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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 January 22, 2015. 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 [strong@ncfrpc.org](mailto:strong@ncfrpc.org) by January 20, 2015 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)

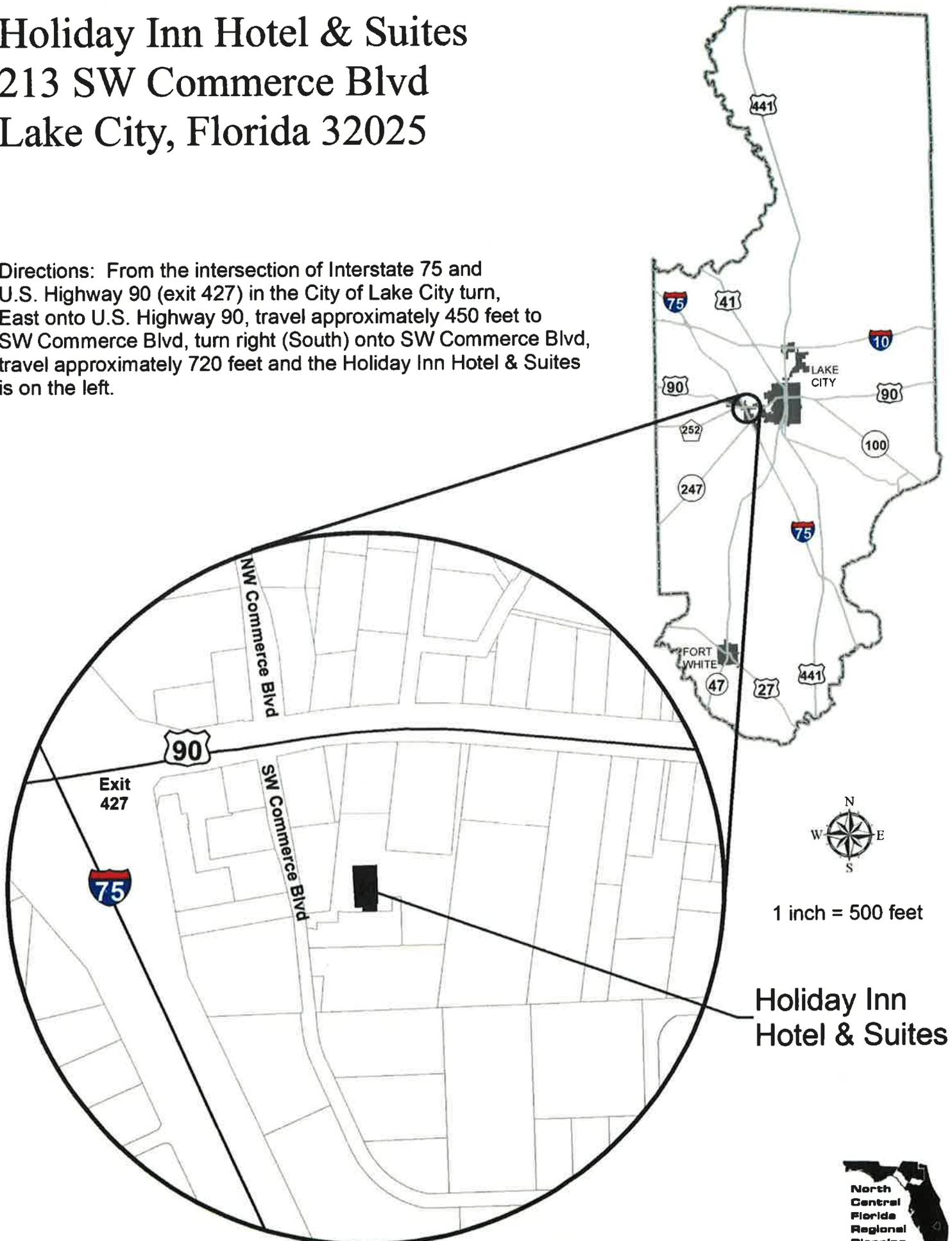
*Please be advised that the Council meeting packet is posted on the Council website at <http://ncfrpc.org> (click on Upcoming Meetings and Meeting Packets, then click on North Central Florida Regional Planning Council Full Packet.)*

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

January 22, 2015  
7:30 p.m.

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\* See Attachments

NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL  
MINUTES

Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites  
Lake City, Florida

December 11, 2014  
7:30 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

**LaBarfield Bryant, City of Jasper**  
Beth Burnam, Hamilton County  
**Louie Davis, City of Waldo**  
**Rick Davis, Madison County**  
**Donnie Hamlin, Lafayette County**  
Timothy Marden, City of Newberry  
*James Montgomery, Columbia County*  
**Garth Nobles, Jr., City of Live Oak**  
Patricia Patterson, Taylor County  
**Daniel Riddick, Bradford County**  
DeLoris Roberts, City of Hawthorne  
Larry Sessions, Suwannee County  
**Carolyn Spooner, City of Starke**  
David Sullivan, City of Perry  
James Tallman, Union County  
**Kenrick Thomas, Gilchrist County**  
*Lorene Thomas, Dixie County*  
*Charles Williams, Hamilton County*  
Stephen Witt, City of Lake City

NON-VOTING DELEGATE PRESENT

None

EX-OFFICIO MEMBER REPRESENTATIVES  
PRESENT

Carlos Herd, Suwannee River Water Management  
District  
Russell Simpson, Florida Department of  
Environmental Protection

MEMBERS ABSENT

Ed Braddy, City of Gainesville  
Mike Byerly, Alachua County  
Craig Carter, City of Gainesville  
Jim Catron, City of Madison  
**Charles Chestnut IV, Alachua County**  
Rusty DePratter, Columbia County  
*Sandra Haas, Suwannee County*  
Jason Holifield, Dixie County  
Robert Hutchinson, Alachua County  
Frank Ogborn, City of Archer  
Lauren Poe, City of Gainesville  
Helen Warren, City of Gainesville  
Randy Wells, City of Gainesville  
**Robert Wilford, City of Alachua**  
*Mike Williams, Madison County*

OTHERS PRESENT

Sandra Buck-Camp  
Allen Cherry  
David Cobb  
Diana Davis  
Jamie Driggers  
Ralph Kitchens  
Stew Lilker  
Roosevelt Petithomme  
Lawrence Taylor

COUNCIL ATTORNEY PRESENT

Jon Wershow

STAFF PRESENT

Steven Dopp  
Scott Koons  
Dwayne Mundy  
Jean Strong

**Board Members names are bolded**  
*Gubernatorial Members names are italicized*

I. INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Spooner called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. with an invocation given by Commissioner Riddick and a pledge of allegiance to the flag. Chair Spooner stated that there was a quorum.

Chair Spooner welcomed and introduced Allen Cherry, County Coordinator, Madison County and member of the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Committee, Sandra Buck-Camp and Ralph Kitchens, members of the Columbia, Hamilton, Suwannee Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board and Diana Davis, wife of Council member Mayor Davis. She also introduced Lawrence Taylor and Jaime Driggers from the Florida Department of Transportation, Stew Lilker, Columbia Observer and David Cobb from Florida Power and Light.

Chair Spooner asked that Item VI.B.2., Clearinghouse Committee City of Gainesville Adopted Amendment, a late arriving item received by staff after the meeting packets were distributed, be added to agenda. She also asked that Item V.B.4. Resolution of Appreciation and Item V.C.2. Resolution of Appreciation for Transportation Disadvantaged be deleted from the agenda.

**ACTION: Commissioner Marden made the motion, with a second by Councilman Bryant to add Item VI.B.2., Clearinghouse Committee City of Gainesville Adopted Amendment to the committee reports and to delete Item V.B.4. Resolution of Appreciation and Item V.C.2. Resolution of Appreciation for Transportation Disadvantaged from the agenda. The motion carried unanimously.**

II. GUEST SPEAKER - Roosevelt Petithomme, District Local Program Administrator  
Florida Department of Transportation, District Two

Scott Koons, Executive Director, introduced Roosevelt Petithomme, District Local Program Administrator, Florida Department of Transportation, District Two. Mr. Petithomme made a presentation to the Council concerning the Florida Department of Transportation Local Agency Program.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - October 23, 2014

Chair Spooner asked that the minutes of the October 23, 2014 meeting be approved as written.

**ACTION: Commissioner Patterson made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Roberts to approve the minutes of the October 23, 2014 meeting as written. The motion carried unanimously.**

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Monthly Financial Report - October 2014
- B. Second Amended Agreement with Florida Division of Emergency Management for Additional Training Funds for Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness - Fiscal Year 2013-14
- C. Purchase Order with the Northeast Florida Regional Council to Assist with Updating the Statewide Hurricane Evacuation Study

D. Transportation Disadvantaged Program Local Coordinating Board Appointments

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

**ACTION: Councilman Bryant made the motion, with a second by Mayor Witt, to approve the items on the Consent Agenda. The motion carried unanimously.**

V. CHAIR'S REPORT

A. Introduction of New Members

Chair Spooner introduced new Council members, Commissioner Larry Sessions from Suwannee County and Commissioner James Tallman from Union County.

B. Resolutions of Appreciation

Stephen Bailey  
Susan Baird  
Bob Barnas  
M. Wayne Smith  
Wesley Wainwright

Chair Spooner asked that Resolutions of Appreciation for past services be approved for Stephen Bailey, who served as a Council member since January 2007, Susan Baird, who served as a Council member since January 2011, Bob Barnas, who served as a Council member since March 2012, M. Wayne Smith, who served as a Council member since December 2013 and Wesley Wainwright, who served as a Council member since January 2009.

**ACTION: Councilman Bryant made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Roberts to approve the Resolutions of Appreciation for Stephen Bailey, Susan Baird, Bob Barnas, M. Wayne Smith and Wesley Wainwright. The motion carried unanimously.**

C. Transportation Disadvantaged Program Resolutions of Appreciation

Kathy Baars  
M. Wayne Smith  
John Rance Thomas

**ACTION: Commissioner Patterson made the motion, with a second by Councilman Sullivan, to approve the Transportation Disadvantaged Program Resolutions of Appreciation for past services for Kathy Baars, M. Wayne Smith and John Rance Thomas. The motion carried unanimously.**

D. Employee Certificate of Service - Dwayne Mundy - 30 Years

Scott Koons, Executive Director, introduced Dwayne Mundy, who joined the Council staff on October 22, 1984. Mr. Mundy currently serves as the Council's Public Safety and Regulatory Compliance Director. Chair Spooner presented a 30-year Certificate of Service and a 30-year service pin to Mr. Mundy. Mr. Koons and Chair Spooner thanked him for his dedicated service to the Council.

VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Executive Committee

1. Clearinghouse Committee Procedures

Mr. Koons reported that at its October 23, 2014 meeting, the Clearinghouse Committee voted to recommend that the Council amend the Clearinghouse Committee Procedures. He stated that the proposed amendment to the Clearinghouse Committee Procedures authorizes the Committee to review and prepare recommendations to the Council for its consideration concerning environmental impact statements, gas pipeline applications, electric transmission line applications and electrical power generating plants equal to or exceeding 75-megawatts in capacity applications. Mr. Koons reported that review of these items is currently delegated to staff with the Clearinghouse Committee providing oversight review of staff comments.

Mr. Koons stated that the proposed amendment also authorizes staff to schedule, arrange and conduct scoping meetings for sector plans pursuant to Section 163.3245(2), Florida Statutes, as amended. He also stated that in addition, the proposed amendment also includes a number of editorial changes to the Clearinghouse Committee Procedures.

**ACTION: Mayor Witt made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Patterson to approve an amendment to Policy 1998-2 Clearinghouse Committee Procedures providing for the Committee to review and recommend comments to the Council concerning environmental impact statements, gas pipeline applications, electric transmission line applications and electrical power generating plants equal to or exceeding 75-megawatts in capacity applications. The motion carried unanimously.**

B. Clearinghouse Committee

Due to the absence of Clearinghouse Committee Chair Sandra Haas, James Montgomery, Clearinghouse Committee Vice-Chair, gave the Clearinghouse Committee report. He stated that the Clearinghouse Committee met previously on November 19, 2014 and reviewed one local government comprehensive plan amendment.

#5 - City of Starke Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment

Mr. Montgomery stated that this item was reviewed on behalf of the Council as per Council procedures for local government comprehensive plan amendments with a response deadline prior to the next regularly-scheduled Council meeting. He noted that a copy of the Committee report concerning this amendment was distributed prior to the Council meeting.

Mr. Montgomery further stated that the Clearinghouse Committee met earlier in the evening and reviewed two local government comprehensive plan amendments.

#6 - Alachua County Comprehensive Plan Draft

#7 - City of Gainesville Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (added to agenda)

Mr. Montgomery stated that the Committee found that the local government comprehensive plans, as amended do not create significant adverse impacts to Natural Resources of Regional Significance, regional facilities or adjacent local governments. He stated that the Clearinghouse Committee recommends forwarding these findings to the respective local governments and the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity.

**ACTION: Mr. Montgomery made the motion, with a second by Ms. Thomas, to approve the Clearinghouse Committee recommendations concerning #6 Alachua County Comprehensive Plan Draft and #7 City of Gainesville Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (added to agenda). The motion carried unanimously.**

#### VII. EX-OFFICIO MEMBER REPORTS

Carlos Herd, Suwannee River Water Management District, reported that they are continuing to work on agricultural well and river projects. He stated that the Suwannee River Management District has received state funding for spring projects.

Russell Simpson, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, stated that Governor Scott has appointed Jon Steverson as Secretary of the Department of Environmental Protection. He also stated that the Northeast District staff will be holding a free large quantity generators of hazardous waste training workshop in their office in Jacksonville on January 16, 2015.

#### VIII. CITIZEN COMMENTS - None

#### IX. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

##### A. 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 October 2014 and November 2014 monthly review reports included in the Council meeting packet.

##### B. 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 December 2014 Scorecard™ included in the Council meeting packet.

C. National Association of Development Organizations Innovation Award

Mr. Koons stated that the National Association of Development Organizations is a Washington, D.C.-based association that promotes programs and policies that strengthen local governments, communities and economies through regional cooperation, program delivery and comprehensive strategies. He stated that the Association's Innovation Awards program recognizes regional development organizations and partnering organizations for improving the economic and community competitiveness of local communities throughout the region.

Mr. Koons reported that the Association recently awarded the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council a 2014 Innovation Award. He further stated that the 2014 slate of awardees includes 100 projects representing the Association of members from 27 states. Mr. Koons also stated that the Association recognized the Council for developing a method to use geographic information system data to evaluate the success of safety improvements on the highway system for a technical report completed by Council staff for the Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization for the Gainesville Urbanized Area entitled Incorporating Safety into Transportation Planning.

E. 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 Stanley 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 reported that a letter was sent to Wells Fargo on May 13, 2014 requesting additional information concerning the disputed check. On September 24, 2014 a Notice of Arbitration and Statement of Claim was filed with the American Arbitration Association by Co-Counsel Stanley Cushman on behalf of the Council. On October 14, 2014 attorneys from Wells Fargo filed a Respondent's Answering Statement to the Statement of Claim.

Mr. Koons further reported that Council Attorney Wershow and Co-Counsel Stanley Cushman are continuing to coordinate with the attorney of Wells Fargo on the selection of an arbitrator and scheduling of the arbitration hearing.

Mr. Koons awarded a Certificate of Outstanding Attendance to Charles Williams, gubernatorial appointee from Hamilton County, in recognition of his attendance at every scheduled Council Meeting during Program Year 2013-14.

Chair Spooner informed the Council that the next Council meeting will be held on January 22, 2015 at the Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites in Lake City. The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Carolyn B. Spooner, Chair

1/22/15  
Date





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January 15, 2015

TO: Council Members  
 FROM: Scott R. Koons, AICP, Executive Director   
 SUBJECT: Monthly Financial Report - November 2014

Please find attached a copy of the Monthly Financial Report for the Council's activities for November 2014. The following paragraphs discuss revenues and expenditures to the budget for the month and year to date.

#### **Revenue**

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

#### **Expenditures**

The total expenditures for the Council for year to date are within budgeted figures. Total expenditures at the end of two months is 15 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.

