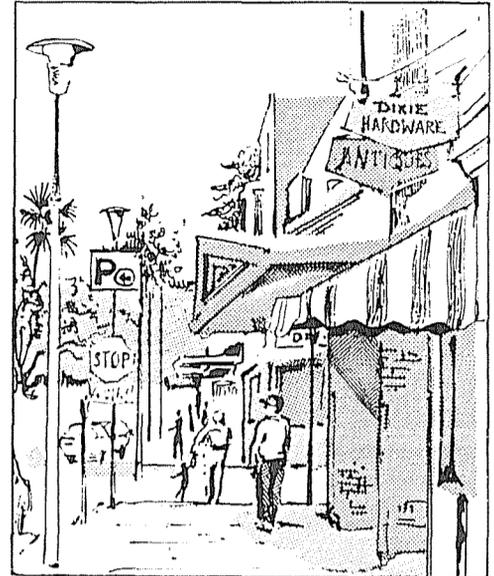
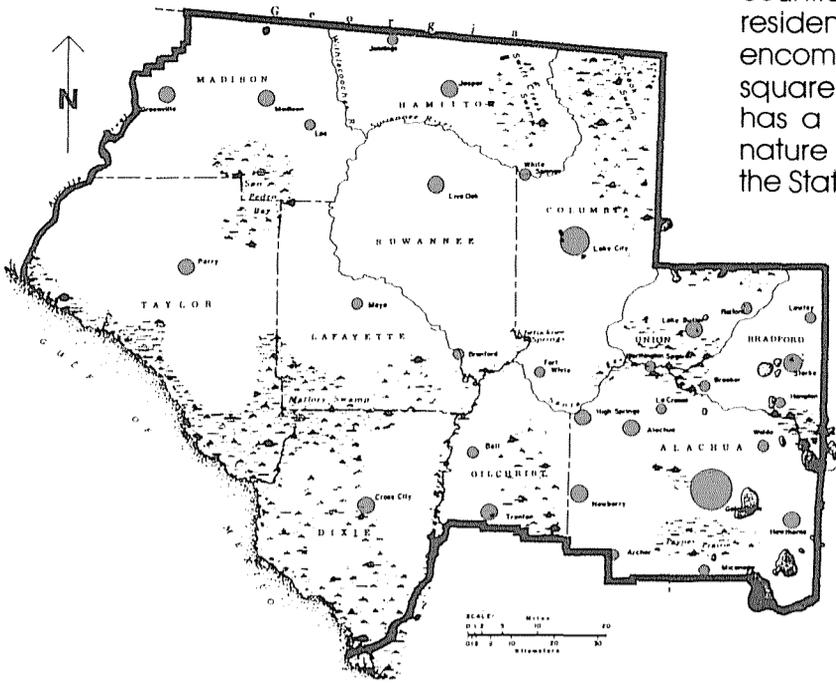


north central florida regional planning council
annual report
1979

REGION • COUNCIL • CALENDAR
CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE • COUNCIL MEMBERS
REGIONAL PLANNING • ENVIRONMENT
ENERGY
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
LOCAL ASSISTANCE
CRIMINAL JUSTICE • TRANSPORTATION
COUNCIL REVIEW PROGRAMS
CITIZEN PARTICIPATION
COMMUNICATIONS • SPECIAL PROJECTS
TOMORROW • FINANCIAL REPORT

THE REGION

The North Central Florida Planning Region is comprised of 44 local government jurisdictions -- 11 counties and 33 municipalities -- which serve a resident population of over 250,000. The region encompasses a total land area of almost 7,000 square miles and, although the largest municipality has a population of over 80,000, is largely rural in nature with a population density of only one-fourth of the State average.



ncfrpc

The Regional Planning Council is an organization of local governments within the 11-county North Central Florida Planning Region. Nine counties and twelve municipalities are members of the Council and, through their 39 locally-appointed representatives, participate in the development and implementation of areawide policies and programs. The Council also serves as a forum for coordination of State and locally-developed planning and development programs affecting the region.

As a representative body of local governments and a designated comprehensive planning agency, certain other responsibilities fall to the Council through State and Federal mandates. These include:

- Review of State and Federal plans and projects affecting the region
- Review of applications for State and Federal assistance
- Review of developments of regional impact.

The Council also provides a number of services for the direct benefit of local governments. These include:

- Technical planning assistance
- Personnel assistance
- Local government energy audits
- Transportation planning services
- Grant application assistance.

THE COUNCIL

MEETINGS

BOARD

BOARD & COUNCIL

1980	<p>JULY</p> <p>S M T W T F S</p> <p>1 2 3 4 5</p> <p>6 7 8 9 10 11 12</p> <p>13 14 15 16 17 18 19</p> <p>20 21 22 23 24 25 26</p> <p>27 28 29 30 31</p>	<p>AUGUST</p> <p>S M T W T F S</p> <p>1 2</p> <p>3 4 5 6 7 8 9</p> <p>10 11 12 13 14 15 16</p> <p>17 18 19 20 21 22 23</p> <p>24 25 26 27 28 29 30</p> <p>31</p>	<p>SEPTEMBER</p> <p>S M T W T F S</p> <p>1 2 3 4 5 6</p> <p>7 8 9 10 11 12 13</p> <p>14 15 16 17 18 19 20</p> <p>21 22 23 24 25 26 27</p> <p>28 29 30</p>
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	<p>APRIL</p> <p>S M T W T F S</p> <p>1 2 3 4</p> <p>5 6 7 8 9 10 11</p> <p>12 13 14 15 16 17 18</p> <p>19 20 21 22 23 24 25</p> <p>26 27 28 29 30</p>	<p>MAY</p> <p>S M T W T F S</p> <p>1 2</p> <p>3 4 5 6 7 8 9</p> <p>10 11 12 13 14 15 16</p> <p>17 18 19 20 21 22 23</p> <p>24 25 26 27 28 29 30</p> <p>31</p>	<p>JUNE</p> <p>S M T W T F S</p> <p>1 2 3 4 5 6</p> <p>7 8 9 10 11 12 13</p> <p>14 15 16 17 18 19 20</p> <p>21 22 23 24 25 26 27</p> <p>28 29 30</p>

