

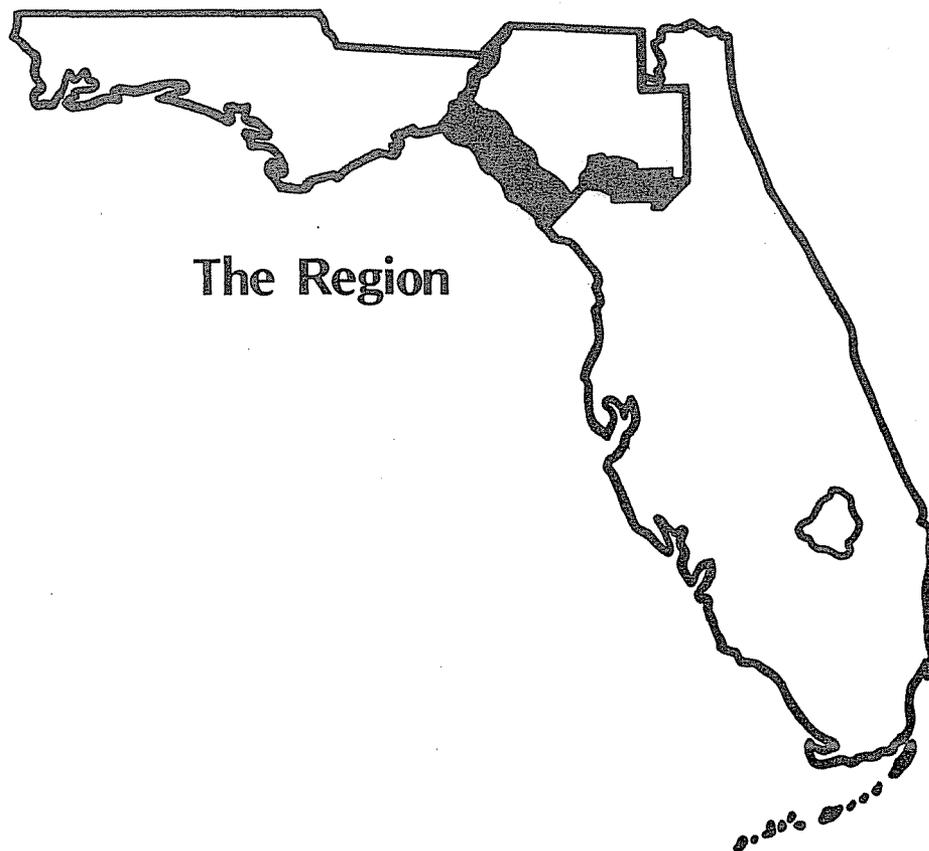
**1982
ANNUAL
REPORT**

NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

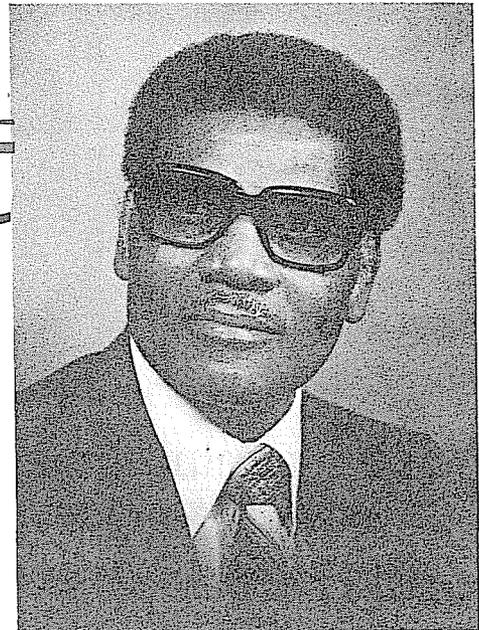
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Chairman's Message



**North Central Florida
Regional Planning Council**
10/300 S.W. 2ND AVENUE, GAINESVILLE, FLORIDA 32601-6294
CHARLES F. JUSTICE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (904) 376 - 3344

Dear North Central Florida Citizens:
The following pages present the program and activities of the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council for the year just passed. I believe you will find this report to be of interest and, upon reading it, you will conclude that the work of the Council is extremely valuable to our member local governments and to our citizens.

This has been a very difficult year for most local governments as they have tried to adjust to the changing relationships among city and county, state and federal governments. The difficulties of accommodating this change have been magnified by the shortage of resources resulting from recent economic conditions.