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#### **Attachment**

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**NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL**  
**Summary Financial Statement (Unaudited)**  
**November 30, 2014**

**BALANCE SHEET**

**ASSETS**

**Current Assets**

        Checking / Savings 954,875

        Accounts Receivable 515,681

        Other Current Assets 18,749

**Total Current Assets** 1,489,305

**TOTAL ASSETS** 1,489,305

**LIABILITIES & EQUITY**

**Liabilities**

**Current Liabilities**

            Accounts Payable 3,394

            Other Current Liabilities 78,155

**Total Liabilities** 81,549

**Equity** 1,407,756

**TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY** 1,489,305

**NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL**  
**Summary Financial Statement (Unaudited)**  
**November 30, 2014**

**SUMMARY STATEMENT**

	<b>Adopted Budget FY 2014 - 15</b>	<b>November 2014</b>	<b>Year to Date</b>	<b>Percent of Budget</b>
<b>Revenue</b>	1,688,600	619	119,756	7%
<b>Expenses</b>	1,688,600	130,039	251,191	15%

**NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL**  
**Summary Financial Statement (Unaudited)**  
**November 30, 2014**

**REVENUE**

<b>Account</b>	<b>Adopted Budget FY 2014 - 15</b>	<b>November 2014</b>	<b>Year to Date</b>	<b>Percent of Budget</b>
Program Development	24,800	0	6,004	24%
Regional Planning				
Regional Planning & Review	40,000	0	10,013	25%
Public Safety & Regulatory Compliance				
Homeland Security Activities	23,700	0	0	0%
Hazardous Waste Monitoring	42,400	619	4,694	11%
Local Emergency Planning Committee	93,500	0	0	0%
Hazards Analyses	9,100	0	0	0%
Transportation				
Gainesville Urbanized Area Transportation Planning	502,000	0	0	0%
Gainesville Urbanized Area Mass Transit	212,300	0	0	0%
Transportation Disadvantaged - Alachua County	24,200	0	0	0%
Transportation Disadvantaged - Region	173,700	0	0	0%
Economic Development				
Comp Econ Development Strategy & Tech Assistance	108,000	0	11,261	10%
Original Florida Tourism Task Force Staffing	35,000	0	0	0%
Original Florida Tourism Task Force	39,000	0	34,000	87%
Vision North Central Florida			2,500	
Local Government Assistance				
General Technical Services	10,000	0	2,496	25%
City & County Planning Services	291,700	0	47,767	16%
Community Development Block Grant Administration	59,200	0	1,021	2%
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>1,688,600</b>	<b>619</b>	<b>119,756</b>	<b>7%</b>

**NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL**  
**Summary Financial Statement (Unaudited)**  
**November 30, 2014**

**EXPENDITURES**

<b>Account</b>	<b>Adopted Budget FY 2014 - 15</b>	<b>November 2014</b>	<b>Year to Date</b>	<b>Percent of Budget</b>
Audit	15,000	0	0	0%
Building Occupancy & Grounds	31,000	4,150	6,882	22%
Contractual Services	20,000	6,333	7,084	35%
Dues, Publications & Subscriptions	50,000	10,268	27,935	56%
Furniture & Equipment	15,000	0	0	0%
Insurance and Bonding	18,000	4,574	5,744	32%
Legal Costs	14,000	4,080	4,396	31%
Machine Rental/Maintenance	5,000	0	0	0%
Meeting Expenses	19,000	0	1,350	7%
Moving Expense	2,000	0	0	0%
Office Supplies	21,000	1,358	2,862	14%
Personnel Costs	1,270,700	91,681	180,311	14%
Postage	8,000	195	800	10%
Printing	2,000	195	195	10%
Recruiting	2,000	0	0	0%
Reproduction	13,000	1,184	2,190	17%
Telephone	7,000	730	946	14%
Travel	98,000	5,291	10,496	11%
Original Florida Tourism Task Force	39,000	0	0	0%
Contingency	38,900	0	0	0%
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>1,688,600</b>	<b>130,039</b>	<b>251,191</b>	<b>15%</b>



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January 15, 2015

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#### **Revenue**

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#### **Expenditures**

The total expenditures for the Council for year to date are within budgeted figures. Total expenditures at the end of three months is 22 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.

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Attachment

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**NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL**  
**Summary Financial Statement (Unaudited)**  
**December 31, 2014**

**BALANCE SHEET**

**ASSETS**

**Current Assets**

        Checking / Savings 1,026,431

        Accounts Receivable 375,398

        Other Current Assets 39,716

**Total Current Assets** 1,441,545

**TOTAL ASSETS** 1,441,545

**LIABILITIES & EQUITY**

**Liabilities**

**Current Liabilities**

            Accounts Payable 2,271

            Other Current Liabilities 95,614

**Total Liabilities** 97,885

**Equity** 1,343,660

**TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY** 1,441,545

**NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL**  
**Summary Financial Statement (Unaudited)**  
**December 31, 2014**

**SUMMARY STATEMENT**

	<b>Adopted Budget FY 2014 - 15</b>	<b>December 2014</b>	<b>Year to Date</b>	<b>Percent of Budget</b>
<b>Revenue</b>	1,688,600	258,856	378,612	22%
<b>Expenses</b>	1,688,600	122,225	373,415	22%

**NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL**  
**Summary Financial Statement (Unaudited)**  
**December 31, 2014**

**REVENUE**

<b>Account</b>	<b>Adopted Budget FY 2014 - 15</b>	<b>December 2014</b>	<b>Year to Date</b>	<b>Percent of Budget</b>
Program Development	24,800	0	6,004	24%
Regional Planning				
Regional Planning & Review	40,000	0	10,013	25%
Public Safety & Regulatory Compliance				
Homeland Security Activities	23,700	0	0	0%
Hazardous Waste Monitoring	42,400	0	4,694	11%
Local Emergency Planning Committee	93,500	10,098	10,098	11%
Hazards Analyses	9,100	0	0	0%
Transportation				
Gainesville Urbanized Area Transportation Planning	502,000	112,911	112,911	22%
Gainesville Urbanized Area Mass Transit	212,300	0	0	0%
Transportation Disadvantaged - Alachua County	24,200	7,256	7,256	30%
Transportation Disadvantaged - Region	173,700	52,086	52,086	30%
Economic Development				
Comp Econ Development Strategy & Tech Assistance	108,000	15,750	27,011	25%
Original Florida Tourism Task Force Staffing	35,000	3,817	3,817	11%
Original Florida Tourism Task Force	39,000	0	34,000	87%
Vision North Central Florida			2,500	
Local Government Assistance				
General Technical Services	10,000	0	2,496	25%
City & County Planning Services	291,700	51,938	99,705	34%
Community Development Block Grant Administration	59,200	5,000	6,021	10%
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>1,688,600</b>	<b>258,856</b>	<b>378,612</b>	<b>22%</b>

**NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL**  
**Summary Financial Statement (Unaudited)**  
**December 31, 2014**

**EXPENDITURES**

<b>Account</b>	<b>Adopted Budget FY 2014 - 15</b>	<b>December 2014</b>	<b>Year to Date</b>	<b>Percent of Budget</b>
Audit	15,000	0	0	0%
Building Occupancy & Grounds	31,000	2,522	9,404	30%
Contractual Services	20,000	7,505	14,589	73%
Dues, Publications & Subscriptions	50,000	1,881	29,816	60%
Furniture & Equipment	15,000	0	0	0%
Insurance and Bonding	18,000	0	5,744	32%
Legal Costs	14,000	234	4,630	33%
Machine Rental/Maintenance	5,000	1,086	1,086	22%
Meeting Expenses	19,000	1,804	3,154	17%
Moving Expense	2,000	0	0	0%
Office Supplies	21,000	781	3,642	17%
Personnel Costs	1,270,700	101,533	281,844	22%
Postage	8,000	429	1,229	15%
Printing	2,000	0	195	10%
Recruiting	2,000	0	0	0%
Reproduction	13,000	1,335	3,525	27%
Telephone	7,000	488	1,434	20%
Travel	98,000	2,627	13,123	13%
Original Florida Tourism Task Force	39,000	0	0	0%
Contingency	38,900	0	0	0%
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>1,688,600</b>	<b>122,225</b>	<b>373,415</b>	<b>22%</b>



**IV. B.**

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January 15, 2015

TO: Council Members

FROM: Scott R. Koons, AICP, Executive Director 

SUBJECT: Purchase Order with the Northeast Florida Regional Council to Assist with Updating the Statewide Hurricane Evacuation Study

RECOMMENDATION:

**Authorize the Council to provide services pursuant to a purchase order with the Northeast Florida Regional Council to assist with updating the Statewide Hurricane Evacuation Study for a fixed fee amount of \$8,000.**

BACKGROUND:

The Florida Division of Emergency Management contracted with the Northeast Florida Regional Council to coordinate the state-wide update of Regional Evacuation Studies. The scope of work will consist of updating transportation evacuation data to assist in hurricane evacuation planning. Each of the 11 regional planning councils will be responsible for the update of the Regional Evacuation Study for their respective region.

This task will focus on updating transportation evacuation data using the Transportation Interface for Modeling Evacuation software.

The Council will be paid a fixed fee amount of \$8,000 for this task by the Northeast Florida Regional Council to assist with the update of the Study.

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

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**IV.C.**

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January 15, 2015

TO: Council Members  
FROM: Scott R. Koons, AICP, Executive Director   
SUBJECT: Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board Appointment

RECOMMENDATION:

**Appoint Commissioner Marion Poitevint as Chair of the Gilchrist County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board.**

BACKGROUND:

According to Rule 41-2.012 of the Florida Administrative Code, the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council, serving as the Designated Official Planning Agency, is responsible for appointing members to the local Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Boards. It is recommended Commissioner Poitevint be appointed as Chair of the Gilchrist County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board.

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

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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.





**V. B.**

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January 15, 2015

TO: Council Members  
FROM: Carolyn B. Spooner, Chair  
SUBJECT: Resolution of Appreciation - Rusty DePratter

RECOMMENDATION:

**Approve the attached resolution of appreciation for Commissioner Rusty DePratter.**

BACKGROUND:

As a token of appreciation for his service on the Council since January 2011 and in recognition of his commitment and concern for the growth and development of the north central Florida area, the attached resolution of appreciation is recommended for approval by the Council.

Attachment

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# Resolution

## OF APPRECIATION

WHEREAS, Rusty DePratter has been representing Columbia County on the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council since January 2011;

WHEREAS, Rusty DePratter has ably discharged his duties throughout his association with the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the membership and staff of the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council do hereby express their appreciation to Rusty DePratter for the dedicated service he has rendered to the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council, and for his concern for the future growth and development of this area and the State of Florida; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That this expression of appreciation be spread upon the minutes of the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council for all citizens of the region to view and recognize the accomplishments and service of Rusty DePratter.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Carolyn B. Spooner, Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Rick Davis, Secretary-Treasurer

ATTEST:

ADOPTED BY THE NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL AT THEIR MEETING  
OF JANUARY 22, 2015.







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January 15, 2015

TO: Council Members  
 FROM: Carolyn B. Spooner, Chair  
 SUBJECT: Committee Appointments

RECOMMENDATION:

**Ratify the appointments of Patricia Patterson to the Clearinghouse Committee and Scarlet Frisina to the Program Committee, as Vice-Chair.**

BACKGROUND:

Due to vacancies on the Clearinghouse Committee and the Program Committee appointments to these committees need to be made at this time.

In order to maintain a balance among city, county and gubernatorial representatives, I am recommending the appointment of Patricia Patterson to the Clearinghouse Committee and Scarlet Frisina to the Program Committee, as Vice-Chair.





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January 15, 2015

TO: Council Members

FROM: Scott R. Koons, AICP, Executive Director 

SUBJECT: Resolution Recognizing 50th Anniversary of the City of Fanning Springs

RECOMMENDATION:

**Approve the attached resolution recognizing the 50th Anniversary of the City of Fanning Springs.**

BACKGROUND:

In recognition of the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the City of Fanning Springs, the attached resolution is recommended for approval by the Council.

The City of Fanning Springs, with a population of just over 750 was first known as "Palmetto," "Sikesville" or "Fannin." The City is located at the site of Fort Fanning built in 1836 and named after Major Alexander Campbell Wilder Fanning, a West Point graduate, and veteran of the War of 1812 and the First Seminole Indian War. The City is the home of Fanning Springs State Park, including Fanning Springs, a first-magnitude springs and the Tri County Suwannee Valley Livestock Pavilion which hosts an annual Youth Fair and Livestock Sale. The City is a designated "Blue Way Community" by the Florida Paddling Trails Association.

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

Attachment

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RESOLUTION NO. 2015-01

A RESOLUTION OF THE NORTH CENTRAL  
FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL  
RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE  
CITY OF FANNING SPRINGS

WHEREAS, the City of Fanning Springs, with a population of approximately 750 residents, was first known as Palmetto," "Sikesville" or "Fannin" was founded in 1965 in Gilchrist and Levy Counties; and

WHEREAS, the City of Fanning Springs is located at the site of Fort Fanning built in 1836 and named after Major Alexander Campbell Wilder Fanning, a West Point graduate, and veteran of the War of 1812 and the First Seminole Indian War; and

WHEREAS, the City of Fanning Springs is the home of Fanning Springs State Park, which includes Fanning Springs, a first-magnitude springs; and

WHEREAS, the City of Fanning Springs is the home of the Tri-County Suwannee Valley Livestock Pavilion which hosts an annual Youth Fair and Livestock Sale; and

WHEREAS, the City of Fanning Springs, is designated a "Blue Way Community" by the Florida Paddling Trails Association.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council congratulates the City of Fanning Springs on its 50th Anniversary.

DULY ADOPTED by the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council this 22th day of January 2015.

NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA  
REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Scott R. Koons, Executive Director

\_\_\_\_\_  
Carolyn B. Spooner, Chair





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January 15, 2015

TO: Council Members

FROM: Scott R. Koons, AICP, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Check Fraud News Release

RECOMMENDATION:

**Authorize Council staff to issue a press release to regional news media concerning the Wells Fargo check fraud issue.**

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

Also, as you know, the Council authorized the Council Attorney to file a lawsuit against Wells Fargo to recover the unauthorized \$49,523.00. Following the filing of the lawsuit, the Eighth Judicial Circuit of Florida ordered that this matter be resolved by arbitration. To date, the Council has not been able to schedule an arbitration hearing before an arbitrator mutually agreeable to the Council and Wells Fargo.

Therefore, it is recommended that the Council authorize Council staff to issue a press release to regional news media concerning the Wells Fargo check fraud issue.

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

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January 15, 2015

TO: Council Members  
FROM: Sandra Haas, Chair  
Clearinghouse Committee  
RE: Chair's Report

I. ITEMS REVIEWED ON BEHALF OF THE COUNCIL (FOR YOUR INFORMATION)

As per Clearinghouse Committee Procedures, the Committee met January 13, 2015 to review the following local government comprehensive plan amendment for which the comment deadline occurred prior to the next regularly-scheduled Council meeting. A copy of the report is included in your packet for your information.

- #8 - Dixie County Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (DEO No. 15-1ER)

II. COMMITTEE-LEVEL REVIEW ITEMS

The next regularly-scheduled meeting of the Clearinghouse Committee is 6:00 p.m., January 22, 2015 at the Holiday Inn and Suites, 213 SW Commerce Boulevard, Lake City. At its meeting, the Committee will review the following Committee-level item which requires Council action. I will present an oral report on the Committee's actions and recommendations at the Council meeting held later that evening.

Local Government Comprehensive Plan Amendments

- #21- City of Gainesville Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment (DEO No. 14-3ESR)

***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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January 15, 2015

TO: Council Members

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

SUBJECT: North Central Florida Strategic Regional Policy Plan Evaluation and Appraisal Report

In a manner similar to the process required by local governments, every five years each regional planning council is required to perform an evaluation and appraisal of its Strategic Regional Policy Plan.

The evaluation and appraisal process is a two-step process. The first step involves the preparation and adoption of the Evaluation and Appraisal Report. The second step involves the preparation and adoption of amendments to the Strategic Regional Policy Plan.

The purpose of the Evaluation and Appraisal Report is to evaluate the progress of the regional plan at achieving the goals and at implementing the policies contained in the plan. The Evaluation and Appraisal Report should identify those areas of the plan in need of revision based on new information, changes to Florida Statutes, or changing regional trends and conditions. Subsequent to the adoption of the Evaluation and Appraisal Report, amendments may need to be prepared and considered by the Council for adoption based upon the recommendations contained in the Evaluation and Appraisal Report.

The Regional Planning Committee will be meeting monthly beginning in January 2015 to review the regional plan and to prepare the report. It is anticipated that the Committee will complete and forward its report for your consideration at the September 2015 Council meeting. Subsequent to Council adoption of the Evaluation and Appraisal Report, the Committee will prepare amendments to the regional plan for consideration by the Council in 2016.

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

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**IX.A.**

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January 15, 2015

TO: Council Members

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

SUBJECT: Florida Regional Councils Association Monthly Activity 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 December 2014 Monthly Activity Report highlighting the activities of the Association's Director of Intergovernmental Affairs, Sheri Coven.

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

Attachment

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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.





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

## MONTHLY ACTIVITY REPORT: December 2014

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### OUTREACH

- In conjunction with the South Florida Regional Planning Council, provided support to the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity to help complete its application for a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Special Merit Grant that, if awarded, would provide a small amount of funding to the regional planning councils to increase community resiliency capacity at the local level through a variety of training tools.
- Participated by phone in a meeting with staff from the Florida Division of Emergency Management and each of the regional planning councils to resolve Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness contract reporting issues and worked with Division staff to address periphery concerns.
- Continued to coordinate with staff from the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity on its application to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for the National Disaster Resiliency Competition.
- Joined VISIT FLORIDA's Partnership Program.

### RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT/CAPACITY BUILDING

- To enhance partnerships and strengthen the relationship between regional planning councils and their state and federal partners, participated in a meeting of the Sadowski Coalition and in Enterprise Florida's monthly teleconference for its economic development partners, which focused on preparing for the 2015 Legislative Session and included comments from Governor Scott pertaining to the state's economic status.
- Participated in the Florida Chamber Foundation's 2015 Future of Florida Forum Partners Meeting to begin planning for next year's Forum.
- Participated in a planning meeting for the Florida Civic Advance inaugural annual conference, which is an initiative of the Florida Consensus Center.
- Distributed funding announcements from the Kresgee and Robert Wood Johnson Foundations, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, National Endowment for the Arts, VISIT FLORIDA, and U.S. Department of Agriculture.

### LEGISLATIVE SUPPORT

- Shared the FRCA Executive Directors Advisory Committee's position statement on Developments of Regional Impact and Sector Plan Programs with the Legislative Director for the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity and asked that, should the Department run related legislation, it be considered for inclusion.
- Completed a final draft of FRCA's 2015 Legislative Agenda and Legislative Guiding Principles and Procedures for consideration and approval by the Policy Board at its January 9, 2015 meeting in Tallahassee.

- Reviewed pertinent bills and issued the first bill tracking report of the 2015 Legislative Session.

#### **ASSOCIATION MANAGEMENT**

- Welcomed Commissioner Frank Meeker, Flagler County (NEFRC), to the FRCA Policy Board and emailed him a new member orientation packet.
- Finalized a draft of what will be FRCA's first Strategic Operating Plan for consideration by the Policy Board at its January 9, 2015 meeting in Tallahassee.
- Participated in the December 2-3, 2014 FRCA meetings that took place at the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council.
- Finalized preparations for the series of FRCA events scheduled to take place January 8-9, 2015, including finalizing meeting logistics, securing speakers, developing agendas, and drafting four sets of meeting summaries.



