuit Court of the Eighth Judicial Circuit in and for Alachua County, Florida on the Motion to Compel Arbitration filed by Wells Fargo to resolve the dispute between the Council and Wells Fargo was rescheduled for January 24, 2014. Mr. Koons reported that at the conclusion of the hearing, the Circuit Court granted the Motion to Compel Arbitration.

Mr. Koons informed the Council that Senior Planner Martha Orthoefer, who staffed the Community Development Block Grant Program for the Council, has taken a position with the Alachua County Sheriff's Office as their Grants and Contracts Manager.

Chair Nobles informed the Council that the next Council meeting will be held on March 27, 2014 at the Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites in Lake City. The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Garth R. Nobles, Jr., Chair

3/27/14
Date



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March 20, 2014

TO: Council Members

FROM: Scott R. Koons, AICP, Executive Director *SRK*

SUBJECT: Monthly Financial Report - February 2014

Please find attached a copy of the Monthly Financial Report for the Council's activities for February 2014. The following paragraphs discuss revenues and expenditures to the budget for the month and year to date. Status of the adjusted general fund balance of the Council at the end of the month is also provided on the attached Monthly Financial Report.

Revenue

The total revenue for the Council for year to date is within budgeted figures. Revenue at the end of five months was 33 percent of budget.

Expenditures

The total expenditures for the Council for year to date are within budgeted figures. Total expenditures at the end of five months are 34 percent of budget. It is anticipated that the year should end with revenues exceeding expenditures.

Conclusion

In conclusion, staff is pleased with the financial condition of the Council. The adjusted general fund balance should remain at an acceptable level at the end of the fiscal year.

Overall, as is regularly reported, the financial condition of the Council is sound. Staff is not aware of anything in the current fiscal year that will change this situation. If you have any questions concerning this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

If you have any questions concerning this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Attachment

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NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL
Summary Financial Statement (Unaudited)
February 28, 2014

BALANCE SHEET

ASSETS

 Current Assets

Checking / Savings	1,224,042
Accounts Receivable	480,805
Other Current Assets	22,329

 Total Current Assets 1,727,176

TOTAL ASSETS 1,727,176

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

 Liabilities

 Current Liabilities

Accounts Payable	7,895
Other Current Liabilities	138,268

 Total Liabilities 146,163

 Equity 1,581,013

TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY 1,727,176

NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL
Summary Financial Statement (Unaudited)
February 28, 2014

SUMMARY STATEMENT

	Adopted Budget FY 2013 - 14	February 2014	Year to Date	Percent of Budget
Revenue	1,969,300	106,867	647,705	33%
Expenses	1,969,300	126,129	674,297	34%

NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL
Summary Financial Statement (Unaudited)
February 28, 2014

REVENUE

Account	Adopted Budget FY 2013 - 14	February 2014	Year to Date	Percent of Budget
Program Development	23,900	0	14,966	63%
Regional Planning				
State Planning & Review	50,000	0	50,000	100%
Developments of Regional Impact Review	15,000	0	0	0%
Public Safety & Regulatory Compliance				
Homeland Security Activities	57,000	0	0	0%
Statewide Hurricane Evacuation Study	10,000	0	3,473	35%
Hazardous Waste Monitoring	42,400	0	0	0%
Local Emergency Planning Committee	93,500	9,717	18,441	20%
Hazards Analyses	9,700	0	0	0%
Transportation				
Gainesville Urbanized Area Transportation Planning	621,000	0	131,956	21%
Gainesville Urbanized Area Mass Transit	170,000	0	52,500	31%
Transportation Disadvantaged - Alachua County	24,200	0	6,915	29%
Transportation Disadvantaged - Region	173,600	0	52,253	30%
Economic Development				
Comp Econ Development Strategy & Tech Assistance	108,000	0	60,750	56%
Original Florida Tourism Task Force Staffing	35,000	0	0	0%
Original Florida Tourism Task Force	43,000	0	34,000	79%
Vision North Central Florida		0	2,500	
Local Government Assistance				
General Technical Services	10,000	0	10,000	100%
FDEO Economic Profile		12,500	12,500	
City & County Planning Services	307,000	66,812	136,242	44%
Community Development Block Grant Administration	176,000	17,838	61,209	35%
Total Revenue	1,969,300	106,867	647,705	33%

NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

Summary Financial Statement (Unaudited)

February 28, 2014

EXPENDITURES

Account	Adopted Budget FY 2013 - 14	February 2014	Year to Date	Percent of Budget
Audit	15,000	0	14,500	97%
Building Debt Service	11,200	0	10,563	94%
Building Occupancy & Grounds	40,000	2,577	13,057	33%
Contractual Services	72,000	6,741	19,040	26%
Dues, Publications & Subscriptions	47,000	1,250	32,287	69%
Furniture & Equipment	15,000	0	8,674	58%
Insurance and Bonding	17,000	0	9,766	57%
Legal Costs	12,000	3,519	9,048	75%
Machine Rental/Maintenance	5,000	235	2,407	48%
Meeting Expenses	20,000	1,406	7,552	38%
Moving Expense	2,000	0	0	0%
Office Supplies	30,000	2,526	7,644	25%
Personnel Costs	1,397,200	101,533	475,114	34%
Postage	8,000	588	2,847	36%
Printing	3,000	0	695	23%
Recruiting	2,000	0	0	0%
Reproduction	12,000	1,043	5,526	46%
Telephone	7,000	504	2,377	34%
Travel	97,000	4,207	25,385	26%
Original Florida Tourism Task Force	43,000	0	27,815	65%
Contingency	113,900	0	0	0%
Total Expenses	1,969,300	126,129	674,297	34%



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March 20, 2014

TO: Council Members

FROM: Scott R. Koons, AICP, Executive Director *SRK*

SUBJECT: Amendment to Memorandum of Agreement with Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council
 Concerning Regional Economic Modeling, Inc.

RECOMMENDATION:

Authorize the Executive Director to sign an amendment to the memorandum of agreement with Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council for an additional year as a user of the Regional Economic Modeling, Inc., for a fixed fee amount of \$6,285.50.

