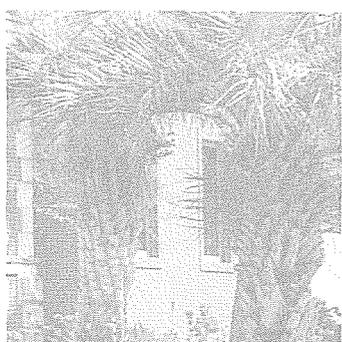


north central florida regional planning council
annual report



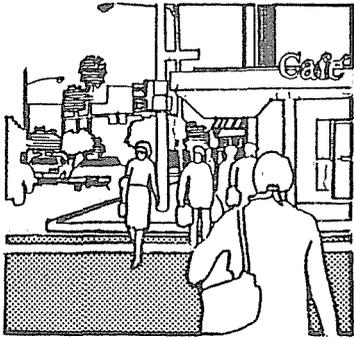
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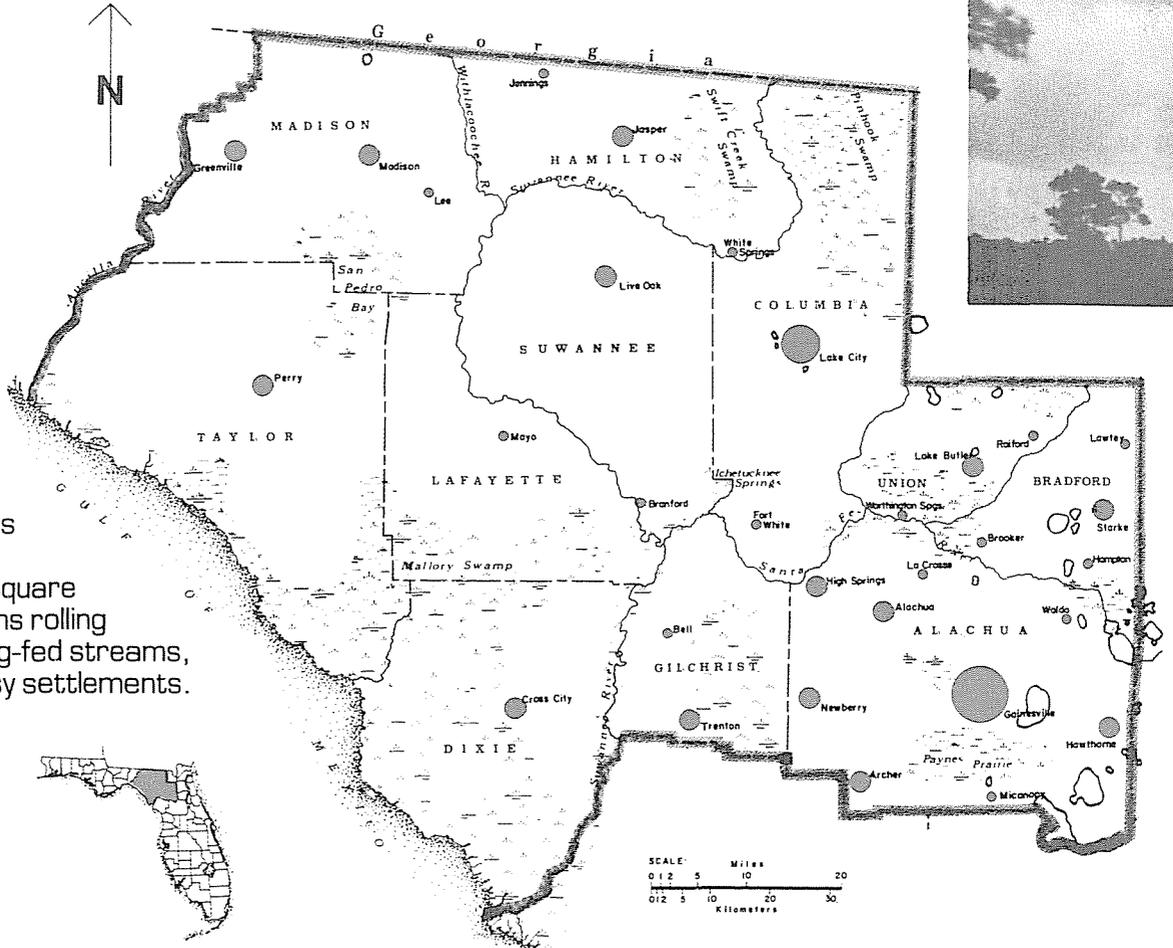
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region

North Central Florida, comprised of 11 counties and 33 municipalities, houses over one-quarter million inhabitants within a 7,000 square mile area. The region contains rolling meadows, woodlands, spring-fed streams, a marshy Gulf shore and busy settlements.



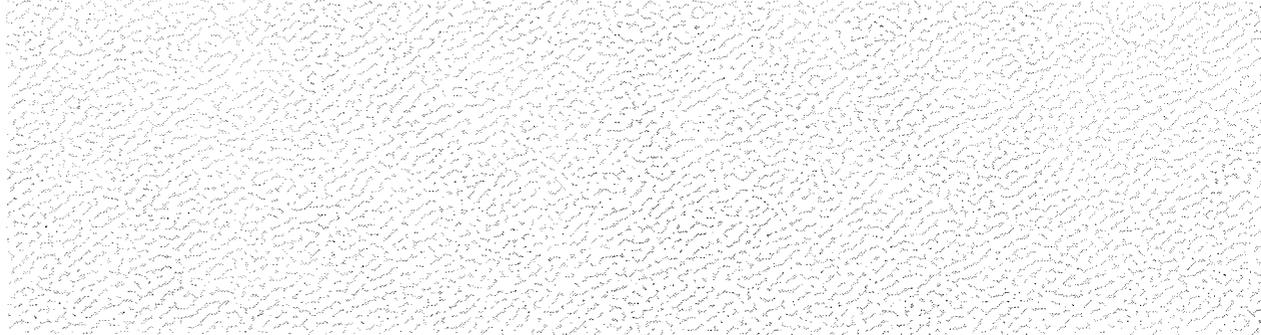


council

The Council, established in 1968 to coordinate comprehensive planning, now includes 9 counties and 12 municipalities in its membership. Appointed by member local governments, the 39 representatives on the Council participate in the formulation and implementation of all Council policies.