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January 15, 2015

TO: Council Members

FROM: Scott R. Koons, AICP, Executive Director

SUBJECT: 2013-14 Florida Regional Councils Association Annual Report

The 2013-14 Annual Report for the Florida Regional Councils Association is attached for your information. The Florida Regional Councils Association is the statewide association of all 11 regional councils in Florida. It is governed by a Policy Board made up of three representatives (county, municipal, gubernatorial) from each Council who are in turn advised by the Executive Directors Advisory Committee comprised of all 11 executive directors.

The following members of the Council currently serve on the Florida Regional Councils Association Policy Board.

Honorable Carolyn Spooner, Chair  
Honorable Daniel Riddick, Vice-Chair  
Charles Williams, Executive Committee Member

Activities of the Council are featured on page 23. However, you are encouraged to review the document in its entirety to gain an understanding of the activities that are occurring on a statewide basis.

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

Attachment

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# Florida REGIONAL COUNCILS Association

## Annual Report and Directory

### 2013-14



# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



This past year was an exciting one for the Florida Regional Councils Association (FRCA). First, I'd like to thank Commissioner Patty Asseff (City of Hollywood) for serving as Chair of FRCA from January 2013 through August 2014. Commissioner Asseff led the FRCA Policy Board through its first Strategic Assessment Retreat in over 20 years. I also want to thank the 30 key state partners who met with our retreat facilitator for one-on-one interviews, as well as the over 250 board members and other elected officials, local government staff, and key stakeholders who completed our online survey.

The FRCA retreat began with a spirited discussion among the members over a two-day period in January 2014, followed up by a second session in August of that same year. Emerging themes included development of a business plan; identification of core regional planning council programs and services; enhancing the role of regional planning councils as conveners of their regions; and, development of a communications plan, not only to better communicate

the role and accomplishments of regional planning councils, but to share information and best practices among the councils.

Another exciting accomplishment this past year was the launching of a new economic scorecard website on regional metrics in partnership with the Florida Chamber Foundation. The website utilizes the same metrics used by the councils in the coordinated statewide update of the 11 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies and provides a mechanism to compare these statistics within and across regions. The statewide update of these federally required Strategies won a National Association of Regional Councils 2014 Achievement Award. In addition, the following projects each received a National Association of Development Organizations 2014 Innovation Award:

- Northeast Florida Regional Council - Regional Action Plan for Sea Level Rise;
- Apalachee Regional Planning Council - Support of the Wakulla Environmental Institute;
- Central Florida Regional Planning Council - Heartland 2060;
- Central Florida, Southwest Florida, and Tampa Bay Regional Planning Councils - Florida Local/Regional Broadband Planning Project; and,
- North Central Florida Regional Planning Council - Incorporating Safety into Transportation Planning Project.

Other awards and recognitions throughout this past year included the following:

- American Planning Association Florida Award of Merit and Florida Planning and Zoning Association Outstanding Plan/Study Award to the Central Florida Regional Planning Council for its Affordable Housing Toolkit for the Heartland;
- American Planning Association Florida Award of Merit to the Treasure Coast and South Florida Regional Planning Councils for Seven50: Southeast Florida Regional Partnership Plan;
- Florida Public Transit Association Award of Merit to the West Florida Regional Planning Council for the Bay Town Trolley and Okaloosa County Transit;
- Florida Transportation Commission Recognition of the Northeast Florida Regional Council as its Planning Agency of the Year;
- Center for Urban Transportation Research Florida Travel Choices Marketing Excellence Award to the West Florida Regional Planning Council for its "rideOn" Commuter Assistance Program; and,
- Florida State Emergency Response Commission Award to the East Central Florida Regional Planning Council for its 2014 Hazardous Materials Training Symposium Command Staff.

Finally, I want to wish the Central Florida Regional Planning Council a happy 40th anniversary and to the West Florida Regional Planning Council, a very happy 50th anniversary. We have high hopes for the coming year and I look forward to working with my colleagues in partnership with the state to better serve the needs of our local governments.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "W. Patrick Huff". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

W. Patrick "Pat" Huff, President

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# POLICY BOARD MEMBERS

## **Apalachee Regional Planning Council**

Honorable Jane Sauls, Leon County Commissioner  
Honorable Delores Madison, Midway City Commissioner  
Mr. Steven Cutshaw, Gubernatorial Appointee

## **Central Florida Regional Planning Council**

Honorable Juril "Buddy" Mansfield, Desoto County Commissioner  
Honorable W. Patrick "Pat" Huff, City of Bartow Mayor  
Ms. Jacqueline Tucker, Gubernatorial Appointee

## **East Central Florida Regional Planning Council**

Honorable Sean Parks, Lake County Commissioner  
Honorable Lee Constantine, Seminole County Commissioner  
Ms. Jill Rose, Gubernatorial Appointee

## **North Central Florida Regional Planning Council**

Honorable Daniel Riddick, Bradford County Commissioner  
Honorable Carolyn Spooner, City of Starke Mayor  
Mr. Charles Williams, Gubernatorial Appointee

## **Northeast Florida Regional Council**

Honorable Frank Meeker, Flagler County Commissioner  
Honorable Jon Netts, City of Palm Coast Mayor  
Mr. Darryl Register, Gubernatorial Appointee

## **South Florida Regional Planning Council**

Honorable David Rice, Monroe County Commissioner  
Honorable Franklin Caplan, City of Key Biscayne Mayor  
Mr. Mario Bailey, Gubernatorial Appointee

## **Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council**

Honorable Teresa Heitmann, City of Naples Councilwoman  
Honorable Forrest Banks, City of Ft. Myers Councilman  
Mr. Alan Reynolds, Gubernatorial Appointee

## **Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council**

Honorable Victor Crist, Hillsborough County Commissioner  
Honorable Scott Black, City of Dade City Commissioner  
Ms. Barbara Sheen Todd, Gubernatorial Appointee

## **Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council**

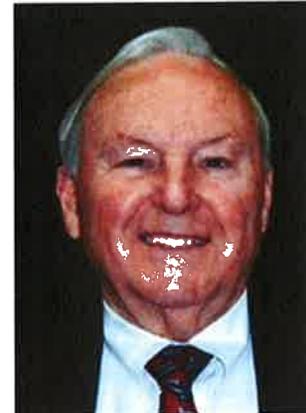
Honorable Paula Lewis, St. Lucie County Commissioner  
Honorable James DuBois, Town of Lake Park Mayor  
Vacant, Gubernatorial Appointee

## **West Florida Regional Planning Council**

Honorable Eugene Valentino, Escambia County Commissioner  
Honorable Thomas Abbot, City of Callaway Mayor  
Mr. J.D. Smith, Gubernatorial Appointee

## **Withlacoochee Regional Planning Council**

Honorable Dennis Damato, Citrus County Commissioner  
Honorable Joseph Johnston, City of Brooksville Commissioner  
Ms. Martha Hanson, Gubernatorial Appointee



**Honorable W. Patrick "Pat" Huff  
President**



**Honorable Lee Constantine  
First Vice-President**



**Ms. Barbara Sheen Todd  
Second Vice-President**

# FLORIDA REGIONAL COUNCILS ASSOCIATION



- ◆ The Florida Regional Councils Association is an **alliance of Florida's 11 regional planning councils**, which serves to strengthen the regional planning councils, **enhance regional economic prosperity**, and improve the consistency and quality of regional planning council programs to ensure they **add value** to state, regional, and local initiatives.
- ◆ The Association is **governed by a Policy Board** made up of two elected officials and one gubernatorial appointee from each regional planning council.
- ◆ The Policy Board meets to **discuss issues** affecting regional planning councils, **share information** with its partners, and **set policy** and a **legislative agenda**.

- ◆ The Policy Board seeks support of its **national regional agenda** from Florida's Congressional Delegation as well as **support for state funding** of regional planning councils to carry out state mandates and responsibilities.
- ◆ The Association is **actively involved** in the National Association of Regional Councils, National Association of Development Organizations, and SouthEast Regional Directors Institute.
- ◆ The Association ensures regional planning councils are **consensus builders** and **problem solvers**, and serve as **conveners of their region**.
- ◆ The Association encourages and promotes opportunities for regional planning councils to become **partners in state programs and initiatives**, while promoting the uniqueness of each region.



- ◆ The Association **fosters relationships and partnerships** and coordinates with regional, state, 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 priorities.
- ◆ Regional planning council executive directors serve as the Policy Board's **Executive Directors Advisory Committee** to coordinate statewide initiatives, collaborate with state agencies, and share best programmatic and administrative practices among one another.

# REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCILS

- ◆ Florida's 11 regional planning councils have been in existence in Florida since the early 1960s, **created by the local governments they serve**, to meet local government and regional needs, provide services, and collaborate on state and federal initiatives and programs.
- ◆ Florida Statutes recognize regional planning councils as **Florida's only multi-purpose regional entity that is in a position to plan for and coordinate intergovernmental solutions to growth-related problems on greater-than-local issues, provide technical assistance to local governments, and meet other needs of the communities in each region** (Section 186.502(4), Florida Statutes).
- ◆ Regional planning councils adopt **Strategic Regional Policy Plans** to address natural resources, housing, emergency management, transportation, and economic development. Strategic Regional Policy Plans are **long-range guides for the physical, economic, and social development of each region**.
- ◆ All 11 regional planning councils are **federally designated as Economic Development Districts** by the U.S. Economic Development Administration, which empowers the councils to engage in a full range of economic development activities as provided for in their federally approved **Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies**.
- ◆ In addition to their **core functions** of providing assistance in the areas of economic development, emergency management, transportation, quality of life, and conveners of their regions, each regional planning council tailors its services and programs to address **regional concerns** and **meet the needs of their member local governments** (see the complete list of regional planning council services and programs on pages 18 and 19).
- ◆ Each regional planning council is governed by a **Board of Directors** made up of **two-thirds local elected officials** and **one-third gubernatorial appointees** from its member counties, that set its work program and budget.
- ◆ These governing boards range in size from 18 to 48, and include at least **four ex-officio, nonvoting members** from the following entities: Florida Department of Economic Opportunity, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Florida Department of Transportation, and the jurisdictional water management district(s).
- ◆ **Funding** for regional planning councils generally comes from **local government membership dues** and **federal, state, and local grants and other contracts for services**.

Providing professional technical support to local governments, state and regional partners, and the civic and business community for over 50 years.

Economic Development

Emergency Management

Transportation

Quality of Life

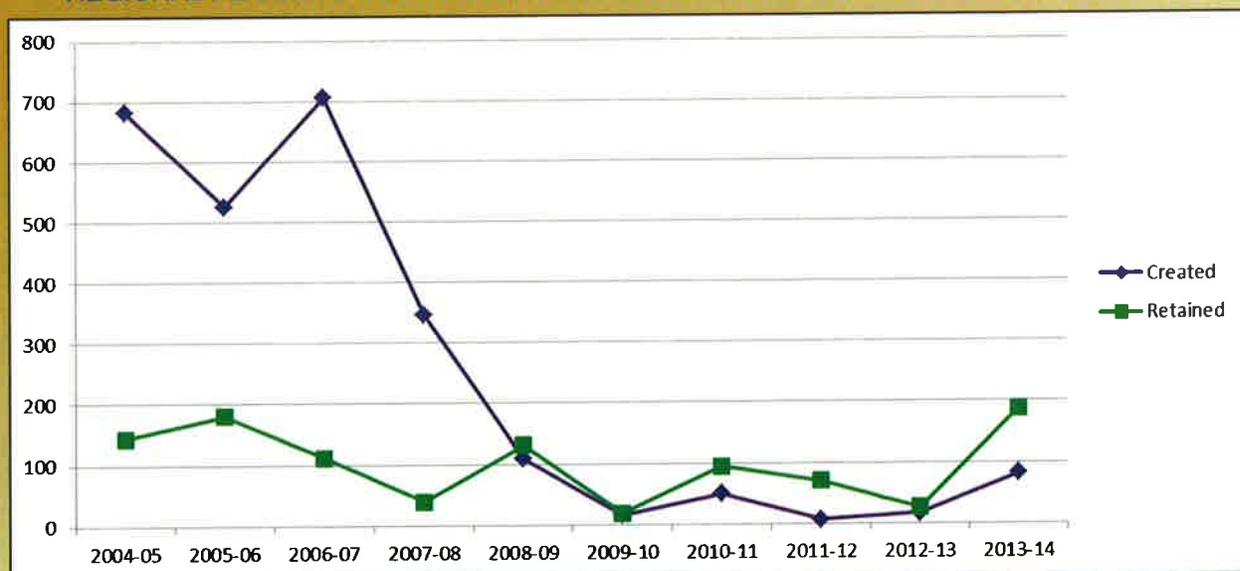
Regional Conveners

# RETURN ON INVESTMENT

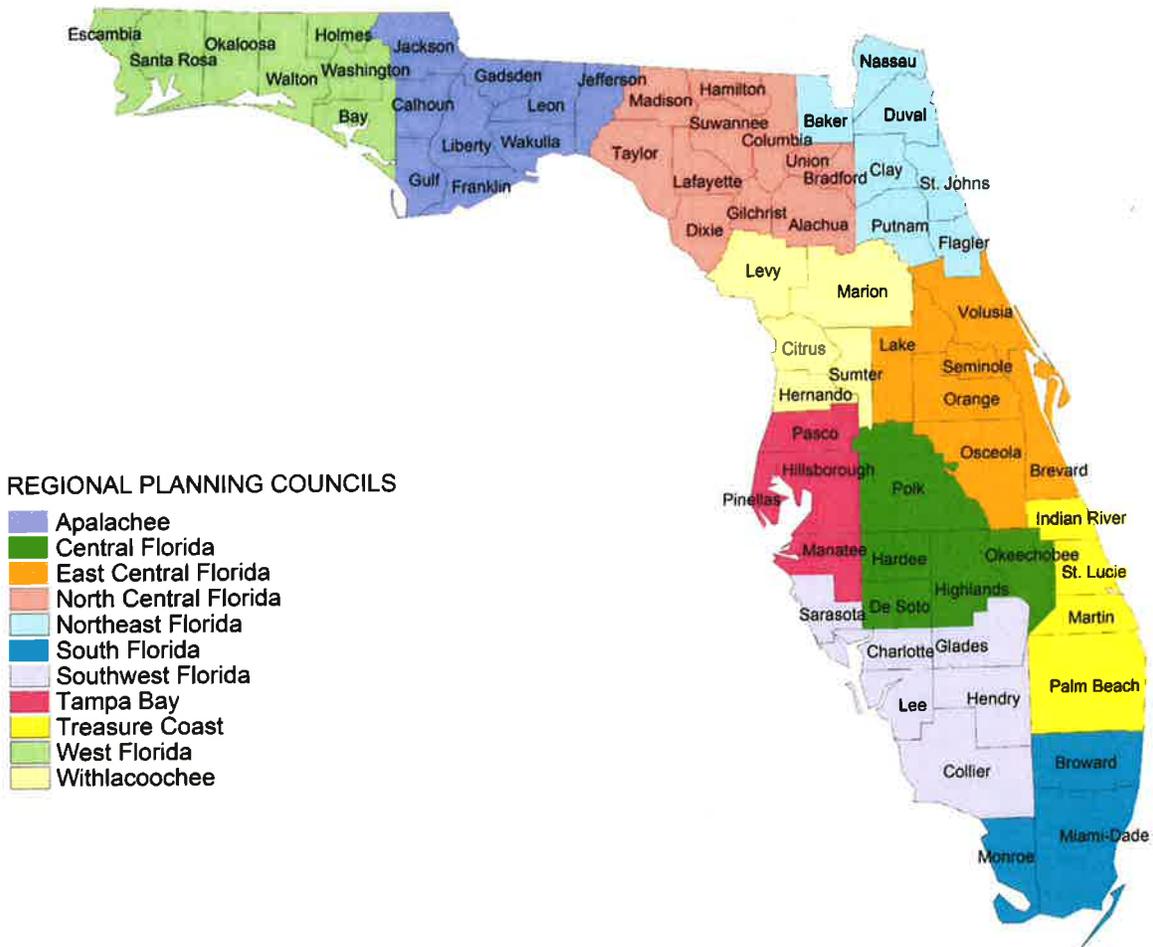
Regional planning councils are Florida's only multipurpose regional entities that plan for and coordinate intergovernmental solutions on multijurisdictional issues, support regional economic development, and provide assistance to local governments.

- ◆ Through regional planning councils, from January 2005 to September 2014, the U.S. Economic Development Administration **invested \$64.5 million in 36 projects in Florida, to create 4,759 jobs and retain 10,310 jobs** and leverage over \$600 million in private capital investment.
- ◆ In 2013-14, through revolving loan fund portfolios composed of federal and state funds, four regional planning councils **loaned a total of \$2.35 million to grow small businesses and encourage business retention and expansion, resulting in the creation and retention of 270 jobs.** Over the past ten years, these same regional planning councils have loaned **\$39.9 million**, resulting in the creation and retention of **3,544 jobs.**
- ◆ In 2013-14, regional planning councils conducted **92 regional economic impact analyses and studies**, often in support of local economic development organizations, helping them compete nationally and globally for investment and skilled jobs. A total of **507 regional planning council economic analyses** have been completed in the last 10 years.
- ◆ In 2013-14, regional planning councils **trained 3,691 first responders** and other emergency management personnel. A total of **34,577 first responders** and other emergency management personnel have been trained in the past 10 years.
- ◆ In 2013-14, regional planning councils **reviewed 992 projects under the Federal Consistency Review Program**, ensuring access to hundreds of millions of federal infrastructure and economic development investment dollars. A total of **11,988 projects** were reviewed in the past ten years under this program.

REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL REVOLVING LOAN FUND JOB CREATION & RETENTION



# REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL DIRECTORY



## REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCILS

- Apalachee
- Central Florida
- East Central Florida
- North Central Florida
- Northeast Florida
- South Florida
- Southwest Florida
- Tampa Bay
- Treasure Coast
- West Florida
- Withlacoochee

REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL	COUNTIES	EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS
<b>Apalachee</b>	Calhoun Franklin Gadsden Gulf Jackson Jefferson Leon Liberty Wakulla	<b>Chris N. Rietow</b> 2507 Callaway Road, Suite 200 Tallahassee, FL 32303 PH: 850.488.6211, x102 FAX: 850.488.1616 Email: <a href="mailto:crietow@thearpc.com">crietow@thearpc.com</a> Website: <a href="http://www.thearpc.com">www.thearpc.com</a>
<b>Central Florida</b>	DeSoto Hardee Highlands Okeechobee Polk	<b>Patricia M. Steed</b> 555 East Church Street Bartow, FL 33830 PH: 863.534.7130, x130 FAX: 863.534.7138 Email: <a href="mailto:psteed@cfrpc.org">psteed@cfrpc.org</a> Website: <a href="http://www.cfrpc.org">http://www.cfrpc.org</a>
<b>East Central Florida</b>	Brevard Lake Orange Osceola Seminole Volusia	<b>Hugh W. Harling, Jr.</b> 309 Cranes Roost Boulevard, Suite 2000 Altamonte Springs, FL 32701 PH: 407.262.7772, x303 Fax: 407.262.7788 Email: <a href="mailto:harling@ecfrpc.org">harling@ecfrpc.org</a> Website: <a href="http://www.ecfrpc.org">http://www.ecfrpc.org</a>

# REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL DIRECTORY

REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL	COUNTIES	EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS
<b>North Central Florida</b>	Alachua Bradford Columbia Dixie Gilchrist Hamilton Lafayette Madison Suwannee Taylor Union	<b>Scott R. Koons</b> 2009 Northwest 67th Place Gainesville, FL 32653 PH: 352.955.2200, x101 FAX: 352.955.2209 Email: <a href="mailto:koons@ncfrpc.org">koons@ncfrpc.org</a> Web Site: <a href="http://www.ncfrpc.org">http://www.ncfrpc.org</a>
<b>Northeast Florida</b>	Baker Clay Duval Flagler Nassau Putnam St. Johns	<b>Brian D. Teeple</b> 6850 Belfort Oaks Place Jacksonville, FL 32216 PH: 904.279.0880, x103 FAX: 904.279.0881 Email: <a href="mailto:bteeple@nefrc.org">bteeple@nefrc.org</a> Web Site: <a href="http://www.nefrc.org">http://www.nefrc.org</a>
<b>South Florida</b>	Broward Miami-Dade Monroe	<b>James F. Murley</b> 3440 Hollywood Boulevard, Suite 140 Hollywood, FL 33021 PH: 954.985.4416, x220 FAX: 954.985.4417 Email: <a href="mailto:jmurley@sfrpc.com">jmurley@sfrpc.com</a> Website: <a href="http://www.sfrpc.com">http://www.sfrpc.com</a>
<b>Southwest Florida</b>	Charlotte Collier Glades Hendry Lee Sarasota	<b>Margaret A. Wuerstle</b> 1926 Victoria Avenue Ft. Myers, FL 33901 PH: 239.338.2550, x222 FAX: 239.338.2560 Email: <a href="mailto:mwuerstle@swfrpc.org">mwuerstle@swfrpc.org</a> Website: <a href="http://www.swfrpc.org">http://www.swfrpc.org</a>
<b>Tampa Bay</b>	Hillsborough Manatee Pasco Pinellas	<b>Manny L. Pumariega</b> 4000 Gateway Centre Boulevard, Suite 100 Pinellas Park, FL 33782 PH: 727.570.5151, x17 FAX: 727.570.5118 Email: <a href="mailto:manny@tbrpc.org">manny@tbrpc.org</a> Website: <a href="http://www.tbrpc.org">http://www.tbrpc.org</a>
<b>Treasure Coast</b>	Indian River Martin Palm Beach St. Lucie	<b>Michael J. Busha</b> 421 Southwest Camden Avenue Stuart, FL 34994 PH: 772.221.4060, x15 FAX: 772.221.4067 Email: <a href="mailto:mbusha@tcrpc.org">mbusha@tcrpc.org</a> Website: <a href="http://www.tcrpc.org">http://www.tcrpc.org</a>
<b>West Florida</b>	Bay Escambia Holmes Okaloosa Santa Rosa Walton Washington	<b>Terry A. Joseph</b> 4081 East Olive Road, Suite A Pensacola, FL 32514 PH: 850.332.7976, x201 FAX: 850.637.1923 Email: <a href="mailto:terry.joseph@wfrpc.org">terry.joseph@wfrpc.org</a> Website: <a href="http://www.wfrpc.org">www.wfrpc.org</a>
<b>Withlacoochee</b>	Citrus Hernando Levy Marion Sumter	<b>Michael R. Moehlman</b> 1241 Southwest 10th Street Ocala, FL 34471 PH: 352.732.1315, x218 FAX: 352.732.1319 Email: <a href="mailto:moehlman@wrpc.cc">moehlman@wrpc.cc</a> Website: <a href="http://www.wrpc.cc">http://www.wrpc.cc</a>

# VOTING MEMBER GOVERNMENTS

Regional Planning Councils are an extension  
of the local governments they serve.

REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL	COUNTY	MUNICIPALITY (BY COUNTY)	GUBERNATORIAL APPOINTEE COUNTIES	BOARD MEETING DATE/TIME
<b>Apalachee</b>	Calhoun Franklin Gadsden Gulf Jackson Jefferson Leon Liberty Wakulla	Altha Carrabelle Quincy Wewahitchka Malone Monticello Tallahassee Bristol St. Marks	Calhoun Franklin Gadsden Gulf Jackson Jefferson Leon Liberty Wakulla	Every other month: Fourth Thursday 10:30 a.m.
<b>Central Florida</b>	DeSoto Hardee Highlands Okeechobee Polk	Arcadia Wauchula Sebring Okeechobee Lakeland, Winter Haven, Ridge League of Cities	DeSoto Hardee Highlands Okeechobee Polk	Monthly: Second Wednesday 9:30 a.m.
<b>East Central Florida</b>	Brevard Lake Orange Osceola Seminole Volusia	Space Coast League of Cities Lake County League of Cities Tri-County League of Cities Tri-County League of Cities Tri-County League of Cities Volusia County League of Cities	Brevard Lake Orange Osceola Seminole Volusia	Every other month: Third Wednesday 10:00 a.m.
<b>North Central Florida</b>	Alachua  Bradford Columbia Dixie Gilchrist Hamilton Lafayette Madison Suwannee Taylor Union	Alachua, Archer, Gainesville, Hawthorne, High Springs, Newberry, and Waldo Starke Lake City No Voting Municipal Member No Voting Municipal Member Jasper No Voting Municipal Member Madison Like Oak Perry No Voting Municipal Member	Alachua Bradford Columbia Dixie Gilchrist Hamilton Lafayette Madison Suwannee Taylor Union	Monthly: Fourth Thursday 7:30 p.m.
<b>Northeast Florida</b>	Baker Clay Duval Flagler Nassau Putnam St. Johns	Macclenny Keystone Heights Baldwin Bunnell Callahan Palatka St. Augustine	Baker Clay Duval Flagler Nassau Putnam St. Johns	Every other month: First Thursday 10:00 a.m.

# VOTING MEMBER GOVERNMENTS

REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL	COUNTY	MUNICIPALITY BY COUNTY	GUBERNATORIAL APPOINTEE COUNTIES	BOARD MEETING DATE/TIME
<b>South Florida</b>	Broward Miami-Dade Monroe	Lauderhill Key Biscayne and Miami Lakes Key West	Broward Miami-Dade Monroe	Every other month: First Monday 10:30 a.m.
<b>Southwest Florida</b>	Charlotte Collier Glades Hendry Lee  Sarasota	Punta Gorda Marco Island, Naples, and Everglades City Moore Haven Clewiston and Labelle Bonita Springs, Cape Coral, Ft. Myers, Ft. Myers Beach, and Sanibel Longboat Key, North Port, Sarasota, and Venice	Charlotte Collier Glades Hendry Lee Sarasota	Monthly: Third Thursday 9:00 a.m.
<b>Tampa Bay</b>	Hillsborough Manatee Pasco  Pinellas	Plant City, Tampa, and Temple Terrace Bradenton and Palmetto Dade City, New Port Richey, and Zephyrhills Clearwater, Dunedin, Gulfport, Largo, Oldsmar, Pinellas Park, Safety Harbor, St. Petersburg, St. Pete Beach, Seminole, South Pasadena, Tarpon Springs, and Treasure Island	Hillsborough Manatee Pasco Pinellas	Monthly: Second Monday 10:00 a.m.
<b>Treasure Coast</b>	Indian River Martin Palm Beach  St. Lucie	Fellsmere and Vero Beach Stuart Greenacres, Jupiter, Lake Park, Palm Springs, and Wellington Fort Pierce and Port St. Lucie	Indian River Martin Palm Beach St. Lucie	Ten Times/Year: Third Friday 9:30 a.m.
<b>West Florida</b>	Bay Escambia Holmes Okaloosa Santa Rosa Walton Washington	Callaway, Lynn Haven, and Panama City Pensacola No Voting Municipal Member Crestview, Destin, and Fort Walton Beach Jay and Milton DeFuniak Springs and Paxton Chipley and Vernon	Bay Escambia Holmes Okaloosa Santa Rosa Walton Washington	Monthly: Third Monday 3:30 p.m.
<b>Withlacoochee</b>	Citrus Hernando Levy Marion Sumter	Inverness Brooksville Inglis Bellview and Ocala Coleman	Citrus Hernando Levy Marion Sumter	Eight Times/ Year: Third Thursday 7:00 p.m.



# TALENT SUPPLY & EDUCATION

## WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

### Marine Industries Career Training

The Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council completed a Regional Waterways Plan for Martin and St. Lucie Counties, which includes an evaluation of economic opportunities provided by the nearly 140 miles of navigable waterways in the two counties. A key finding focuses on the “Marine Industries” industry sub-sector and its workforce development needs.



The plan includes a recommendation to develop a high school/post-secondary career track to expand the local workforce to support the industry. The Council, local school district representatives, and the Marine Industries Association of the Treasure Coast are working together to identify appropriate industry certifications, internship opportunities among marine industry businesses, and in-school mentors; and are participating in career expos to recruit potential high school career-track students.

### Federal Transit Administration Funding to Improve Access to Employment

Several regional planning councils administer Federal Transit Administration (FTA) funding with the specific goal of improving access to employment and employment related activities for eligible low-income individuals under the Florida Transportation Disadvantaged Program. The funding may be used to transport qualified residents to educational and training opportunities. To identify eligible clients in need of transport, these councils partner with their district Workforce Boards, Educational Institutions, and Vocational Rehabilitation agencies. FTA funds may also be used to procure vehicles to provide these trips.

### CareerSource Northeast Florida

This year, Brian Teeple, Chief Executive Officer of the Northeast Florida Regional Council, was appointed to CareerSource Northeast Florida. Mr. Teeple was pleased to be selected to serve as one of the Board’s Regional Representatives. This opens the door for exploring opportunities to strengthen the ties between regional planning councils and CareerSource Florida.

## EDUCATION

### Curriculum at Florida Polytechnic

The Central Florida Regional Planning Council provided input and guidance in the development of curriculum for several programs, including Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) majors at the new Florida Polytechnic, Florida’s 12<sup>th</sup> public university, which opened in Fall 2014. The STEM university curriculum aligns with goals contained in the State Strategic Plan for Economic Development, the region’s Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy, and the Heartland 2060: Building a Resilient Region initiative.



### Regional Schools Work Group

For nearly a decade, the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council has facilitated a Regional Schools Work Group that includes the four local school districts in the region as well as topic-specific participation by Florida Atlantic University, Indian River State College, Palm Beach State College, two CareerSource districts, and local governments. The Work Group meets six to 12 times per year, and its discussion topics include legislation, population projections, opportunities for capital facilities efficiencies, and workforce development/career training. Through the efforts of the work group, the school districts created multi-county career track programs, shared resources, and developed regional legislative platforms to expand career track programs.

# INNOVATION & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICTS/ COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES

Regional planning councils are designated by the U.S. Economic Development Administration as Florida's Economic Development Districts. Each Economic Development District is required to develop a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy, which is an economic development plan designed to bring public and private sectors together to create an economic road map to diversify and strengthen the regional economy.

Once a project is listed in the Strategy, it becomes eligible to seek funding from the U.S. Economic Development Administration's Public Works and Economic Adjustment Programs. These awards can fund up to one-half of the qualifying infrastructure costs of a project. From January 2005 to September 2014, the U.S. Economic Development Administration invested \$64.5 million in 36 projects in Florida to create 4,759 jobs and retain 10,310 jobs and leverage over \$600 million in private capital.

### Six Pillars™ Communities

The Florida Chamber Foundation has designated the 11 regional planning councils as Six Pillars™ Communities, in recognition of the concurrent updates to their Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies using the Foundation's Six Pillars as the organizing framework. This alignment with the business community leverages the economic development efforts of the regional planning councils and foster more opportunities for the entire state, including rural areas. Furthermore, this designation brought the Six Pillars™ to the attention of the U.S. Economic Development Agency, reinforcing Florida's commitment to align the public and private sectors in the area of economic development. The alignment of the 11 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies was

also recognized by the National Association of Regional Councils, which awarded the Florida Regional Councils Association with a 2014 Regional Leadership Excellence Award.

### U.S. Economic Development Administration Project in Fellsmere, FL

The U.S. Economic Development Administration awarded a \$364,000 grant to the City of Fellsmere to build critical roadway infrastructure to enhance the Treasure Coast Region's growing aquaculture cluster. With total project costs estimated to be \$728,000, the additional funding was provided by a grant from the State of Florida through

**Regional planning councils  
are federally designated  
economic development districts  
by the U.S. Economic  
Development Administration.**



the Economic Development Transportation Fund. The U.S. Economic Development Administration and Trust Fund investments will fund the construction of roadway infrastructure to support the development of a commercial-scale, state-of-the-art aquaculture program and related research and development facilities. The program and facilities will be led by Florida Organic Aquaculture and a consortium that includes Florida Atlantic University's Harbor Branch Institute, the Florida Institute of Technology, and Texas Tech University. Florida Organic Aquaculture's capital investment will exceed \$13

million and the company expects to provide 60-70 jobs to harvest and sell fresh sushi-grade colossal shrimp.

### Regional Community Institute

The Regional Community Institute, Inc., the not-for-profit policy affiliate of the Northeast Florida Regional Council, completed policy recommendations regarding its Thriving Small Business initiative. The committee established baseline data regarding small businesses in the region and developed small business climate indicators, in an effort to identify actions that would make Northeast Florida most conducive to small business startups, expanded employment, and long-term success. The Action Plan

# INNOVATION & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

proposes to make full use of the region's Economic Development District designation by submitting at least one project per year for funding to support small business, partnering and sharing information with key stakeholders to strengthen agriculture and agri-tourism, and developing a "Main Street" strategy for the region focused on downtowns that present opportunities for small businesses.

## FLORIDA STRATEGIC PLAN FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The Florida Department of Economic Opportunity, Division of Strategic Business Development, is required by state law to create a Five-Year Statewide Strategic Plan designed to help guide the future of Florida's economy. Approved by the Governor in 2014, the Florida Strategic Plan for Economic Development, organized according to the Florida Chamber Foundation's Six Pillars, defines the goals, objectives, and strategies to move Florida toward its economic vision of being increasingly competitive.

In addition to playing a significant role in the development of the Strategic Plan, the regional planning councils developed tactics and metrics to measure and report their progress toward achieving the plan's goals and objectives on a quarterly basis. For the 2013-14 state fiscal year, regional planning councils accomplished the following:

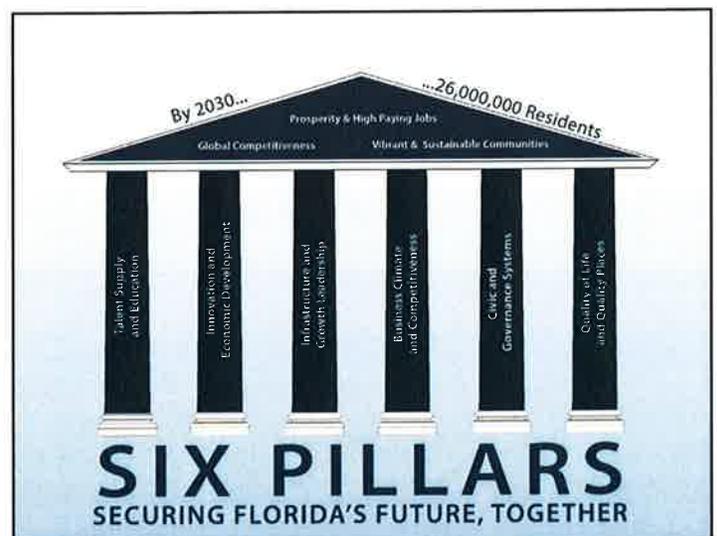
- ◆ Created 82 jobs and retained 188 jobs through their revolving loan fund programs;
- ◆ Wrote 168 grants in partnership with their local governments or economic development organizations; and,
- ◆ Conducted 92 economic impact analyses on behalf of their local governments or economic development organizations.

## Florida Strategic Plan Economic Development

In addition, regional planning councils engaged in thousands of technical assistance activities in support of the strategies in the Strategic Plan, which were also implemented through actions that supported each

regional planning council's Strategic Regional Policy Plan and Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy.

