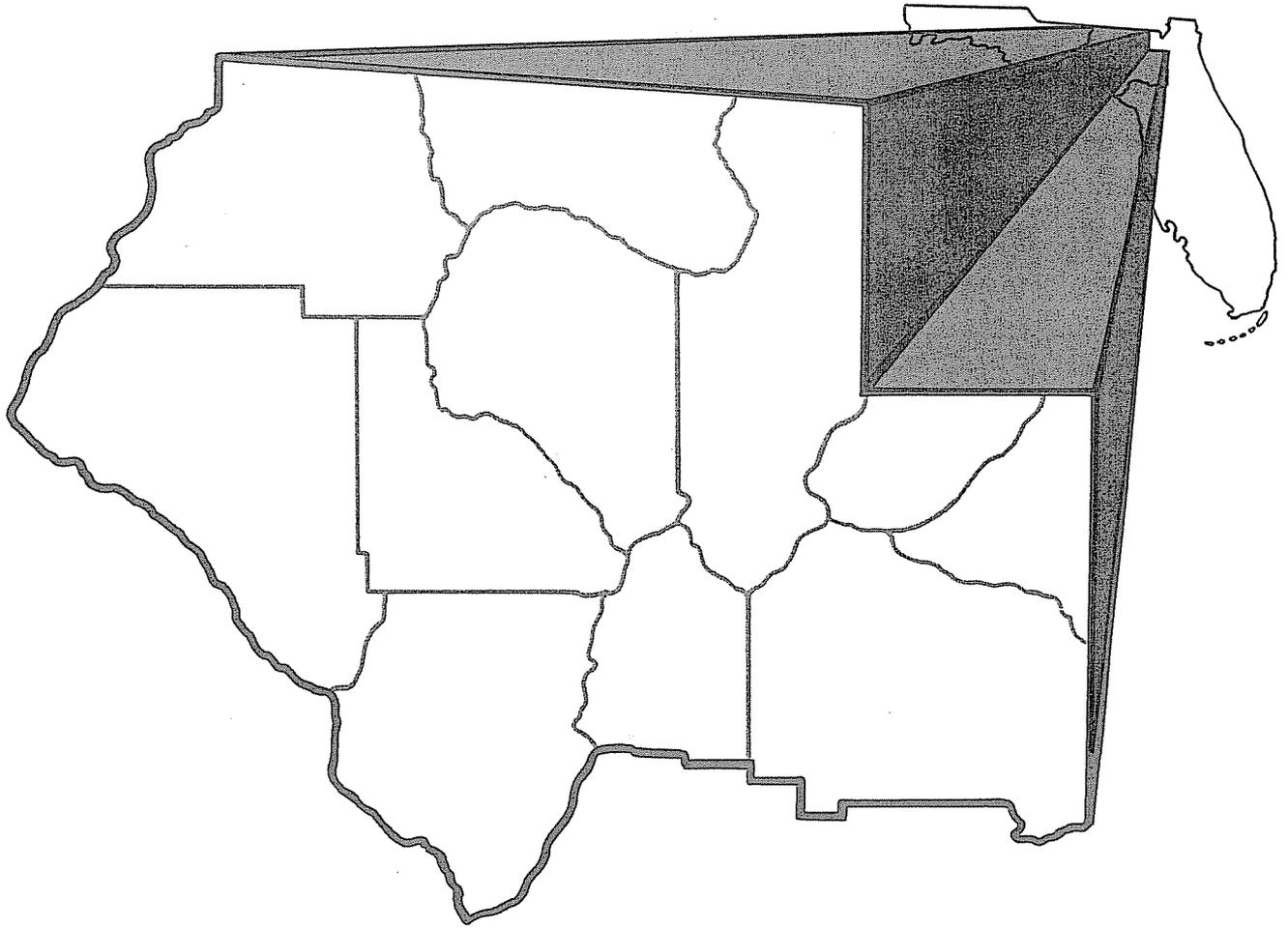


1980





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## CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

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To the Residents of North Central Florida ...

On behalf of our member local governments and their representatives who have served on the Council, I am pleased to submit to you the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council Annual Report for 1980. The following pages will acquaint you with programs conducted by the Council last year to further the interests we all share in orderly growth and development throughout the Region as well as preservation of our natural and community resources.

Last year, in addition to strengthening the Council's ability to provide coordinated planning and quality technical services to member local governments, we saw the beginning of a new era for Regional Planning Councils throughout the State. With the passage of the Florida Regional Councils Act and amendments to Development of Regional Impact legislation, a new opportunity was created for a partnership between the State and local governments in finding solutions to the issues of growth and environmental preservation. I believe the coming year will bring increased opportunities for regions to impact on State-level decision making. We also welcomed to our policy board new gubernatorial appointees, whose views should strengthen regional decisions and actions.

I thank member local governments, Council members, citizens of the Region and staff whose efforts have made 1980 a productive year for the Council. On their behalf I would like to express our interest in working with you on the opportunities that lie ahead.



A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Roberta Lane Lisle".

Roberta Lane Lisle  
Chairman

## THE COUNCIL

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### What It Is.

The Regional Planning Council is an organization of local governments serving the 11-county area of North Central Florida. Last year, 21 governments were members of the Council and, through their locally-appointed representatives, participated in developing and guiding area-wide policies and programs.

### What It Does.

Because it is a representative body of local governments, the Council has been designated as the Comprehensive Planning Agency for the Region and serves as the focal point for a number of federal and state-mandated planning and coordination efforts.

In addition to carrying out assigned responsibilities, the Council conducts a number of programs for the direct benefit of area local governments. These local services include:

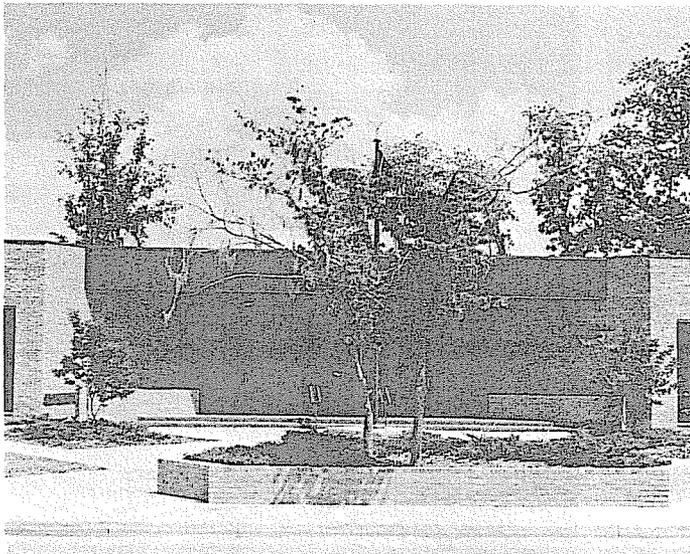
- Grant Application Assistance
- Local Government Energy Audits
- Personnel and Management Assistance
- Technical Planning Assistance
- Transportation Planning Services.

### Whom It Serves.

The North Central Florida Planning Region encompasses a land area of almost 7,000 square miles and includes 44 local government jurisdictions. The City of Gainesville, the largest of the 33 municipalities has a population of over 80,000 residents. The other 32 municipalities in the Region range in size from 200 to 10,000 residents. The remainder of the 275,000 resident population resides in unincorporated portions of the Region's eleven counties.

# COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP AND REPRESENTATION

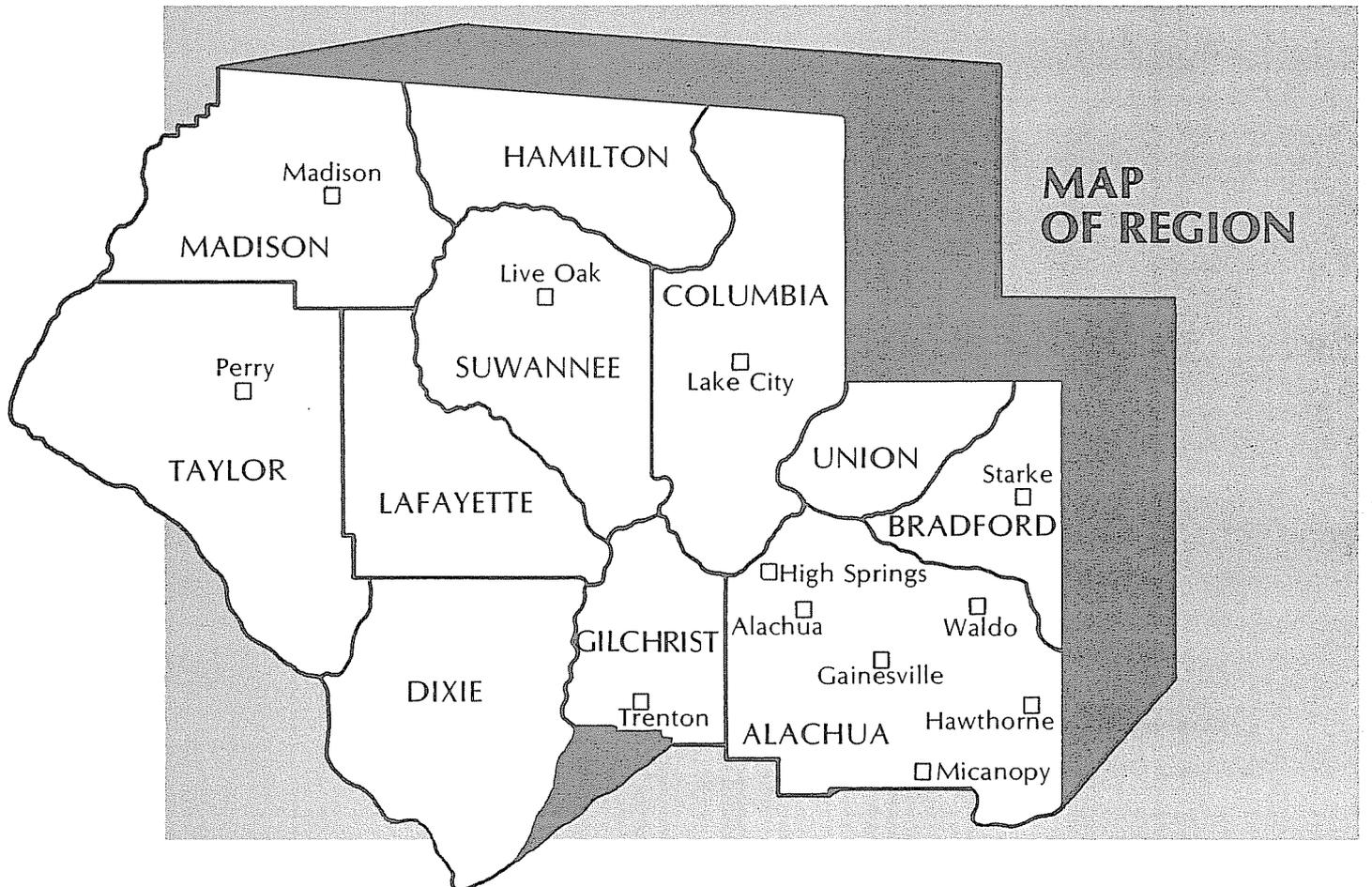
Chairman • Bobbie Lisle  
 Vice-Chairman • E.W. Hodges  
 Secretary-Treasurer • Tom Coward



## REGIONAL PLANNING

Two elements of the Regional Planning Program completed during 1980 are Regional Capital Improvements Program '80 and the first year report of a two-year effort on the Growth and Conservation of Existing Communities study. The former report lists major capital improvements of regional significance proposed by state and federal agencies, local governments and, where appropriate, by the private sector where the project is community service oriented, e.g., hospitals and other health and social service related facilities. The report groups the projects by jurisdiction under functional headings, e.g., Transportation Facilities, Solid Waste Facilities, etc. Each project is given a priority based upon five regional criteria outlined in the report. The listing should not only be helpful to local officials by making them aware of what others are proposing within or adjacent to their jurisdiction, but it also should be helpful to state and federal funding agencies in the budgeting for and allocation of financial assistance in the region.

Scheduled for completion in 1981, the second report locates areas within the region showing signs of physical or economic deterioration, determines the specific problems or needs of the area, and identifies federal or state program resources that may be available to address the problems. The report will also locate areas in and around existing communities that have been subdivided but never developed and undeveloped areas provided with central and/or sanitary sewer facilities. In both cases, the information will provide local officials and federal and state funding agencies the ability to target their efforts and resources to specific areas to address specific problems in such a way as to strengthen the urban fabric of existing communities.



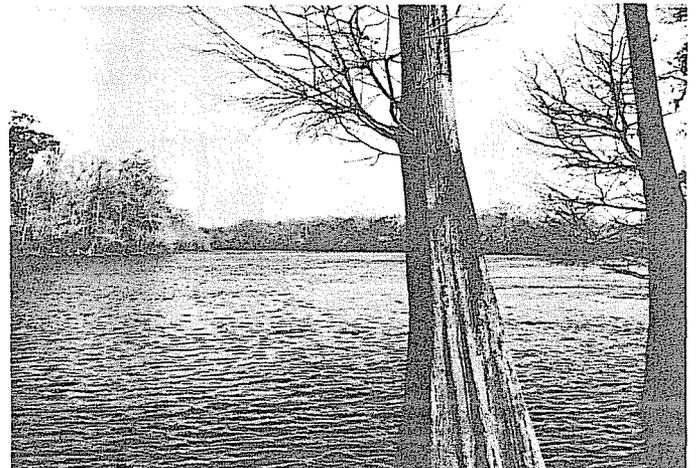
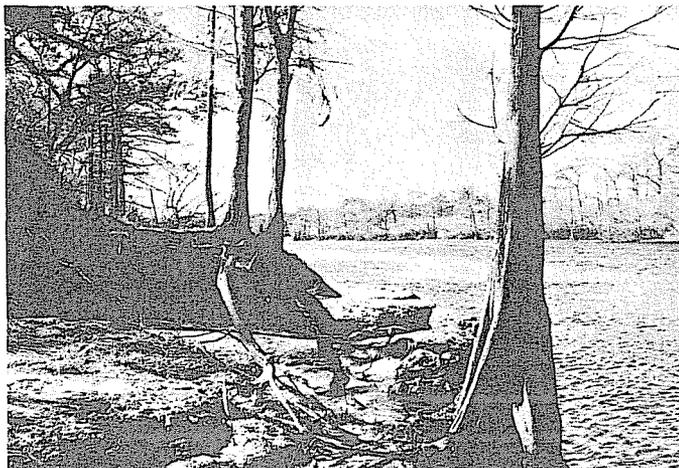
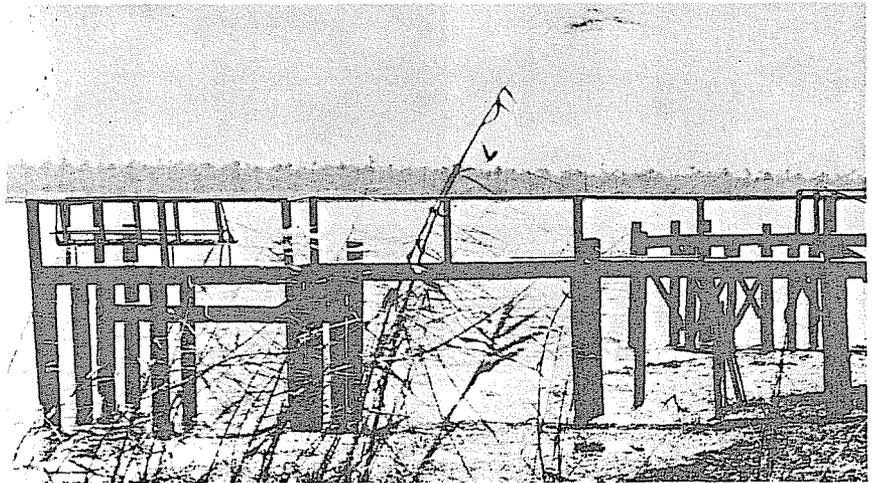
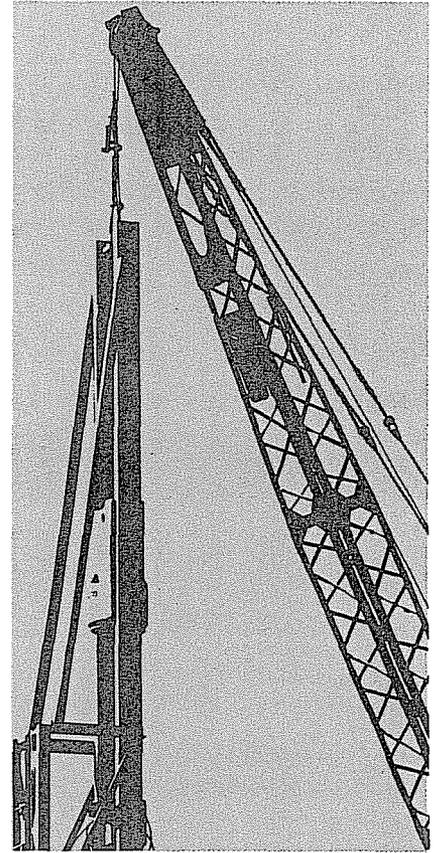
# ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING

Shortly after the Suwannee-Santa Fe Rivers Committee of the Council completed preparation of model floodplain development and scenic regulations for use by local governments adjacent to the rivers, Governor Bob Graham announced the creation of a Resource Planning and Management Committee for the Suwannee River Basin pursuant to Chapter 380.045, Florida Statutes.

The Council Board of Directors voted to support the Governor's committee, and dissolved its own Suwannee-Santa Fe Rivers Committee with the recommendation that the Governor utilize the active members on the new committee in order to benefit from their experience. The Council authorized staff to work with interested local governments along the rivers in integrating the model regulations within their existing land development ordinances. The model regulations consist of special floodplain provisions for inclusion in standard zoning and subdivision regulations, and a separate regulation addressing scenic, erosion and pollution concerns.

The new Committee, consisting of representatives from local governments, state and regional agencies, environmental groups and private enterprise, is charged with studying the area and preparing a report or recommendation to the Department of Veteran and Community Affairs, the designated land planning agency for the State of Florida.