The Council, as a comprehensive planning agency, provides areawide coordination of local and regional planning and development programs. It also serves to:

- give technical assistance to member local governments
- review Developments of Regional Impact
- review applications for State and Federal funding
- coordinate regional planning in such areas as Criminal Justice, Economic and Rural Development, Transportation, Energy and Environment.



chairman's message

Fellow citizens. . .

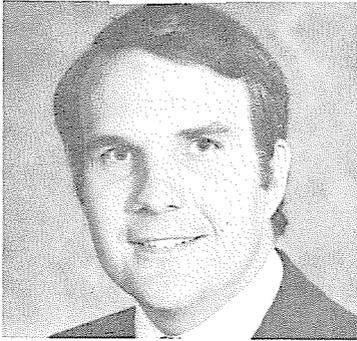
We are pleased to submit this 1978 Annual Report of the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council for your review. The following pages highlight a variety of programs and activities that have a direct impact on the quality of our living.

Realistic planning and quality technical services that have been requested by local governments are the foundation of the Council's program. We thank the Council members, local governments, citizens and the staff for the cooperation that has made 1978 a productive year for the Council.

Your continuing support is requested and your participation is solicited. We look forward to working with you on the opportunities that lie ahead.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul Riherd". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

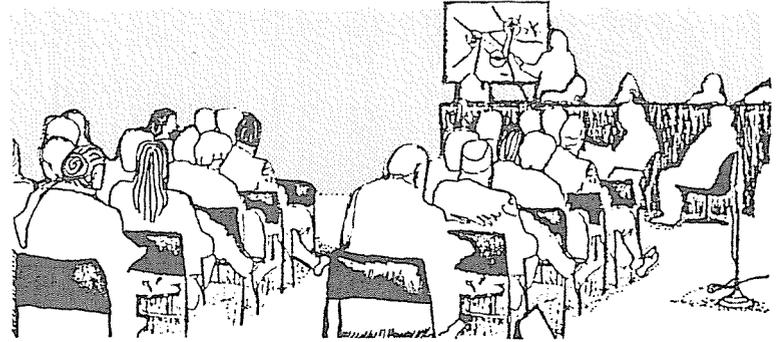
Paul Riherd
Chairman, 1978-79



Vice Chairman
JERRY SCARBOROUGH



Secretary-Treasurer
BOBBIE LISLE



council members

Alachua County

- *Thomas Coward
- Shellie Downs
- *Jack Durrance
- Wilson Robinson
- Edwin B. Turlington
- *Jonathan F. Wershow

Bradford County

- *E. W. Hodges
- *Robert L. Scott

Columbia County

- *James Montgomery
- Wayne Nettles

Hamilton County

- *David Goolsby

Lafayette County

- *Paul Trawick

Madison County

- Albert Kelley
- Howard McDaniel

Suwannee County

- *Jerry Scarborough

Taylor County

- Shirley Curry
- *Marshall Hicks

Union County

- *Paul Riherd

*[Board of Directors]

Alachua

- *Glenn DuBois

Gainesville

- B. Harold Farmer
- Mark Goldstein
- *Aaron Green
- *William Howard
- Gary Junior
- Sidney Knight
- *Bobbie Lisle
- Gary McClain

Hawthorne

- Robert O. Atkins

High Springs

- L. W. Register, Jr.

Lake City

- Elzina Jenkins
- *Paul Roy

Live Oak

- *Rev. Ellis Fann
- *S. T. McDowell

Madison

- *Frank Merritt

Micanopy

- Len Balducci

Perry

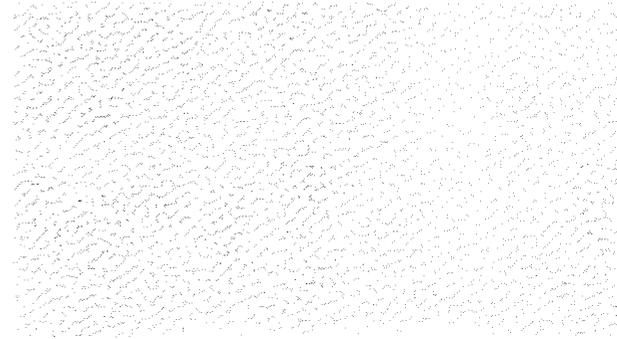
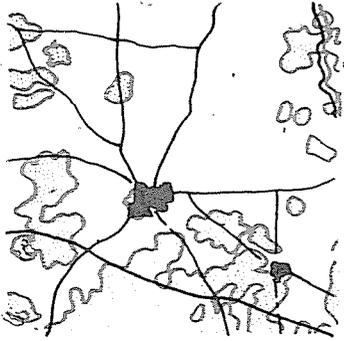
- Clarence J. Giddens

Starke

- *Harold Epps

Waldo

- Fern Ganstine



regional planning

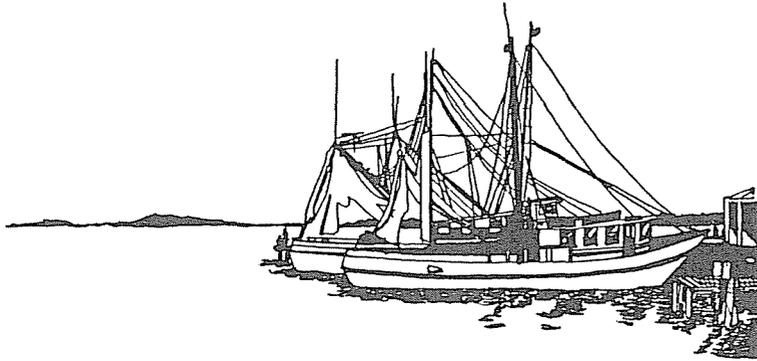
HUD Approves Council Plans

The Council's regional planning program is a comprehensive collection of interrelated functional planning studies. Some planning areas such as Land Use, Housing, Economic Development and Criminal Justice are completed and will be updated periodically.