Finally, over the past year, staff from the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity met with most of the regional planning council Boards of Directors and provided a presentation and written crosswalk of the Strategic Plan's strategies with each council's programs and activities, to further promote implementation of the plan.



## RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE

The statutorily-established Rural Economic Development Initiative is a coordinated effort among state and regional agencies to provide programs and services to rural communities. The Florida Regional Councils Association is a statutorily identified Rural Economic Development Initiative agency.

Among its statutory responsibilities, the Rural Economic Development Initiative recommends to the Governor the designation of Rural Areas of Opportunity, which are defined as rural communities, or a region composed of rural communities, that have been adversely affected by extraordinary economic events or natural disasters. The designation establishes each region as a priority assignment for Rural Economic Development Initiative agencies and allows the Governor to waive certain economic development incentive criteria.

# INNOVATION & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The Governor has designated the following three Rural Areas of Opportunity:



- ◆ Northwest: Calhoun, Franklin, Gadsden, Gulf, Holmes, Jackson, Liberty, and Washington Counties
- ◆ North Central: Baker, Bradford, Columbia, Dixie, Gilchrist, Hamilton, Jefferson, Lafayette, Levy, Madison, Putnam, Suwannee, Taylor, and Union Counties
- ◆ South Central: Desoto, Glades, Hardee, Hendry, Highlands, and Okeechobee Counties

Within each of these areas is at least one “catalyst” project undertaken to help bring a skilled workforce and higher paying jobs to these regions. Regional planning councils work closely with the Florida Heartland Rural Economic Development Initiative, Opportunity Florida, and North Florida Economic Development Partnership, which are the three economic development organizations responsible for coordinating the activities of these areas, to promote collaboration, carry out economic development programs, and further the goals of the catalyst projects.

It is important to note that communities in non-rural counties that meet the rural community criteria in Florida Statutes, including having an employment base focused on traditional agriculture or resource-based industries, are also eligible for Rural Economic Development Initiative assistance. Over the past year, these were the cities and towns of Center Hill (Sumter County), Century (Escambia County), Fellsmere (Indian River County), Fort Meade and Frostproof (Polk County), and Jay (Santa Rosa County).

## MILITARY BASE COMPATIBILITY

Defense spending is a major economic driver for Florida. In 2011, it was responsible for \$73.4 billion, or 9.4% of Florida’s 2011 Gross State Product. It also accounted for a total of 758,112 jobs. Therefore, the value of Florida’s military bases cannot be overstated. Current and future mission capabilities; the ability to host large, complex joint training exercises; and the availability and condition of land, facilities, water, and airspace to maintain a diversity of climate and terrain among training areas are paramount to ensuring a viable and sustainable military presence in Florida.

In recognition of these factors, the Legislature has undertaken several initiatives to make Florida a military friendly state. The Legislature has established the Florida Defense Support Task Force to prepare Florida to effectively compete in any federal base realignment and closure action and to improve the state’s military-friendly environment. In addition to serving as a resource for the Task Force, regional planning councils work in partnership with military installations and local governments to promote compatible land uses on property surrounding military bases and prevent encroachment. In particular, the purchase of conservation easements from willing landowners allows them to capture the value of the land while, in most cases, while maintaining traditional agricultural activities. The Central Florida Regional Planning Council is particularly active in this area as demonstrated by their partnership with the Avon Park Air Force Range to carry out recommendations of a Joint Land Use Study, conducted by the Council in cooperation with the Range and surrounding jurisdictions.



# INFRASTRUCTURE & GROWTH LEADERSHIP

## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

### Comprehensive Planning

The Comprehensive Planning Act governs local government comprehensive planning in Florida. While there have been many changes to the law over the past few years, regardless of whether a local government submits its comprehensive plan to the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity using the Expedited State Review or State Coordinated Review process, regional planning councils continue to play a significant role.

Local government comprehensive plan amendments are reviewed by regional planning councils for extra-jurisdictional impacts and consistency with the applicable Strategic Regional Policy Plan. Under the Expedited State Review process, regional planning councils send their comments directly to the local government and the State Land Planning Agency (Florida Department of Economic Opportunity), whereas under the State Coordinated Review process, regional planning councils send their comments to the State Land Planning Agency.



### Local Government Technical Assistance

Regional planning councils provide technical assistance to their local jurisdictions through numerous services and special tasks. By offering technical assistance programs to their local governments, economies of scale are achieved. Regional planning council technical assistance may include the following:

- ◆ preparation of small- and large-scale comprehensive plan map and text amendments;
- ◆ development proposals;
- ◆ redevelopment master plans;
- ◆ evaluation and appraisal assessments;
- ◆ rezoning applications;
- ◆ variances;
- ◆ land development regulations;
- ◆ water supply plans;
- ◆ special permits and special exceptions;
- ◆ traffic studies;
- ◆ mobility plans;
- ◆ complete streets planning;
- ◆ concurrency evaluations;
- ◆ site plan review; and
- ◆ visioning exercises.

Finally, some regional planning councils serve as the county or city planner for their local governments that are unable to afford a full-time planning staff.

### Geographic Information Systems Mapping

Regional planning councils provide Geographic Information System mapping services to local governments and other agencies. The purpose of these services is to produce various types of maps, such as the following:

- ◆ local government map series and regional map series;
- ◆ delineation of community redevelopment areas;
- ◆ utility service areas;
- ◆ natural resource and environmentally sensitive areas;
- ◆ hurricane surge zones; and
- ◆ soils classifications and floodplain areas.

Regional planning councils also use Geographic Information Systems to conduct analyses, such as those pertaining to corridors, the environment, or health impact assessments, as well as custom special analyses.

## EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

### Training, Exercises, and Technical Assistance

Regional planning councils are a source of affordable, high-quality planning and training professionals with extensive expertise in emergency management and preparedness who are available to member local

# INFRASTRUCTURE & GROWTH LEADERSHIP

governments and stakeholders. This assistance includes exercise and training activities designed in conjunction with county emergency management staff. Regional planning councils provide training to first responders, both public and private, in the following areas:

- ◆ hazardous materials;
  - ◆ hazardous waste;
  - ◆ incident command;
  - ◆ disaster response;
  - ◆ pre- and post-disaster planning;
  - ◆ post-disaster redevelopment;
  - ◆ continuity of operations and governance; and
  - ◆ interoperability emergency communications.
- ◆ assist in planning for chemical spill mitigation;
  - ◆ provide and support training events;
  - ◆ design, conduct, and evaluate emergency exercises; and
  - ◆ educate the public on how to react to a hazardous materials release.

## *Plume of Doom Exercise*

The Local Emergency Planning Committee District VI of the East Central Florida Regional Planning Council conducted a public safety Tabletop Exercise at Walt Disney's Dolphin and Swan Resorts. Participants included first responders, emergency management partners, public transportation officials, and several representatives from the private sector including theme parks and hotels near the International Drive Corridor.

Sixty participants worked through a complex chemical scenario that began southeast of International Drive with a large leak from a railcar hauling 30,000 pounds of liquefied chlorine. Liquefied chlorine is Central Florida's sixth most transported chemical and has the potential to become immediately dangerous to life and health. Scenarios and plumes were designed through Computer-Aided Management of Emergency Operations software, a plume modeling resource available to first responders.

The Exercise allowed public safety agencies and community partners to discuss response protocols, plans, and procedures for mass evacuation and/or protection in place, as well as providing quality vetted information to the public, specifically the tourist population.



Over the past ten years, regional planning councils have trained more than 34,577 first responders and other emergency management personnel. Examples of specific training exercises are given in the sections that follow.

## **Local Emergency Planning Committees**

Regional planning councils are the coordinators for Local Emergency Planning Committees, which are charged with facilitating regional hazardous materials emergency response and compliance with hazardous materials reporting laws under the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act. The State Emergency Response Commission appoints the Committee members, which are from diverse backgrounds and occupations, representing the various groups of first responders as well corporate partners. The Committees do the following:

- ◆ serve as a public information repository for inventory reports;



# PROGRAM MATRIX

PROGRAM	ARPC	CFRPC	ECFRPC	NCFRPC	NEFRPC	SFRPC	SWFRPC	TBRPC	TCRPC	WFRPC	WRPC
<b>Regional Planning</b>											
Broadband Planning		X					X	X			
Energy Initiatives	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Federal Clearinghouse	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Health Initiatives		X	X		X	X	X				
Military Base Compatibility		X	X	X	X	X		X		X	X
Power Plant Siting Review	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Strategic Regional Policy Plan	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
U.S. Housing & Urban Development Sustainable Communities Initiative		X	X			X			X		
Visioning Initiatives		X	X		X	X	X	X	X		
<b>Economic Development</b>											
Brownfields Assessments		X	X				X		X	X	
Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy/Economic Development District	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Eco/Cultural/Heritage Tourism Development	X		X	X	X		X	X	X		
Economic Development Organization Collaboration	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Economic Impact Analyses Modeling	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Revolving Loan Fund (Business and/or Brownfields)	X	X				X			X	X	
Rural Area of Opportunity	X	X		X	X		X		X	X	X
Rural Economic Technical Assistance	X	X		X	X	X	X			X	X
<b>Community Development</b>											
Affordable Housing Initiatives		X	X	X	X	X		X		X	
Areas of Critical State Concern	X	X	X			X	X	X			
Coastal Zone Planning	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Developments of Regional Impact	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Dispute Resolution	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Downtown Redevelopment and Urban Design		X	X	X			X		X	X	X
Geographic Information Systems Mapping/US Census Data Center	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Grant Writing and Administration	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Local Government Comprehensive Plan Review	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Local Government, Land Use, and Community Planning	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

# PROGRAM MATRIX

PROGRAM	ARPC	CFRPC	ECFRPC	NCFRPC	NEFRPC	SFRPC	SWFRPC	TBRPC	TCRPC	WFRPC	WRPC
<b>Community Development (Continued)</b>											
Newsletter		X			X		X	X		X	
Regional Leadership Training			X		X		X				
U.S. Census State Data Center Affiliate	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
<b>Emergency Preparedness</b>											
Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan Support	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Emergency Management and Disaster-Related Training and Exercises	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Hazardous First Responder Training	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Hurricane Evacuation and Shelter Planning	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Local Emergency Planning Committee	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Local Hazard Mitigation Strategies	X		X		X		X	X	X		X
Post Disaster Redevelopment Planning	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X		X
Regional Domestic Security Task Force Training and Exercises	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Sea Level Rise/Climate Change Studies			X		X	X	X	X	X		
Small Quantity Hazardous Waste Generator Monitoring	X	X		X	X		X		X	X	X
Statewide Regional Evacuation Study	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
<b>Transportation Planning</b>											
Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning		X	X	X					X	X	
Commuter Assistance Programs					X					X	
Local Government Transportation Technical Assistance		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X
Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization				X						X	
Modal Planning Initiatives		X	X			X			X		
Rural Transportation Planning Services	X	X			X					X	
Safe Routes to School Initiatives		X	X				X			X	
Transportation Disadvantaged Program	X	X		X	X		X			X	X
<b>Environmental &amp; Natural Resource Planning</b>											
Clean Cities Initiatives						X				X	
Estuary/River/Bay/Ecosystem Initiatives	X		X			X	X	X	X	X	X
Springs Protection Initiatives	X		X								X
Wildlife Habitat Initiatives		X	X				X		X		X

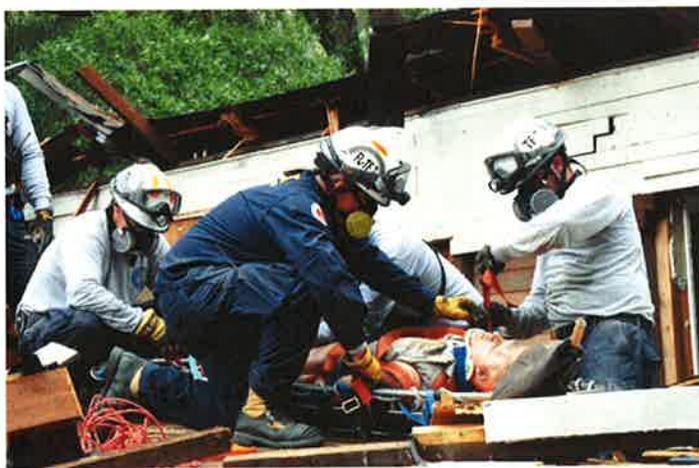
# INFRASTRUCTURE & GROWTH LEADERSHIP

## Local Mitigation Strategies

The Federal Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 significantly expanded the mitigation planning requirements imposed on both state and local jurisdictions to maintain eligibility for federal mitigation funds. Regional planning councils provide planning and technical services to their local governments in developing Local Mitigation Strategies, which must be in place to receive Federal Emergency Management Agency Hazard Mitigation Grant Program funds or other federal mitigation assistance program funds, resulting from presidential disaster declarations. The purpose of the Local Mitigation Strategy is to reduce or eliminate the impact of hazards within a community and diminish the loss of life and property damage. Local Mitigation Strategies serve as a bridge between comprehensive plans and emergency management plans of local governments.

## Regional Domestic Security Task Forces

Three of the seven Regional Domestic Security Task Forces in Florida are staffed by regional planning councils (Apalachee, East Central, and Tampa Bay). Their mission is to ensure a safe and secure future; strengthen domestic security prevention, preparedness, protection, response, and recovery capabilities through interdisciplinary and interagency consensus; and build and rely upon a strong regional mutual aid response capability.



Under the leadership of these Task Forces, the three regional planning councils continue to embrace their responsibility for coordinating Regional Domestic Security exercises to encourage and facilitate multijurisdictional and multidisciplinary participation.

## Operation Deep Freeze

Operation Deep Freeze was led by the Apalachee Regional Planning Council. Council staff facilitated a discussion-



based tabletop exercise to prepare for the full-scale exercise, which took place in multiple locations around the region. Regional first responders collaborated to respond to a simulated explosion at the Florida State University National High Magnetic Field Laboratory. Actors, who played the role of victims badly burned by liquid nitrogen, had to be rescued from the facility. Meanwhile, the regional Urban Search & Rescue team deployed to an offsite demolished building. This provided an opportunity for the team to have a hands-on training experience through the extrication of victims (manikins) placed inside the structure prior to demolition.

## Hazards Analyses and Response Planning

Regional planning councils play a significant role in the hazards analyses planning process in Florida. The Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act requires all facilities possessing extremely hazardous substances with an amount equal to or greater than certain thresholds, submit a report to the State Emergency Response Commission. The process of completing a report on each of the facilities that identifies these chemicals, their quantities, the potential threat of a release, and critical facilities and special locations (i.e., schools, hospitals and nursing homes) is known as a hazards analysis. In addition to the analyses, a map is produced showing the threat zone for each chemical stored on site. The threat zone, or vulnerability zone, indicates the population and identifies special locations

# INFRASTRUCTURE & GROWTH LEADERSHIP

that would need to be evacuated in a worst-case scenario in the event of a leak. Annually, the State provides a list to all 67 counties, noting the facilities that are due to be analyzed. Many counties use regional planning councils to complete their hazards analyses.

## Statewide Regional Evacuation Study

Working together in a coordinated manner, the regional planning councils completed a multi-year Regional



Evacuation Study, which represented an unprecedented undertaking to concurrently update regional evacuation studies for each region. The Statewide Regional Evacuation Study Program was the first comprehensive attempt to develop a fully integrated evacuation plan to serve the needs of the entire state and received national recognition awards.

These plans, while targeted toward hurricane evacuation, can be used to manage and coordinate evacuations for any natural or man-made disaster. Some regional planning councils are taking additional steps to further the Study. For instance, the Northeast Florida Regional Council released an Emergency Manager's Tool Kit and Storm Tide Atlases, and hosted a press conference to inform citizens about disaster planning and preparedness efforts.

## Small Quantity Generators of Hazardous Waste

Regional planning councils help the Florida Department of Environmental Protection implement the state-mandated Small Quantity Generators inspection program. Small

Quantity Generators are individual businesses that generate or accumulate dangerous wastes, between 100 to 1,000 kilograms a month.

The goal of the program is environmental protection by providing business assistance through the identification, notification, and on-site verification of businesses that are considered active or potential generators of hazardous waste. Regional planning councils identify and monitor facilities that produce some form of hazardous waste, either as a product or a by-product of their day-to-day activities. This may include automotive repair facilities, dry cleaners, medical facilities that use x-ray machines, and manufacturing businesses.

## ENERGY

### Solar Ready Florida

Solar Ready Florida is a collaborative effort to improve and expand the solar market in the Tampa Bay and Southwest Florida regions. Led by the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council and Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council, Solar Ready Florida strives to implement solar best management practices, training materials, and other implementation strategies. Solar Ready Florida seeks to engage key solar electric stakeholders in this process, including city and county governments, solar contractors, and other solar industry groups, electric utilities, business leaders, and interested citizens. Together, with support from the region's local governments, Solar Ready Florida will achieve more streamlined and standardized solar practices, resulting in measurable improvement in solar market conditions. For more information, visit [www.SolarReadyFlorida.com](http://www.SolarReadyFlorida.com).



# INFRASTRUCTURE & GROWTH LEADERSHIP

## TRANSPORTATION PLANNING

### Heartland Rural Mobility Plan

The Central Florida Regional Planning Council continues to create, expand, plan, and coordinate mobility options for Heartland citizens. This effort is focused on the continued



implementation of the goals and objectives included in the Heartland Rural Mobility Plan. Two pilot projects identified in the Plan have been implemented. The Lake Region Commuter Route, which operates from Clewiston in Hendry County to Belle Glade in Palm Beach County, and the DeSoto-Arcadia Regional Transit System. Ridership continues to increase as residents learn to take advantage of these programs.