- REGION • COUNCIL • CALENDAR
- CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE • COUNCIL MEMBERS
- REGIONAL PLANNING • ENVIRONMENT
- ENERGY
- ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
- LOCAL ASSISTANCE
- CRIMINAL JUSTICE • TRANSPORTATION
- COUNCIL REVIEW PROGRAMS
- CITIZEN PARTICIPATION
- COMMUNICATIONS • SPECIAL PROJECTS
- TOMORROW • FINANCIAL REPORT

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Fellow citizens . . .

On behalf of our member local governments and their representatives on the Council, I am pleased to submit for your review this report of Regional Planning Council activities for the year 1979. I believe that the activities highlighted in the following pages will have a favorable impact on the quality of life in the region as we enter into the decade of the 1980's.

Coordinated planning and quality and timely technical services to local governments, which are the foundation of Council programs, are essential for orderly growth and development in the region in future years. This effort will be much enhanced by your continued participation and support for Council activities.

I thank member local governments, Council members, citizens of the region and staff for their cooperation that has made 1979 a productive year for the Council. We look forward to working with you on the opportunities that lie ahead.



Jerry Scarborough,
Chairman

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Alachua County

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

Bradford County

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

Columbia County

- *James Montgomery
- Wayne Nettles
- Samuel Thompson

Hamilton County

- *David Goolsby

Lafayette County

- *Paul Trawick



Bobbie Lisle,
Vice Chairman



E. W. Hodges,
Secretary-Treasurer

38 Council Members
*21 Board of Directors Members

Madison County

- Albert Kelley

Suwannee County

- *Jerry Scarborough

Taylor County

- Thomas Demps
- *Marshall Hicks

Union County

- *Paul Riherd
- Fletcher Myers

Alachua

- *Glenn DuBois

Gainesville

- B. Harold Farmer
- Mark Goldstein
- Aaron Green
- *William Howard
- Dale McPherson
- Sidney Knight
- *Bobbie Lisle
- Courtland Collier

Hawthorne

- John McFarlin

High Springs

- L. W. Register, Jr.

Lake City

- *Paul Roy

Live Oak

- *Charles T. Hall
- *S. T. McDowell

Madison

- *Frank Merritt

Micanopy

- *Stanley Strobes

Perry

- Clarence J. Giddens

Starke

- *Harold Epps

Trenton

- *Albert Floyd

Waldo

- Fern Ganstine

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE • COUNCIL MEMBERS

REGIONAL PLANNING • ENVIRONMENT

ENERGY

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

LOCAL ASSISTANCE

CRIMINAL JUSTICE • TRANSPORTATION

COUNCIL REVIEW PROGRAMS

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

COMMUNICATIONS • SPECIAL PROJECTS

TOMORROW • FINANCIAL REPORT

In May, 1978, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development approved the Council's Land Use and Housing Plans for the region. This action certified the Council for comprehensive, areawide planning purposes.

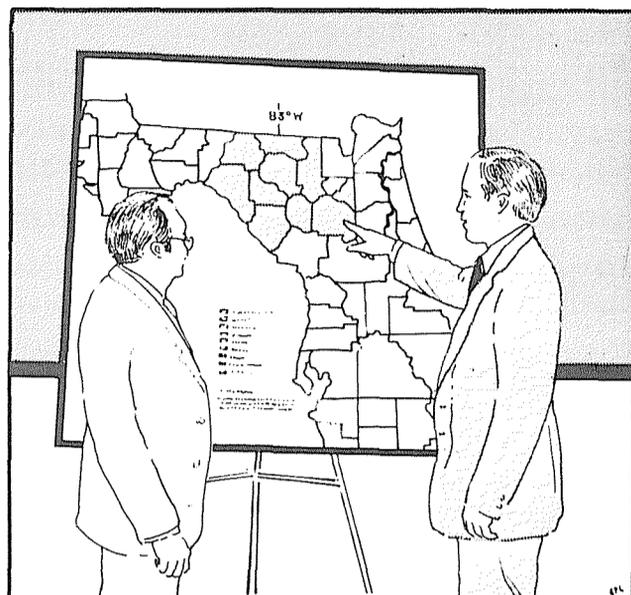
Since that time, under its regional planning program, the Council has conducted a series of areawide studies in additional substantive planning subjects. Policy guidelines adopted by the Council based on these study results, together with summaries of other agency plans and quality of living indicators for the region, have been added to the Land Use and Housing Plan policies to form the Regional Comprehensive Plan.

First drafted in 1978, this compendium contains completed study results in the areas of land use, housing, economic development, criminal justice, energy, and rural transportation. Planning subjects currently being studied or scheduled for future study include rural development and growth and conservation of existing communities. The goals, policies, and objectives contained in each of these Plan elements provide a coordinated policy framework for guiding future growth and development in the North Central Florida Planning Region.

The Comprehensive Plan will be updated annually as existing elements are revised and new elements are prepared and adopted by the Council.

REGIONAL PLANNING

Council Expands Regional Comprehensive Plan



ENVIRONMENT

Council Focuses on Suwannee-Santa Fe Rivers Management Program



Development of a management program to preserve and protect the Suwannee and Santa Fe Rivers and their tributaries dominated Council efforts related to the environment throughout 1979. Initially, special problems created by development along the river banks and within the flood plains of these rivers were identified. Then, a set of model regulations to address these problems and guide future development along the rivers was prepared. Model zoning ordinances, subdivision regulations, and regulations to protect the scenic quality of the rivers and prevent soil erosion were the results of this program effort.