Other planning studies in progress deal with such topics as Energy and Rural Development. Planning subjects yet to be dealt with include Growth and the Conservation of Existing Communities along with Agriculture.

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development in May, 1978, approved the Council Land Use Plan and Housing Plan. This action certified the Council for areawide planning purposes.

The Regional Comprehensive Plan, a compendium containing summaries of Council adopted elements, summaries of other agency plans and quality-of-living indicators, was drafted in 1978. The Plan will be updated annually as existing elements are revised and new elements are prepared and adopted.



economic development

New Programs Provide Increased Services

Economic Planning and Development Assistance

In 1978, the Federal government designated the Region as an Economic Development District. This designation and the accompanying planning grant allows the Council to conduct economic development planning for the entire Region and assist the nine designated Redevelopment Area counties in applying for economic development grants.

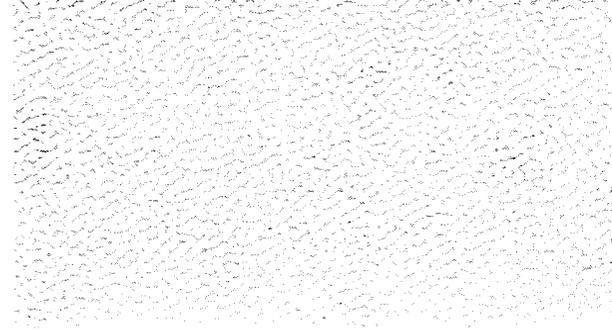
Rural Development Strategy

As one of two planning councils in the State selected by the U.S. Department of Agriculture to receive an Area Assistance Planning Grant, the Council will prepare a Rural Development Strategy in the coming year. The program is aimed at promoting orderly growth and will be

used to focus attention on housing, community facilities, business and industrial development programs. A management program for protecting the Suwannee and Santa Fe Rivers and their tributaries is also part of the Planning Grant.

Coastal Plains

This year the Council joined the four other regional planning councils in the Coastal Plains Region of the State in an effort to increase local participation in Farmer's Home Administration [FmHA] programs. Funded by a Coastal Plains Regional Commission demonstration grant, the Council will provide technical assistance to local governments in developing programs and applications for FmHA monies.



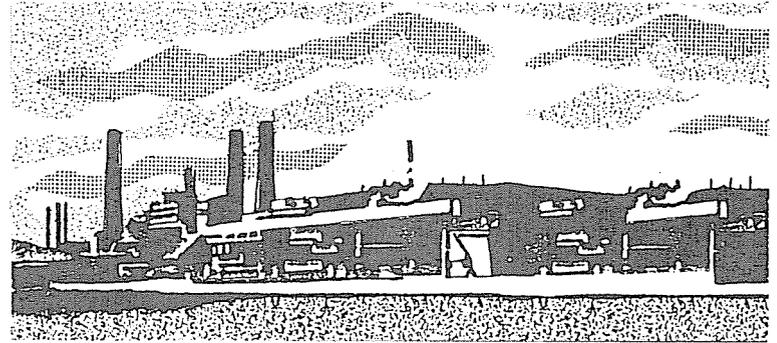
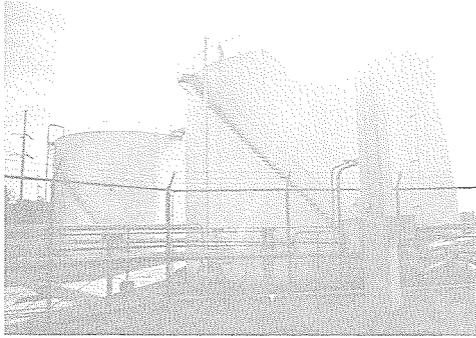
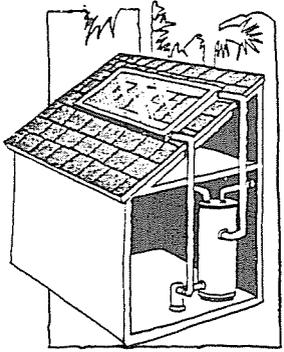
environment

Suwannee-Santa Fe Rivers Management Program Initiated

Throughout 1978, the Council has been involved in a variety of environmental programs. The Council continued to work with and provide assistance to citizen advisory committees and local governments in Taylor and Dixie Counties in dealing with the proposed State Coastal Zone Management Plan.

Late in 1978, the Council entered into a contract with the Department of Environmental Regulation (DER) to provide assistance to a citizen advisory committee on '208' Water Quality Planning. This committee will be reviewing material prepared by DER and making recommendations to the Council and DER.