### Rural Transportation Work Program

The Apalachee Regional Planning Council and West Florida Regional Planning Council are under contract with the Florida Department of Transportation to bring information from its five-year work program to counties in the rural areas, thereby strengthening regional transportation planning priority setting in these areas. In the West Florida region, the counties include Escambia, Holmes, Okaloosa, Santa Rosa, Walton, and Washington. In the Apalachee region, the counties being served are Calhoun, Franklin, Gulf, Jackson, and Liberty. Council staff meet with staff from these counties to review current transportation projects and discuss potential future projects for the next five-year cycle. The majority of the needs identified this past year included bicycle/pedestrian facilities, bridge replacements, maintenance of paved

shoulders, and roadway resurfacing. Each Council provides a report of their findings to the Department on an annual basis.

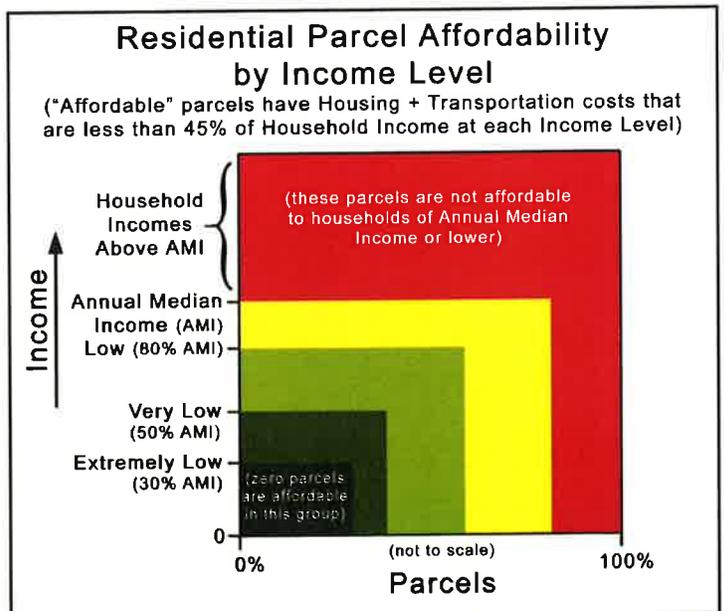
## HOUSING

### State Housing Initiative Partnership Programs

The Northeast Florida Regional Council successfully managed two State Housing Initiative Partnership programs this past year—one for Putnam County and one for Baker County. In total, the Council administered a total of \$377,972 to provide housing and housing rehabilitation services to very-low, low-, and moderate-income households.

### Affordable Housing Toolkit for the Heartland

The Central Florida Regional Planning Council's Affordable Housing Toolkit is a three-pronged analytical tool, which includes an Affordable Parcel Inventory for the six rural counties within the Florida Heartland (DeSoto, Glades, Hardee, Hendry, Highlands, and Okeechobee Counties). This project was created through the guidance of the Heartland 2060 Consortium, a partnership between universities, regional authorities and councils, and local governments. The Toolkit estimates and examines the affordability of all residential parcels in the six rural counties by estimating their combined housing- and transportation-related costs. The study is unique in that it investigates housing affordability for both rental and for-



# INFRASTRUCTURE & GROWTH LEADERSHIP

purchase residential parcels. The model is transferable for use in other rural and urban counties. The Toolkit won an American Planning Association, Florida 2014 Award of Merit.

## WATER/ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS

### Environmental Partnerships in the Southwest Florida Region

The Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council and Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program have a long-standing history of partnering together to protect the pristine estuarine systems in the region. This past year,



the two entities coordinated in partnership with the Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation to successfully complete an economic value ecosystem services study for the Pine Island Sound, as well as two ecosystem services studies for the Lee County and Collier County land acquisition programs. The Council and the Estuary also partnered with The Nature Conservancy to develop an oyster restoration plan for Charlotte Harbor that included establishing an oyster bar at a public park on the Peace River.

### Original Florida Tourism Task Force

In many of the rural communities in the north central Florida region, tourism is a primary component of economic activity. The Original Florida Tourism Task Force markets the ten-county "Natural North Florida" region by promoting the development of nature-, culture-, and heritage-based tourism. The Task Force is comprised

of representatives from each of the participating counties in the region to support and direct the regional tourism development effort. The North Central Florida Regional Planning Council provides staffing to the Task Force, to maintain the [www.VisitNaturalNorthFlorida.com](http://www.VisitNaturalNorthFlorida.com) website; coordinate consumer travel show participation; create proactive publicity campaigns; and produce collateral materials to meet the goals of the Task Force's marketing plan.

The Task Force uses funds from a Rural Regional Development Grant from the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity as well as grants from Visit Florida to help implement the Task Force's marketing plan to build capacity in the rural communities in the region. For instance, the Task Force recently conducted a visitor survey to gather information regarding tourists who visit the region. The Task Force also recently completed a photograph series of freshwater springs for use in brochures, its website, and advertising pieces.

### Waterways Plan for Martin and St. Lucie Counties

The Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council is leading a multi-agency, multi-disciplinary effort to plan, evaluate, and develop a Waterways Plan for Martin and St. Lucie Counties. Key partners in this effort include the Martin County Metropolitan Planning Organization, St. Lucie Transportation Planning Organization, and the Florida Inland Navigational District, as well as local governments, agencies, organizations, and the public. The two counties have more than 120 miles of navigable waterways, including the Intracoastal Waterway, St. Lucie River, and



# INFRASTRUCTURE & GROWTH LEADERSHIP

canals such as the St. Lucie Canal, which provides a connection to Lake Okeechobee. The plan will address a range of issues, including transportation, land use, economics, natural systems, resource protection, public access, and parks and recreation. The project will be completed in December 2014.

## CLIMATE CHANGE/SEA LEVEL RISE

### Addressing Climate Change in Southwest Florida

This past year, a series of articles and videos in the Fort Myers New-Press focused on the seven years of climate change work completed and being carried out by the Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council in partnership with the Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program and others (see <http://www.news-press.com/story/news/local/2014/08/10/punta-gorda-plans-future/13864345/>). This included assisting the City of Punta Gorda with implementation of its Climate Change Adaptation Plan, which, in 2009, was the first adaptation plan to be adopted by a coastal city in Florida. Over the coming year, the Council, in partnership with the National Estuary Program, will be examining climate change impacts on the mangroves and mangrove die-off areas in southwest Florida. This will be the 14th Climate Ready Estuary project undertaken by these two entities.

### Southeast Florida Regional Climate Change Compact

The South Florida Regional Planning Council provides technical and administrative assistance to the Southeast Florida Regional Climate Change Compact. The Compact outlines an ongoing collaborative effort among the four Compact counties (Broward, Miami-Dade, Monroe and Palm Beach) to foster sustainability and climate resilience at a regional scale. The Compact has been recognized nationally and internationally for its leadership and groundbreaking work in the area of climate change adaptation and resiliency. Through the work of the Compact counties, adaptation and resiliency to rising seas and climate change were fully integrated into the Southeast Florida Prosperity Plan for the region, which is more fully described on page 32.

As part of the development of the Prosperity Plan, the South Florida Regional Planning Council and Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council worked with the Compact counties and Indian River, Martin and St. Lucie Counties

to create a common framework for the incorporation of climate change/sea level rise adaptation and resilience issues into the seven-county Plan. The Compact also contracted with the Florida Public Health Institute to conduct a health impact assessment of the 110 recommendations contained within the Compact's Regional Climate Action Plan to understand the larger picture of the effects that climate change, particularly sea level rise, will have on the residents of Southeast Florida. The Compact's resilience work has been cited in the National Climate Assessment Report and will be included in the next report to the White House Task Force on Preparedness and Resilience. The need for such an initiative is evidenced below in the picture of Miami Beach experiencing a seasonal high tide on a day with no rain.

### "Dipping our Toes in Rising Waters"

The Regional Community Institute, Inc., which is the not-for-profit policy affiliate of the Northeast Florida Regional Council, completed its policy recommendations regarding the potential for sea level rise in the region. The recommended Regional Action Plan was launched at a sea

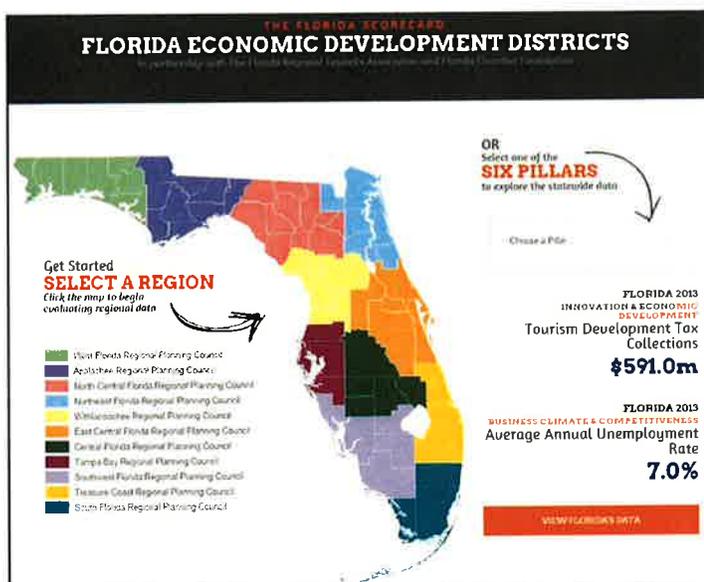


level rise workshop in Yulee on October 28, 2013, and the Council adopted the Action Plan recommendations and policies in November 2013. The launch set the stage for the Council to participate in the 2014 One Spark Festival – a crowdfunding event created to tap into innovation, revitalize downtown Jacksonville, and increase public awareness of community issues. Promoted as "Dipping our Toes in Rising Waters," the Action Plan was shared to advance regional resiliency in the area of vulnerability.

# BUSINESS CLIMATE & COMPETITIVENESS

## REGIONAL ECONOMIC SCORECARDS

In March 2014, the 11 regional planning councils, in partnership with the Florida Chamber Foundation,



launched a new website on regional metrics. Now, regional planning councils and their state, regional, and local partners are able to view measurable results in over 18 separate metrics that align with the Florida Chamber Foundation's Six Pillars framework. The aggregate data allows the user to generate regional and statewide comparisons. To access the website, visit <http://floridarpcscorecard.com>.

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Promoting regional economic development in conjunction with local economic development organizations is a priority for regional planning councils. Among their many responsibilities, regional planning councils prepare and administer grant applications for federal and state economic development infrastructure funds and projects at the request of local economic development organizations and local governments.

### Wakulla Environmental Institute

The Apalachee Regional Planning Council received a 2014 Innovation Award from the National Association of Development Organizations for the Wakulla Environmental Institute project. The Council provided support in

developing the proposal and application for the project and provided grant administration services during the construction phase. The Wakulla Environmental Institute, located south of Crawfordville, is a project of regional importance to Tallahassee Community College. It will train the next generation of environmental professionals, tour guides, and park managers. This new campus will offer associate degrees and certificate programs in the classroom and online to facilitate career development of working adults. The project is expected to create at least 100 jobs in the region.

### Economic Development Plans for Communities in the East Central Florida Region

This past year, the East Central Florida Regional Planning Council helped secure \$35,000 to develop economic development plans for the cities of DeBary, Lake Helen, and Tavares. The objective of these projects was to bring new innovative ideas for economic development; identify unique niche areas to improve the economic competitiveness; and create vibrant and sustainable places. The DeBary SunRail Station Area Economic Development Strategic Plan provided a series of recommendations for the long-term development of the City's Transit Oriented Overlay District; an assessment of the current regulations; and Volusia County's competitive advantages. The economic/land use plan for properties near the I-4 interchange in the City of Lake Helen included a detailed analysis of the land use characteristics of the area and a market assessment.

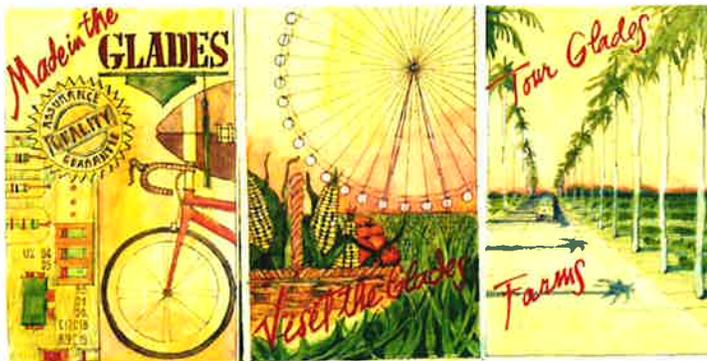


# BUSINESS CLIMATE & COMPETITIVENESS

Finally, The South Lake Dora Shore Economy Strategy Plan focused on a 1,400-acre area recently annexed by the City of Tavares in Lake County. The project included an inventory of the existing characteristics of the study area; an analysis of the assets, challenges, and opportunities available in the area; and an implementation plan that translates the recommendations into a series of tasks. All of these projects were funded through the Department of Economic Opportunity's Community Planning and Technical Assistance Grants program.

## Community Challenge Planning Grant - Glades Region Master Plan

The Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council assisted Palm Beach County as part of a county-wide team to prepare a comprehensive master plan for the Glades Region of Palm Beach County through a \$1.98 million Community Challenge Planning Grant awarded to Palm Beach County by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. The plan will enhance economic competitiveness, infrastructure sustainability, transportation choices, workforce training, and housing options in close proximity to employment centers. The Glades Region includes the cities of Belle Glade, Pahokee, and South Bay, and the community of Canal Point. The



project, known as the Glades Region Master Plan, will serve as a guiding blueprint to enhance economic competitiveness focusing on major employment centers. The Council is completing the Public Participation, Economic Development and Environmental components of the Master Plan.

## The Florida Turbine Initiative

The East Central Regional Planning Council and Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council, along with Energy



Florida, partnered to submit a proposal for a "Manufacturing Communities" designation under the Investing in Manufacturing Communities Partnership, which is an initiative of the U.S. Economic Development Administration. It is designed to encourage communities to strengthen their competitive edge for attracting global manufacturer and supply chain investments. Only 12 out of 73 applicants were selected for designation. Although not among them, the proposal that was submitted, the Florida Turbine Initiative, resulted in the identification, by means of a cluster map, of over 100 companies in the combined ten-county region that specialize in developing turbine technologies for the aviation and energy production sectors.

## Southwest Florida Economic Development Alliance

The creation of a public/private partnership to market the five-county region of Lee, Collier, Charlotte, Hendry, and Glades Counties was identified as a Vital Project in the Southwest Florida Economic Development District's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy. With funding from the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity, the Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council developed a business plan to help guide this effort. Formed in 2013, this public/private partnership, the Southwest Florida Economic Development Alliance, is actively involved in partnering with government, business, community leaders, and educational institutions in the Southwest region, to create a vibrant regional economy

# BUSINESS CLIMATE & COMPETITIVENESS

that welcomes and encourages growth and expansion. Its mission includes serving as a non-parochial economic development coordinator to site selectors, real estate consultants, and targeted companies.

## REVOLVING LOAN FUNDS

The Apalachee, Central Florida, South Florida, and Treasure Coast Regional Planning Councils administer revolving loan fund portfolios composed of federal and state funds to help grow small businesses, create jobs, encourage business retention and expansion, and undertake Brownfield revitalization projects. Over the past ten years, these regional planning councils have loaned \$39.9 million, resulting in the creation of 2,541 jobs and retention of 1,003 jobs.

## BROWNFIELDS REVITALIZATION

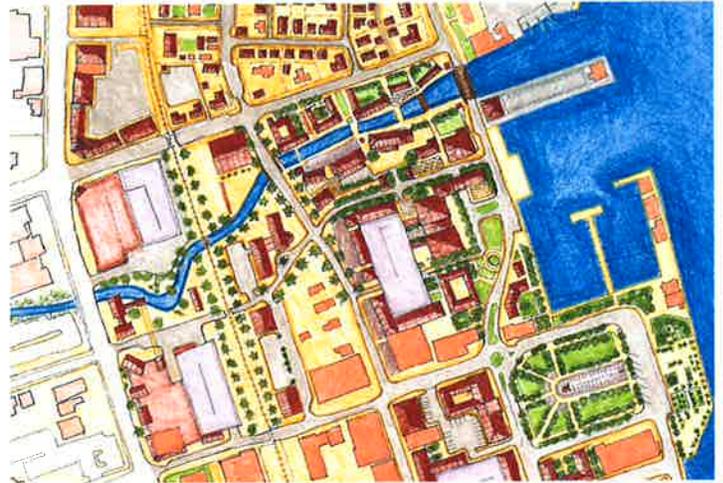
Brownfields are defined as abandoned or underutilized industrial and commercial facilities and sites where redevelopment is complicated by real or perceived



environmental contamination, and may include abandoned factories, commercial buildings, dry cleaning establishments, gas stations, and agricultural and mining facilities. With funding from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Central Florida Regional Planning Council and Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council undertake brownfield revitalization projects. The funds are used to conduct environmental assessments and reuse planning to place economically obsolete properties back into productive use and revitalize impacted neighborhoods.

## Transforming H.D. King Power Plant Site

The Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council has been involved in the assessment and remediation of the former



H.D. King Power Plant site through its Brownfields Program. The Council provided \$1.3 million in funding for clean-up activities through their brownfields revolving loan fund and assessment grants, and managed three clean-up grants in partnership with the Fort Pierce Redevelopment Agency, Fort Pierce Utilities Authority, and operator of the power plant. Source removal actions were conducted between 2010 and 2012, and the remaining remedial efforts will focus on the main parcel on which the majority of site operations occurred. The remaining remediation is being phased over a two-year period (2014/2015) to take full advantage of tax credits available through the Florida Voluntary Cleanup Tax Credit Program. The Council's Urban Design Studio also prepared a master redevelopment plan for the site, pictured above, which is actively being used to market the property as a key piece of the City's overall downtown redevelopment plans.