Council involvement in the State's coastal zone planning program was reactivated during 1980 with completion of the Florida Coastal Management Program Hearing Draft. Prepared by the Office of Coastal Management, Department of Environmental Regulation, Council staff assisted citizen advisory committees established for Dixie and Taylor Counties in the review and comment of this document. In addition, Council staff assisted Taylor County with the preparation of a Coastal Zone Protection Element, a local comprehensive plan element required of coastal counties by Chapter 163, Florida Statutes. If the draft management plan is approved by the federal government, the Council may be asked to assist the State in implementing its provisions.



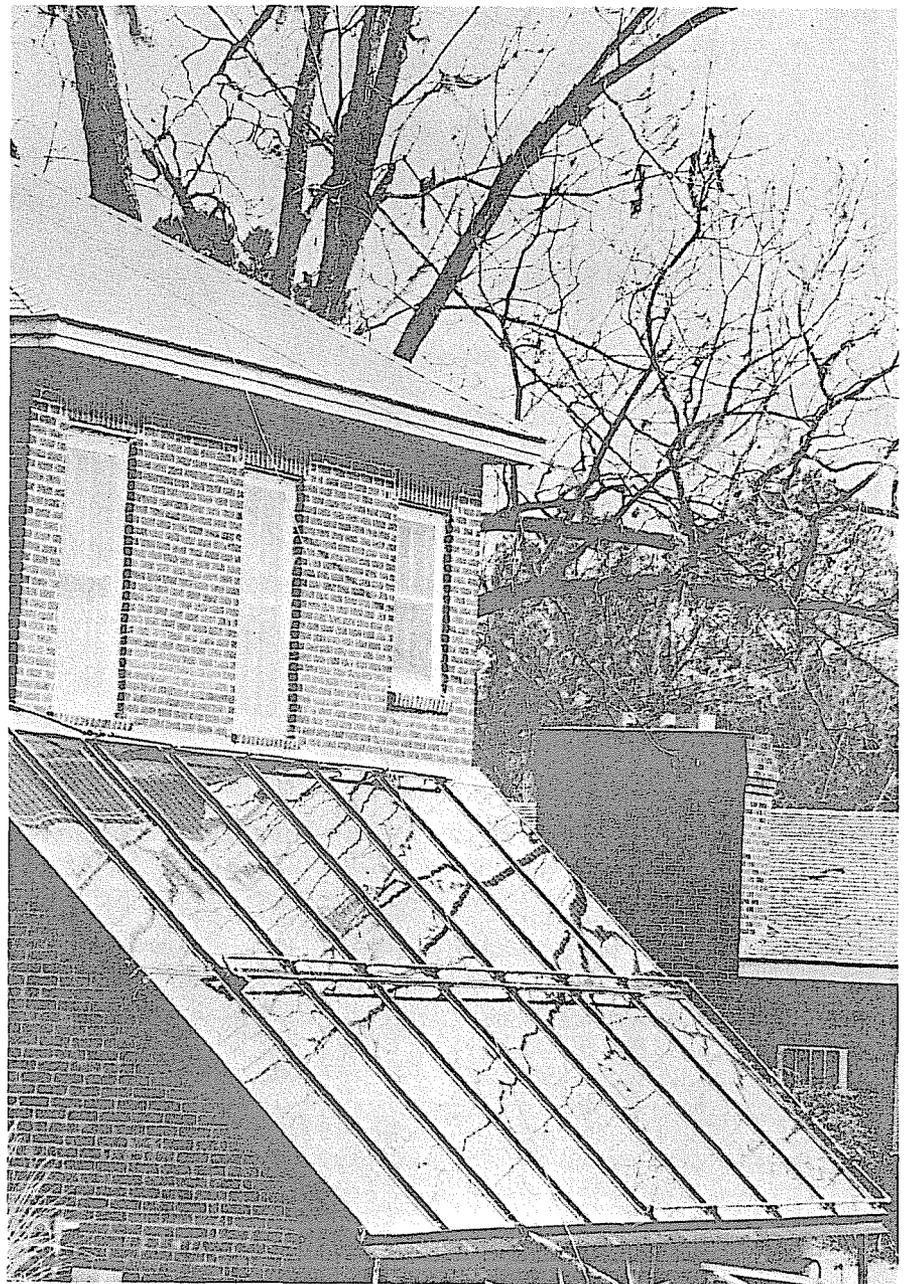
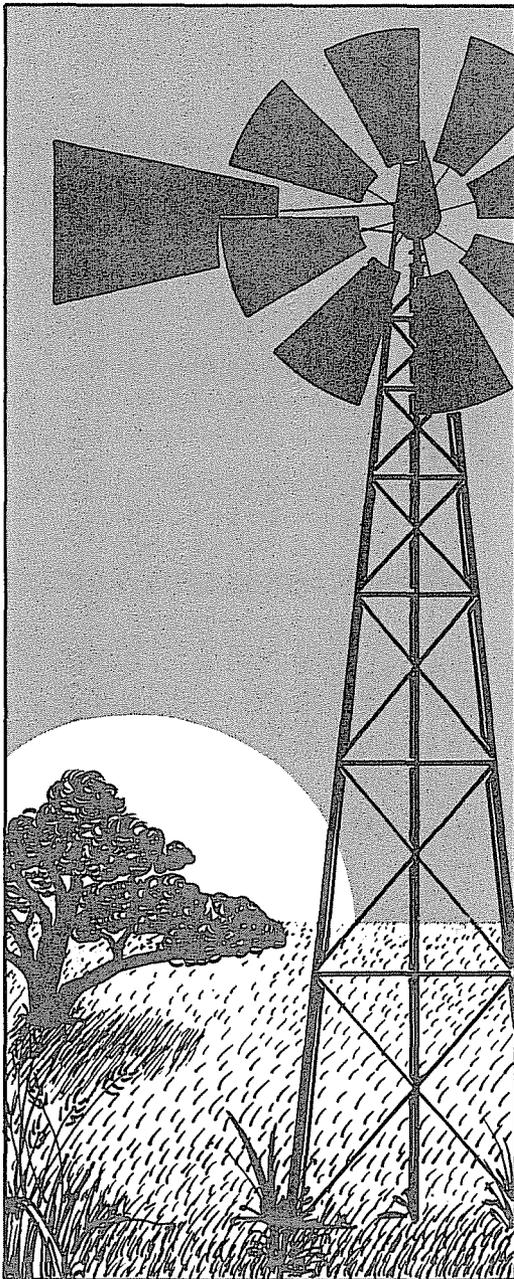
# ENERGY PLANNING

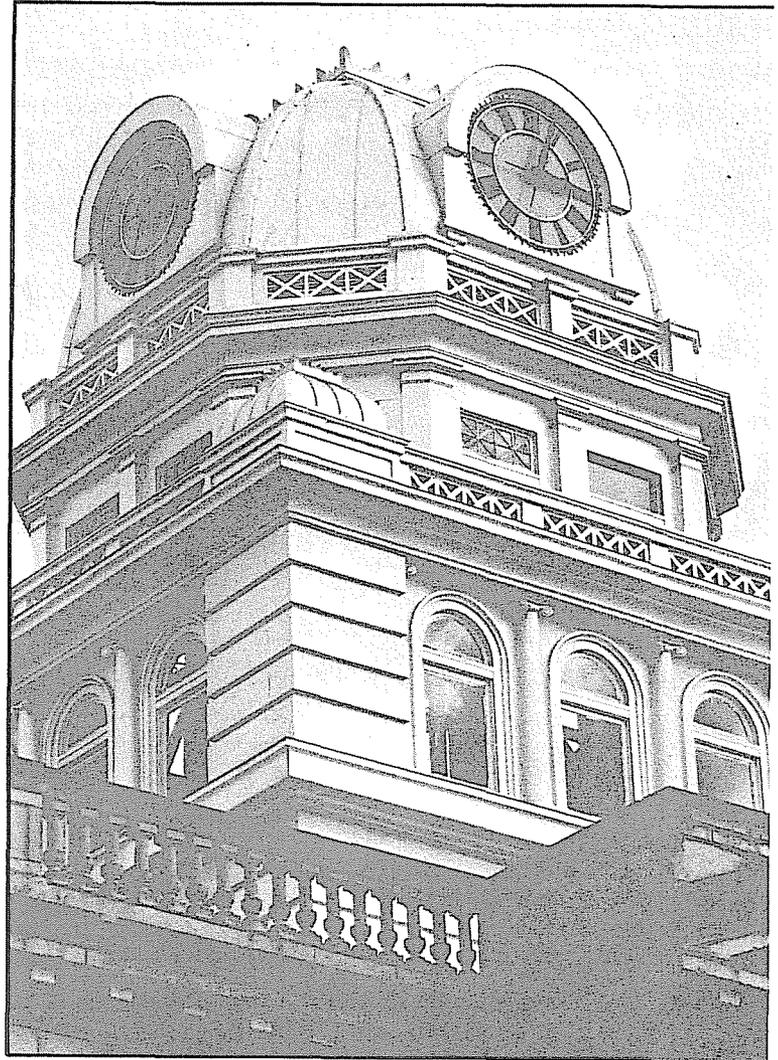
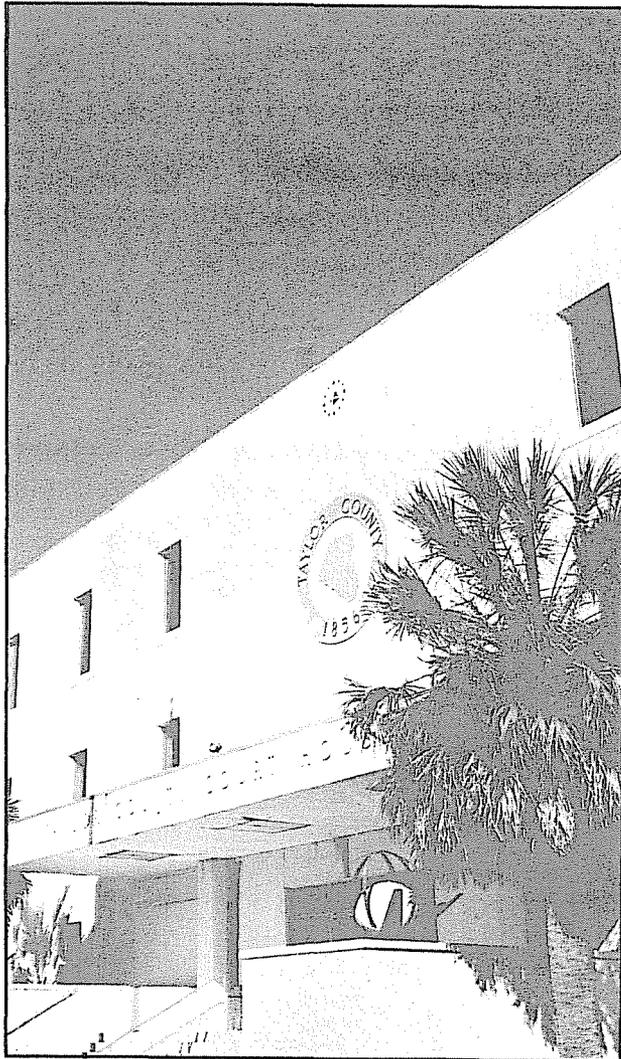
The Council continued its energy conservation efforts during 1980 but at a much reduced level due to a major realignment of the State program and a gap in funding.