The Suwannee-Santa Fe Rivers Committee, appointed by the Council in 1979 to oversee this program, presented the model ordinances to the Council's Board of Directors in November, 1979. In addition to endorsing the model ordinances, the Board authorized Committee members and staff to begin working with individual local governments along the rivers who may wish to incorporate the ordinances

REGIONAL PLANNING • ENVIRONMENT

ENERGY

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

LOCAL ASSISTANCE

CRIMINAL JUSTICE • TRANSPORTATION

COUNCIL REVIEW PROGRAMS

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

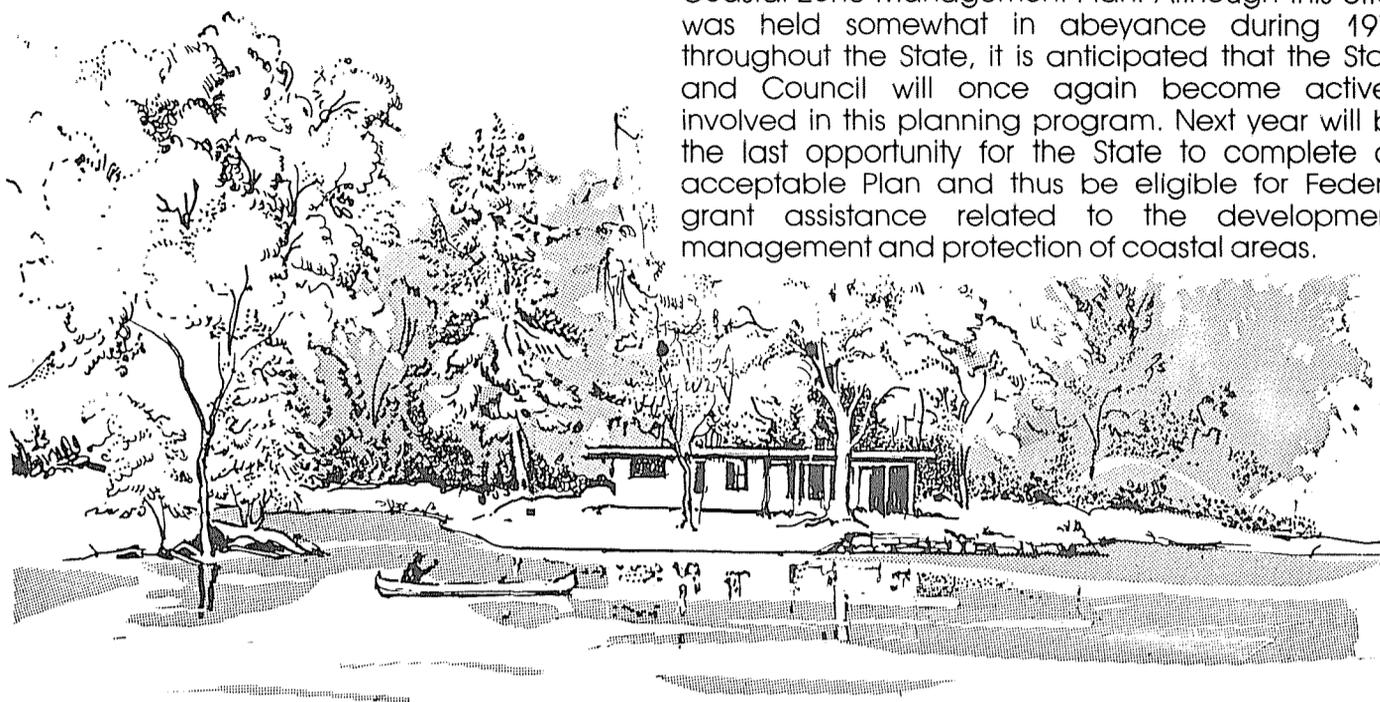
COMMUNICATIONS • SPECIAL PROJECTS

TOMORROW • FINANCIAL REPORT

into their own land use and development regulations. This activity is continuing into the new program year.

In other environmental activities, the Council concluded its contract with the Department of Environmental Regulation (DER), which called for provision of technical assistance to a citizens advisory committee on "208" water quality planning.

In the area of coastal zone planning, the Council had previously provided assistance to citizen advisory committees and local governments in Taylor and Dixie Counties in reviewing the proposed State Coastal Zone Management Plan. Although this effort was held somewhat in abeyance during 1979 throughout the State, it is anticipated that the State and Council will once again become actively involved in this planning program. Next year will be the last opportunity for the State to complete an acceptable Plan and thus be eligible for Federal grant assistance related to the development, management and protection of coastal areas.



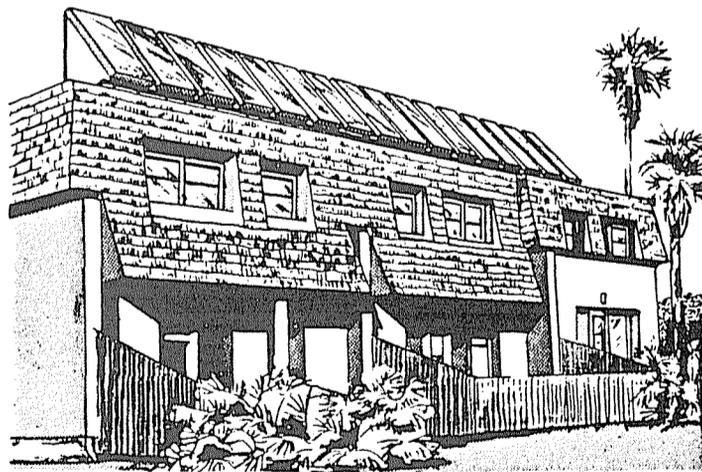
Following an analysis of the region's energy assets, including potential effects of any curtailment in the availability of fossil fuels—especially oil and gas—the Council adopted an Energy Policy Plan for the North Central Florida Planning Region during 1979. The Plan contains nine objectives and a number of policies and implementation projects in support of the overall goal of promoting wise and efficient use of energy throughout the region.