BACKGROUND:

In 2005, the Council entered into a memorandum of agreement with the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council to be a user of the Regional Economic Modeling, Inc. economic impact model. The Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council is a licensed user of the model by Regional Economic Modeling, Inc. The Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council is authorized to issue user rights to other parties subject to collection of a fee to be paid to Regional Economic Modeling, Inc. At this time, Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council is proposing to extend the Council's existing memorandum of agreement for a one-year period for a fixed fee of \$6,285.50.

The Regional Economic Modeling, Inc. model is based upon an input-output engine and provides the Council, our local governments, economic development agencies and others with a dynamic tool for economic and demographic analysis and forecasting. It uses national data calibrated for the region, but also can accept local data sets to enhance its accuracy. This model can review system-wide effects over both short- and long-range time horizons, include economic and fiscal impact analyses, policy impact analyses and economic development/redevelopment analyses. The model can be configured to either address the entire region of any number of county-based subsets of the region, as well as including counties in adjacent regions.

Council staff has used this model to evaluate the impact of several projects throughout the region. Examples of projects include an advertising agency in Alachua County, a sanitary sewer system in the City of Archer, a food processing plant in the City of Newberry, a computer technical support call center and manufacturing facilities in Columbia County, a hypothetical manufacturing plant in Gilchrist County, an ethanol plant in Hamilton County, a refrigerated container manufacturing plant in Madison County, a manufacturing facility and a sawmill plant in Suwannee County and an electric power generating plant in Taylor County.

If you have questions concerning this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

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March 20, 2014

TO: Council Members

FROM: Scott R. Koons, AICP, Executive Director *SK*

SUBJECT: U. S. Economic Development Administration
 Short-Term Planning and State Planning Grant Amendment

RECOMMENDATION:

Authorize the Executive Director to submit a six-month extension amendment for the Federal Assistance for a Short-Term Planning and State Planning Investment Grant awarded by the U.S. Economic Development Administration in the amount of \$200,000 and authorize the Chair to execute the time extension.

BACKGROUND:

The Florida Regional Councils Association is undertaking a Leadership Training and Capacity Building for Statewide Economic Development initiative. Funding for this initiative has been provided by the U.S. Economic Development Administration in the form of a Short-Term Planning and State Planning Grant in the amount of \$200,000 being matched with an additional \$50,000 of Florida Regional Councils Association funds for a total project cost of \$250,000.

In order to qualify for a 20 percent match level, a regional planning council, serving as a U.S. Department of Commerce designated economic development district, with at least one county with a per capita income that is equal to or less than 50 percent of the average national per capita income, had to file the grant application. The only two counties in Florida that meet this criteria are Lafayette County at 48.7 percent and Union County at 49.7 percent. Thus, the Council was the grant applicant for this project with the understanding that the Florida Regional Councils Association is providing the \$50,000 in matching funds.

In order to complete all activities pursuant to the Leadership Training and Capacity Building for Statewide Economic Development initiative, including the Florida Regional Councils Association Policy Board Retreat held on January 9-10, 2014, retreat report and action plan, it is recommended that a six-month time extension amendment be filed with the U.S. Economic Development Administration.

If you have any questions concerning this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

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March 20, 2014

TO: Council Members

FROM: Scott R. Koons, AICP, Executive Director 

SUBJECT: Florida Department of Transportation
 Joint Participation Agreement and Resolution

RECOMMENDATION:

Authorize the Executive Director to submit a 12-month extension amendment for the Joint Participation Agreement with the Florida Department of Transportation to provide support for transportation planning and regional visioning for Alachua, Bradford, Columbia, Dixie, Gilchrist, Hamilton, Lafayette, Levy, Madison, Marion, Suwannee, Taylor and Union Counties and adopt Resolution No. 2014-02 authorizing the Chair to execute an amendment to the Joint Participation Agreement with the Florida Department of Transportation in an amount not to exceed \$25,000.

BACKGROUND:

As you know, the Council entered into a Joint Participation Agreement with the Florida Department of Transportation for the Department to provide the Council support for transportation planning and regional visioning for Alachua, Bradford, Columbia, Dixie, Gilchrist, Hamilton, Lafayette, Levy, Madison, Marion, Suwannee, Taylor and Union Counties in an amount not to exceed \$25,000. The Agreement also requires coordination with neighboring regional planning councils and adjoining counties. In order to coordinate the planning effort with the on-going Future Corridors studies of the Florida Department of Transportation, it is recommended that a 12-month time extension amendment be filed with the Florida Department of Transportation.

If you have any questions concerning this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Attachment

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RESOLUTION NO. 2014-02

A RESOLUTION OF THE NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL AUTHORIZING AN AMENDMENT TO THE JOINT PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT WITH THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

WHEREAS, the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council entered into a Joint Participation Agreement, Financial Project Number 433775-1-18-01, on April 15, 2013 with the Florida Department of Transportation, as authorized under Section 339.12, Florida Statutes; and

WHEREAS, the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council has the authority to receive support for transportation planning and regional visioning for Alachua, Bradford, Columbia, Dixie, Gilchrist, Hamilton, Lafayette, Levy, Madison, Marion, Suwannee, Taylor and Union Counties for the period ending June 30, 2014; and

WHEREAS, the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council will coordinate with neighboring regional planning councils and adjoining counties in order to accomplish said transportation planning and regional visioning; and

WHEREAS, the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council will coordinate said transportation planning and regional visioning with the on-going Future Corridors studies of the Florida Department of Transportation; and

WHEREAS, the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council authorizes the Chair to execute a 12-month extension to the Joint Participation Agreement on behalf of the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council with the Florida Department of Transportation; and

WHEREAS, this resolution shall be effective upon adoption.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council authorizes the Chair to execute a 12-month extension amendment to the Joint Participation Agreement, Financial Project Number 433775-1-18-01, with the Florida Department of Transportation to accomplish transportation planning and regional visioning in a 13-county area.

DULY ADOPTED by the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council this 27th day of March 2014.

NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA
REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

Attest:

Scott R. Koons, Executive Director

Garth R. Nobles, Jr., Chair



VI.A.