The Regional Energy Action Committee (REAC III) sponsored their third Energy Expo in Gainesville and other programs dealing with energy education and public awareness. This gubernatorial appointed citizens committee was superseded by a more technically-oriented Council appointed committee upon signing of a new contract between the Council and the Governor's Energy Office. This change was necessitated due to the reorientation of the Council en-

ergy program. Many of the former members of REAC III from the Gainesville area have become involved with other citizen energy committees such as the Local Energy Action Program (LEAP) Committee.

Most of the Council effort since June has been focused on the development of a Local Government Energy Manual in conjunction with the Governor's Energy Office and other participating regional planning councils.





## LOCAL PLANNING

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### Local Comprehensive Planning

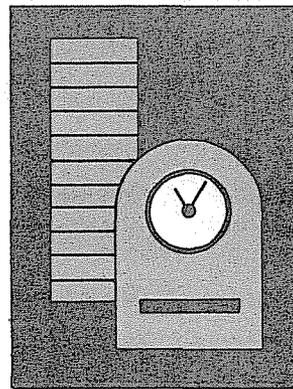
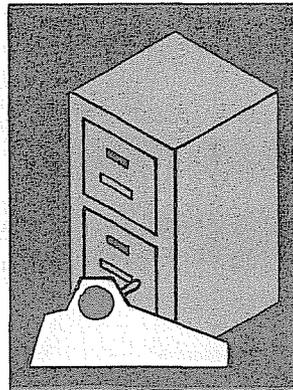
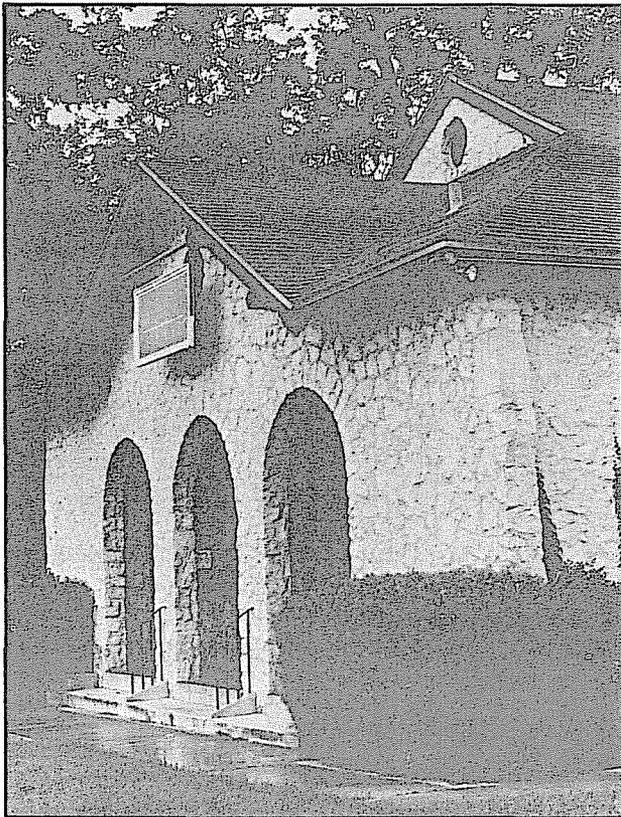
The preparation of local comprehensive plans continued to receive primary emphasis in Council services to local governments during the past year.

Since enactment of the Local Government Comprehensive Planning Act of 1975, nine counties and 24 municipalities -- three-fourths of all local governments in the region -- have received these services. During 1980 alone, nine contracts for various elements of the comprehensive plans were completed. In the coming year, programs involving seven local governments, most in their final stages, will be completed. In addition, two of these programs for next year will involve work on updating previously adopted comprehensive plans.

To assist local governments in at least partially financing the costs of preparing their comprehensive plans, the Council prepared five applications for Federal '701' funds and Florida Local Government Comprehensive Planning Act Assistance funds. As a result, a total of over \$32,000 in Federal funds were awarded to a jointly conducted planning program for Madison County and the Town of Lee, and individual planning programs for the Cities of Alachua and Newberry. In addition, \$16,124 in State funds were awarded to two local comprehensive planning programs: Taylor County and the City of Trenton.

Other grant and technical assistance activities conducted by the Council during 1980 include:

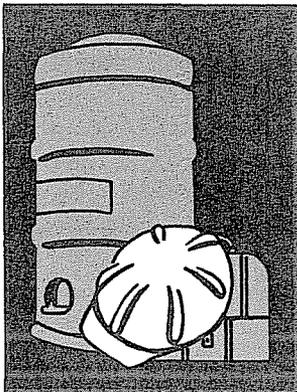
- 4 HUD Community Development Block Grant Preapplications
- 3 HUD Community Development Block Grant Final Applications -- \$1,152,000