## REGIONAL ECONOMIC IMPACT ANALYSIS MODELING

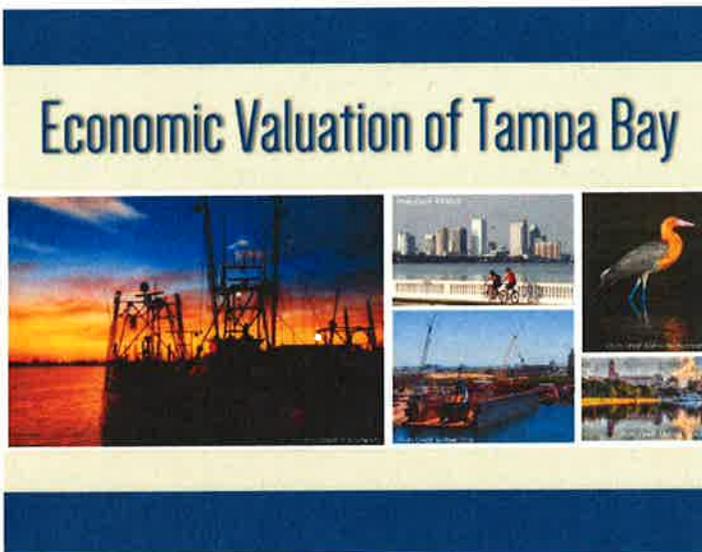
Regional planning councils use economic impact analysis modeling tools to measure the economic and fiscal impacts of project development or policy initiatives in their communities. These modeling tools (REMI, IMPLAN®, and fiscal analysis), designed specifically for the regions, account for business cycles and allow the user flexibility in analyzing the timing of economic impacts. This service provides economic development practitioners and local

# BUSINESS CLIMATE & COMPETITIVENESS

governments with a method to assess the economic and demographic impacts of proposed projects and policy initiatives. The information provided in these assessments is utilized by local governments and economic development organizations to make decisions on possible incentive packages for new or expanding economic development projects, and provides background data to support various federal and state economic development grants for local economic development initiatives. Over the past ten years, regional planning councils conducted 507 regional economic impact analyses.

## Economic Valuation Study of Tampa Bay

Utilizing economic impact analysis modeling, the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council conducted an economic assessment of the Tampa Bay watershed. According to



the results of the assessment, one in every five jobs in the Tampa Bay watershed depends on a healthy Tampa Bay, which also contributes 13 percent, or \$22 billion, of the total economic activity over the larger, six-county Tampa Bay region, encompassing all or parts of six counties from Hernando to Sarasota. The study also found that maintaining and increasing the valuable wetlands and seagrasses of the bay ecosystem provides a substantial cost savings of about \$24 million per year in avoided wastewater treatment costs. The assessment looked at employment, real estate, food services, and lodging in the Tampa Bay region. The study showed that Tampa Bay is a major economic driver for the region.

## Economic Impacts of Successful Commercial Fire Interventions in Orange County

The East Central Florida Regional Planning Council conducted six economic impact analyses to measure the impact of public and private investments across the region. The most significant of these analyses was a report on the Economic Impacts of Successful Commercial Fire Interventions in Orange County. This project was a partnership between the East Central Florida Regional Planning Council, the Center for Public and Non-Profit Management at the University of Central Florida, and the Orange County Fire Rescue Department. The study focused exclusively on commercial entities that could have temporarily or permanently lost their production capability or operations without the intervention of the Orange County Fire Rescue Department. The results of this study, which was completed March 30, 2014, demonstrated that without the Fire Rescue Department's response, 8,741 jobs in Orange County would have been lost, as well as 10,082 jobs statewide. The results of the study will help improve the efficiency of fire services in Orange County.

## U.S. CENSUS DATA CENTER AFFILIATES

To help local governments and businesses obtain the maximum benefit of a complete count under the decennial census, regional planning councils play an important role as U.S. Census affiliates to support the activities of the U.S. Census Bureau. In this capacity, regional planning councils coordinate with the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity, which acts as the U.S. Census Bureau's designated Florida State Data Center, helping provide official guidance to local government stakeholders statewide. Working with the Florida State Data Center, regional planning councils help distribute information to facilitate maximum participation in the decennial census.

In addition, regional planning councils are a resource for economic, demographic, social, and development data. Regional planning councils maintain extensive libraries and databases providing access to data, research, and publications, and have the ability to provide data in a format tailored to a specific request.

# CIVIC & GOVERNANCE SYSTEMS

## INTERGOVERNMENTAL COORDINATION

### Intergovernmental Coordination and Review (Federal Clearinghouse)

Presidential Executive Order 12372 and Governor's Executive Order 95-359 established the Intergovernmental Coordination and Review Process to evaluate and review



certain federal programs and projects to ensure consistency with local, regional, and state plans. The Florida State Clearinghouse, within the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, administers this process for projects in Florida. Regional planning councils act as a regional clearinghouse for the State. They review and comment on grants and permits from various government agencies as well as certain proposed plans and projects of statewide and regional significance. Over the past ten years, regional planning councils have provided required Federal Consistency Review to 11,998 projects, ensuring access to hundreds of millions of federal infrastructure and economic development investment dollars annually.

### Dispute Resolution

As part of its state-mandated mediation obligations, regional planning councils are required to have a dispute resolution process to address intergovernmental disputes. The intent of this process is to provide a flexible option to reconcile differences on planning and development issues; clearly identify and resolve problems as early as possible; provide for the appropriate involvement of affected and responsible parties; and provide as much process certainty as possible. The Regional Dispute Resolution

Process may be used to resolve disputes involving extrajurisdictional impacts as provided for in the intergovernmental coordination elements of local comprehensive plans; in the development of regional impact process; and any other matters covered by statutes which reference this process.

### Transportation Disadvantaged

The Transportation Disadvantaged coordinated system for Florida is governed by the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged. Its mission is to ensure the availability of safe, efficient, cost-effective, and quality transportation services for individuals who, because of physical or mental disability, income status, or age, are unable to transport themselves or purchase transportation. The Commission also designates an Official Planning Agency in each county, which is responsible for Transportation Disadvantaged Program planning. In most rural areas, regional planning councils are the "Designated Official Planning Agency" and help ensure access to employment, health care, education, and other life-sustaining resources for qualified individuals.



## REGIONAL CONVENERS

### Northeast Florida Regional Leadership Academy

The Northeast Florida Regional Council continued an eight year standing program by accepting the Class of 2014 to its Northeast Florida Regional Leadership Academy; an assembly of 11 future regional leaders. The candidates were professionals from a variety of areas within the region, including law enforcement, aviation, and education. The program ran from January to August. Each month, the class explored a county in the region,

# CIVIC & GOVERNANCE SYSTEMS

examining issues of regional significance such as transportation, public safety, natural and cultural resources, food, sustainability, and education. Graduates from the Leadership Academy become lifetime members of the Regional Community Institute. Since 2006, the Regional Leadership Academy has graduated 197 regionalists.



## Hendry County Education Improvement Task Force

The Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council and the Hendry County Economic Development Council, with funding from the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity, developed a Vision and Implementation Plan for the Hendry County Education Improvement Task Force. The Task Force is a public/private partnership among the school district, economic development council, and local businesses. The Plan was developed through a series of meetings, public involvement opportunities, and identification of vital projects and top priorities to meet the needs of Hendry County. The resulting goals included creating a Pre-K to 12 school system that is highly regarded for its academic excellence; improving economic development efforts to attract new, high wage businesses and industries; attracting, developing, and retaining high caliber staff; and, ensuring Hendry County has a high quality of life and is recognized as a leading community in which to work, play, and raise families.

## All Aboard Florida Public Outreach

All Aboard Florida is a proposed high-speed express passenger rail service between Miami and Orlando, with

intermediate stations in Fort Lauderdale and West Palm Beach. While the project could provide significant benefits state-wide and in cities where rail stations would be located, it could also impose extensive costs as well as impacts on communities without stations. The Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council, since the inception of the project in 2012, has convened nearly 90 public meetings and workshops with community leaders and citizens and 53 one-on-one briefings with elected officials to communicate All Aboard Florida project details, gain public input, and help identify possible mitigation strategies.

## 2nd Annual Emerald Coast Transportation Symposium

The West Florida Regional Planning Council and Northwest Florida Regional Transportation Planning Organization hosted the 2nd Annual Emerald Coast Transportation Symposium in Pensacola Beach. Highlighted by keynote speakers, including the Florida Department of Transportation Secretary Ananth Prasad (pictured below), the Symposium provided an opportunity for more than 200 professionals and policymakers to come together to discuss ways in which to more efficiently and effectively adapt the transportation system of the region to 21st Century economic and environmental realities. Discussion topics included airport and port planning, complete streets



strategies, alternative fuels, infrastructure, and health. Innovators inspired attendees; experts shared their best practices; industry leaders discussed their regionally significant issues; and guests increased their collective knowledge of how transportation impacts health, the economy, and the environment. Videos and presentations are available at [www.wfrpc.org/symposium](http://www.wfrpc.org/symposium).

# QUALITY OF LIFE & QUALITY PLACES

## VISIONING/SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

### Heartland 2060: Building a Resilient Region

The Heartland 2060 Resilient Region Plan is serving as the foundation for Building Blocks of the Heartland, which



harnesses goals and principals of education, workforce, and economic development. The Central Florida Regional Planning Council, as the Economic Development District, used its Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy aligned with the Florida Chamber Foundation's Six Pillars and Florida Department of Economic Opportunity's *State Strategic Plan for Economic Development* as the structure for Heartland 2060 economic alignment.

Alternative Future Scenarios were developed to include current and future industry clusters, and took into consideration such needs as workforce, education, and housing to look at development of a trade and logistics economy as well as opportunities for alternative energy generation and fuels. With the completion of the Plan, funded in part by a U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development grant, Heartland 2060 continues to implement key projects, including the award-winning Affordable Housing Toolkit (see page 22) that was produced as part of the Heartland 2060 Plan.

The Heartland 2060 effort addressed transportation and land use, environment and natural resources, economic

development, and education and workforce, and provides a path to a resilient future that supports growth while ensuring the Heartland's natural resources are protected and its communities remain strong.

### Enhance Central Florida

On behalf of 26 partners that comprise the East Central Florida Sustainable Communities Consortium, the East Central Florida Regional Planning Council was awarded a \$2.4 million grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to plan for sustainable transit-oriented development around Phase One SunRail station locations. The Enhance Central Florida project is in its third and final year. The Department's Sustainable Communities Government Technical Representative, Naomi Friedman (pictured below) visited the Central Florida region to participate in SunRail's inaugural celebrations.

As part of the Enhance Central Florida project, an Affordable Housing Study and a Fair Housing and Equity Assessment was completed. The results will assist in the development of policy guidelines that can be applied to all future transit stations in the region. It also includes extensive outreach programs. Local citizen participation has served as a key element of the planning process. Local governments are currently focused on the final stages of planning, implementation, and construction along the rail corridor to ensure optimum access, connectivity, land uses, and employment opportunities are programmed to enhance the station areas.



# QUALITY OF LIFE & QUALITY PLACES

## Seven 50/Southeast Florida Prosperity Plan

Under the leadership of the South Florida Regional Planning Council and Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council, the Southeast Florida Regional Partnership secured a \$4.25 million grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Over the course of three years, these resources were matched by more than \$2.2 million in local funds from Partnership members, which were used to develop the Seven50: Southeast Florida Prosperity Plan. This Prosperity Plan reflects regional agreement around priority investments in key areas of importance to Southeast Florida's future. With broad public input, these issues coalesced into a coherent strategy and investment plan in support of the future sustainability and economic prosperity of the region and its communities.



In the Prosperity Plan, the Partnership identified key regional initiatives through data-driven, public-interest based process for regional thought. Broadly stated, these initiatives focused on issues related to Everglades and waterways; balanced mobility; climate preparedness and resilience; education and workforce; and economic competitiveness and opportunity. These initiatives require continued community support and significant regional and local leadership to successfully move them forward. While the Prosperity Plan will continue to evolve, the initial phase of the plan is complete and available at <http://seven50report.org/>.

## STRATEGIC REGIONAL POLICY PLANS

Pursuant to the State and Regional Planning Act, each regional planning council adopted a Strategic Regional

Policy Plan to serve as a long-range guide for the physical, economic, and social development of their region. The Plan is a direction-setting tool and is not a regulatory document. Its statutorily-mandated elements are Natural Resources, Economic Development, Regional Transportation, Affordable Housing, and Emergency Preparedness. Strategic Regional Policy Plans also document Natural Resources of Regional Significance and identify Significant Regional Facilities. It should be emphasized that the Strategic Regional Policy Plan is not merely a plan for the regional planning council, but a plan for all cities and counties within each region. As such, several are being updated to incorporate aspects of the many visioning initiatives taking place in the regions.

## HEALTH, WELLNESS, AND SAFETY

### Central Florida Safe Routes to School

The Central Florida Safe Routes Portal was developed by the East Central Florida Regional Planning Council with funding from the Safe Routes to School Program of the Florida Department of Transportation District 5. The website, [www.centralfloridasaferoutes.org](http://www.centralfloridasaferoutes.org), was launched that features a portal that is a one stop location for the region to acquire the most up-to-date information, best practices, policies, tools, videos and more to support Safe Routes to School initiatives. The portal also helps educate decision and policy makers, parents and children, and community partners about the Safe Routes to School program and provides a tool to support the decision-making process on all levels. A promotional video was developed to launch the portal and is available for viewing at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5pfIEeR4f9Q>.

### Health Impact Assessments

The East Central Florida Regional Planning Council partnered with several agencies, including the Florida Department of Health, to educate planners, health officials, academia, and elected officials about the importance of Health Impact Assessments and how to conduct them. A two-day Health Impact Assessment 201 Training was held at the Council headquarters, which addressed methods for evaluating decisions that focus on access to physical activity, transportation, and healthy food, and included hands-on group exercises. The course included a discussion of current Health Impact Assessment practices in the United States and Florida.

# LOCAL GOVERNMENT MEMBERSHIP DUES

REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL	COUNTY	MUNICIPALITY
<b>Apalachee</b>	\$4,000 base fee plus \$0.07/capita	N/A
<b>Central Florida</b>	\$0.25/capita	N/A
<b>East Central Florida</b>	\$0.16/capita	N/A
<b>North Central Florida</b>	\$0.30/capita	\$750 minimum \$0.30/capita <sup>1</sup>
<b>Northeast Florida</b>	\$0.41/capita	N/A
<b>South Florida</b>	\$0.175/capita	N/A
<b>Southwest Florida</b>	\$0.30/capita	\$0.30/capita <sup>1</sup>
<b>Tampa Bay</b>	\$2,000 base fee plus \$0.295/capita	\$2,000 base fee only
<b>Treasure Coast</b>	\$0.43/capita	N/A
<b>West Florida</b>	\$1,000 base fee plus \$0.0325/capita	\$500 base fee plus \$0.0325/capita
<b>Withlacoochee</b>	\$0.35/capita	N/A
<p><sup>1</sup>Optional dues paid by municipalities are subtracted from the share paid by the County.</p> <p>N/A Not applicable, no membership dues assessed.</p>		

# FACTS & FIGURES

REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL	DATE ESTABLISHED	2013 REGIONAL POPULATION <sup>1</sup>	GOVERNING BOARD SIZE	STAFF SIZE (FTE) <sup>2</sup>	SQUARE MILES	2013-14 BUDGET	DRI <sup>3</sup> FEES (Est. % OF BUDGET)
Apalachee	Aug. 23, 1977	472,326	27	6	5,855	\$693,785	0.0%
Central Florida	July 1, 1974	814,853	18	16.5	5,287	\$3,163,116	1.0%
East Central Florida	Feb. 22, 1962	3,273,132	32	16	6,502	\$2,792,896	3.58%
North Central Florida	May 7, 1969	500,745	48	13	6,813	\$1,969,300	0.8%
Northeast Florida	April 14, 1977	1,542,449	35	10	4,428	\$2,425,910	1.9%
South Florida	July 1, 1974	4,440,650	19	19	4,091	\$2,869,412	0.1%
Southwest Florida	Nov. 8, 1973	1,576,467	36	12	6,023	\$2,656,064	1.8%
Tampa Bay	Feb. 16, 1962	3,010,466	40	12	2,817	\$2,305,344	1.35%
Treasure Coast	Aug. 19, 1976	1,914,466	28	11	3,555	\$3,844,124	<0.1%
West Florida	Oct. 1, 1964	919,246	28	24	6,026	\$2,620,128	<0.1%
Withlacoochee	July 3, 1973	794,743	30	6	4,305	\$667,838	0.6%

<sup>1</sup>Source: [Florida Estimates of Population, 2013](#), Table 1, Bureau of Economic and Business Research, University of Florida, 2014.

<sup>2</sup>FTE means Full-Time Equivalent.

<sup>3</sup>DRI means Development of Regional Impact.

# EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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**Brian D. Teeple, Chair**  
**Michael J. Busha, Vice-Chair**  
**Chris N. Rietow, Treasurer**  
**Scott R. Koons, Immediate Past Chair**

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January 15, 2015

TO: Council Members

FROM: Scott R. Koons, AICP, Executive Director 

SUBJECT: Florida Regional Councils Association Policy Board Meeting Report

Chair Carolyn Spooner, and Vice-Chair Daniel Riddick, and I attended the semi-annual meeting of the Florida Regional Councils Association Policy Board held in Tallahassee on January 9, 2015.

The Policy Board heard presentations from Joanna Turner, Executive Director, National Association of Regional Councils; Mark Wilson, President, Florida Chamber of Commerce; Amy Baker, Coordinator, Florida Office of Economic Demographic Research; Jim Wood, State Transportation Administrator, Florida Department of Transportation; Lisa Hurley, Legislative Director, Florida Association of Counties; and David Cruz, Legislative Advocate, Florida League of Cities.

The Policy Board adopted the attached 2015 Legislative Agenda.

