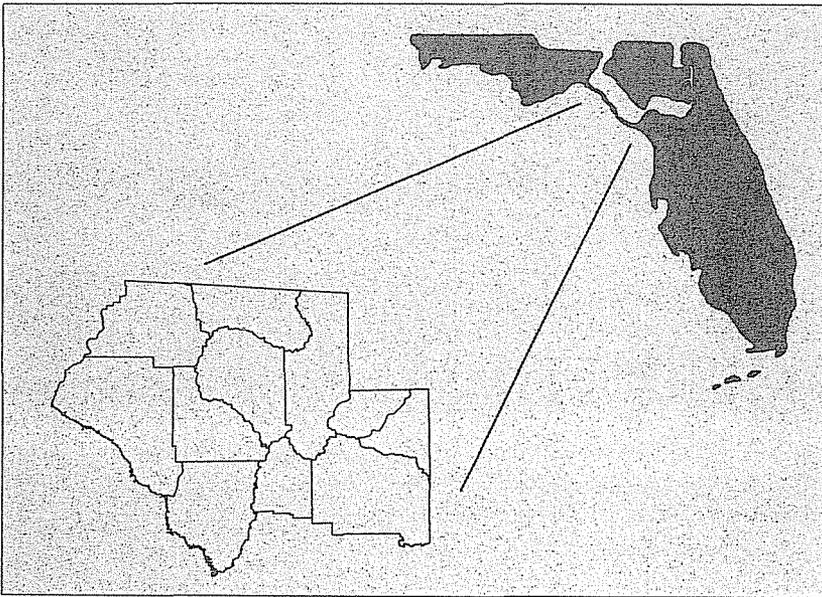


# ANNUAL REPORT



*North  
Central  
Florida  
Regional  
Planning  
Council*

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It is my pleasure to present the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council's 1995 Annual Report. New projects and responsibilities offered many challenges and opportunities to the Council during the past year, but ongoing programs continued to be among the most important to our member local governments.

Of all the Council's activities, perhaps the one with the greatest potential to improve the region is the economic development program. For this reason, we have directed our efforts to expanding our tourism and small business loan programs, and to firmly establish an economic partnership with our sister region in northeast Germany. We have also initiated a project, with the support of the Ford Foundation, to help our coastal counties search for innovative ways to improve their economies.

It was also in 1995 when the Council began the refinement of its active role in the statewide effort to address growth management by beginning the development of the Strategic Regional Policy Plan. This document, as required by the Legislature, will present a model guide for improving and protecting the resources of the region.

With respect to our other traditional activities, the Council continued to be dedicated to providing valuable technical assistance to local governments, businesses and citizens. Of particular importance has been

our work in local comprehensive planning, job training, and planning and training for the handling of hazardous materials in the region. These, along with other programs and projects in which the Council was actively involved, are described on the following pages.

On behalf of the Council, I want to thank member local governments, the region's citizens, and our staff for their continued cooperation and support. Your interest and participation are the keys to our meeting the challenges of the future.

Sincerely,



Joseph Riddick  
Chairman

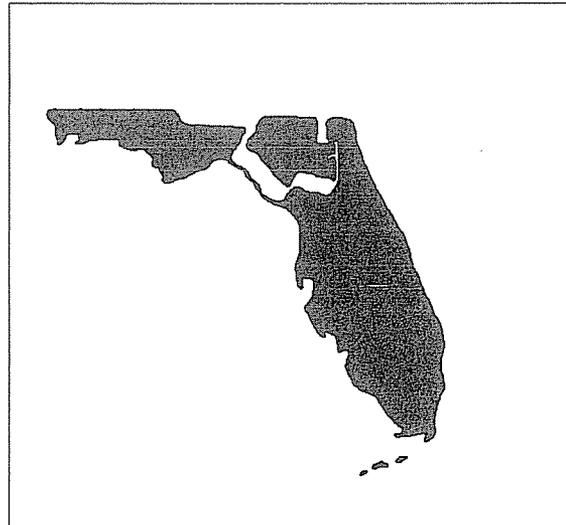


The North Central Florida Region includes 11 counties and 33 incorporated municipalities in the north central portion of Florida. Containing nearly 7,000 square miles of area, the region is characterized by its abundant natural resources, which include the world-famous Suwannee River, the marshes of the Gulf Coast, cypress swamps, upland forests, a large number of clear turquoise springs, and many other beautiful physical features.