The Council also continued to provide administrative assistance to a regional committee established by the Governor's Energy Office (formerly State Energy Office) for the purpose of advising the Governor on energy policy. In addition to its many advisory activities, the Regional Energy Action Committee (REAC III) sponsored their second annual Energy Expo in Gainesville, on March 23 & 24, 1979.

It is anticipated that in 1980 the Council will continue energy conservation efforts through the provision of technical assistance to individual local governments on conservation strategies and operating procedures; the provision of energy information to local governments and the general public; and, assistance in the preparation of energy grant applications and other related activities.

ENERGY

Energy Goal: To Promote the Wise and Efficient Use of Energy



ENERGY

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

LOCAL ASSISTANCE

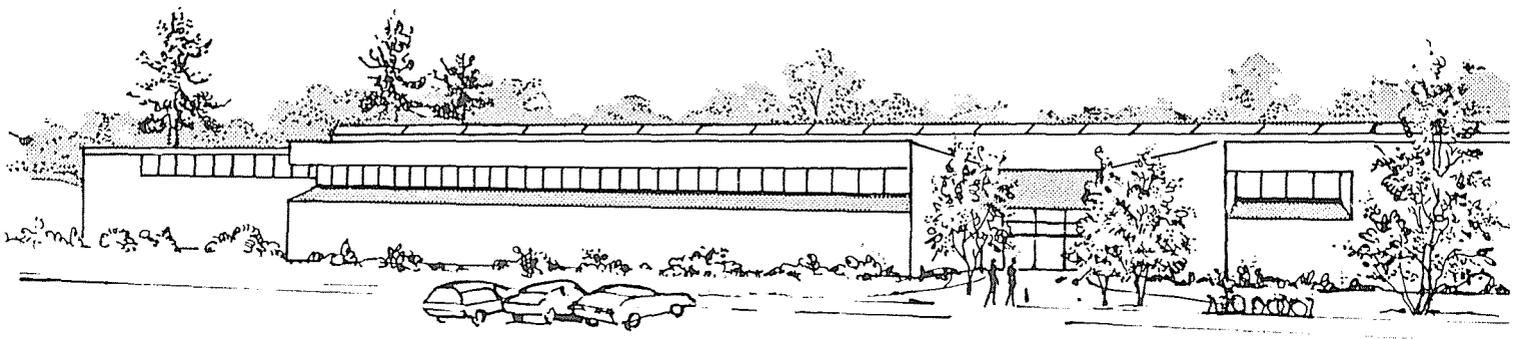
CRIMINAL JUSTICE • TRANSPORTATION

COUNCIL REVIEW PROGRAMS

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

COMMUNICATIONS • SPECIAL PROJECTS

TOMORROW • FINANCIAL REPORT



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
Economic Planning and Development Assistance

In 1978, the Federal Government designated the region as an Economic Development District. This designation and the accompanying annual planning grants have allowed the Council to conduct economic development planning for the entire region and to assist the nine designated Redevelopment Area counties in applying for economic development grants.

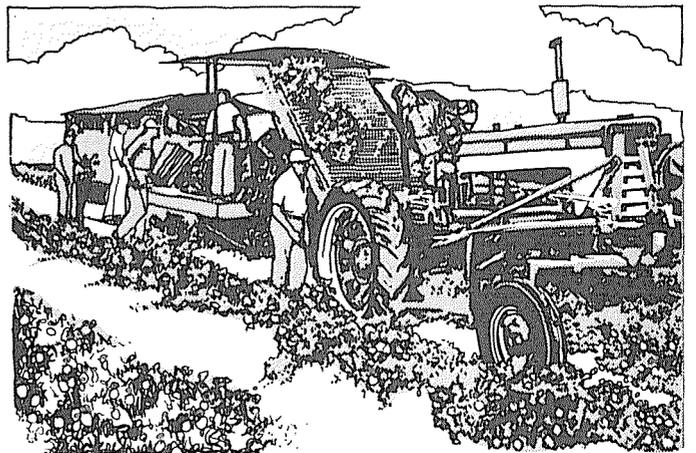
Examples of projects that have received favorable review by the Economic Development Administration include the City of Madison Industrial Park and the Alachua County Research and Development Authority Feasibility Study.

Rural Development Strategy

The Council was one of the first organizations in the country to receive an Area Development Assistance Planning Grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Part of the grant was used by the Council to work with the 42 eligible local governments in the region to identify and prioritize specific projects and programs. Over 300 projects (e.g., community development, housing, technical assistance, economic development, etc.) were listed by citizens and local officials in order of importance to their areas.

Coastal Plains

During 1979, the Council joined with four other Regional Planning Councils in the Coastal Plains Region of the State in an effort to increase local participation in Farmers Home Administration (FmHA) programs. Funded by a Coastal Plains Regional Commission Demonstration Grant, the Council staff attended general workshops with FmHA staff which enabled the Council to provide additional technical assistance to local governments and to respond to numerous requests for assistance in developing programs and applications for FmHA monies.



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

LOCAL ASSISTANCE

CRIMINAL JUSTICE • TRANSPORTATION

COUNCIL REVIEW PROGRAMS

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

COMMUNICATIONS • SPECIAL PROJECTS

TOMORROW • FINANCIAL REPORT

In response to needs identified by local governments throughout the region, the Council applied for and received funding from the Office of Personnel Management (formerly Civil Service Commission) to conduct a personnel and management assistance program.