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March 20, 2014

TO: Council Members

FROM: Scott R. Koons, AICP, Executive Director 

SUBJECT: Transportation for America's Revenue Endorsement Resolution

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt Resolution No. 2014-03 endorsing the Transportation for America's Revenue Proposal.

BACKGROUND:

As you know, the north central Florida region's economic future depends on having a top-notch transportation network that will allow the region to compete both nationally and globally while preserving our quality of life. Florida Department of Transportation Secretary Ananth Prasad has stated that full funding of the Florida Department of Transportation work program will continue the vision of creating a world class transportation system by delivering exceptional projects and providing significant return on investment. This work program will require federal funding in order to move forward.

The federal trust fund dedicated to transportation is headed for insolvency, which could lead to the federal transportation program being halted in Fiscal Year 2015 and would adversely affect the undertaking of transportation projects to meet the transportation needs of our residents and businesses, potentially restricting our future economic growth.

Transportation for America, an alliance of business, civic, and elected leaders from across the country, has put forward an investment plan for the 21st Century that would save the transportation fund of the nation while making it more accountable and increasing local control (see attachment). It is recommended that the Council:

1. Endorse the Transportation for America's Revenue proposal for saving the nation's transportation fund; and
2. Call upon Congress and the President to act upon the recommendations therein prior to September 30, 2014.

If you have any questions concerning this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Attachments

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RESOLUTION NO. 2014-03

A RESOLUTION OF THE NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL
ENDORING TRANSPORTATION FOR AMERICA'S REVENUE PROPOSAL

WHEREAS, the north central Florida region's economic future depends on having a top-notch transportation network that will allow the region to compete both nationally and globally while preserving our quality of life; and

WHEREAS, investing in important transportation projects will require more funding to ensure that goods can get to market and workers to jobs; and

WHEREAS, many transportation projects will require federal funding in order to move forward; and

WHEREAS, the federal trust fund dedicated to transportation is headed for insolvency, which could lead to the federal transportation program being halted in Fiscal Year 2015; and

WHEREAS, these crippling cuts will adversely affect the undertaking of transportation projects to meet the transportation needs of our residents and businesses, potentially restricting our future economic growth; and

WHEREAS, Transportation for America, an alliance of business, civic, and elected leaders from across the country, has put forward an investment plan for the 21st Century that would save the transportation fund of the nation while making it more accountable and increasing local control.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA
REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL:

1. That the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council endorses the Transportation for America's Revenue proposal for saving the nation's transportation fund.
2. That the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council calls upon Congress and the President to act upon the recommendations therein prior to September 30, 2014.
3. That this resolution shall take effect upon its adoption.

APPROVED AND DULY ADOPTED by the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council, this 27th day of March 2014.

ATTEST:

NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA
REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

Scott R. Koons, Executive Director

Garth R. Nobles, Jr., Chair

SAVING THE NATION'S TRANSPORTATION FUND



An investment plan for the 21st century

We must act—now—to fix the transportation trust fund, so that we can **maintain** our existing infrastructure, **reward** local innovation and **prepare** for the future.

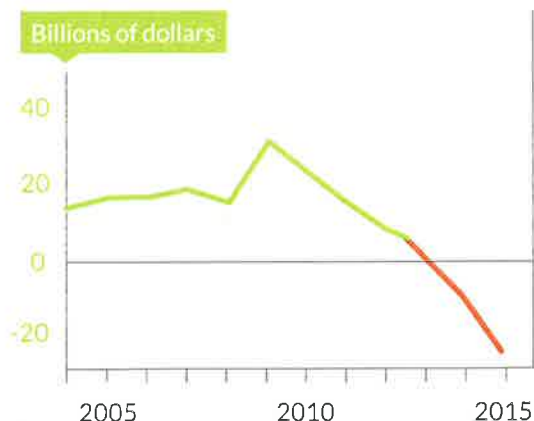
Trust Fund headed for insolvency

Our nation's ability to build and maintain our transportation network is nearing a crisis. Without action from Congress in 2014, our Highway Trust Fund will be in a deep deficit that could require **halting the federal program for fiscal year 2015**.

— Highway Trust Fund balance

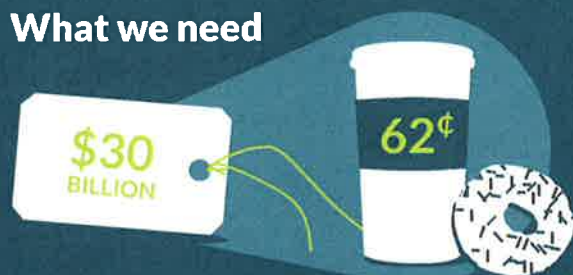
*2012-2020 numbers are based on CBO projections from August 27th, 2012

**DOT requires a minimum \$6 billion cushion, hence the HTF hits the red before crossing zero, fhwa.dot.gov/policyinformation/statistics/2010/fe210.cfm



PAYING FOR PROGRESS

What we need



Annual investment needed to make the transportation fund solvent and effective

Daily cost per commuter.
About as much as a cup of coffee and a doughnut per week.

How to raise it

The simplest way: Add 17 cents per gallon to the federal gas tax. Other possibilities (choose one):

- Replace the existing per-gallon tax with a sales tax of 11%; or
- Introduce a fee of \$4 on each barrel of oil; or
- Add a sales tax of 5.5% to fuel purchases; or
- Index the gas tax to construction costs and raise one of the above taxes/fees a lesser amount.

Can we count on your support?

- ✓ Stabilize funding for the MAP-21 program Congress adopted in 2012 and protect all modes of transportation from draconian budget cuts;
- ✓ Raise additional revenue for locally-driven projects that spur economic growth and innovation.