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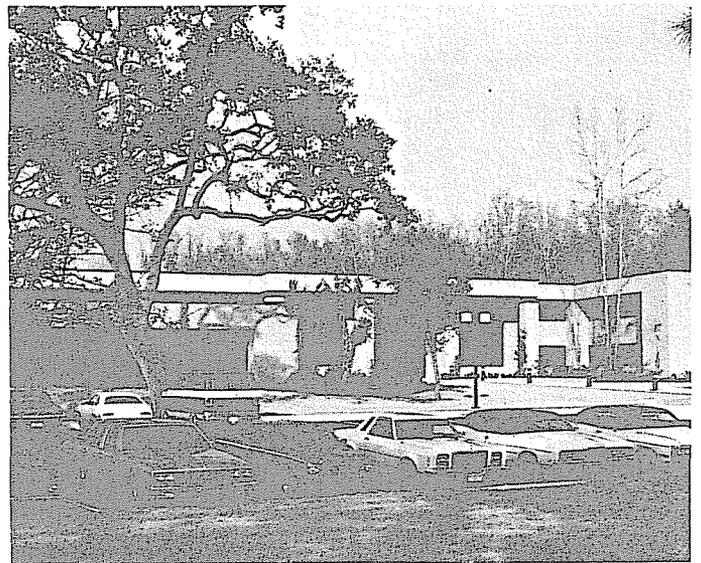
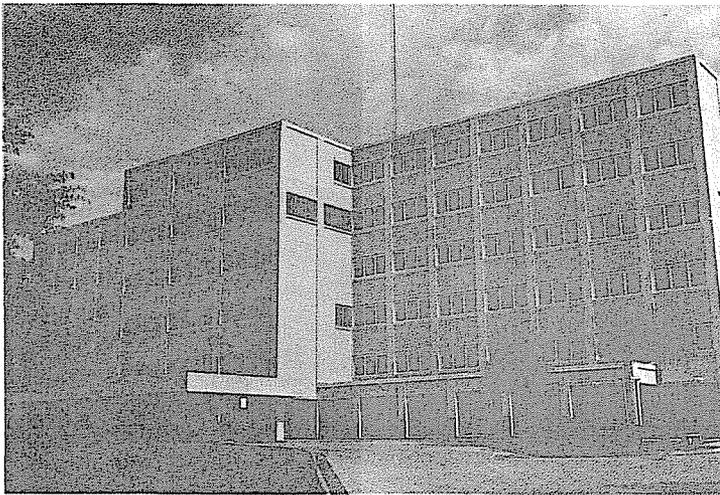
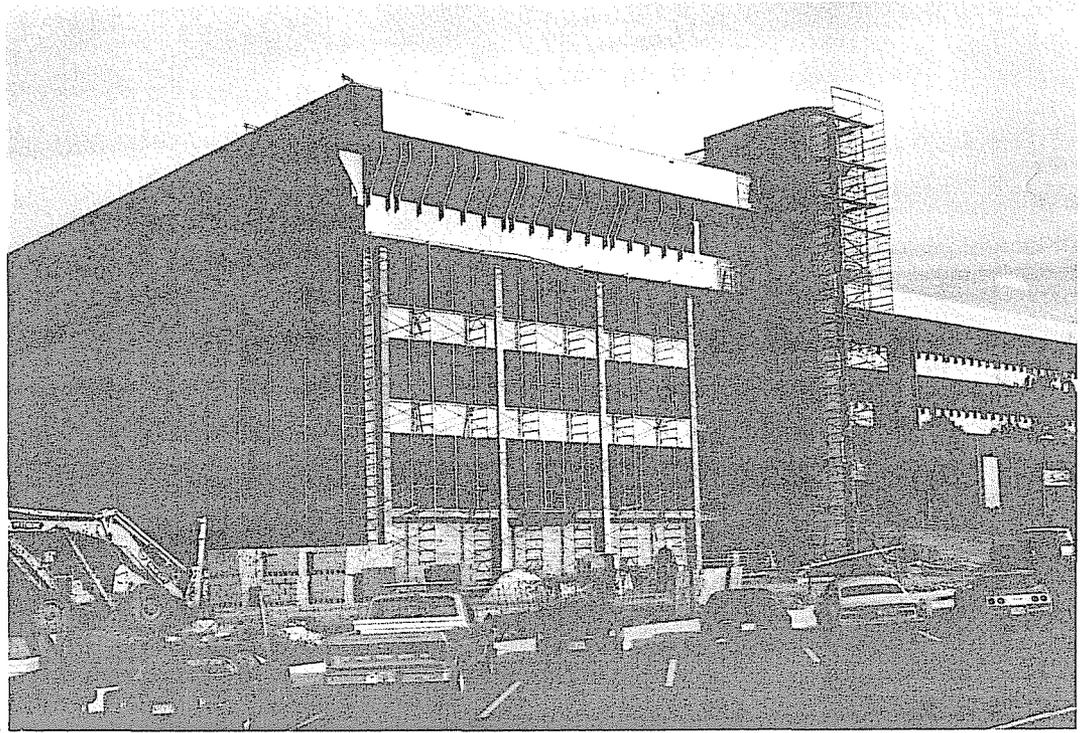
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### Local Personnel Assistance



Local governments throughout the region showed increasing interest in the Council's personnel and management assistance program during 1980. Supported with a second year grant from the Office of Personnel Management, the Council was able to continue working with the five initial participating counties (Hamilton, Lafayette, Madison, Taylor and Union) in updating job descriptions, pay plans, affirmative action plans and other personnel-related materials.

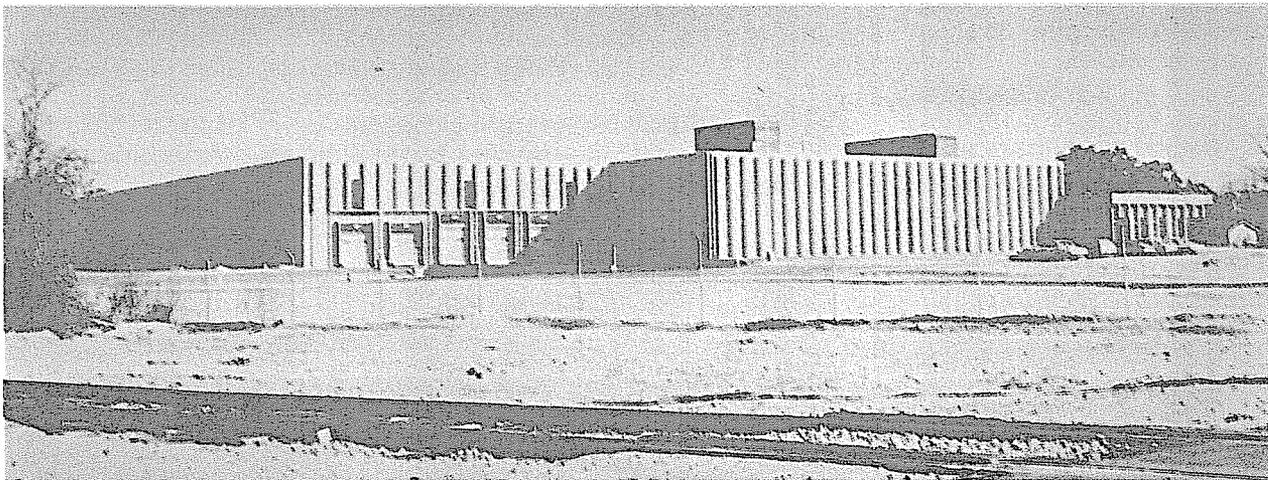
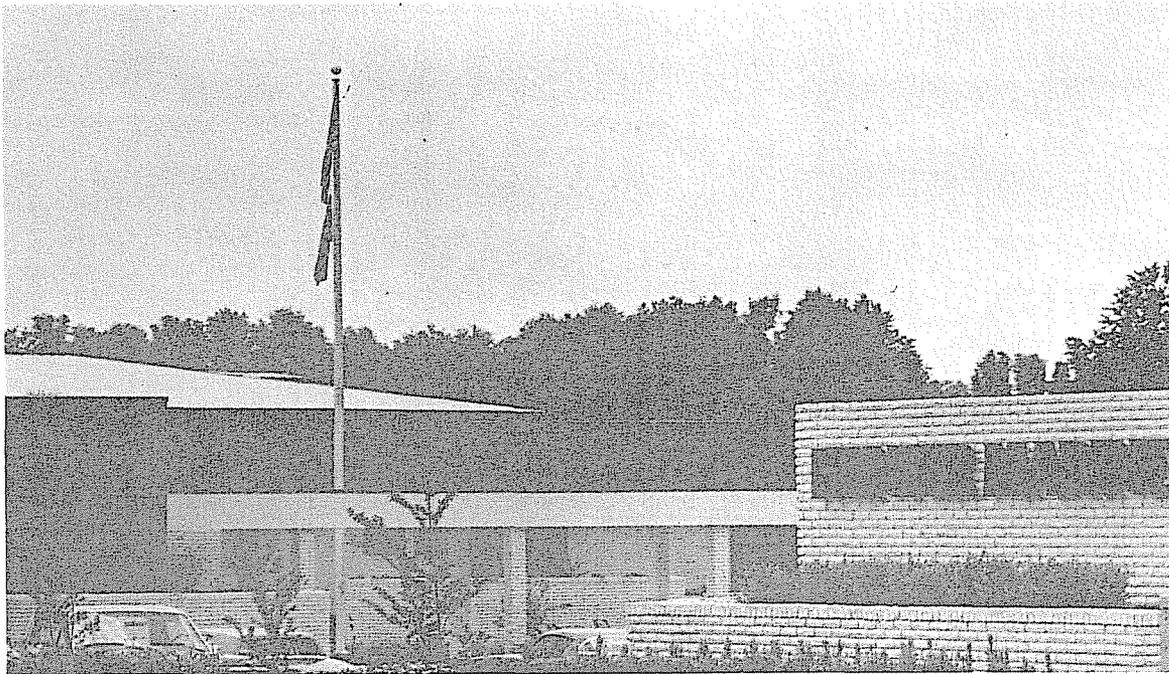
Other local governments expressing interest in the program are Alachua (Clerk's office), Bradford, Columbia, and Suwannee Counties, and the Cities of Starke, Alachua, High Springs, Live Oak, and Madison. Although some of these have already begun receiving assistance, most of the work will be completed in 1981. The Council also entered into contract with the Suwannee Valley Transit Authority to assist that agency with the preparation and updating of their personnel and pay plan program.



## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLANNING

Economic growth in the region has been positive over the past year in terms of both the location of new industries and the expansion of existing industries, such as Nationwide Insurance Regional Office, Tom's Foods, Hunter Marine and Vital Industries. The Council has been actively involved in providing assistance to foster economic development and by keeping its Overall Economic Development Program current.

The Council has assisted several local governments in implementing many economic development projects. Among those assisted was the Taylor County Development Authority in the development and submission of grant applications to the Farmers Home Administration (FmHA) and the Coastal Plains Regional Commission (CPRC). Grants from both agencies provided partial financing of public facility improvements needed to facilitate the opening of the Tom's Food plant and the creation of 200 new jobs.



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The Council has also been active in assisting the Suwannee County Development Authority in the development and submission of an Economic Development Administration (EDA) grant application and a CPRC grant application. The EDA application was under review while the CPRC was approved contingent upon the award of the EDA grant. These grants will provide the financing needed to construct an industrial park in Suwannee County. Several firms have indicated that they would be interested in locating in the park upon its completion. It is estimated that about 80 jobs would be created within a year of the park's completion.

The Council assisted the City of Trenton in obtaining a CPRC grant which will finance the necessary public facility improvements needed to facilitate the location of a long-term health care facility in Trenton. The construction of these improvements and the opening of the health care facility will create 90 new jobs in Gilchrist County.