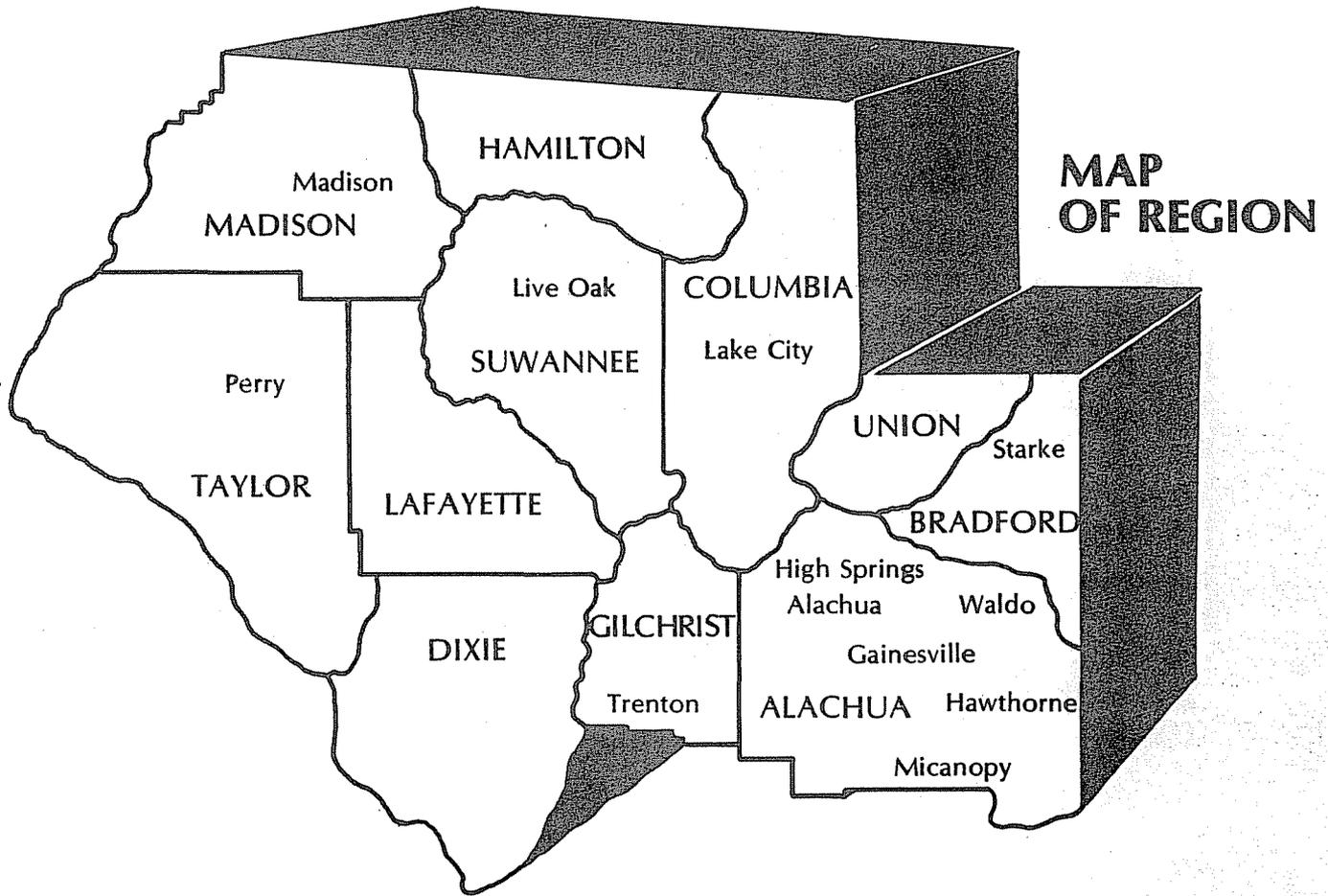
We believe the Council has made a significant contribution in assisting local governments to meet this challenge. This has been done through the provision of services, and in recent years, by assisting in the expansion of the financial base through an active economic development program.

The Council also accepts, without hesitation, its role as protector of the environment of the region. This is done primarily through our regional planning program and the review responsibilities which have been assigned by the Governor.

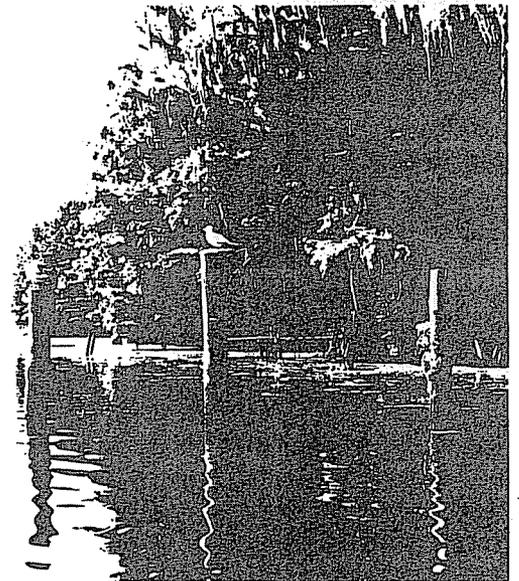
In order that you may become more familiar with us, you are invited to call or visit our offices for a more in-depth explanation of any activity in which we are engaged. We also solicit your continued interest, support and participation as we strive to prepare the North Central Florida Region for the future.