OUR ECONOMY & COMMUNITIES DEPEND ON **TRANSPORTATION INVESTMENT**

Across the country, our cities, towns and suburbs—the local centers of commerce that form the backbone of America's economy—are in a serious bind: They know they must have top-notch networks of roads and transit to compete on a global scale and preserve their quality of life. They know they need to get workers of all wage levels to their jobs. They also know they need to eliminate crippling bottlenecks in freight delivery. These local communities are stretching themselves to raise their own funds and to innovate, but without a strong federal partner the twin demands of maintaining their

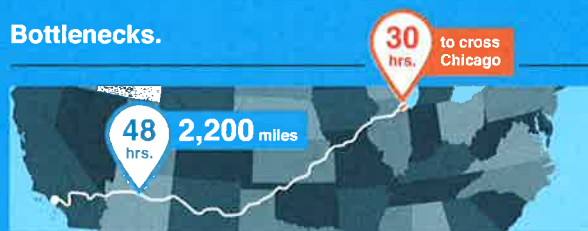
existing infrastructure and preparing for the future are beyond their means. Even as the transportation trust fund faces insolvency, existing federal programs too often put a damper on innovation rather than stoking it.

This cannot stand. The federal government must become a strong partner in a 21st century investment plan for transportation that invests in strong local economies and rewards smart, homegrown, locally-driven transportation innovations.

Just as our national economy depends on strong local economies, our national transportation program should invest in and reward smart, home grown, locally driven transportation solutions.

THE COSTS OF INACTION

Bottlenecks.



Freight takes almost as long to get across Chicago on the rails as it does to get there from Los Angeles.

Hazardous conditions.



Unmet demand.



Even as transit ridership is surging and people are returning to work, ambitious local plans to invest in transportation to grow their local economies would stall if the federal support disappears.

A 21st century transportation plan

Investors know you must put money in today to get returns in the future. Raising an additional \$30 billion per year would allow us to invest to accomplish critical goals at only a small cost per commuter:

Reverse the decline of the transportation trust fund. Fully fund the existing highway and transit programs that preserve our aging infrastructure, without taking money from other important programs or adding to the deficit;

Spur the innovation our economy needs to meet population growth and rising demand by funding competitive grants to local communities that come up with smart solutions.



Fixing what we need to fix.

- Repair **46,508** bridges
- Replace **16,000** aging buses and **5,000** rail cars
- Meet our ongoing commitments.



Improving communities & expanding opportunity.

- Based on the average cost of construction, the investment fund would support **70 new transit projects**, providing new **access to jobs** and potential workers in dozens of cities, towns and suburbs.



Spurring local innovation.

The federal government plays a key role in promoting innovation, by providing capital for locally driven **path-breaking initiatives**, whose success can be shared nationwide.

- Fund competitive grants, such as a freight grant program and the popular **TIGER** grant program, for groundbreaking projects with **significant economic pay-off**.



Increasing accountability and local control.

By providing more funding and control to the local level, Americans will more easily **see the impact** and be better able to hold officials accountable.

SPURRING LOCAL INNOVATION: FEDERAL DOLLARS AT WORK



Regional investments, national benefits

The rail improvements in Chicago's **CREATE** project will provide **\$3.6 billion** annually in national economic benefits.



High rate of return in Utah

For every \$1.00 spent on the state's unified transportation plan, an estimated **\$1.94 is returned** to the state in value.



Access to jobs in Minnesota

Building the planned transit network will allow Twin Cities employers to recruit from an additional **500,000 potential workers**.

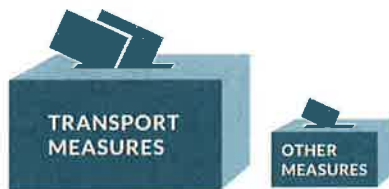


Learn more and voice your support at
www.T4America.org

Local accountability: the best way to ensure a return on investment

While this level of investment is a modest request from taxpayers, they have a right to expect a guaranteed return on it. Opinion polls and ballot results show what American voters want—a system that is:

- *In good repair;*
- *Rewards locally driven innovation;*
- *Keeps the nation in the economic forefront; and*
- *Connects all Americans to economic opportunity.*



Transportation ballot measures pass at **twice** the rate of all other ballot measures.

They want to know the money will flow to their communities for improvements in their daily life—making travel easier, more affordable and safer. And they trust the levels of government closest to them because they can hold them accountable.

American workers and businesses will willingly pay a little more to achieve these goals, if the expected results—and accountability for them—are clearly articulated.

Raleigh, NC: 70% approve

Mesa, AZ: 56% approve

Kansas City, MO: 64% approve

Salt Lake City, UT: 64% approve

Seattle, WA: 58% approve

St. Louis, MO: 63% approve

Alameda & Contra Costa County, CA: 72% approve



© Alex Descarvalho

PLEASE JOIN US!

We are business, civic and elected leaders from across the country, united to ensure our nation invests to keep our cities, towns and suburbs strong and economically competitive. Because our future prosperity depends on it.

Americans are eager to return to world leadership in the quality of our transportation networks. And we want to leave our children with a legacy of lower deficits and an infrastructure suited to our future economy and quality of life. This investment plan is a significant down-payment toward fulfilling those desires.



Transportation
for America

t4america.org [@t4america](https://twitter.com/t4america)



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March 20, 2014

TO: Council Members

FROM: Sandra Haas, Chair
Clearinghouse Committee

RE: Chair's Report

The next regularly-scheduled meeting of the Clearinghouse Committee is 6:00 p.m., March 27, 2014 at the Holiday Inn and Suites, 213 SW Commerce Boulevard, Lake City. At its meeting, the Committee will review the following Committee-level items which require Council action. I will present an oral report on the Committee's actions and recommendations at the Council meeting held later that evening.

COMMITTEE-LEVEL REVIEW ITEMS**Local Government Comprehensive Plan Amendments**

#37 - City of Hawthorne Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (DEO No. 14-1ESR)

#38 - City of Newberry Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (DEO No. 14-1ESR)

Please be advised that the Clearinghouse Committee meeting packet is posted on the Council website at <http://ncfrpc.org> (click on Upcoming Meetings and Meeting Packets, then click on Clearinghouse Committee Full Packet).