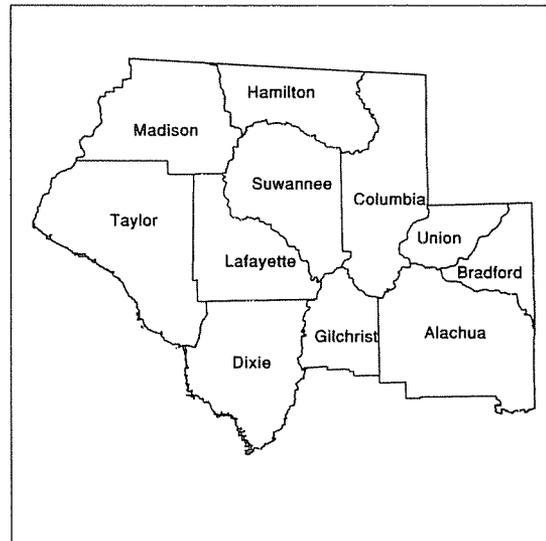
Much of the region is currently sparsely populated although this is beginning to change as people from other parts of the world, nation and Florida are discovering the amenities of north Florida living. According to estimates by the Bureau of Business and Economic Research, University of Florida, the population of the region in 1995 was 396,138 an increase of 41,942 people over the 1990 Census count.

The region's economic base relies heavily on the government and services sectors, with the University of Florida in Gainesville accounting for a major portion of the government employment. The City of Gainesville is the regional marketing center and, together with Alachua County, accounts for 50.0 percent of the region's total population.

### North Central Florida Region



### North Central Florida Counties



The Council is an association of 24 units of general purpose local government. Membership includes all 11 counties and 13 of the region's larger municipalities. One-third of the total representatives is appointed by the Governor, with the remainder appointed by member local governments. Two-thirds of the representatives must be local-elected officials.

All Council representatives sit collectively as the full Council which meets monthly. At its May meeting, this group adopts the annual budget and a work program. Also at this meeting, the Council elects the organization's officers: Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Secretary-Treasurer from among its ranks.

Council members serve on several standing and ad hoc committees appointed by the Chairman. One of the purposes of these various committees is to advise the Council on planning and development activities which come before the Council for review and comment. The Council serves as a forum for the coordination and review of federal/state/local government, and private sector planning and development programs and activities affecting the region.

In addition to the regional planning and review activities, the Council provides a large variety of services to benefit its local governments. These services, carried out by staff, include: technical planning assistance, grant and local planning assistance including grant administration services, transportation planning assistance, hazardous waste monitoring, emergency response planning assistance, and economic development activities.

### **ALACHUA COUNTY**

Leveda Brown  
Charles Chestnut  
Margaret Eppes  
\* Charles Clemons  
\* Oscar Harris  
\* Dale McPherson  
\* Jane Walker

### **ALACHUA**

Cleather Hathcock  
# Saint Elmo Cherry-Clark  
# Gussie Lee

### **ARCHER**

William Copeland

### **GAINESVILLE**

Bruce Delaney  
Ed Jennings, Sr.  
Jim Painter

### **HAWTHORNE**

Eddie Martin

### **HIGH SPRINGS**

VACANT

### **MICANOPY**

Stanley Strobles

### **WALDO**

Fred Sowell

### **BRADFORD COUNTY**

Joseph Riddick

### **STARKE**

Travis Woods

### **COLUMBIA COUNTY**

James Montgomery  
\* Tom Sawyer  
# Sharon Tervola

### **LAKE CITY**

T. Gerald Witt

### **DIXIE COUNTY**

J.D. Driggers

### **GILCHRIST COUNTY**

V.C. Cannon  
# Chuck Estes  
# Jean Jerrell

### **HAMILTON COUNTY**

Lewis Vaughn

### **JASPER**

\* Ralph Bowers  
Matthew Hawkins

### **LAFAYETTE COUNTY**

Bill Shaw  
\* M.N. "Pete" Sullivan

### **MADISON COUNTY**

Mike Salls  
# Roy Milliron

### **CITY OF MADISON**

VACANT

### **SUWANNEE COUNTY**

J.D. Grinstead

### **LIVE OAK**

\* William W. Howard  
Garth "Sonny" Nobles

### **TAYLOR COUNTY**

Lillie Greene  
\* Malcolm Page

### **PERRY**

Thomas Demps

### **UNION COUNTY**

\* Paul Riherd  
Sidney Todd

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\*Gubernatorial Appointees  
#Non-Voting Participant

The eleven counties comprising the North Central Florida Region, whose number of residents has increased dramatically during the last 25 years, are becoming increasingly aware of the opportunities and problems that population growth can create for local governments. Often, dealing with issues of growth opens up opportunities for regional cooperation and planning.