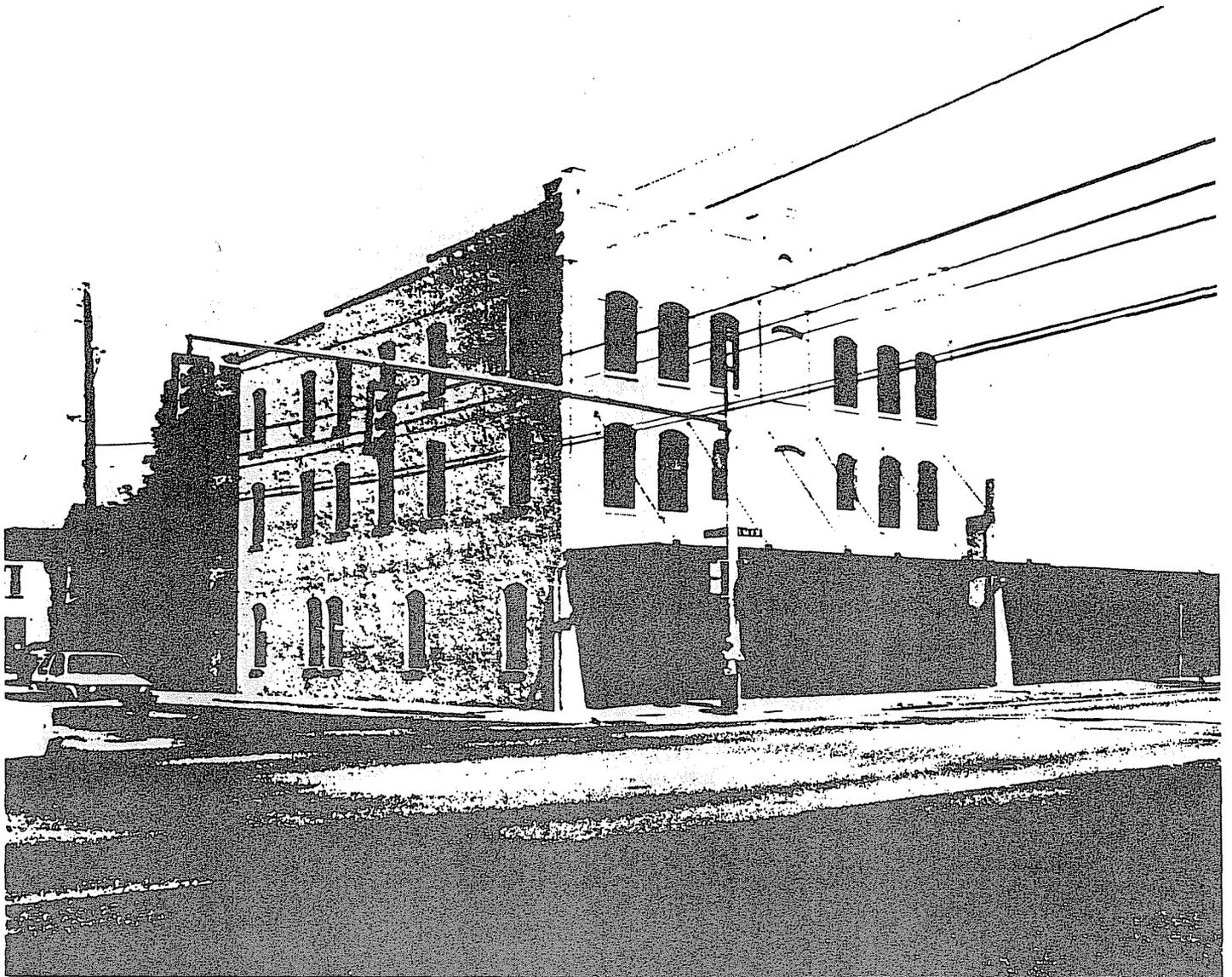

Tom Coward
Chairman

The Region



The eleven counties in north Florida that form the 7,000 square miles planning region contain 33 municipalities and house 319,000 people. The region has rolling meadows, woodlands, spring-fed streams including the world famous Suwannee River, a marshy Gulf coast and growing communities ranging in size from 200 to over 80,000 residents.





The Council

The council is a voluntary association of 23 local governments including all 11 of the region's counties and 12 of the most populous municipalities. Florida's governor appoints one-third of the 57 representatives and the member local governments appoint the other representatives. Two-thirds of the representatives must be local elected officials.

The Council representatives, actively participating through a Board of Directors and numerous committees, guide, develop, and implement areawide policies and programs. The Council also serves as a forum for coordination and review of Federal, State, local and private planning and development programs and activities affecting the region.

In addition to being designated as the Comprehensive Planning Agency for the Region and accepting responsibility for certain Federal and State-mandated coordination and review authorities, the Council provides services directly benefiting local governments. These services include: technical planning assistance, grant and loan application assistance, transportation planning assistance, personnel and management assistance, and economic development activities.

COUNCIL MEMBERS AND REPRESENTATIVES 1982

Tom Coward • Chairman
James H. Montgomery • Vice Chairman
Jackie Barron • Secretary-Treasurer

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Rosie Bingham
Phyllis Bleiweis
Sandra Y. Blount
Shirley Bonamie
Leveda Brown

- * Thomas Coward
- Freddie Hickmon
- * Helen H. Hood
- * Rodney D. McGalliard
- Wilson Robinson
- * Barry Rutenberg
- * John Schroepfer, Jr.
- * Earl M. Starnes
- Edwin B. Turlington
- Jane Walker

Alachua

- *Glenn DuBois

Gainesville

- *Jean Chalmers
- †*W. T. Coram, Jr.
- Mark Goldstein
- Sidney Knight
- Dale McPherson
- *Courtland Collier
- Gary Junior
- W. E. "Mac" McEachern
- George Morgan
- †*Charles Stefan

Hawthorne

Eddie Lee Martin

High Springs

L.W. Register, Jr.

Micanopy

Carson Roberts

Waldo

Ardell Davidson

BRADFORD COUNTY

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- Bob Milner, Jr.
- Robert L. Scott

Starke

- Jimmy Crosby
- †Jay B. Edwards

COLUMBIA COUNTY

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- *Samuel Thompson
- Dupree Moody
- *James H. Montgomery
- †*Becky DeVane Hall

Lake City

- †Dennis Roberts
- *Gerald Witt

DIXIE COUNTY

- Garry W. Durham
- *Leroy "Bookie" Evans

GILCHRIST COUNTY

- *Jackie Barron
- Anna Mae Schofield

Trenton

- Todd J. Troyer
- †*Kathryn Deen

HAMILTON COUNTY

- *David Goolsby
- †Marion Turner
- *Willie Guy Turner

LAFAYETTE COUNTY

- †James A. Broughton
- Eunice H. Sullivan
- *Paul Trawick

MADISON COUNTY

Bert Thigpen
James R. Searcy

Madison

- *Frank Merritt

SUWANNEE COUNTY

Seymour Chotiner
Wayne Long

Live Oak

Bill Howard

TAYLOR COUNTY

- *Dennis Howell
- *Albert Johnson, Jr.