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March 20, 2014

TO: Council Members

FROM: Scott R. Koons, AICP, Executive Director 

SUBJECT: Overall Program Design for Fiscal Year 2014-15

The Program Committee will be meeting on March 27, 2014 to develop a draft of the Overall Program Design for next year. The Overall Program Design is used as the basis for the development of a budget and is also to provide direction to staff as to the work which is to be done during the next year.

The Program Committee anticipates recommending the Overall Program Design to the Council for adoption at the May 22, 2014 Council meeting.

If you have any questions concerning this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

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March 20, 2014

TO: Council Members

FROM: Scott R. Koons, AICP, Executive Director *SRK*

SUBJECT: Florida Regional Councils Association Monthly Report

The Florida Regional Councils Association is the statewide organization of the 11 regional planning councils. The Association strengthens Florida's regional planning councils, partners with government and the business community to enhance regional economic prosperity and improves the consistency and quality of regional planning councils programs to ensure they add value to state, regional and local initiatives.

The Association strives to accomplish these goals by carrying-out the following objectives.

- Ensure regional planning councils are effective service organizations to the State of Florida, its local governments, and the citizens they serve;
- Ensure regional planning councils are consensus builders and problem solvers, and serve as conveners of the region by helping to articulate those multijurisdictional issues that need resolution;
- Encourage and promote opportunities for regional planning councils to become partners in state programs and initiatives, while promoting the unique themes of each region within the state and legislative environments;
- Monitor substantive state and federal legislative issues for the benefit of its members, and promote mutually supportive policy positions among the regional planning councils;
- Represent regional planning councils in national organizations, such as the National Association of Regional Councils, National Association of Development Organizations, and SouthEast Regional Directors Institute; and
- Foster relationships and partnerships and coordinate with state, regional, and national associations and organizations; non-profit entities; public-private partnerships; the Governor's Office; state agencies; and others, on issues of mutual interest and concern, and with whom the Association shares mutual goals and programs.

Please find attached the February 2014 Monthly Activity Report highlighting the activities of the Association's Director of Intergovernmental Affairs, Sheri Coven. This report addresses outreach, resource development/capacity building, legislative and administrative activities.

If you have questions concerning this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Attachment

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Sheri Coven
Director of Intergovernmental Affairs
sheri.coven@flregionalcouncils.org
(850) 294-0526

MONTHLY ACTIVITY REPORT: February 2014

OUTREACH

- Met with representatives from the Florida Department of Transportation, at their request, to offer insights and suggestions pertaining to the process being developed for the Florida Transportation Plan and Strategic Intermodal System Strategic Plan updates.
- Met with Barbara Lenczewski, Development Representative III at the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity, to explore funding opportunities for regional planning councils.
- Spoke to representatives at the Florida Department of Health and followed up with an email that provided an overview of regional planning councils and the “single point of contact” contracting advantages.
- Wrote a letter to the Secretary of the Florida Department of Transportation, Ananth Prasad, critiquing the Department’s transportation planning process for non-metropolitan areas, which was signed by the Chair of the FRCA Executive Directors Advisory Committee, Brian Teeple (NEFRC).
- Collected data from each regional planning council that support and demonstrate implementation of the *Florida Strategic Plan for Economic Development* for the second quarter of the 2013-14 Fiscal Year and submitted the data to the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity.
- Continued to work with representatives from the Florida Chamber Foundation to create on-line regional scorecards for each council, including identification of the specific website segments and site map features for this metric-driven economic development tool.

RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT/CAPACITY BUILDING

- To enhance partnerships and strengthen the relationship between regional planning councils and their state and federal partners, attended meetings of the Enterprise Florida Board, Stakeholders Council, and Community Competitiveness Task Force; Safe Mobility for Life Coalition; and, Tallahassee/Leon County Economic Development Council; and, participated in the Florida Chamber of Commerce’s Capitol Days and Enterprise Florida’s monthly conference call for its economic development partners.
- Distributed funding announcements from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Department of Labor, and Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and Pew Charitable Trusts.

LEGISLATIVE SUPPORT

- Issued a February Legislative Highlights report and bill tracking summary.
- Reviewed newly filed bills for the 2014 Legislative Session and monitored legislative committee meetings held during the first three weeks of February, 2014.
- Updated and distributed FRCA's talking points for the 2014 legislative session.

ADMINISTRATIVE

- Participated in the February FRCA meetings and identified and confirmed presenters for the March FRCA meetings.
- Updated the FRCA website to post the most current Legislative Highlights and 2014 Legislative Agenda.



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March 20, 2014

TO: Council Members

FROM: Scott R. Koons, AICP, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Florida Chamber Foundation Scorecard™

The Florida Chamber Foundation has developed the Florida Scorecard™ to provide Florida leaders the metrics needed to secure Florida's future. The Florida Chamber Foundation's objective to developing a 20-year, statewide strategic plan requires a commitment to measuring our current status and progress toward the stated goals of the Six Pillars 20-year Strategic Plan.

The Scorecard reports metrics for each of the Six Pillars benchmarked to the other 49 states. The Six Pillars are Talent Supply and Education, Innovation and Economic Development, Infrastructure and Growth Leadership, Business Climate and Competitiveness, Civic and Governance Systems and Quality of Life and Quality Places. Please find attached the March 2014 Scorecard.

If you have questions concerning this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Attachment

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THE FLORIDA SCORECARD

The Metrics that Help Florida Leaders Secure Florida's Future

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2030 Metrics

County Data

Interactive Chart

My Metrics

Tourism Indicators

Pension Reform - Filling the Gap

The Florida Retirement System (FRS) is the fourth largest public retirement program in the United States. It operates as a defined benefit (pension) program for 80 percent of its participants. The remaining participate in a defined contribution investment program. The FRS covers state and county government agencies, public schools, the State University System, Florida counties and any municipalities that choose to join the plan. More than one million employees, retirees and beneficiaries are enrolled or receive benefits from the FRS.

According to the most recent reports, the current funding level – just under 86 percent – means a total gap of more than \$21 billion. This has real-time economic and fiscal costs. In 2013, legislators had to allocate \$500 million from state revenues to the FRS pension fund. Without addressing this challenge now, by 2020 that allocation could rise to as much as \$1 billion.