The Policy Board also reviewed a financial report and made appointments to the Nominating Committee for Fiscal Year 2015-16.

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

**Attachment**

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Apalachee • Central Florida  
East Central Florida • North Central Florida  
Northeast Florida • South Florida • Southwest Florida  
Tampa Bay • Treasure Coast • West Florida • Withlacoochee

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## 2015 PROPOSED LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

Regional planning councils have been in existence in Florida since the early 1960s, created by the local governments they serve, to meet local government and regional needs, provide services, and collaborate on state and federal initiatives and programs. Florida Statutes recognize regional planning councils as *"Florida's only multipurpose regional entities that plan for and coordinate intergovernmental solutions on multi-jurisdictional issues, support regional economic development, and provide assistance to local governments."*

The Florida Regional Councils Association, an alliance of Florida's 11 regional planning councils, serves to strengthen the consistency and quality of regional planning council programs to ensure economic prosperity and add value to local, regional, and state initiatives. To that end, the Florida Regional Councils Association Policy Board adopted the following priorities for the 2015 Legislative Session:

### Talent Supply & Education

The Florida Regional Councils Association **supports** enhanced economic competitiveness, which must include an emphasis on Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) in public education and training programs that are aligned with existing and emerging job markets and industry clusters.

### Innovation & Economic Development

The Florida Regional Councils Association **supports** full funding of regional planning councils to, at a minimum, leverage the role of regional planning councils as federally designated economic development districts; provide support to state and regional economic development initiatives and activities; provide assistance to local economic development organizations; and, cover the costs of statutory responsibilities.

The Florida Regional Councils Association **supports** legislation that reauthorizes the Enterprise Zone program due to sunset on December 31, 2015.

### Infrastructure & Growth Leadership

The Florida Regional Councils Association **supports** a continued state and regional role in helping local governments accommodate future growth while ensuring economic prosperity and preparing for and responding to emergencies and natural disasters.

The Florida Regional Councils Association **supports** future transportation corridors, a diverse and competitive statewide multi-modal transportation network, and sustainable sources of transportation funding that are consistent with and support regional visions and further the regional Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies of Florida's 11 federally designated Economic Development Districts.

The Florida Regional Councils Association **supports** maintaining and protecting the integrity of all Trust Funds for their stated use.

### **Business Climate & Competitiveness**

The Florida Regional Councils Association **supports** a strong, but fair, development impact mitigation process that addresses extra-jurisdictional impacts and impacts to natural resources of regional significance and other regional resources and facilities; preserves the role of regional planning councils as conveners and their right to collect fees for services; utilizes regional planning councils' dispute resolution processes; and, protects the entitlements and vested development rights necessary for large-scale, long-term financial investments.

The Florida Regional Councils Association **supports** changes to the Sector Plan process that would provide regional planning councils with a fee for service funding mechanism to allow them to participate in the process in a more meaningful capacity; require regional planning councils to convene all affected parties in the process; and, create a role for regional planning councils in the Detailed Specific Area Plan process to ensure all regional issues are addressed.

The Florida Regional Councils Association **supports** the unlimited ability of a regional planning council to provide planning and technical services for a fee, in furtherance of its mission.

The Florida Regional Councils Association **supports** streamlining state regulatory review processes while ensuring regional and local interests are taken into consideration.

### **Civic & Governance Systems**

The Florida Regional Councils Association **supports** the positions and policies of organizations that share a common membership with regional planning councils including the Florida Association of Counties, Florida League of Cities, Small County Coalition, and the Metropolitan Planning Organization Advisory Council, and which are of mutual interest and concern.

The Florida Regional Councils Association **supports** efforts to improve efficiency and collaboration among agencies tasked with multi-jurisdictional planning throughout the state.

### **Quality of Life & Quality Places**

The Florida Regional Councils Association **supports** regional visioning as a means to guide the future of Florida, build public/private coalitions to implement key regional and statewide initiatives, and serve as the basis for strategic statewide planning and budgeting initiatives.



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January 15, 2015

TO: Council Members

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

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 January 2015 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

Search the Scorecard

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## Since 2010, Florida's Private Sector Businesses Created 651,300 Jobs for Florida Families

**DID YOU KNOW?** Florida job creators added 12,800 private-sector jobs over the month of September which helped lower Florida's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate to 6.1%, down two basis points to one of the lowest since the recession began. Nine of the ten major industries across Florida experienced positive over the year job growth through September, with only government employment showing a decline over the year. In September, 66 of Florida's 67 counties saw unemployment drop.



Employment - Monthly

Since December of 2010, Florida has added 651,300 private-sector jobs and we have dropped five percentage points in unemployment, reducing Florida's unemployment rate from 11.1% to 6.1%. Our state has experienced 50 consecutive months of positive job growth and Florida's annual job growth rate has been better than the nation's rate since April of 2012.

Forecasts from the July meeting of the Florida Economic Estimating Conference suggest that, assuming no significant changes, Florida is forecasted to add approximately 200,000 over the year as it marches back to its peak employment by 2016.

As we project forward to 2030, population growth and demographic changes are going to play a big part in Florida's future workforce. Based on Florida Chamber Foundation estimates, we will need to create close to two million net new jobs across the state to maintain a six percent unemployment rate. "The kind of jobs we create will define the kind of Florida we live in," said Chamber Foundation Executive Vice President Tony Carvajal. "As the global landscape continues to evolve and Florida positions itself as the leading place for talent and economic opportunity, we will need to maintain a focus on the diversification of our economy in every community in order to achieve global competitiveness, high wage jobs, and vibrant and sustainable communities."

Is your community experiencing the benefits of the economic recovery of the last four years? What kind of activities would you like to see the state continue, or avoid, as we continue our growth? How is your community and industry preparing for the economy of tomorrow? [Tell us your story](#)

### Florida Net 12-Month Job Creation



### SCORECARD NEWSLETTER

Provide your email address to receive monthly Scorecard updates

SUBSCRIBE

## Ranking Florida

### 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 an labor force of over 9 million, ready to meet the workforce needs of businesses.



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January 15, 2015

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 December 15, 2014. The Committee reviewed and approved a groundwater demand methodology for use in the development of the 2035 Regional Water Supply Plan.

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

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January 15, 2015

TO: Council Members

FROM: Scott R. Koons, AICP, Executive Director 

SUBJECT: Sadowski Housing Coalition

The Sadowski Housing Coalition is a nonpartisan collection of 30 diverse statewide organizations, including the Florida Association of Counties, Florida League of Cities and Florida Regional Councils Association. In 1992, the Legislature enacted the Sadowski Act creating a dedicated revenue source to fund affordable housing programs and funding the Catalyst Program for Training and Technical Assistance.

Documentary stamp taxes paid on real estate transactions were increased in 1992. Those monies were dedicated to the state and local housing trust funds. Seventy percent of the funds are for the Local Government Housing Trust Fund for the State Housing Initiatives Partnership program which funds housing in all 67 counties and metropolitan cities. Thirty percent of the funds are for the State Housing Trust Fund for Florida Housing Finance Corporation programs such as the State Apartment Incentive Loan program.

State Housing Initiatives Partnership funds can be used to:

- Rehabilitate/renovate existing housing stock for seniors and persons with special needs; and
- Provide first time homeownership with down payment and closing cost assistance.

State Apartment Incentive Loan funds can be used to:

- Rehabilitate existing apartments or to build new units for the elderly and persons with disabilities.

For every State Housing Initiatives Partnership and State Housing Initiatives Partnership dollar spent, four to six private sector dollars are leveraged. Funds available to be appropriated in Fiscal Year 2015-16 are an estimated \$266.87 million. It is estimated that these funds will create over 24,000 jobs.

The Sadowski Coalition is urging the Legislature to use all of the housing trust fund monies for housing programs.

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

#### Attachment

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[www.SadowskiCoalition.com](http://www.SadowskiCoalition.com)

## **WHAT IS THE SADOWSKI COALITION AND WHAT ARE SADOWSKI FUNDS?**

- The Sadowski Coalition is a nonpartisan collection of 30 diverse statewide organizations.
- Began in 1991 to obtain a dedicated revenue source for Florida's affordable housing programs: The Sadowski Act passed in 1992, creating a dedicated revenue source to fund Florida's affordable housing programs and funding the Catalyst Program for Training and Technical Assistance.

## **HOW ARE FLORIDA'S HOUSING PROGRAMS FUNDED?**

- Doc stamp tax paid on all real estate transactions was increased in 1992.
- Those monies were dedicated to the state and local housing trust funds.
- 70% of monies to the Local Government Housing Trust Fund for the State Housing Initiatives Partnership (SHIP) program which funds housing programs in all 67 counties and larger cities.
- 30% of monies to the State Housing Trust Fund for Florida Housing Finance Corporation programs such as the State Apartment Incentive Loan (SAIL) program.

## **WHAT DO THESE PROGRAMS DO? WHO DO THEY SERVE?**

- SHIP funds can be used for rehabilitation/renovation of existing housing stock to allow seniors to age in place or to provide retrofitting for persons with special needs;
- SHIP funds can be used to move the existing housing stock and provide first time homeownership with down payment and closing cost assistance, as well as rehabilitation and retrofit;
- SAIL funds can be used to rehabilitate existing apartments in dire need of repair or to build new units where needed; apartments that house Florida's most vulnerable populations, such as the frail elderly and persons with disabilities;
- SAIL and SHIP programs span from homelessness to the moderate income essential workforce;
- The beauty of both SHIP and SAIL is that they are flexible and can meet changing needs and priorities within the same program framework.

## **WHAT IS THE NEED FOR THESE PROGRAMS?**

- Over 900,000 very low income Floridians pay more than 50% of their income on housing—they are one missed paycheck away from homelessness;
- Florida has the fourth largest homeless population in the nation.

## **WHAT IS THE ECONOMIC IMPACT OF FLORIDA'S HOUSING PROGRAMS?**

- SHIP and SAIL are highly leveraged, with private sector loans and equity providing \$4 to \$6 for every one dollar of state funding—thus greatly increasing economic impact.
- The appropriation of the estimated \$266.87 million in the state and local housing trust funds in Fiscal Year 2015-16 into Florida's housing programs will create **24,950 jobs and \$3.1 BILLION in positive economic impact in Florida.\***

## **WHAT IS OUR PRIORITY FOR THE 2015 SESSION?**

The Sadowski Coalition urges the Florida Legislature to use all of Florida's housing trust fund monies for Florida's Housing Programs.

*\*\$266.87 million based upon documentary stamp projection from December 2014 Revenue Estimating Conference.*

*For more information, please visit: [www.SadowskiCoalition.com](http://www.SadowskiCoalition.com)*

# SADOWSKI HOUSING COALITION MEMBERS

## BUSINESS/ INDUSTRY GROUPS

- **Associated Industries of Florida**
- **Coalition of Affordable Housing Providers**
- **Florida Apartment Association**
- **Florida Bankers Association**
- **Florida Chamber of Commerce**

## BUSINESS/ INDUSTRY GROUPS

- **Florida Green Building Coalition**
- **Florida Home Builders Association**
- **Florida Manufactured Housing Association**
- **Florida Realtors**
- **Florida Retail Federation**

## ADVOCATES FOR ELDERLY/ VETERANS/ HOMELESS/ SPECIAL NEEDS

- **AARP of Florida**
- **Florida Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials**
- **Florida Coalition for the Homeless**
- **Florida Housing Coalition**
- **Florida Legal Services**

## ADVOCATES FOR ELDERLY/ VETERANS/ HOMELESS/ SPECIAL NEEDS

- **Florida Supportive Housing Coalition**
- **Florida Veterans Foundation**
- **Florida Weatherization Network**
- **LeadingAge Florida**
- **The Arc of Florida**
- **United Way of Florida**

## GOVERNMENT/ PLANNING ORGANIZATIONS

- **American Planning Association, Fla. Ch.**
- **Florida Association of Counties**
- **Florida Association of Local Housing Finance Authorities**
- **Florida League of Cities**
- **Florida Redevelopment Association**
- **Florida Regional Councils Association**

## FAITH BASED ORGANIZATIONS

- **Florida Catholic Conference**
- **Florida Impact**
- **Habitat for Humanity of Florida**

For more information, please visit: [www.SadowskiCoalition.com](http://www.SadowskiCoalition.com)



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January 15, 2015

TO: Council Members

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

SUBJECT: Original Florida Tourism Task Force Update

As you know, the Council provides staff services to the Original Florida Tourism Task Force to assist them in implementing their work program. In order to increase tourism generated revenues in the north Florida region, The Original Florida Tourism Task Force implements campaigns to increase tourist visits to the Natural North Florida region.

The Original Florida Tourism Task Force has recently completed a new Springs brochure, Bicycle Trails maps by county, which are available on the Natural North Florida website and a visitor survey. They have also planned during 2015 to attend travel shows in partnership with VisitFlorida. These travel shows will include Atlanta, GA, Berlin, Germany, Chicago IL, Madison, WI, New York, NY, Philadelphia, PA, and Washington, D.C. In addition, they will be attending travel shows in Jacksonville, Tampa and The Villages.

The mission of The Original Florida Tourism Task Force is to promote the natural, historic and cultural attractions of the area to increase the number of visitors and to extend their stay in the region. The goal is to enhance the economy of the area, image and quality of life through expanded revenues and employment opportunities.

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

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January 15, 2015

TO: Council Members

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

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.

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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.

A letter was sent to Wells Fargo on May 13, 2014 requesting additional information concerning the disputed check. On September 24, 2014 a Notice of Arbitration and Statement of Claim was filed with the American Arbitration Association by Co-Counsel Stanley Cushman on behalf of the Council. On October 14, 2014 attorneys from Wells Fargo filed a Respondent's Answering Statement to the Statement of Claim.

Council Attorney Wershow and Co-Counsel Stanley Cushman are continuing to coordinate 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

January 15, 2015

<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	\$1,410
March 2014	\$2,502
April 2014	\$2,669
May 2014	\$2,970
June 2014	\$6,515
July 2014	\$330
August 2014	\$420
September 2014	\$810
October 2014	\$3,429
November 2014	<u>\$0</u>
 Total	 \$31,076

**NOTE: For informational purposes only. The comment deadline for this item preceded the next regularly-scheduled Council meeting. Therefore, the Clearinghouse Committee reviewed and commented on this item on behalf of the Council on January 13, 2015, as per Clearinghouse Committee Procedures.**

**FLORIDA REGIONAL COUNCILS ASSOCIATION  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AMENDMENT REVIEW FORM 01**

Regional Planning Council: North Central Fl	Regional Planning Council Item No.: 8
Review Date: 1/13/15	Local Government: Dixie County
Amendment Type: Draft Amendment	Local Government Item Nos.: CPA 14-03
	State Land Planning Agency Item No.: 15-1ER

Date Mailed to Local Government and State Land Planning Agency: 1/16/15 (estimated)

Pursuant to Section 163.3184, Florida Statutes, Council review of local government comprehensive plan amendments is limited to adverse effects on regional resources and facilities identified in the strategic regional policy plan and extrajurisdictional impacts that would be inconsistent with the comprehensive plan of any affected local government within the region. A written report containing an evaluation of these impacts, pursuant to Section 163.3184, Florida Statutes, is to be provided to the local government and the state land planning agency within 30 calendar days of receipt of the amendment.

**DESCRIPTION OF AMENDMENT**

County item CPA 14-03 amends the text and the Future Land Use Plan Map of the County Comprehensive Plan based on an evaluation completed by the County to reflect changes in state requirements pursuant to Section 163.3191, Florida Statutes; amends the text of the Future Land Use Element; the Transportation Element; the Housing Element; the Sanitary Sewer, Solid Waste, Drainage, Potable Water and Natural Groundwater Aquifer Recharge Element; the Conservation, Recreation and Open Space Element; the Capital Improvements Element; the Coastal Management Element; the Public School Facilities Element; and the Future Land Use Plan Map Series (see attached excerpts) .

**1. ADVERSE EFFECTS TO SIGNIFICANT REGIONAL RESOURCES AND FACILITIES IDENTIFIED IN THE STRATEGIC REGIONAL POLICY PLAN**

The County is bisected by U.S. Highway 19/98 and State Road 349, both of which are identified and mapped in the North Central Florida Strategic Regional Policy Plan as part of the Regional Road Network. Nevertheless, significant adverse impacts are not anticipated to occur to the Regional Road Network as the amendment does not result in an increase in intensity or density of use. Additionally, the Transportation Element adds several policies which implement Transportation Planning Best Practices contained in the regional plan (see attached).

The following natural resources identified and mapped in the regional plan as Natural Resources or Regional Significance are located within or adjacent to the County: Big Bend Salt Marsh; Big Bend Seagrass Beds; the Floridan Aquifer; Areas of High Recharge Potential to the Floridan Aquifer; the Suwannee River Corridor, the Steinhatchee River Corridor; the Lower Suwannee River National Wildlife Refuge; California Swamp; Coastal Freshwater Wetlands; the Big Bend Coastal Tracts; and Dixie County Spring DIX625993. Significant adverse impacts are not anticipated to occur to Natural Resources of Regional Significance as the amendment does not result in an increase in intensity or density of use. Additionally, the amendment adds Natural Resources of Regional Significance maps from the regional plan to the County Comprehensive Plan.

**2. EXTRAJURISDICTIONAL IMPACTS INCONSISTENT WITH THE COMPREHENSIVE PLANS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTS WITHIN THE REGION**

The County Comprehensive Plan, as amended, is not anticipated to create significant adverse impacts to adjoining local governments.

**Request a copy of the adopted version of the amendment?**

Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
Not Applicable			<input type="checkbox"/>

It is recommended that these findings be forwarded to the County and the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity.

**Clearinghouse Committee Action: At its January 13, 2015 meeting, the Committee voted to adopt this report as official Council comment as per Clearinghouse Committee Procedures.**