Perry

Thomas Demps
Clarence J. Giddens

UNION COUNTY

- *Gary M. Brannen
- *Fletcher Myers

*Board of Directors
†Non-voting participants

Local Planning and Assistance

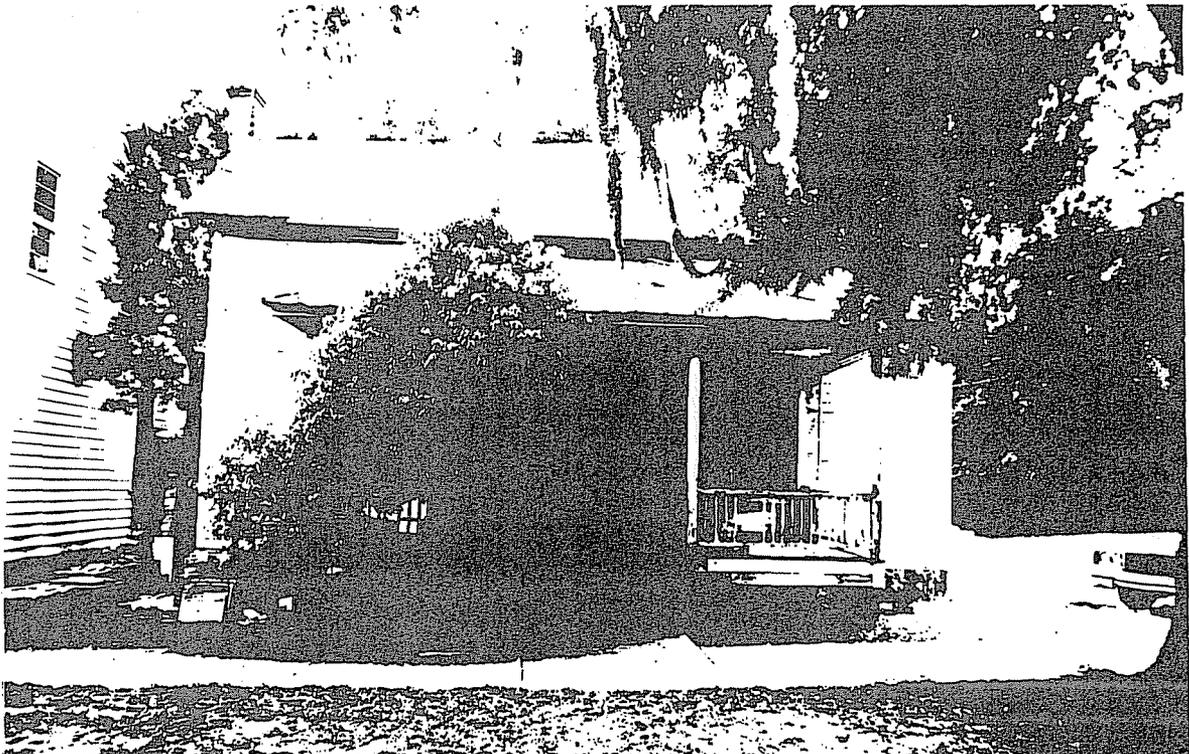
The preparation of local comprehensive plans, zoning ordinances, and subdivision regulations continued to receive primary emphasis in Council services and assistance to local governments. Since the Local Government Comprehensive Planning Act was enacted in 1975, nine counties and 24 municipalities - - three-fourths of all local governments in the region - - have received local planning services.

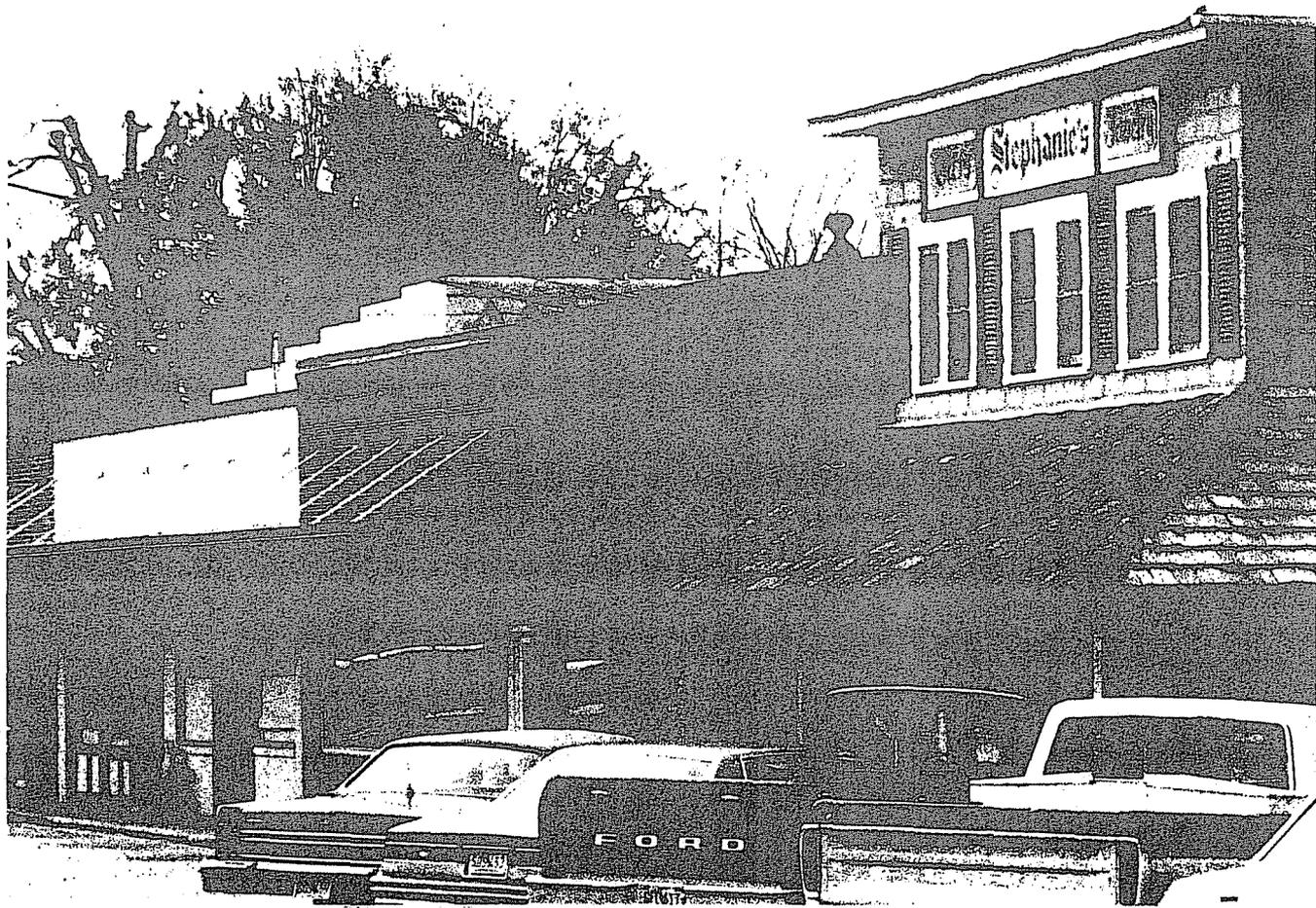
The provision of services in the area of Community Development Block Grant administration is also gaining in importance in the region. During the year, Council staff has provided assistance to Columbia County and the Cities of High Springs and Perry in administering their programs. Other, less formal assistance has been provided to a number of cities and counties engaged in these same activities. It is anticipated, given the need to retain individuals with specific and in-depth knowledge of community development activities, that this type of technical assistance will be invaluable in aiding local governments in securing grants to improve their sub-standard neighborhoods.