Florida's local governments not on the FRS are not faring any better. While some have fully funded plans, a review of the most recent actuarial data from the Department of Management Services shows that a large number of plans are in danger of complete insolvency. Plans in cities as large as Fort Myers, Hollywood and even Miami all have pension programs falling behind the 80 percent funding mark, considered the baseline for being actuarially sound.

That gap will have severe negative effects on Florida's economic future if not addressed. Time, unfortunately, is not in abundance.

Bottom line: without substantial changes to the Florida Retirement System, the program will be unsustainable over the long term.



Pension Funding

Florida Net 12-Month Job Creation



FLORIDA JOBS



SCORECARD NEWSLETTER

Provide your email address to receive monthly Scorecard updates

SUBSCRIBE

Ranking Florida

24th

Productivity



Key Indicators



Home Foreclosures

As Florida continues to recover from the housing market collapse, trends in home foreclosures provide insight into Florida's progress through the extended recovery...



Consumer Confidence

The Florida Consumer Confidence Index measures residents' perceptions of personal finances now compared to a year ago and expectations of U.S....



Population

Florida has the 4th largest population in the U.S., estimated at just over 19 million in April 2012...



Unemployment Rate

Florida has a labor force of over 9 million, ready to meet the workforce needs of businesses...

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March 20, 2014

TO: Council Members

FROM: Scott R. Koons, AICP, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Legislative Report

The 2014 regular Legislature session convened on March 4, 2014 and is scheduled to adjourn on May 2, 2014. The Florida Department of Economic Opportunity budget request for Fiscal Year 2014-15 submitted to Governor Scott does not include any appropriation request for all 11 regional planning councils. In addition, the budget for Fiscal Year 2014-15 submitted by the Governor to the Legislature does not include any appropriation request for all 11 regional planning councils. However, the House Transportation and Economic Development Appropriations Committee has included \$2.5 million for all 11 regional planning councils. As you know, the Legislature appropriated \$2.5 million for all 11 regional planning councils for Fiscal Year 2013-14. However, Governor Scott vetoed the appropriation for regional planning councils. The Council's share of this appropriation would have been approximately \$179,000.

The following paragraphs provide a summary of bills of interest filed to date.

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN LOCAL REFERENDUM

House Bill 189 by Representative Boyd relates to Growth Management. Revises restrictions on initiative or referendum process in regard to local comprehensive plan amendments and map amendments. The bill broadens the exception to the prohibition on using a referendum process in regard to a comprehensive plan or map amendment by deleting the limitation that the exception must involve "more than five parcels of land." **Referred to Economic Development and Tourism Subcommittee; Local and Federal Affairs Committee; and Economic Affairs Committee. Passed by the Local and Federal Affairs Committee and Economic Development and Tourism Subcommittee. The bill is now Economic Affairs Committee.**

Senate Bill 374 by Senator Detert relates to Growth Management. Revises restrictions on an initiative or referendum process with regard to local comprehensive plan amendments and map amendments. The bill broadens the exception to the prohibition on using a referendum process in regard to a comprehensive plan or map amendment by deleting the limitation that the exception must involve "more than five parcels of land." **Referred to Community Affairs; Commerce and Tourism; and Rules. Passed by Community Affairs. The bill is now Commerce and Tourism.**

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN PRIVATE PROPERTY RIGHTS

House Bill 395 by Representative Perry relates to Growth Management. Requires local governments to address protection of private property rights in their comprehensive plans; requires comprehensive plan to include property rights element that addresses certain objectives; requires counties and municipalities to adopt land development regulations consistent with property rights element. **Referred to Economic**

Development and Tourism Subcommittee; Local and Federal Affairs Committee; and Economic Affairs Committee. The bill is now in Economic Development and Tourism Subcommittee.

DEVELOPMENTS OF REGIONAL IMPACT

House Bill 241 by Representative Gaetz relates to Developments of Regional Impact. Deletes certain exemptions for dense urban land areas. The bill deletes Section 380.06(29)a.2. and (29)a.3., Florida Statutes, removing the exemption for dense urban land areas that are within a county and located in an urban service area as defined in Section 163.3164, Florida Statutes, and which are in a county with a population of at least 900,000 but do not have an urban service area. **Referred to Economic Development and Tourism Subcommittee; Local and Federal Affairs Committee; and Economic Affairs Committee. The bill is now in Economic Development and Tourism Subcommittee.**

Senate Bill 372 by Senator Galvano relates to Developments of Regional Impact. Deletes certain exemptions for dense urban land areas; revises the exemption for any proposed development within a county that has a population of at least 300,000 and an average population of at least 400 people per square mile. The bill deletes Section 380.06(29)a.2. and (29)a.3., Florida Statutes, removing the exemption for dense urban land areas that are within a county and located in an urban service area as defined in Section 163.3164, Florida Statutes, and which are in a county with a population of at least 900,000 but do not have an urban service area, which is identical to House Bill 241. However, it also revises the exemption in Section 380.06(29)a.4., to apply to a county with an average population of at least 400 people per square mile and a population of at least 300,000, and does not have to be located in an urban service area. It previously applied to a county with a population of at least one million, with no square mile requirement, although it did have to be located in an urban service area. More specifically, eight counties were exempted from state review of proposed "developments of regional impact" under 2009 legislation. This bill would extend the exemption to Brevard, Lee, Manatee, Pasco, Sarasota and Volusia Counties. **Referred to Community Affairs; Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Tourism, and Economic Development; Appropriations; and Rules. Passed by Community Affairs and Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation. The bill is now in Appropriations.**