Through an Incentive Grant obtained from EDA, the Council has provided the Alachua County Research and Development Authority with a full time staff person to assist the Authority in the site selection and development of its future research and development park. Several industries have already expressed an interest in locating in the park. All of these projects will result in more investment, jobs and income for the region.

# TRANSPORTATION PLANNING

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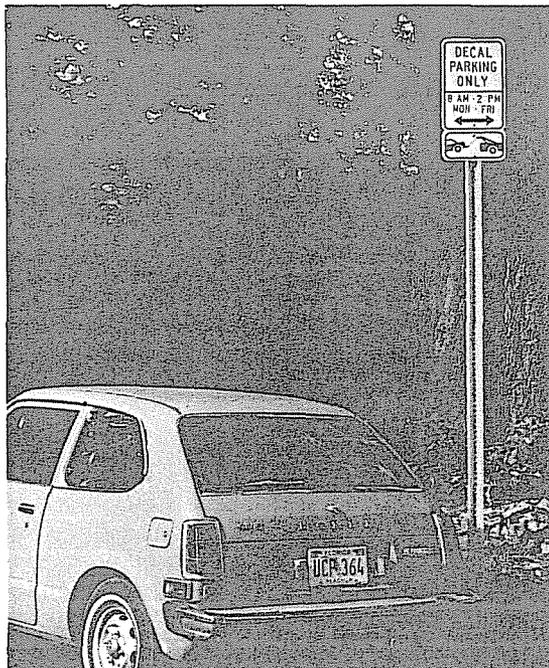
## Urban Area Transportation

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 replacing the previous organization, to implement transportation planning in the Gainesville Urban Area (GUA). The Council serves as the staff providing technical and administrative assistance in developing transportation plans and programs, and in coordinating transportation related DRI and A-95 activities.

During the past year the MTPO has undertaken numerous and diverse transportation planning studies. The keynote study of the year was the Automobile Management Study. This program recommended implementing on-street parking controls and transportation improvements around the University of Florida. The purpose of this program was to discourage single-occupant automobile trips and improve the quality of neighborhoods surrounding the University.

In accordance with the Federal regulations to provide accessible transportation services for the transportation handicapped, an accessibility plan was prepared for the Gainesville/Alachua County Regional Transit System. The plan outlines how the transit system will become accessible to the handicapped over a two-year period.

In order to provide a better information base for transportation planning decisions, 9,000 questionnaires were distributed to employees in the GUA. The survey forms were distributed through major employers to gain a better understanding of the decision-making process individuals use for trip making. The survey responses have not been fully analyzed, but preliminary use has been made of the responses.



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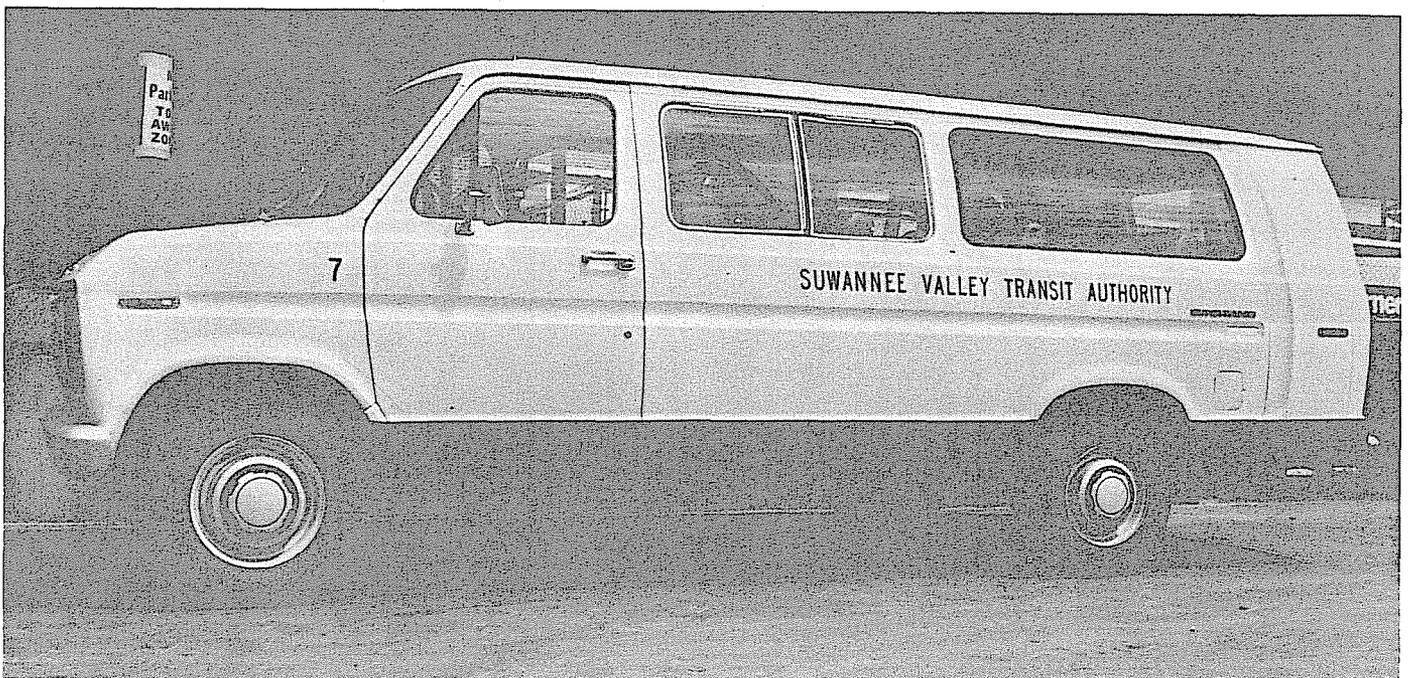
## Rural Transportation

Other urban area planning documents prepared and activities conducted during the year include:

- TOPICS Update - A traffic engineering intersection improvements program.
- Energy Contingency Plan - A plan to mitigate the effect on transportation of the next oil embargo.
- Long-Range Plan - Preparation, review, and analysis of long-range transit road and street plans for the year 2005.

In 1980, the Council completed a five-year transit development program for the Suwannee Valley Transit Authority (SVTA). The study, which was initiated in 1979, examined the feasibility of expansion of services into Baker, Bradford, and Union Counties and develops a plan for the three existing counties, Suwannee, Columbia and Hamilton. Additionally, it outlined the financial needs of the system over the next five years.

As part of a coordinated effort with the Florida Department of Transportation, visits were made to all rural counties in the region to discuss the requirements of Florida Statute 427, Coordinating Council on the Transportation Disadvantaged. As part of a major rural transit planning program to be undertaken in 1981, the Council may be preparing on behalf of our ten rural counties a plan which should work to improve the coordination of transportation to the transportation disadvantaged citizens in the region.



# REVIEW PROGRAMS

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## A-95 Review

As the designated areawide Clearinghouse responsible for implementing a process known as "A-95 review" the Council reviews and prepares advisory comments to federal agencies on a wide variety of federally-assisted projects that will affect this planning region.

In carrying out its review responsibilities, the Council solicits comments from local governments and agencies that will be affected by the project and then prepares a funding recommendation based on the extent to which the project:

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

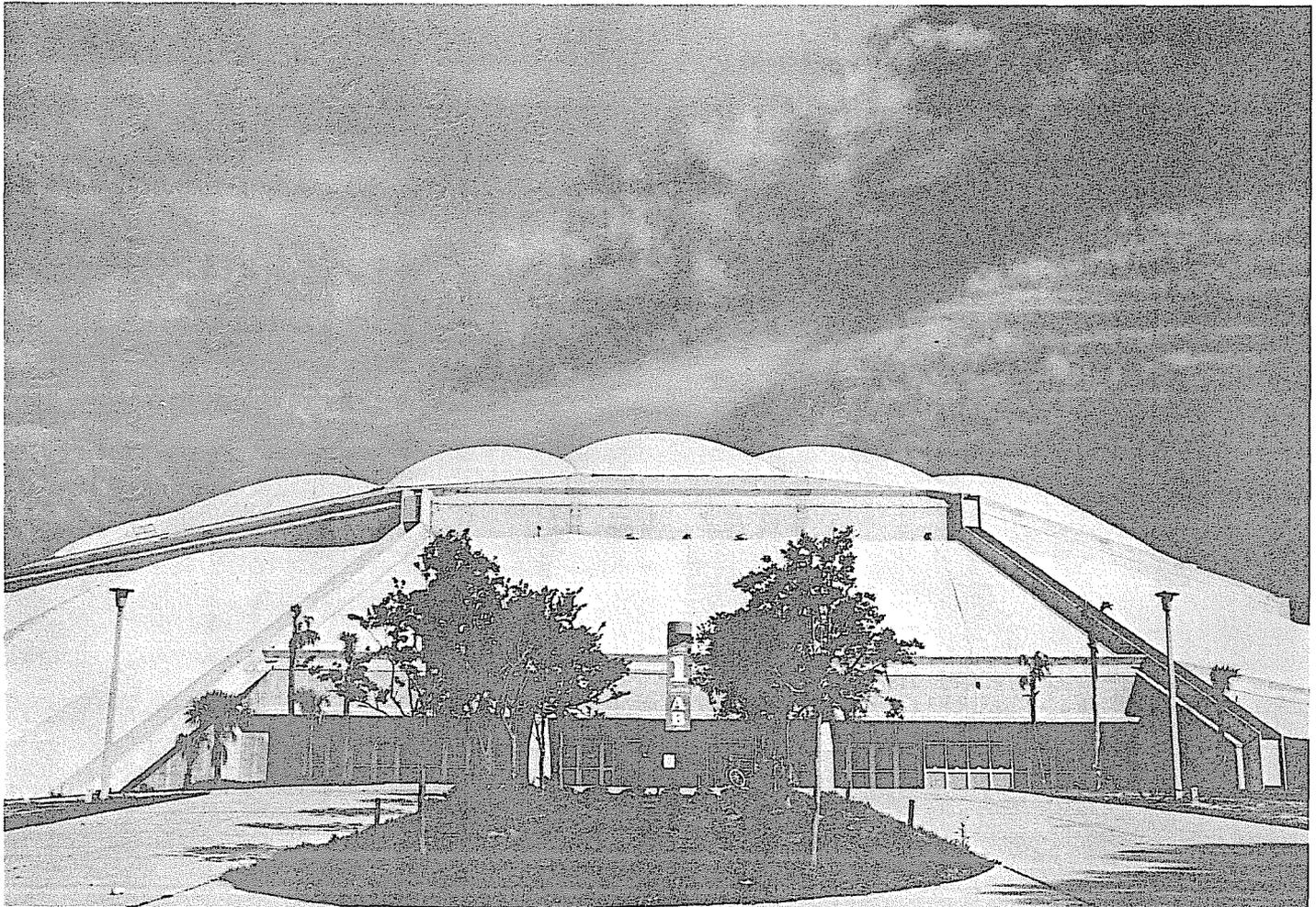
Last year the Council's Clearinghouse Committee, which carries out this review responsibility on a monthly basis, reviewed 175 applications or projects involving over \$100 Million in federal assistance. Of the projects reviewed, one-fourth were re-

quests from local governments for over \$30 Million in federal funds, including \$11 Million in Community Development Block Grant requests. Other projects reviewed included Criminal Justice, Economic Development, Transportation, Housing, and Social and Health-Related Services projects.

Most items reviewed were found to be in conformance with areawide and local plans and programs and received favorable comment or only minor recommendations from the Committee. Three projects, however, involving \$2 Million in federal assistance, received unfavorable comment or strong conditional approval. Two of these projects, one housing and one health-related, were not funded by the federal agency. A multi-county social service project, which had received conditional A-95 review, had its grant award made subject to compliance with Clearinghouse recommendations.

## Developments of Regional Impact Review

The Regional Planning Council is also authorized to review 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.



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## Local Government Comprehensive Plan Review

Under the provision of Chapter 380, Florida Statutes, the Council's primary responsibility is to advise affected local governments of any regional impacts that are likely to result from the development and to recommend, if appropriate, modification to the proposal which might alleviate adverse regional impacts identified.

No large scale development was submitted to the Council for review during 1980. However, amendments to the Development of Regional Impact (DRI) Statute were enacted by the legislature and became effective July 1, 1980. Some of the more significant changes to DRI review procedures are as follows:

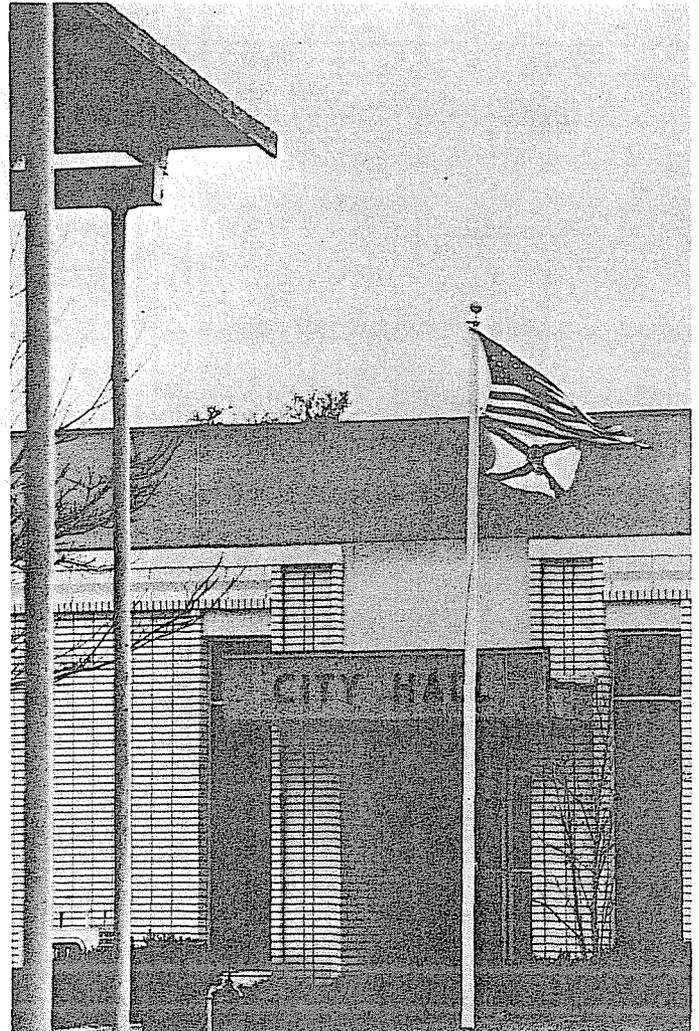
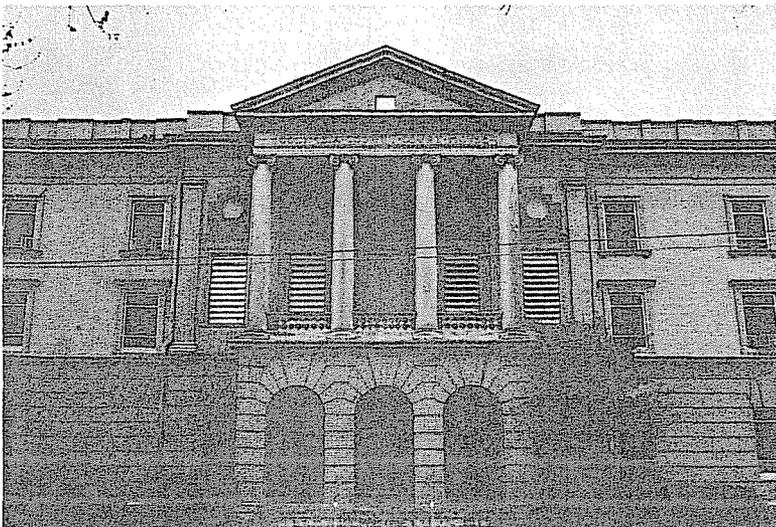
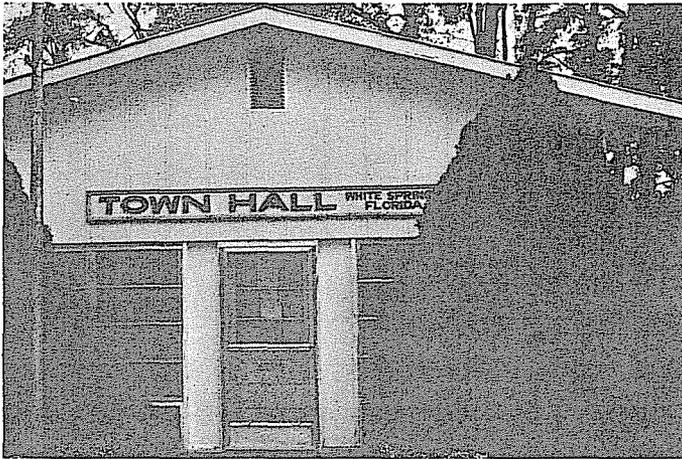
- A preapplication conference between the Council and the developer is required and may involve other agencies.
- The developer may request a "coordinated review" involving permitting agencies.
- Other reviewing agency reports must be attached to the Council's DRI report. However, the Council may attach dissenting views and make comments on implications of permits issued.

The Council is authorized to review all proposed local government comprehensive plans and plan elements under the provisions of Chapter 163, Florida Statutes.

Of primary concern in local plan reviews is consistency between the proposed plan and related elements of the adopted Regional Comprehensive Plan. However, the Council also provides local governments with informational comments on possible areas of conflict between a proposed plan and those of adjacent jurisdictions.