The Council also continues to offer assistance in personnel management activities. Creating and updating job descriptions, pay plans, affirmative action programs, and other personnel related materials are offered in this program.

Other grant and technical assistance provided by the Council during 1982 included:

- 16 HUD Community Development Block Grant Applications
- 2 FmHA Water and Sewer Grant/Loan Preapplications
- A FmHA Community Facilities Loan Preapplication for the City of Trenton
- A DNR recreation grant application for the City of Lake Butler
- A warning and regulatory sign replacement grant application for the City of Perry
- Assistance to 3 local governments for the adoption of zoning regulations





Economic Development

The Federal Economic Development Administration (EDA) designated the Council an Economic Development District in 1978. 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.

The Council has been actively involved in providing technical assistance to business, industry, citizens and local governments in order to foster sound economic development. Annually, the Council updates its Overall Economic development Program which provides guidance and direction for the Council's economic planning and technical assistance efforts.

During 1982, two significant steps were taken by the Council to further expand its Economic Development Program. One of these involves the creation of the North Central Florida Areawide Development Company, Inc., which was created to provide low interest, long-term loans for small business expansion. Later in the year, the Council spearheaded an effort to organize the counties of the region to jointly assume responsibility for the new Job Training Partnership Program which is to replace the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act (CETA).

The Areawide Development Company is expected to begin operations in July, 1983, and the new Job Training Program should begin functioning effective October 1, 1983.

1981-82 EXPENDITURES

Programs	\$	\$	%
Transportation	146,575	146,575	29.0
Urban	114,567		
Rural	32,006		
Regional Planning and Reviews		116,651	23.1
Economic Development		79,804	15.8
Local Assistance		79,069	15.6
Program Development		37,908	7.5
State Lands Inventory		17,786	3.5
Energy Planning and Technical Assistance		7,489	1.5
Services to NCFHPC and CTS		20,451	4.0
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$505,733		100.0
EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER EXPENDITURES	5,548		
TOTAL	\$511,281		

Regional Programs

Even though Federal and State resources have been significantly reduced, the Regional Planning Program was a substantial part of the overall council activities in 1982.

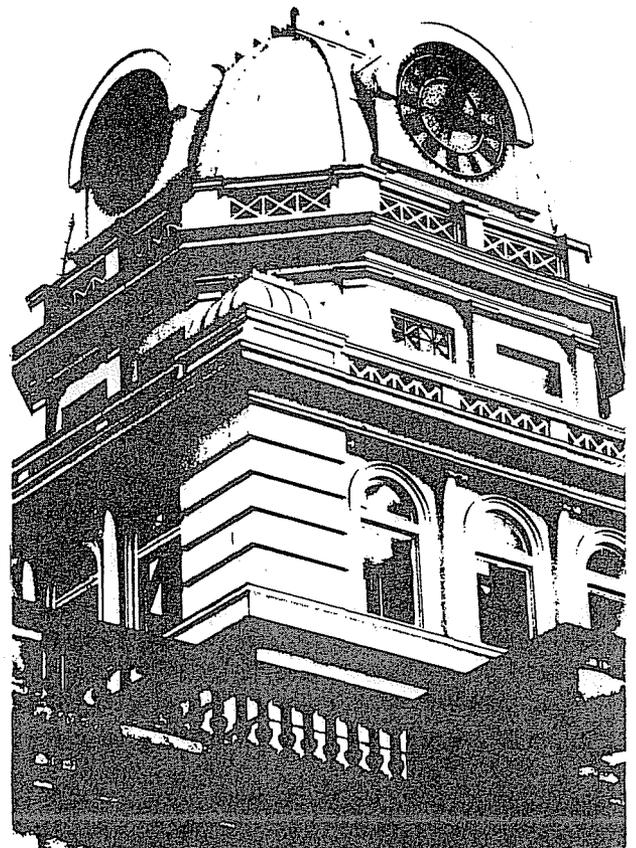
All regional planning councils in Florida are required, by the 1980 Regional Planning Council Act, to prepare a Comprehensive Regional Policy Plan (CRPP) which is to be the basis for decisions made regarding development activities. As part of this process, the Council worked closely with the State Department of Community Affairs in developing a list of regional issues which has been adopted to give guidance in determining limitations which may be imposed upon proposals for development. By following these guidelines, new growth can be directed in such a way as to minimize adverse effects on the region.

In further pursuit of the development of a CRPP, during 1982 the 1980 Census information and previously completed Council studies have been analyzed to develop Regional Profiles. When completed, these profiles will attempt to answer the questions: What is happening in the Region? Where are changes primarily occurring? And, why are they occurring? This information will be the basis of a 1983 study, to be entitled "Regional Development Framework", which is to serve as the primary guide for development.