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

House Bill 7023 by Economic Development and Tourism Subcommittee relates to economic development. Revises provisions relating to transportation concurrency, impact fees, loan programs, urban redevelopment, Space Florida, Unemployment Compensation Trust Fund contributions, and rural areas of critical economic concern. This bill streamlines applicable sections of Chapter 290, Florida Statutes, to increase flexibility in the Small Cities Community Development Block Grant program by removing certain application requirements and competitive scoring criteria and allow grants to be used for economic development projects. The bill also rebrands Florida's Rural Areas of Critical Economic Concern to Rural Areas of Opportunity. In addition, the bill exempts the development of small businesses from having to comply with impact fee, concurrency, or proportionate share requirements for transportation impacts for three years. The bill also makes other changes proposed by the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity and replaces Enterprise Florida with VISIT Florida as the entity to assist Space Florida in developing its marketing plan. **Referred to Transportation and Economic Development Appropriations Subcommittee, and Economic Affairs Committee. Passed by Transportation and Economic Development Appropriations Subcommittee. The bill is now in Economic Affairs Committee.**

ENTERPRISE ZONES

House Bill 141 by Representative Powell relates to Florida Enterprise Zone Act. Revises date of repeal of Florida Enterprise Zone Act. The bill changes the date to repeal the Florida Enterprise Zone Act from December 31, 2015 to December 31, 2025. **Referred to Economic Development and Tourism Subcommittee; Finance and Tax Subcommittee; Transportation and Economic Development Appropriations Subcommittee; and Economic Affairs Committee. This bill is now in Economic Development and Tourism Subcommittee.**

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY WEB PAGE

House Bill 235 by Representative Combee relates to Florida Department of Economic Opportunity. Requires the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity to create web page accessible through its Internet website that provides certain information; provides purpose of web page; requires Florida Department of Economic Opportunity to collect all local business information available to Florida Department of Economic Opportunity; requires Florida Department of Economic Opportunity to request relevant local government to provide any otherwise unavailable information; requires local governments to provide notice of changes in information collected by department; authorizes local government entities to provide summary that includes certain information for Florida Department of Economic Opportunity's web page. The bill creates Section 288.112, Florida Statutes, requiring the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity to create a new web page on its website devoted solely to the collection and publication of data and information relevant to the creation or expansion of new businesses within the state, for the following purposes: (a) provide a comprehensive overview of conditions that exist within cities and counties that are conducive to the creation and expansion of new businesses; (b) enable prospective employers to effectively and accurately evaluate the business climate in various locations throughout the state; and, (c) provide prospective business owners and operators within the state with immediate access to specific charges and costs related to the establishment, operation, and maintenance of a business. The bill provides the specific list of criteria to be collected. The Department is given until January 1, 2015 to collect the information and post it as soon as possible thereafter on its website. **Referred to Economic Development and Tourism Subcommittee; Local and Federal Affairs Committee; Transportation and Economic Development Appropriations Subcommittee; and Economic Affairs Committee. House Bill 235 has been withdrawn.**

FREIGHT LOGISTIC ZONES

House Bill 3 by Representative Ray relates to freight logistic zones. Defines "freight logistics zone"; authorizes county or two or more contiguous counties to designate geographic area(s) within its jurisdiction as freight logistics zone; requires adoption of strategic plan which must include certain information; provides that certain projects within freight logistics zones may be eligible for priority in state funding and certain incentive programs; provides evaluation criteria for freight logistics zones. The bill requires the freight strategic plan to be compatible with the applicable local government comprehensive plan and adopted long-range transportation plans of a metropolitan planning organization. **Referred to Transportation and Highway Safety Subcommittee; Transportation and Economic Development Appropriations Subcommittee; and Economic Affairs Committee. Passed by Transportation and Highway Safety Subcommittee. The bill is now in Transportation and Economic Development Appropriations Subcommittee.**

Senate Bill 136 by Senator Ring relates to freight logistic zones. Defines the term “freight logistics zone”; authorizes a county, or two or more contiguous counties, to designate a geographic area or areas within its jurisdiction as a freight logistics zone; requires the adoption of a strategic plan that must include certain information; provides that certain projects within freight logistics zones may be eligible for priority in state funding and certain incentive programs; provides evaluation criteria for freight logistics zones. The bill requires the freight strategic plan to be compatible with the applicable local government comprehensive plan and adopted long-range transportation plans of a metropolitan planning organization. **Referred to Transportation; Commerce and Tourism; Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Tourism, and Economic Development; and Appropriations. Passed by Transportation. The bill is now in Commerce and Tourism.**

LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS SINKHOLE TESTING

House Bill 315 by Representative Stark relates to Land Development Regulations. Requires local land development regulations to include sinkhole testing. The bill amends Section 163.3202(2), Florida Statutes by adding new subparagraph "j" as stated above. **Referred to Economic Development and Tourism Subcommittee; Local and Federal Affairs Committee; and Economic Affairs Committee. The bill is now in Economic Development and Tourism Subcommittee.**

Senate Bill 376 by Senator Soto relates to Local Land Development Regulations. Requires local land development regulations to provide for sinkhole testing. The bill amends Section 163.3202(2), Florida Statutes, by adding new subparagraph "j" as stated above. **Referred to Community Affairs; Commerce and Tourism; Banking and Insurance; and Rules.**

RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

House Bill 611 by Representative Beshears relates to Rural Areas of Opportunity. Increases value of tax credits for certain eligible businesses; provides additional tax credit for certain businesses located within rural area of opportunity; authorizes certain eligible businesses to apply for ad valorem tax reimbursement in specified amount; provides for sales tax refund for certain eligible businesses; increases maximum amount of grant funds that regionally based economic development organizations may receive from the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity; deletes provision that caps tax refund amount for certain qualified target industry business tax refund applicants; exempts certain businesses from requirement that tax refunds be reduced in absence of specified amount of local financial support; revises definition of term "rural enterprise zone" to include rural areas of opportunity; specifies that rural area of opportunity shall be designated as rural enterprise zone; renames "rural areas of critical economic concern" as "rural areas of opportunity." **Referred to Economic Development and Tourism Subcommittee; Finance and Tax Subcommittee; and Economic Affairs Committee. The bill is now in Economic Development and Tourism Subcommittee.**