A management program for the preservation and protection of the Suwannee and Santa Fe Rivers and their tributaries was initiated by the Council in 1978. This program will identify problems along the rivers and develop regulations and ordinances that local governments may incorporate into their existing planning and development programs.



energy

Energy Policy Adopted

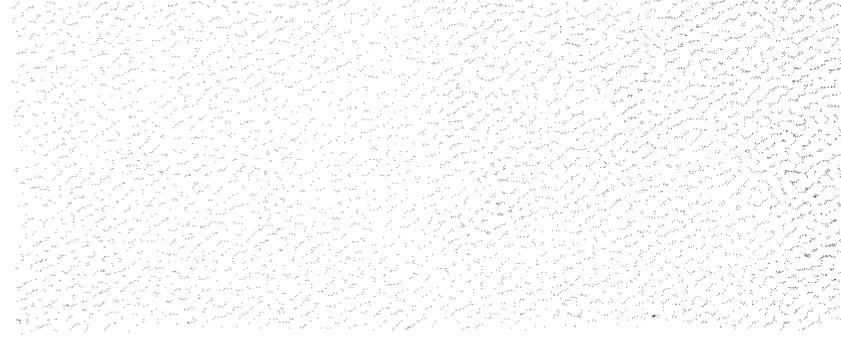
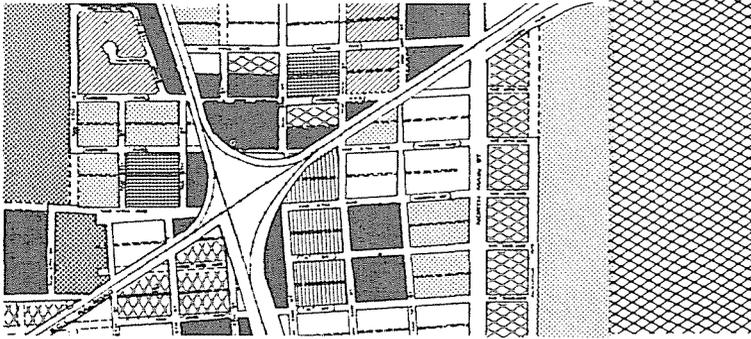
Increasing energy concerns spurred greater Council involvement in regional energy planning during 1978.

The Council is under contract with the State Energy Office to give administrative assistance to the 37-member Regional Energy Action Committee, develop an appropriate methodology to include energy in the comprehensive planning process, establish a regional energy library and draft a Regional Energy Plan.

As part of that Plan, the Regional Energy Policy recently adopted by the Council considers future supplies, the effects of regional economic and population growth on energy demand and calls for the development of a regional energy policy plan to provide for effective planning throughout the region.

The energy policy also encourages:

- energy conservation;
- energy education;
- citizen participation
- alternative fuel uses; and
- energy-conserving capital investments.



local assistance

Comprehensive Planning Dominates Local Activities

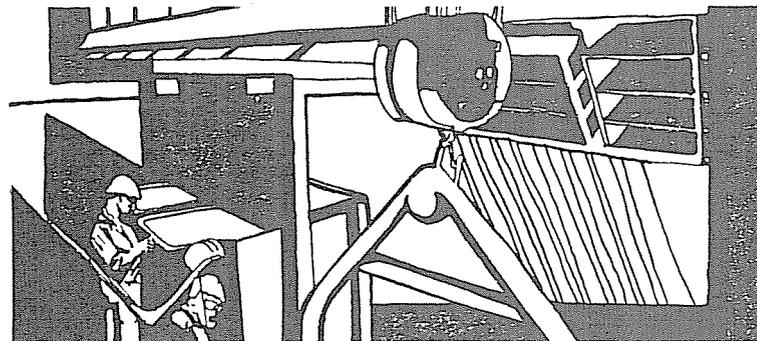
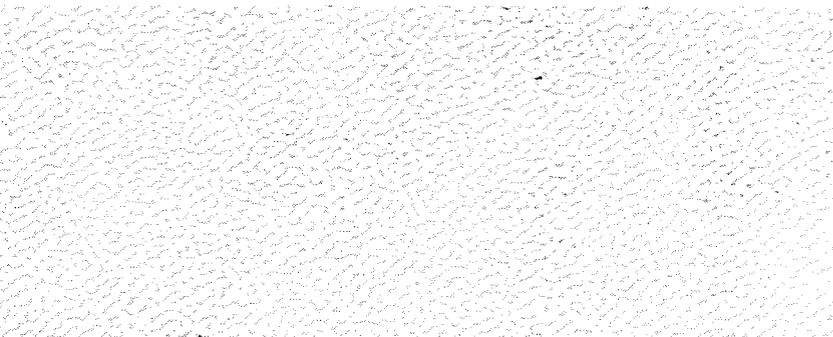
Local Planning

The Council continued to provide technical assistance on a variety of matters to local governments throughout the Region. The primary focus of this assistance during the past year has been the preparation of local comprehensive plans.

Since the enactment of the Local Government Comprehensive Planning Act in 1975, 32 local governments in the Region have contracted with the Planning Council to assist in the preparation of local plans mandated by the Act. Nine member counties and 23 municipalities, representing nearly 75 percent of all local governments in the Region, have received these services.

Thirteen contracts for various elements of comprehensive plans were completed during 1978, as activity increased due to the Act's approaching July, 1979, deadline. In the coming year, 15 programs, most in their final stages, will be completed.

In its second year, the State-established Local Government Comprehensive Planning Act Assistance Fund, will partially assist 6 local governments in financing preparation costs of their comprehensive plans. A total of \$38,198 was awarded to Bradford County and the municipalities of Alachua, High Springs, LaCrosse, Jennings and Starke for Fiscal Year 1979. The City of



Madison received \$19,200 of Federal '701' funds to delay most of the cost of their comprehensive plan preparation.