Also undertaken during the year as a regional activity has been the development of a Financial Analysis of individual local governments. The intent is to create a central data base of financial information on local governments within the region.

This will allow policymakers, as well as city and county administrators, to utilize the Council's computer capabilities in comparing the revenue and expenditure statistics of their local government with regional averages or other specific cities and counties within the area.

The Regional Program of the Council is designed to not only look to the future as a means of accommodating development over the years, but is also intended to foster cooperative efforts among Council members. Programs such as the Financial Analysis effort help bring about greater efficiency in operating local governments.



Transportation Planning

An agreement signed between the Florida Department of Transportation, Alachua County and the City of Gainesville reconstituted the Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization (MTPO) in 1978. The MTPO plans and programs projects in the Gainesville Urban Area (GUA). The Council provides administrative and technical staff assistance to the MTPO in developing these plans and programs.

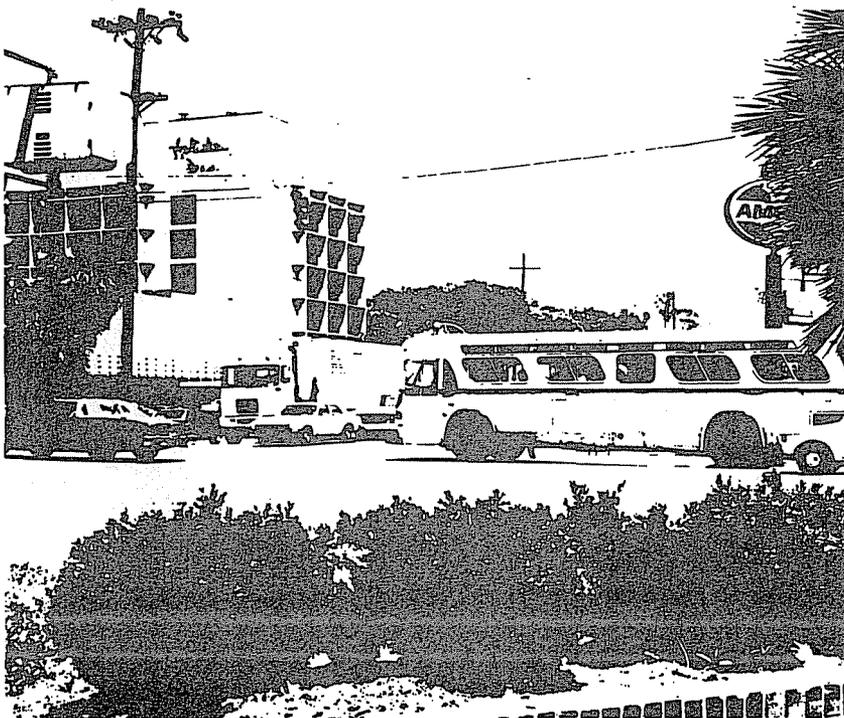
During the year, four significant projects were completed in the Urban Area Transportation Planning Program. The most significant of these was the completion and adoption of the Gainesville Urban Area Transportation Study (GUATS) Year 2005 Cost-Feasible Highway Plan. Over a three-year period, a series of alternative highway networks were developed, tested, and evaluated during the long-range planning review and update process. The adopted 2005 Highway Plan consists of a priority listing of roads construction projects which are expected to be funded through the Year 2005 from projected available revenues.

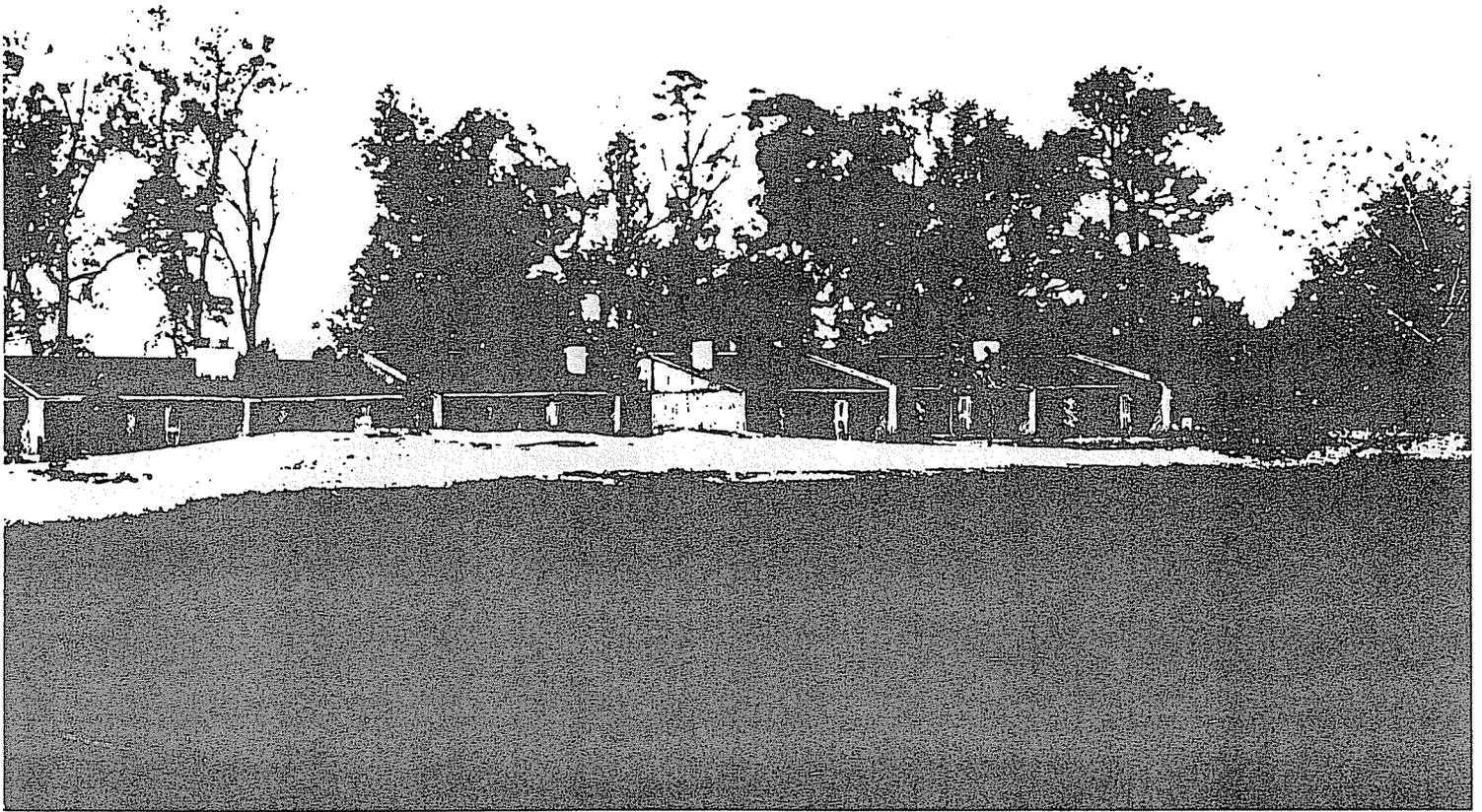
Also, the GUATS Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) was prepared. This document includes highway, bicycle, airport, and mass transit improvement projects programmed for the next five years. The TIP is a short-range implementation program for the GUATS Year 2005 Transportation Plan. It is developed and updated annually under the direction of the MTPO and has the effect of coordinating the implementation activities of the various city, county, and state projects in the urban area.