SPRINGS

House Bill 49 by Representative Stewart relates to Springs Revival Act. Requires water management districts to identify certain springs, develop certain plans and submit certain reports; authorizes districts to adopt rules and issue orders. By October 1 of each year, requires each water management district, with appropriate technical support, to identify first and second magnitude springs that are in decline based upon historic average water quality and flow levels, and which are not identified in the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's rule for impaired water bodies. By July 1, 2015, each water management district must develop a five-year plan to restore historic average water quality flow levels to

the springs that are identified as described above and in the rule for impaired water bodies. Also beginning July 1, 2015, quarterly progress reports are required. **Referred to Agriculture and Natural Resources Subcommittee; Rulemaking Oversight and Repeal Subcommittee; and State Affairs Committee. The bill is now in Agriculture and Natural Resources Subcommittee.**

Senate Bill 76 by Senator Soto relates to Springs Revival Act. Requires water management districts to identify certain springs, develop certain plans, and submit certain reports to the Governor and the Legislature; authorizes the districts to adopt rules and issue orders. By October 1 of each year, requires each water management district, with appropriate technical support, to identify first and second magnitude springs that are in decline based upon historic average water quality and flow levels, and which are not identified in the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's rule for impaired water bodies. By July 1, 2015, each water management district must develop a five-year plan to restore historic average water quality flow levels to the springs that are identified as described above and in the rule for impaired water bodies. Also beginning July 1, 2015, quarterly progress reports are required. **Referred to Environmental Preservation and Conservation; Community Affairs; Appropriations; and Rules.**

If you have any questions concerning this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.



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March 20, 2014

TO: Council Members

FROM: Scott R. Koons, AICP, Executive Director

SUBJECT: North Florida Regional Water Supply Partnership

In September 2011, the St. Johns River Water Management District, the Suwannee River Water Management District and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection entered into an agreement that formalizes the coordination of water resource management in north Florida. Ensuring sustainable water supplies and protecting north Florida's waterways and natural systems is a collaborative effort among the water management districts, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, local elected officials and area stakeholders.

The Stakeholder Advisory Committee, which was formed in May 2012, serves as an advisory body to offer viewpoints from stakeholder groups to the St. Johns River and Suwannee River water management districts and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection to help address the region's water supply issues. The Stakeholder Committee is structured such that a wide range of public interests are included, while keeping the Committee small enough to be effective and productive. Stakeholder Committee representatives closely coordinate with the constituencies they represent, as well as being responsive to the interested public. Committee meetings are open to the public so stakeholders beyond the Committee membership can attend and participate.

The Committee met on February 24, 2014. The Committee discussed the revised Recovery Strategy for the Lower Santa Fe River Basin and heard a presentation on population and water demand projections. The Committee also met on March 17, 2014 and heard presentations from water management district staff on water resource assessment methods as well as an update on the status of the regional groundwater model.

If you have any questions concerning this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.




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March 20, 2014

TO: Council Members

FROM: Scott R. Koons, AICP, Executive Director 

SUBJECT: Check Fraud Status Report

On March 20, 2013, a fraudulent check in the amount of \$49,523.00 that was written on the Council's bank account was processed and paid by Wells Fargo. Also on March 20, 2013, Council staff filed an affidavit of check fraud concerning this matter with Wells Fargo. On March 25, 2013, Council staff filed a crime report concerning this matter with the Gainesville Police Department.

On March 28, 2013, Council Attorney Jonathan Wershow and Council staff briefed the Executive Committee concerning this matter. On April 18, 2013, the Council Attorney sent a letter to Wells Fargo requesting that Wells Fargo remit to the Council within 30 days the unauthorized \$49,523.00 released by Wells Fargo from the Council's account. On April 25, 2013, Council staff briefed the Council concerning this matter. On June 3, 2013, attorneys for Wells Fargo responded via letter to Mr. Wershow's letter stating that Wells Fargo will not reimburse the Council for the \$49,523.00 released from the Council's account by Wells Fargo.

On July 25, 2013, the Council authorized the Council Attorney to file a lawsuit against Wells Fargo to recover the unauthorized \$49,523.00 and designate Scott Koons, Executive Director, as the Council's representative concerning all matters related to such lawsuit. In addition, the Council authorized the Council Attorney and the Executive Director to contact federal and state law enforcement agencies to discuss the fraudulent check processed and paid out of the Council's bank account by Wells Fargo.

On August 5, 2013, Council Attorney Wershow and I met with Mr. William Cervone, State's Attorney for the Eighth Judicial Circuit of Florida to discuss the check fraud incident. Mr. Cervone offered the assistance of his staff to work with the Gainesville Police Department to secure the bank records relating to the check fraud incident.

On August 6, 2013, Council Attorney Wershow and Co-Council Stanley Cushman filed a five-count lawsuit in the Circuit Court of the Eighth Judicial Circuit in and for Alachua County, Florida, against Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. to recover the unauthorized \$49,523.00 released by Wells Fargo from the Council's bank account.

Council Members

March 20, 2014

Page 2

On September 9, 2013, Wells Fargo responded to the complaint by filing a Motion to Compel Arbitration. Wells Fargo alleges that disputes related to the Council's checking account are to be resolved by an arbitrator. Council Attorney Wershow and Co-Counsel Stanley Cushman responded to the motion stating arbitration does not apply to the dispute.

A hearing was scheduled for October 30, 2013 in the Circuit Court of the Eighth Judicial Circuit in and for Alachua County, Florida on the Motion to Compel Arbitration filed by Wells Fargo to resolve the dispute between the Council and Wells Fargo. However, the hearing was rescheduled for January 24, 2014. At the conclusion of the hearing, the Circuit Court granted the Motion to Compel Arbitration.

Council Attorney Wershow and Co-Counsel Stanley Cushman are coordinating with the attorney of Wells Fargo on the selection of an arbitrator and scheduling of the arbitration hearing.

Please find attached a summary of legal fees incurred to date concerning the lawsuit.

If you have questions concerning this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Attachment

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NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL
Wells Fargo Lawsuit
Legal Fees

March 20, 2014

<u>Month</u>	<u>Amount</u>
August 2013	\$1,383
September 2013	\$2,253
October 2013	\$3,445
November 2013	\$180
December 2013	\$0
January 2014	\$2,760
February 2014	<u>\$1,410</u>
Total	\$11,431