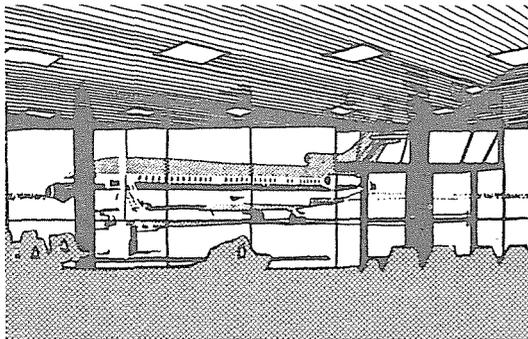
Local Services

Other local services, especially grant application assistance, were provided by the Council. Application assistance during 1978 included the preparation of:

- 13 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Preapplications.
- 2 CDBG full applications - \$710,520.
- An urban development grant project for the City of Madison - \$1,400,000.

- Aid to Columbia County in filing a \$300,000 request for Economic Development Administration industrial park funding.
- 3 Coastal Plains grant applications - \$460,000.
- 12 Criminal Justice grant applications - \$241,836.
- Local Planning Assistance applications: One federal "701" application - \$19,200
6 "State" applications - \$38,198.

Moreover, the Council has responded to requests from local officials, developers and citizen through providing a variety of technical assistance in such areas as economic development and housing.



transportation

Urban and Rural Needs Studied

Urban Area Planning

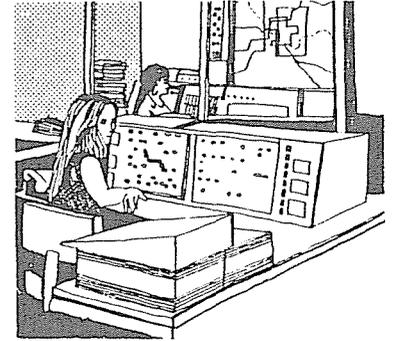
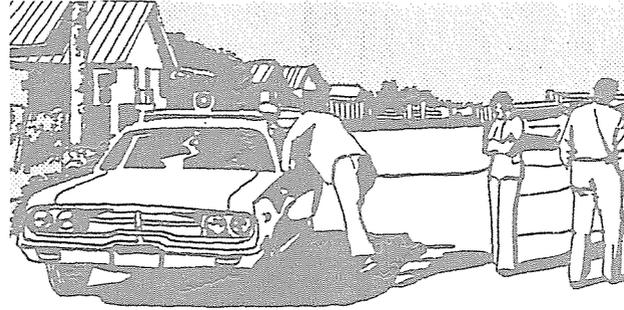
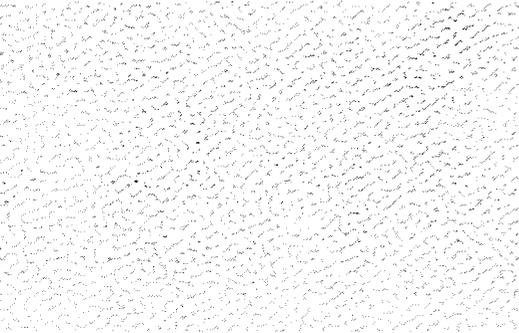
Through an interlocal government agreement signed by the Florida Department of Transportation, Alachua County and the City of Gainesville, the Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization [MTPO] was formed this year to carry out comprehensive transportation planning in the Gainesville Urban Area [GUA]. The Council acts as a non-voting participant of MTPO, serves as its staff providing technical and administrative assistance in developing transportation plans and programs, and coordinates transportation related DRI and A-95 activities.

A study of the present Gainesville/Alachua County mass transit program, while recommending retention of the current system configuration, urged analysis of individual routes to refine and improve the existing system.

A study of bus transit shelters recommended the purchase of 30 shelters to be placed throughout the GUA to increase the comfort and convenience of its users.

Regional Planning

Transportation needs of the Region's elderly and handicapped were studied in 1978. Adoption of the final plan, expected in 1979, will require future applications for Federal transportation funds for elderly and handicapped projects to be consistent with the adopted plan. Recommendations for the 10 county rural area included the purchase of additional passenger vehicles and the expansion of the Suwannee Valley Transit Authority. Minor changes were recommended for the existing GUA minibus system.



criminal justice

Youth Programs Emphasized

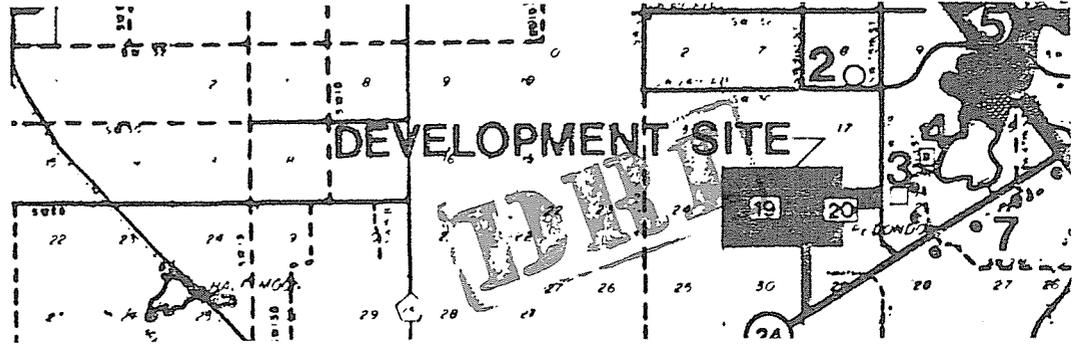
Law Enforcement Assistance Administration (LEAA) funds totaling \$192,566 financed communication improvements, law enforcement, court projects and juvenile justice projects throughout the Region in 1978. An additional \$78,000 in residual funds aided police communications improvements in Lake City as well as Alachua, Union and Taylor Counties.