Because of the unique character of the Gainesville Urban Area, there is considerable reliance upon the bicycle as a primary mode of transportation, especially among college students at the University of Florida. Consequently, in 1982, the MTPO conducted a bicycle counting program to establish a historical record of bicycle travel activities in the urban area. The program was designed to build upon previous bicycle traffic counts conducted within the area and to be part of an on-going transportation monitoring and surveillance program carried out by the MTPO staff with state and local agencies. These data will be used in future transportation planning updates to adequately take into account the value of bicycles as an acceptable mode of transportation in the community.

Another important project was completed by the MTPO in 1982, when, in December, the Alachua County Coordinated Transportation Disadvantaged Development Plan was adopted. This plan is required by state legislation and its purpose is to coordinate the transportation services to the disadvantaged, who are defined as having low income, elderly, and/or handicapped. The plan addresses such issues as reducing fragmentation and duplication of transportation services among all federal, state, or locally funded agencies that provide services to the transportation disadvantaged.

This continuing, urban area transportation program serves the community well, and obviously provides coordination among all transportation activities that otherwise would be missing.





Developments of Regional Impact

The Governor has designated the Council as the regional planning agency to carry out the Development of Regional Impact (DRI) review responsibilities for the region. Chapter 380, Florida Statutes, requires the review of 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.

During the past year, DRI-related responsibilities have included working with the Department of Community Affairs in developing revised rules and regulations relating to development, monitoring DRIs which have been approved in the past and advising land owners and developers about the DRI process.

In addition, two DRIs have been in the formal process of review during the year. One, the Turkey Creek Development, which is a proposed community of some 5,100 dwelling units in the City of Alachua, was reviewed and conditionally approved by the Council. Subsequent to this action, the City of Alachua gave final approval to the development, including most of the conditions stipulated by the Council. Another DRI, the Lochloosa Lake Development, entered the preapplication process during the year. This development is proposed to be located in south central Alachua County and is anticipated to have some 25,000 dwelling units in the first stage of development. The total community, when completed, is expected to include some 60,000 to 80,000 dwelling units.

Review Activities

One of the ways the Council implements its regional plans is through its several review responsibilities. These responsibilities include the Federal A-95 reviews, Florida Development of Regional Impact reviews, Local Government Comprehensive Plan reviews and the review of other agency plans, projects and rules. The Council's Clearinghouse Committee carries out these review responsibilities.

A-95 Review

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. The review requirements contained in the Circular call on the Council to prepare advisory comments for each federal funding agency on a wide variety of federally-assisted programs and projects that will affect the region. The review process, while preventing costly duplication and conflict among proposed program and projects insures consideration of local and regional goals and plans.

From October 1981 through September 1982, 127 applications totaling over \$82,123,000 in Federal funds were reviewed.





Environmental Protection

In late 1980, Governor Bob Graham created the Resource Planning and Management Committee for the Suwannee River Basin pursuant to the Area of Critical State Concern Legislation. The purpose of the Committee was to develop a management plan which would offer protection for the river.