As a result, Hamilton, Lafayette, Madison, Taylor and Union Counties received the following personnel-related services during 1979:

- Personnel rules and regulations
- Affirmative Action studies
- Affirmative Action plans
- Office procedures manual
- Personnel forms.

During the next program year, job descriptions and pay plans will be developed to complete a personnel system for these five initial counties. And, because the program grant is sufficiently flexible to adapt to a variety of locally-identified needs and concerns, other forms of public administrative assistance, (e.g., retention of a regionwide personnel administrator) are being considered by the Council.

The preparation of local comprehensive plans continued to receive primary emphasis in Council services to local governments during the past year.

Since enactment of the Local Government Comprehensive Planning Act in 1975, nine counties and 24 municipalities -- three-fourths of all local governments in the region -- have received these services. During 1979 alone, thirteen contracts for various elements of the comprehensive plans were completed. In the coming year, nine ongoing programs, most in their final stages, will be completed.

To assist local governments in at least partially financing the costs of preparing their comprehensive plans, the Council prepared eight applications for Federal '701' funds and State Local Government Comprehensive Planning Act Assistance funds. As a result, \$56,689 in Federal funds were awarded to two jointly conducted planning programs: Alachua County and the Cities of Newberry and Waldo and Union County and the Municipalities of Lake Butler and Worthington Springs. In addition, \$44,075 in State funds were awarded to six local comprehensive planning programs.

Other grant and technical assistance activities conducted by the Council during 1979 include:

- Initiating Grants Update Program
- 9 HUD Community Development Block Grant Preapplications
- 3 HUD Community Development Block Grant Final Applications -- \$1,084,667
- 1 EDA Technical Assistance Grant -- \$45,000
- 1 FmHA Industrial Development Grant -- \$70,000
- 1 CPRC Supplemental Grant -- \$25,000
- 1 EDA Incentive Grant -- \$24,000
- Responding to information requests from local elected officials, public and private agency representatives, developers and individual citizens.

LOCAL ASSISTANCE

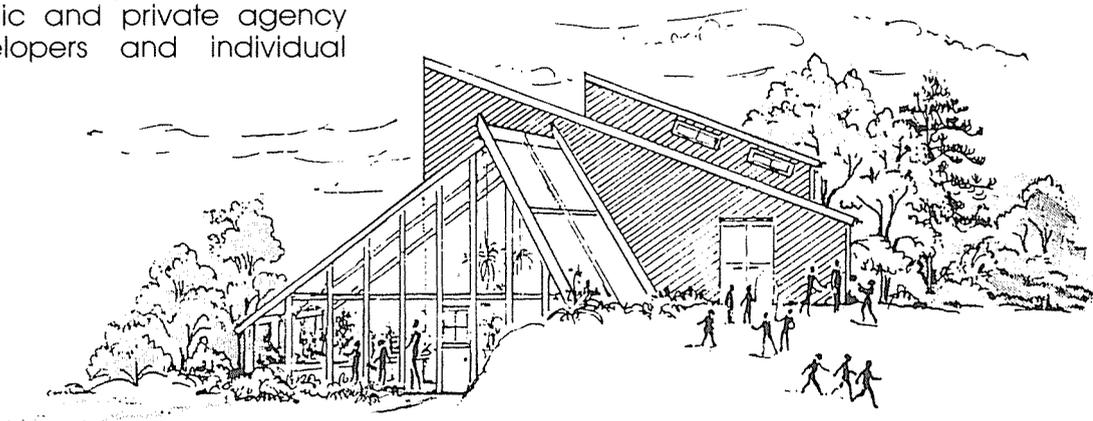
Council Expands Services to Local Governments

Intergovernmental Personnel Assistance



Local Comprehensive Planning

Other Local Services



LOCAL ASSISTANCE

CRIMINAL JUSTICE • TRANSPORTATION

COUNCIL REVIEW PROGRAMS

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

COMMUNICATIONS • SPECIAL PROJECTS

TOMORROW • FINANCIAL REPORT

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

During 1979, the Council conducted both implementation and planning activities under its criminal justice program. With the guidance of the Criminal Justice Advisory Committee (CJAC), the Council carried out the provisions of previous years' Criminal Justice Plans for the region and the terms of its 78-79 contract with the State and, in addition, developed the foundations for next year's program.

Implementation Activities

Fourteen criminal justice-related projects received grant awards and were implemented during 1978-79. These included local law enforcement agencies' communications improvements, delinquency prevention and victim assistance projects. Many were continuations of projects receiving funds in previous years.

In addition, criminal justice agencies throughout the region were furnished with information on the use of computers in criminal justice and on fiscal management of grants through Council-sponsored workshops. These agencies also received technical assistance from the Council as requested -- often involving consultation with State agencies.

Planning Activities

During 1979, the CJAC made recommendations to the Regional Planning Council on the allocation of over \$160,000 in 1980 Law Enforcement Assistance Administration (LEAA) funds to 14 projects. All areas of criminal justice, including law enforcement, courts, corrections, crime prevention and juvenile justice, will benefit from these projects to be implemented next year.



Special Recognition



Project Crest, which has been in operation since 1972 and has received funding through the Council in the past, was declared an Exemplary Project by the National Institute for Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice. This project provides individual counseling to delinquent youths and is the first project in the Southeastern United States to receive this award.

Through an interlocal agreement signed by the Florida Department of Transportation, Alachua County and the City of Gainesville, the Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization (MTPO) was formed in 1978 to carry out transportation planning in the Gainesville Urban Area (GUA). The Council acted as a non-voting participant in the MTPO, served as its staff providing technical and administrative assistance in developing transportation plans and programs, and coordinated transportation-related DRI and A-95 activities. Late in the year the MTPO was reconstituted in accordance with new statutory requirements and the Council lost its non-voting representative position.