More money was allocated for preventive rehabilitative juvenile justice projects than ever before. In addition to \$38,000 stemming from the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act, \$31,000 of additional LEAA monies were earmarked for juvenile justice projects. An increasingly active 18 member Juvenile Justice Task Force, consisting of specialists in the area of juvenile problems, reported their findings on various juvenile

justice projects to the Criminal Justice Advisory Committee (CJAC).

The CJAC, in turn, made recommendations to the Council on which projects to fund. 1978 projects included:

- Quiet Thunder Day Camp
- Big Brothers/Big Sisters.
- Sex Crimes Investigation/Rape Victim Program
- Regional Police Training Program Facilities at Santa Fe Community College.
- 3 Communications Equipment Projects
- Computer Assisted Dispatching



project review

Clearinghouse Comments Have Impact

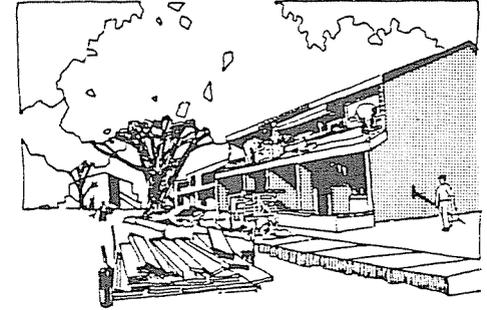
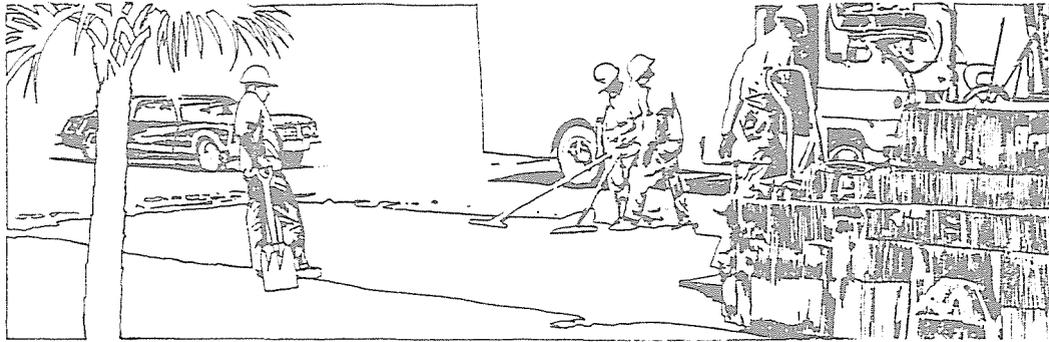
The Council has been designated by the Governor to be the Areawide Clearinghouse for the Region to implement the Federal Office of Management and Budget Circular A-95 regulations regarding the review of most projects and programs involving Federal funds. This review process, while avoiding costly duplication and conflict among proposed projects and programs, insures consideration of local and regional goals and plans.

From October, 1977 through September, 1978, 155 applications totaling over \$95 million in Federal funds were reviewed. Grant and loan requests included various Transportation, Housing, Criminal Justice and Health

proposals to mention only a few categories. The Clearinghouse Committee has been designated by the Council to also review local plans, plans of other agencies and Developments of Regional Impact.

While the role of the Council is strictly to review programs, its comments have influenced Federal agencies in their funding decisions. The Veterans Administration has suspended action on a proposed subdivision which received unfavorable comment by the Committee because of environmental concerns about sewage treatment and disposal.

A proposed nursing home was found to be inconsistent

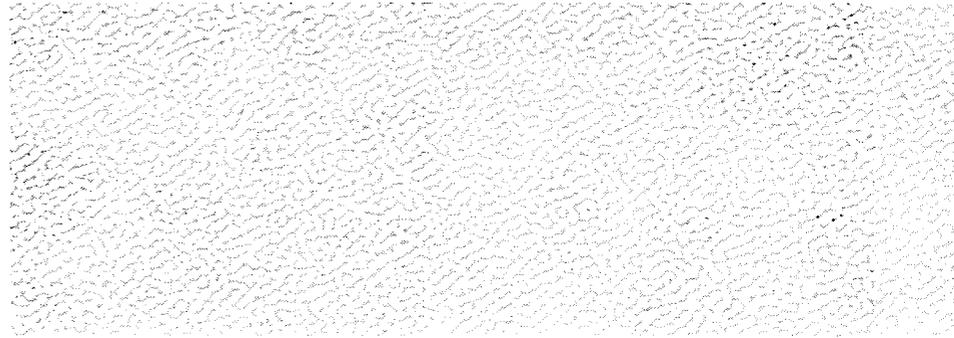
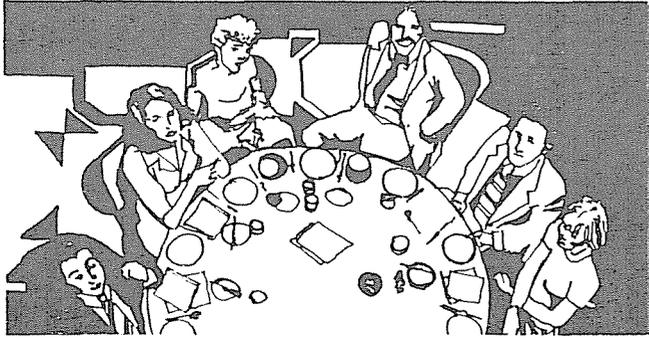


with the Health Systems Plan prepared by the North Central Florida Health Planning Council. The Clearinghouse Committee decided that this project could adversely affect long term health care in the Region. The Department of Housing and Urban Development denied this request for funds.

The Local Government Comprehensive Planning Act of 1975 requires regional review of local plans. The Clearinghouse Committee reviewed and provided favorable comment on the complete local plans of Hawthorne, Live Oak and Gilchrist County including its municipalities. The Land Use Element of the Bradford

County and Starke plans received favorable comment also.