During 1980, the Council reviewed proposed plans for 14 local governments in the Region. These included:

- Hamilton County and Cities of Jasper, Jennings and White Springs
- City of Archer
- City of Madison
- Lake City
- Columbia County
- Bradford County and Cities of Brooker, Hampton, and Lawtey
- Town of Branford
- City of Trenton

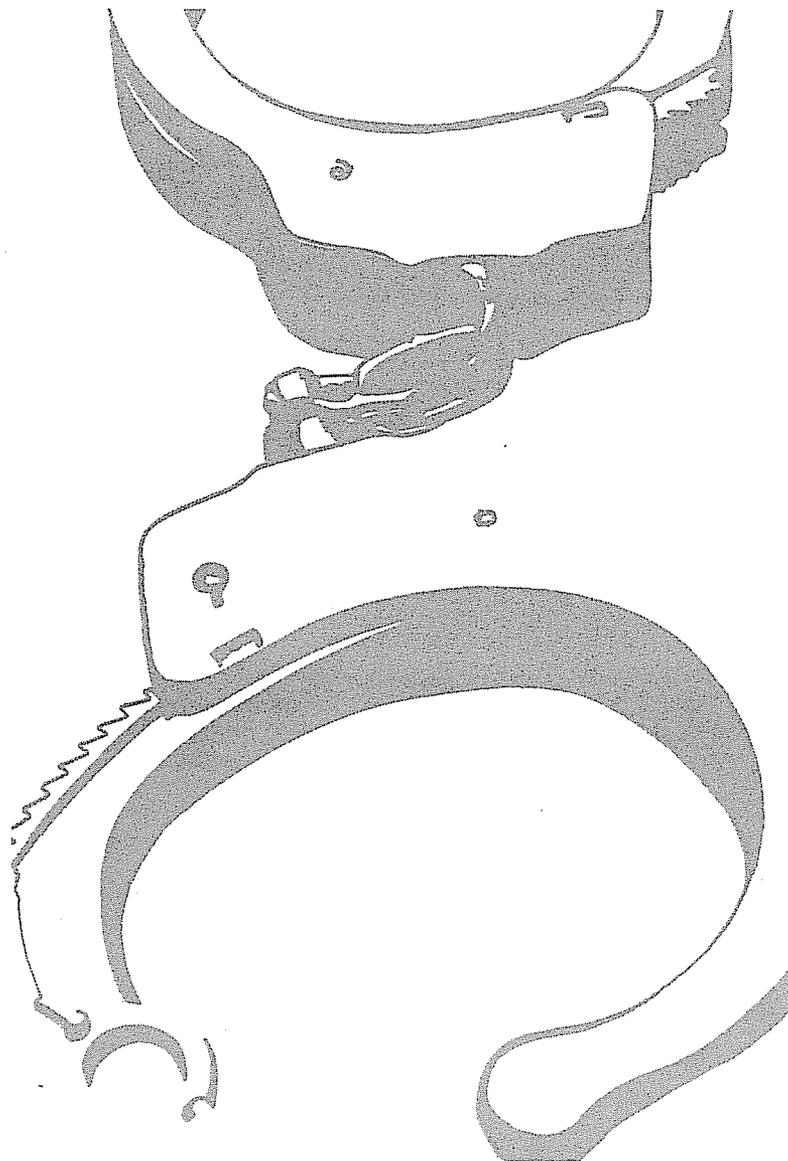
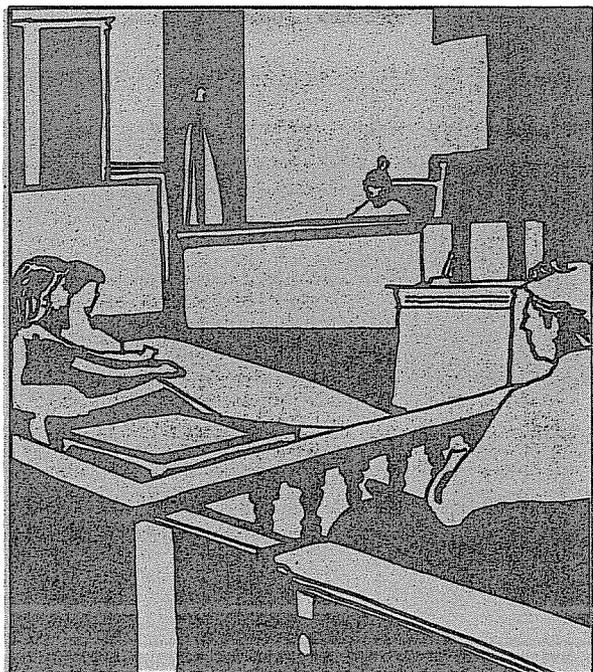


## CRIMINAL JUSTICE PLANNING

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The Council conducted Criminal Justice planning and implementation activities during 1980. With the guidance of the Criminal Justice Advisory Committee, the Council carried out provisions of previous criminal justice plans and prepared for the elimination of the criminal justice program at the Council because of funding reductions.

Fourteen criminal justice projects received grant awards totaling over \$160,000 during 1980. Projects included communications improvements for local law enforcement agencies, delinquency prevention and victim assistance projects, juvenile justice, courts and corrections. In addition, numerous agencies throughout the Region were furnished with information and technical assistance.



## CITIZEN PARTICIPATION AND COMMUNICATIONS

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The Council amended its bylaws to convert the separate Citizens Participation Committee into non-voting citizen participants on the Council and its committees. After less than a year of experience with this new arrangement, increased and effective citizen participation is occurring.

Grants Update, a Council publication initiated late in 1979, has proven popular during 1980. This publication along with the Council's quarterly newsletters, special reports, summary of meetings and annual report have provided the Council with a Comprehensive Communications Program.

The Council's rich collection of slides and graphic material which summarizes information about the Council, planning issues, and programs continues to grow. This material has been used numerous times to make presentations more effective.

Under contract with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), the Council initiated an investigation of the State's land and mineral interests in the region in 1979. The second phase of this project was continued during 1980.

During the second year of the project, the Council compared State and county-maintained records 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.

The first phase of the project involved Columbia, Dixie, Gilchrist, Hamilton, Lafayette, Madison and Suwannee Counties. The second phase of the project, completed during 1980, involved Bradford, Taylor and Union Counties. A third and final contract period beginning late in the year will extend this effort to include Alachua County.

## STATE LANDS INVENTORY



# FINANCIAL REPORT

1979-80

Revenues

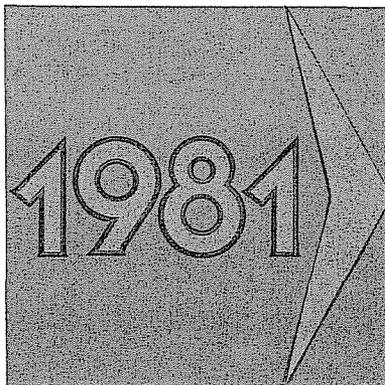
Sources	\$	\$	%
Federal	256,561	256,561	35.3
Direct	146,499		
Pass-through from State	110,062		
Local Governments Contracts for Planning		140,151	19.3
Gainesville-Alachua County Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization (MTPO)		102,221	14.0
State		92,909	12.8
Council Members Contributions - (\$.25/capita)		64,443	8.9
Other		41,377	5.7
North Central Florida Health Planning Council, Inc. (NCFHPC)		26,348	3.6
Alachua County Research and Development Authority		2,870	.4
<b>Total Revenue</b>		<b>\$726,880</b>	<b>100.0</b>

1979-80  
Expenditures

Programs	\$	%
Regional Planning Resources	141,820	20.0
Local Planning Assistance	139,026	19.6
Urban and Regional Transportation	126,221	17.8
Economic Development	105,475	14.9
State Lands Inventory	51,844	7.3
Intergovernmental Personnel Assistance	39,500	5.6
Energy	26,923	4.0
Criminal Justice	28,277	3.8
Services to NCFHPC	26,348	3.7
Other	15,281	2.1
Coastal Zone Management	8,546	1.2
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$709,261</b>	<b>100.0</b>

The revenues and expenditures are taken from the Council Audit prepared by Davis, Monk, Farnsworth and Company - Certified Public Accountants, 4010 N.W. 25th Place, Gainesville, Florida, 32604. The Audit is available at the Council for review and copying at cost during regular office hours.

## 1981 PROGRAMS



The individual program reports document the Council's continuing commitment to respond to a variety of local government needs. This intent is also reflected in the Council's 1981 work program through the continuation of existing programs such as local comprehensive planning assistance, transportation planning services and community development block grant administration. Due to anticipated federal funding cutbacks, service to local governments will receive increased emphasis. Two of the significant Council efforts anticipated for 1981 are highlighted below.

The Council's regional planning program will be affected by the passage of the Regional Planning Council Act. The act requires that a "comprehensive regional policy plan" be prepared for each region and be utilized as "the basis for (Council) review of developments of regional impact, local comprehensive plans, federally-assisted projects and other regional overview and comment functions." The Council is expected to formulate the Plan in July, 1981. The format and content will be outlined before July by the regional planning councils in the state and the Department of Veteran and Community Affairs.

Planning for the Transportation Disadvantaged will be a major Council program during 1981. The State created a coordinating Council on the Transportation Disadvantaged. The purpose of the legislation is to foster the coordination of transportation services provided to the Transportation Disadvantaged. The 11 counties of the Region are expected to designate the Council as the official planning organization and the Florida Department of Transportation is expected to contract with the Council to prepare the required plan for each county. At the conclusion of the planning process, each county will designate an agency to provide centralized and coordinated transportation services for the Transportation Disadvantaged.



# NCFRPC

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NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL  
2002 NW 13 Street • Suite 202  
Gainesville, Florida 32601

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BOBBIE LISLE  
Gainesville

Vice Chairman  
E.W. HODGES  
Bradford County

Secretary-Treasurer  
TOM COWARD  
Alachua County

Executive Director  
CHARLES F. JUSTICE