During the past year the process of updating the 1995 long range transportation plan for the GUA to the Year 2005 was initiated. The plan will be completed in 1980 and will have a mass transit and road and street components.

The MTPO also adopted an eight-year capital and operating assistance program for the Regional Transit System (RTS). The plan outlines the short term needs of

TRANSPORTATION

Urban Area Planning



CRIMINAL JUSTICE • TRANSPORTATION

COUNCIL REVIEW PROGRAMS

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

COMMUNICATIONS • SPECIAL PROJECTS

TOMORROW • FINANCIAL REPORT

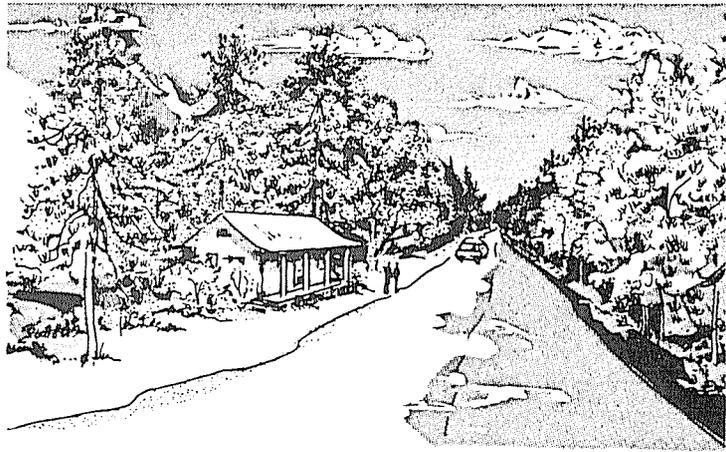
the RTS to maintain an existing level of service. In addition, on-board bus surveys were conducted in May and November for use in developing a profile of transit users and to determine the effects of a fare increase.

During 1979, the Council assisted the Suwannee Valley Transit Authority (SVTA), serving Columbia, Hamilton, and Suwannee Counties, in preparing an application under Section 18 of the Urban Mass Transportation Act of 1964, as amended. Grant funds will be used for operating, administrative, and capital assistance.

With planning funds provided by the Urban Mass Transportation Administration through the Florida Department of Transportation, the Council also initiated preparation of a Transit Development Program for the SVTA. The study will involve an eight-month effort and will focus on the following topics:

- Continuation of existing SVTA services
- Expansion of services within the present three-county service area
- Feasibility of expansion of services into Baker, Bradford, and Union Counties.

Rural Transportation



COUNCIL REVIEW PROGRAMS

A-95 Review

Through designation by the Governor as an Areawide Clearinghouse responsible for implementing a process referred to as "A-95 Review,"* the Council is provided the opportunity to review and comment on most requests for Federal funds for Statewide, multi-county or local area projects affecting this region.

Based on comments received by affected local governments and agencies, the Council advises the Federal funding agency and the applicant on the extent to which the proposed project:

- Is consistent with local and areawide comprehensive planning
- Duplicates, runs counter to or needs to be coordinated with other projects affecting the area; or
- Might be revised to increase its effectiveness or efficiency in relation to other area programs and projects.

Applicants are required to address any Clearinghouse objections as part of their application package and Federal agencies must submit to OMB and the Council written justification for funding a project that has received an unfavorable Clearinghouse recommendation. In recent months OMB has taken steps to monitor and enforce compliance with this process.

During 1979, the Council Clearinghouse Committee, which is responsible for carrying out this review responsibility on a monthly basis, reviewed 186 A-95 items requesting over \$77 Million in Federal assistance.

Of the total A-95 items reviewed, 94 applications were requests from local governments for over \$27 million in Federal funds, including \$15 Million in Community Development Block Grant requests. Other requests included criminal justice, water and sewer, transportation, economic development, human resources, and planning assistance projects.

* Authorized by U.S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Circular A-95.



COUNCIL REVIEW PROGRAMS

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

COMMUNICATIONS • SPECIAL PROJECTS

TOMORROW • FINANCIAL REPORT

All local government projects and 89 other applications received clearance from the Committee -- some with recommendations or on a conditional basis. However, four projects involving just under \$1 Million in Federal funds were found to be inconsistent or uncoordinated with area and local plans and programs. These included a proposed subdivision, two health-related training grants and one marketing demonstration project.

Local Government Comprehensive Plan Review

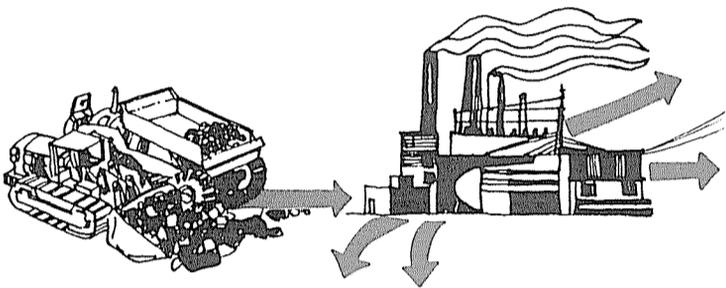


Under Chapter 163, Florida Statutes, the Regional Planning Council is authorized to review all proposed Local Government Comprehensive Plan elements for consistency with related regional plans. During 1979 the Council reviewed the proposed Plans for ten jurisdictions. These included:

- City of Archer
- Dixie County and the Cities of Cross City and Horseshoe Beach
- City of Fanning Springs
- Town of Greenville
- Hamilton County and the Cities of Jasper, Jennings and White Springs.