The State Comprehensive Plan was reviewed by the Clearinghouse Committee during 1978. Plans of health systems agencies and water management districts were some of the other agency plans reviewed by the Committee.



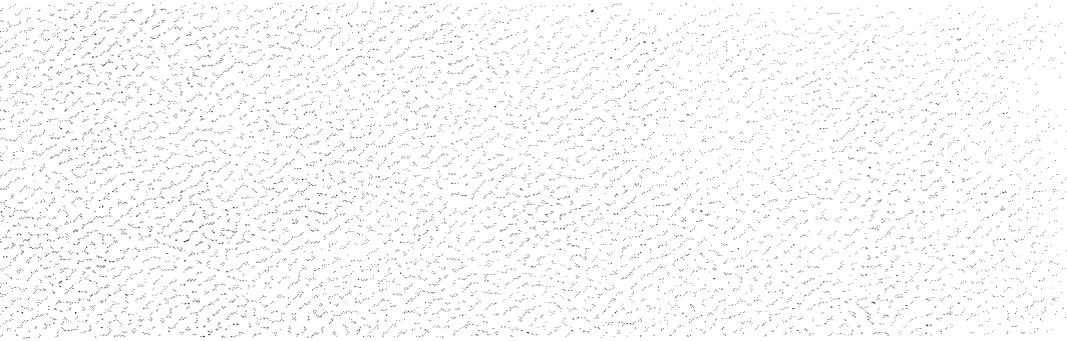
citizen participation

Citizens Help Council Respond

While the general public provides input at Council meetings and public hearings, a special group of informed citizens, the Citizen Participation Committee[CPC], meets quarterly to make recommendations on Council plans and programs.

In the past year the 29 appointed members of the CPC reviewed the format of the regional comprehensive plan, discussed regional energy problems and kept abreast of recent planning efforts for the Suwannee and Santa Fe Rivers Management program.

In addition to the CPC, special advisory committees have been set up to provide input into the planning and management areas of transportation, coastal zone, 208 water quality and criminal justice. The federally-funded Regional Energy Action Committee has been actively promoting energy education programs throughout the region.



communications

Council Keeps Public Informed

An active communications program is conducted to inform, as well as involve, the Region's citizens in Council projects.

Quarterly newsletters and special reports are used to inform the public of the Council's current activities. In 1978, a special report highlighted methods to protect the future of the Suwannee River system.

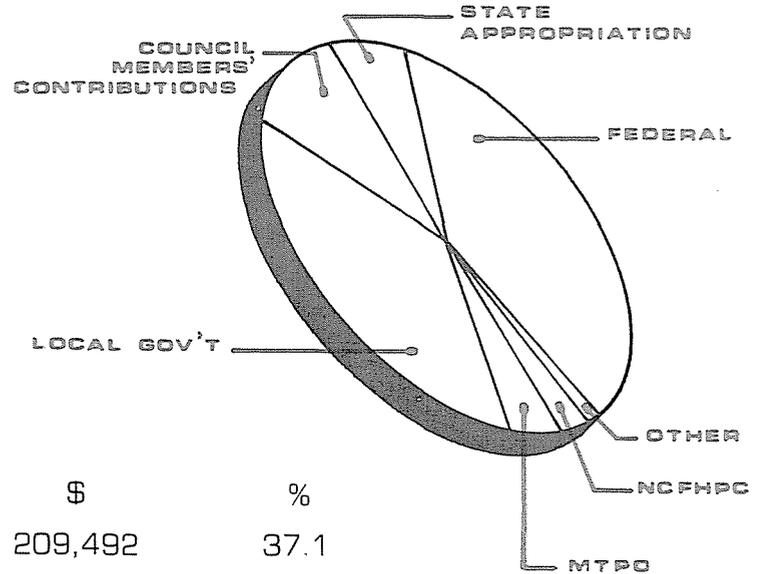
In addition to special publications, the public is kept aware of new laws, grant possibilities and proposed plans and programs through continuing staff communication with local government representatives and interested citizens. An extensive collection of slides depict Council functions and programs and aid in giving effective presentations.

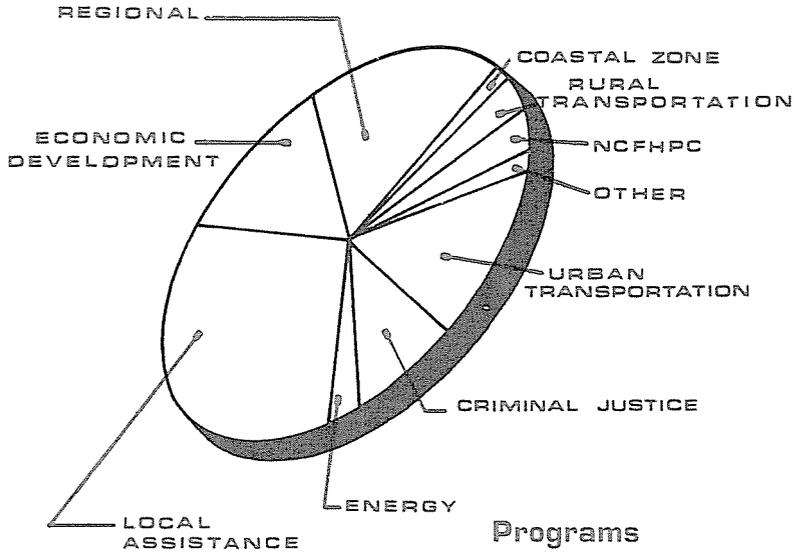
financial report

Council Receives Broad-based Support

1977-78 Revenues

Sources	\$	\$	%
Federal	209,492	209,492	37.1
Direct	119,667		
Pass-through from State	89,825		
State Appropriation		38,339	6.8
Council members' contributions [25¢/capita]		61,061	10.8
Local Government Contracts for Planning		190,058	33.7
Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization Planning Contracts		34,850	6.2
North Central Florida Health Planning Council [NCFHPC] Services Contracts		25,648	4.6
Other		4,591	0.8
TOTAL		<u>564,039</u>	<u>100.0</u>