Being an association of local governments with strong ties to state and federal agencies, the Council is in a unique position to coordinate the development and implementation of strategies designed to address the problems and opportunities created by growth.

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### ***Growth Management***

Based mostly on the recommendations of the Florida Environmental Land Management Committee (ELMS III) and the Florida Advisory Council on Intergovernmental Relations (ACIR), the 1993 Florida Legislature enacted numerous changes to Florida's growth management laws.

These changes, which are to be implemented over a period of several years, will significantly affect the planning processes of state, regional and local government agencies.

One of the more significant actions taken by the Legislature as far as the growth management process is concerned calls for converting existing comprehensive regional policy plans into "strategic" plans by requiring planning councils to address only those state plan goal areas directly related to growth management such as transportation, natural resources, and housing.

In 1994, the Council began initial work on developing its "strategic plan," a draft of which was submitted to state agencies and local governments for review in December, 1995.

Other actions taken by the 1993 Legislature significantly affect the Development of Regional Impacts (DRI) review process. This is a process in which large-scale developments are reviewed for their interjurisdictional impacts by regional planning councils which forward recommendations for approval, denial or approval with conditions to local governments.

The current process is to be gradually phased-out and replaced with new and expanded local government intergovernmental coordination elements. Local governments will be required to establish a means by which to address the interjurisdictional impacts of development.

These and other changes to the growth management process are scheduled to be accomplished over a several-year period.

## ***Hazardous Materials Planning Program***

The Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA), passed by Congress in 1986, is also known as Title III of the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA).

These amendments require the preparation of local emergency response plans which, for the State of Florida, have been developed utilizing the eleven regional planning council districts and state-appointed local emergency planning committees (LEPCs). The emergency response plan for the North Central Florida Region was adopted by the Local Emergency Planning Committee on June 9, 1989, and last updated on May 19, 1995.

In 1995, grants from the Hazardous Materials Transportation Act (HMTA) provided funds to pay for training and planning programs. Free hazardous materials emergency response training classes sponsored by the LEPC were held for first responders. Twenty classes were held training 476 fire fighters, law

enforcement, emergency medical, and public works personnel. A total of 1,147 people have been trained during the first two years of the training program.

Most of the free training was at the awareness-level. Responders were trained to safely recognize, identify, and make the proper notifications for possible hazardous materials incidents.

Training was offered for the first time this year at the operational-level. Responders were trained to keep a release from spreading from a safe distance, preventing exposures, and protecting property and the environment.

Also in 1995, the Council conducted a needs assessment for additional hazardous materials emergency response teams, training, and equipment in north central Florida. The report concluded that a hazardous materials emergency response team is needed in the Taylor County area. The report recommends that the LEPC and Buckeye Florida work with local responders in establishing a

hazmat team that can cover the western portion of the region.

Another report conclusion is that the larger fire departments in each county need to be trained, equipped, and have written guidelines for responding at the operational-level to hazmat incidents.

The Council also provided technical assistance to Bradford, Columbia, Dixie, Hamilton, Madison, Suwannee, and Taylor counties in updating their hazmat plans. The updates identify facilities that contain extremely hazardous substances. Areas vulnerable to a worst-case releases were mapped and nearby populations and critical facilities were identified.



*Providing free hazardous materials training and exercises for first responders like fire, EMS and law enforcement personnel remain priorities for the LEPC and the Council.*

## *Review Activities*

One of the ways the Council implements its regional plan is through several review responsibilities. The Governor has designated the Council as the areawide clearinghouse for all federally-funded projects that affect the region, and several other review activities are undertaken as a result of state legislation.