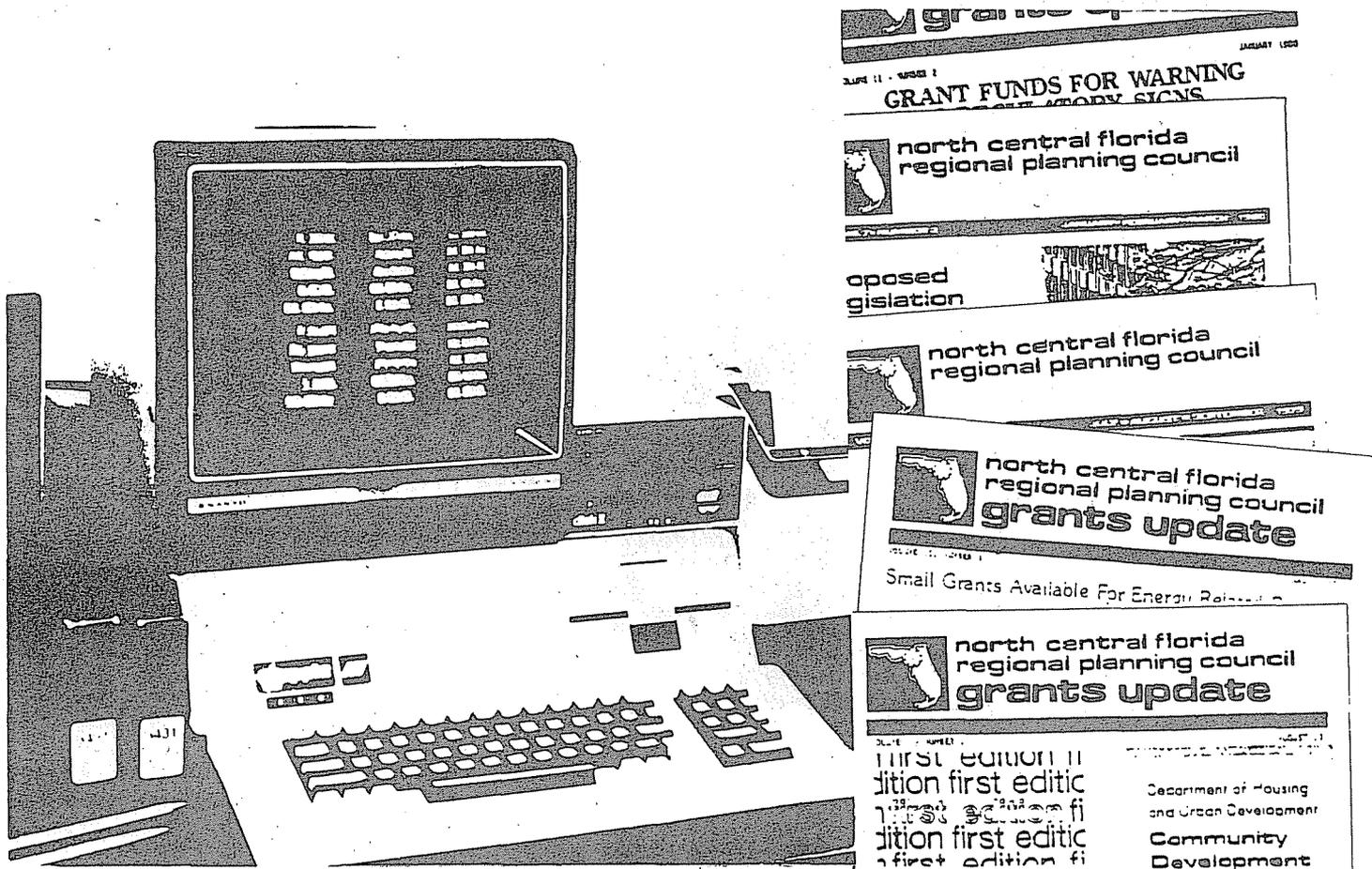
The Council, which had formed a similar committee in 1978, discontinued its efforts to support the new committee. After some 18 months, the Governor's Committee completed a management plan including 35 separate recommendations for protecting the land and water resources within the 100-year floodplain of the Suwannee and its tributaries.

A part of the Committee's proposal was for the Council to form a permanent committee made up of local elected officials from cities and counties along the river. This committee has been formed and it has developed a work program to be pursued

during the next year to begin implementation of the proposals made by the Governor's Committee.

Among the tasks to be undertaken will be efforts to support appropriate local, regional and state agencies in carrying out their respective responsibilities, such as completing the mapping of the floodplain, assisting local governments in adopting comprehensive mining ordinances, monitoring the use and permitting of septic tanks within the 100-year floodplain, and developing standards for wetlands for inclusion in the floodplain ordinance.

The primary role of the Council Committee will be to monitor the activities of other agencies and to periodically assess the success being obtained in implementing the plan as anticipated by the Governor's Committee. With the exception of offering technical assistance to local governments in enforcing their ordinances, the Council will have very little direct implementation responsibilities.



Citizen Participation and Communications

While there is little direct contact, citizens participate in Council programs and activities in a variety of ways. Advisory Committees are established as appropriate and are composed primarily of non-Council representatives.

The Council amended its bylaws in 1980 to convert the separate Citizens Participation Committee into non-voting citizen participants on the Council, the Board of Directors and its committees. This action has resulted in more effective citizen participation.

Grants Update, a Council newsletter alert about Federal and State grants and loans, has remained popular. This publication along with the Council's regular newsletter, special reports and annual reports have provided Council representatives and the general public with timely information.

Council representatives and staff regularly make presentations using the Council's rich collection of slides and graphic material. The Council's micro-computer is now used to prepare slides which has helped make presentations more effective.

1983 Programs and Activities

1983
1984
1985

During 1983, the Council will undertake a number of new initiatives. Among these will be a greater interest in economic development related activities. Much of this will center around providing staff services to the newly formed North Central Florida Areawide Development Company, Inc., and the new Job Training Partnership Program.

However, as has been the case in past years, service to local governments will be a high priority activity as well. Local planning and technical assistance responding to the variety of local government needs such as local comprehensive planning assistance, transportation planning services and community development block grant assistance and administration will be among the most popular of these efforts.

The coming year will also mark the beginning of significantly increased concern in the area of growth management. This has been identified by the State Legislature as the most pressing problem facing Florida over the next few decades. Because of the Council's unique position, situated between local and state governments, many opportunities are presented for participation in and seeking solutions to these problems. This advantage is magnified by the fact that the Council is made up primarily of local elected officials, but also has as members regional citizens that are appointed by the Governor.

From these observations, it is obvious that the Council will be fully occupied during the coming year. It will face this challenge with eagerness in its effort to aid local governments in carrying out their responsibilities and as it undertakes the burden of carefully guiding growth and development in North Central Florida.

**North Central Florida
Regional Planning Council**



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