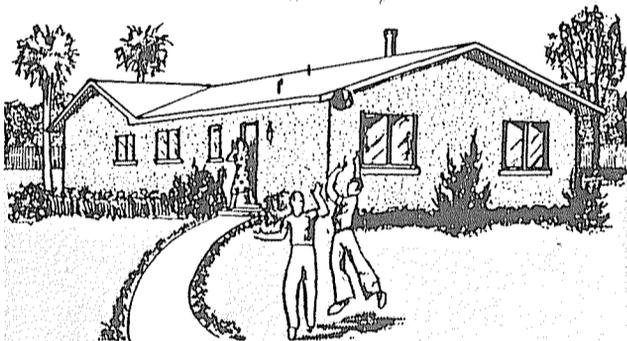
The Council also forwarded informational comments to local governments on any possible areas of conflict between their proposed Plans and those of adjacent jurisdictions.

Developments of Regional Impact Review



Under Chapter 380, Florida Statutes, the Council is also responsible for reviewing proposed developments which, because of their "character, magnitude or location" might have a substantial effect on the health, safety or welfare of citizens of more than one county. The Council advises affected local governments of any regional impacts that are likely to result from the development and recommends, if appropriate, modifications to the proposal which might alleviate any adverse regional impacts identified.

During 1979 the Council reviewed a proposal to develop a large residential community, Haile Plantation, within the southwest quadrant of the



Gainesville Urban Area. The proposal was to construct a total of 3,530 residential units of varying types on a 1,066-acre site. In its report and recommendations to Alachua County, the Council recommended that the project be approved with conditions related to transportation costs and adverse environmental impacts related to water quality. These conditions were adopted by the Alachua County in issuing the development order.

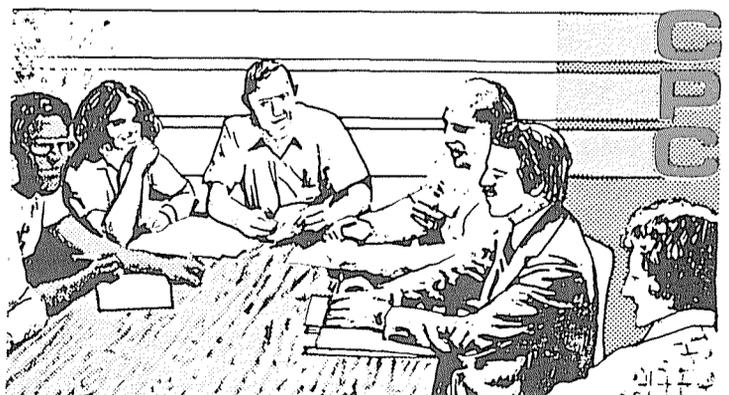
Although the general public or any interested group or individual may provide input to Council deliberations, a special group of informed citizens, appointed by member local governments, advises the Council on a regular basis. This group, the Citizens Participation Committee (CPC), met quarterly during 1979 to review plans and programs under consideration by the Council and to discuss issues of regional and local concern. Last year, CPC discussions and recommendations to the Council covered a wide range of subjects, including:

- Economic Development Program -- Funding sources and services
- Rural Development Program -- Local government needs survey results
- Regional Energy Policy Plan
- Areawide Housing Opportunity Plan
- Governor's Resource Management Task Force -- Recommendations and Implications for RPC's.

In addition to the CPC, a number of specialized citizen and/or technical advisory committees have been established to provide input into the development of coastal zone, criminal justice, energy, transportation and '208' water quality planning and management strategies.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

Citizens Advise Council on Regional Policy Development



CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

COMMUNICATIONS • SPECIAL PROJECTS

TOMORROW • FINANCIAL REPORT

COMMUNICATIONS

Public Information Efforts Expanded



In response to many requests from throughout the region, the Council initiated a new publication series in 1979 called Grants Update. Each issue provided local governments, agencies and individuals with timely information on a selected grant program, including eligibility requirements, program guidelines, approaching application submission deadlines, etc.

Although initiated late in the year, response to the Grants Update has been widespread and favorable and this series will be continued in the new program year.

During 1979 the Council also maintained a publications program to advise the public of Council activities and any issues of regional concern. Both quarterly newsletters and special reports were published to inform and involve citizens of the region in Council projects.

In addition to these publications series, the Council disseminated information on grant programs, proposed plans and programs, new legislation impacting the region and regional issues through staff communication with local governments, agencies and interested groups and individuals. An extensive collection of slides and graphic illustrations which summarize information about the Council and planning issues and programs is continually updated and used to aid in giving effective presentations.

Under contract with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), the Council initiated an investigation of the State's land and mineral interest in the region in 1979.

During the first year of the project, the Council used existing staff to compare State and county-maintained records in seven counties to identify any parcels in which the State has retained mineral interests. Discrepancies between the records were noted and each parcel of land in which the State was found to have mineral interests was mapped for DNR's use. This initial effort involved Columbia, Dixie, Gilchrist, Hamilton, Lafayette, Madison and Suwannee Counties and results were submitted to the State in mid-December.

During a second contract period, beginning late in the year, this effort was extended to include Bradford, Taylor, and Union Counties. It is anticipated that a third project period will focus on Alachua County.