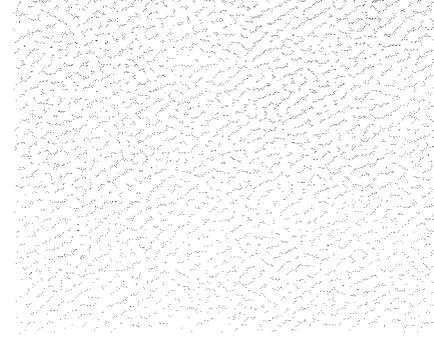
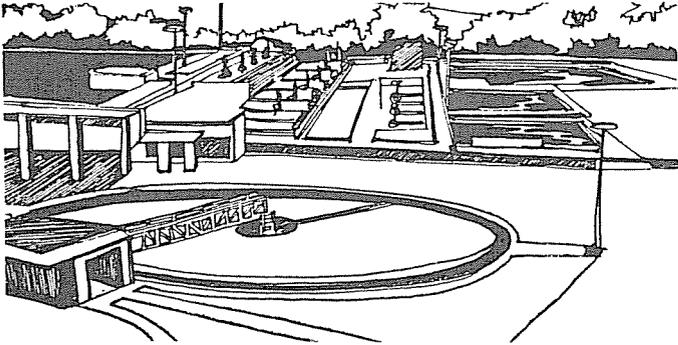




1977-78 Expenditures

Programs

Programs	\$	%
Regional Planning and Reviews	106,687	19.8
Economic Development	60,000	11.1
Local Assistance	179,794	33.4
Energy	12,975	2.4
Coastal Zone Management	9,999	1.8
Urban Transportation	89,953	16.7
Elderly and Handicapped Rural Transportation	16,377	3.1
Criminal Justice	28,299	5.3
Services to NCFHPC	25,648	4.8
Other	9,756	1.6
Total	538,488	100.0



tomorrow

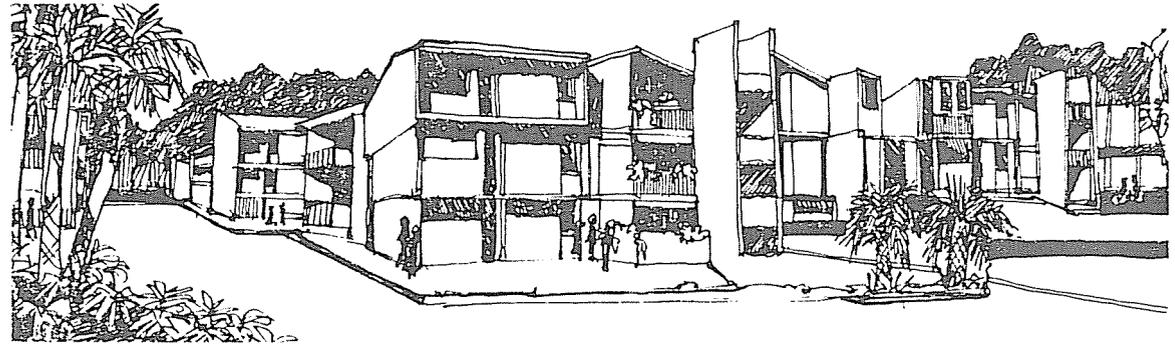
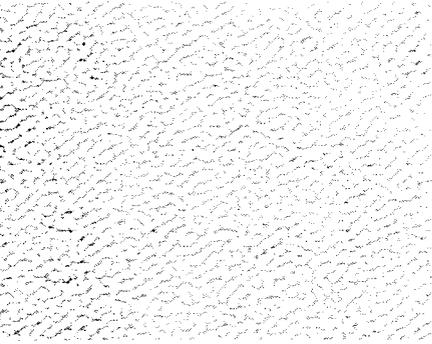
Some Council Programs for 1979

As the previous pages have indicated, the Council is responding to a variety of local government needs through the several programs described. The Council intends to respond in 1979 to additional needs that have been identified through initiating several new programs, some of which are highlighted below:

Solid Waste -The Council anticipates entering into a contract with the Department of Environmental Regulation (DER) to assist local governments in preparing solid waste plans.

Water Quality -Although established in late 1978, the Council is providing assistance during 1979 to a citizens advisory committee in reviewing a '208' water quality plan being prepared by DER.

Local Personnel Assistance - The Council will begin the local personnel assistance program January, 1979, working with several local governments.



Public Administration Assistance - Several local governments have requested the Council provide other public administration assistance in addition to personnel assistance.

Regional Capital Improvements Program (RCIP) - Begun in 1978, the RCIP is to be completed in 1979 and updated periodically.

Areawide Housing Opportunity Plan (AHOP) - When the AHOP is completed in 1979 and approved by the Department of Housing and Urban Development, local governments applying for highly competitive Community Development Block Grant funds will receive bonus points as well as being eligible for more assisted housing funds.

State Owned Lands Inventory - The Department of Natural Resources is seeking Council assistance in identifying and mapping all State owned lands in the Region.



north central florida regional planning council

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Executive Director
CHARLES F. JUSTICE

The preparation of this report was financially aided through a Federal Grant from the Department of Housing and Urban Development, under the urban planning assistance program authorized by Section 701 of the Housing Act of 1954, as amended.