SPECIAL PROJECTS

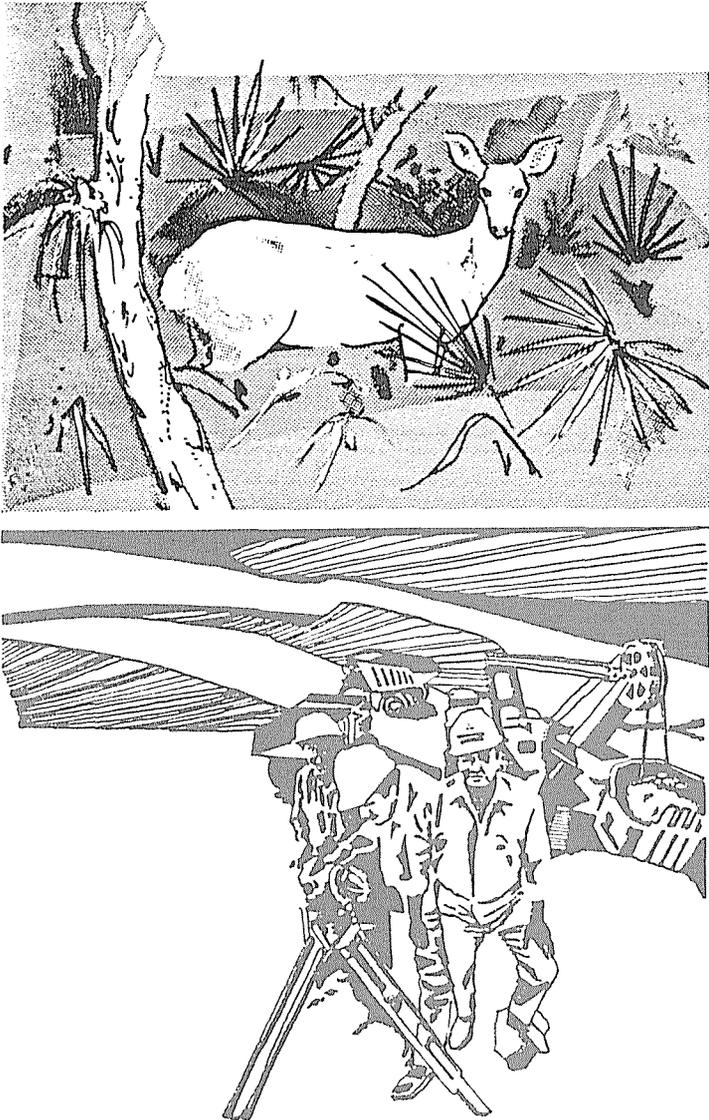
Council Inventories State-Owned Lands in North Central Florida



TOMORROW

Council Programs for 1980

As indicated in the individual program reports, the Council is responding to a variety of local government needs in its work program. This intent is also reflected in the Council's 1980 work program through continuation or expansion of existing program areas and initiation of new programs. Some of these new or expanded efforts are highlighted below:

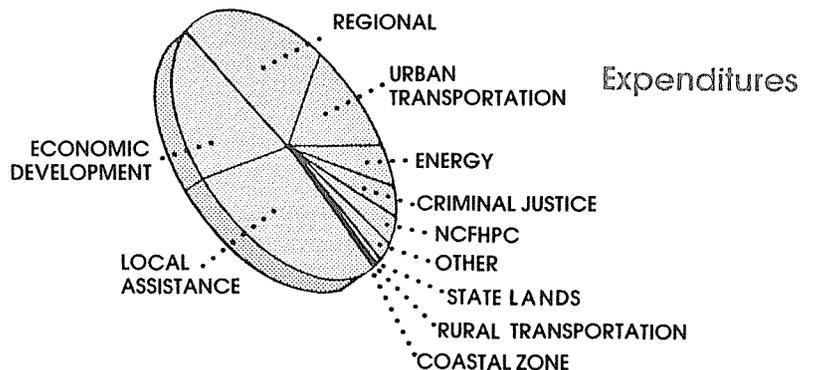
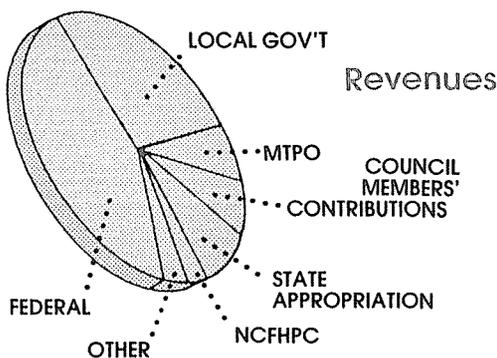


- Local Personnel Assistance** -- The Council will increase local personnel assistance capabilities and expand these services to additional local government.
- Public Administration Assistance** -- Several local governments have requested and the Council will provide other public administration assistance in addition to personnel assistance during 1980.
- State Owned Lands Inventory** -- The Council will extend its assistance in identifying and mapping all State owned lands in the region to three or possibly four additional counties.
- Rural Transportation** -- The Council will continue its study on behalf of the Suwannee Valley Transit Authority into the possibilities for expanding services both within the present three-county service area and into three additional counties.
- Growth and Conservation of Existing Communities** -- The Council will initiate a program to identify distressed communities throughout the North Central Florida Planning Region. Financial resources may then be allocated more effectively according to the identified needs of the communities.
- Economic Development Assistance** -- The Council will expand its efforts to assist the nine designated redevelopment area counties in the region in applying for economic development grants.

FINANCIAL REPORT

1978-79 Revenues

Sources	\$	\$	%
Federal Direct	188,447	\$283,248	41.2
Pass-through from State	94,801		
State Appropriation and State Lands Inventory		52,570	7.6
Council Members Contributions (\$.25 / capita)		63,128	9.2
Local Governments Contracts for Planning		176,720	25.7
Gainesville-Alachua County Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization (MTPO)		68,435	10.0
North Central Florida Health Planning Council (NCFHPC)		22,393	3.3
Other		20,865	3.0
TOTAL		\$687,359	100.0



1978-79 Expenditures

Programs	\$	%
Regional Planning and Reviews	\$125,780	18.8
Economic and Rural Development	129,891	19.4
Local Assistance	192,938	28.8
Energy	34,214	5.1
Coastal Zone Management	3,067	0.5
Urban Transportation	101,692	15.2
Elderly and Handicapped Rural Transportation	3,659	0.6
Criminal Justice	28,724	4.3
State Lands Inventory	9,575	1.4
Services to NCFHPC	22,393	3.3
Other	17,298	2.6
TOTAL	\$669,231	100.0



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