The Council's Clearinghouse Committee is responsible for overseeing these review activities. In 1995, the Committee conducted a review of 111 different projects submitted by private developers, units of local government, and state and federal agencies. Reviews included the following types:

applications for federal assistance

developments of regional impact

local comprehensive plans and plan amendments

local emergency management plans

10-year site plans of major electric utilities

environmental impact statements, assessments, and Army Corps of Engineers permit requests

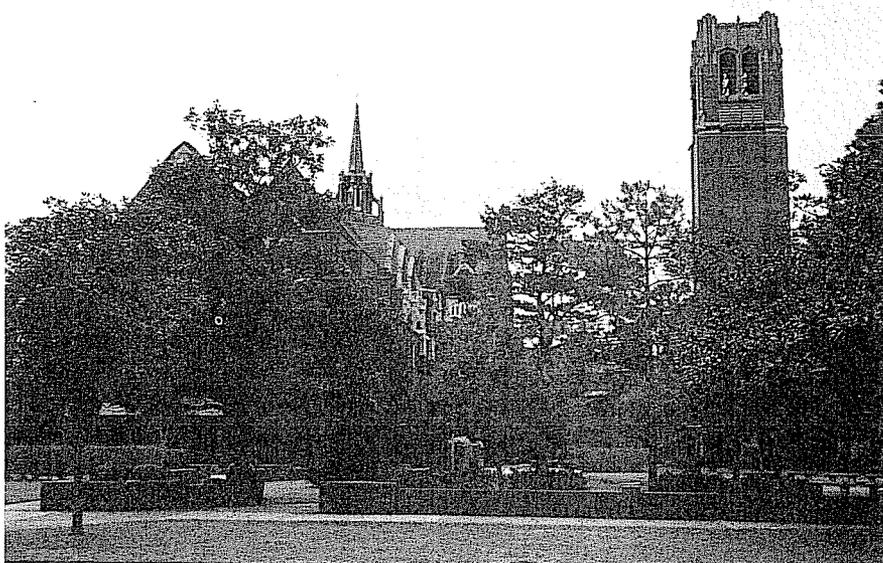
state agency functional plans, projects and proposed rules

The Clearinghouse Committee reviews these projects to:

1. avoid or mitigate potential adverse impacts that may be created by an activity in neighboring communities or counties;

2. insure coordination and consistency with local government and comprehensive regional policy plans; and

3. avoid duplication or conflict with other local or area plans and programs.



*The Council comments on a number of activities proposed within the region such as the University of Florida Campus Master Plan.*

## JOB TRAINING PARTNERSHIP ACT PROGRAM



*David Mullis, Division of Human Resources Manager for Goldkist, Inc., of Live Oak, FL., receives a plaque from current FSVPIC Chairman Thomas Coward, as Vice-Chair Lawrence Douglass looks on. The event recognized David Mullis' extensive contribution of time and effort over a two-year period while serving as FSVPIC Chairman for Program Years 1993 & 1994.*

The Job Training Partnership Act program, administered by the Council throughout the region, assisted economically disadvantaged, long-term unemployed and laid-off persons in obtaining unsubsidized gainful employment during Program Year 1994 (July 1, 1994 - June 30, 1995). The program responded to the needs of the community and exceeded all federal performance measures.

The program is based upon a partnership between private business and the public sector in training individuals for permanent high wage/high skill positions. Two organizations are responsible for developing local policies under which the program is operated. These two entities are the Florida's Suwannee Valley Private Industry Council (FSVPIC), consisting of representatives from the region's businesses (these constitute 56% of the PIC), governmental social service agencies, non-profit social service agencies, public education, organized labor and economic development organizations, and Florida's Suwannee

Valley Job Training Consortium which is comprised of county commission chairmen from the region.

During the program year 2,355 participants in the region were given access to an array of services that included remediation, work experience, employability skills training, career and financial counseling, and occupational skills training in a variety of demand occupations.

To address the needs of the at-risk population in our region's schools, the FSVPIC continued to fund its in-school youth program. This program provided basic education remediation classes in reading, mathematics and language skills to keep youth, who were in danger of dropping out, in school while making progress toward high school graduation. A basic education remediation computer program was used by high schools, vocational-technical schools and community colleges throughout the region to provide not only basic educational skills and remediation but employability skills training also.

In addition, individuals were served through the Summer Youth Employment and Training Program. This program provided academically at-risk students with a means of improving educational skills during the summer, while also earning wages on a summer job. The program helped produce a better educated youth labor force to meet the employment needs of the region, while helping youth remain in school with better chances of graduation.

To carry out the various job training activities, the Council staff conducted intake and assessment throughout the region, and subcontracted for training services with the following agencies: the School Board of Alachua County; Lake City Community College; Santa Fe Community College; Bradford County Association for Retarded Citizens; Columbia County Association for Retarded Citizens, Inc.; Paxton Group, Inc.; Bradford-Union Vo-Tech; and Taylor Technical Institute.

**D**uring the past year, the Economic Development Program of the Council consisted of economic development planning, tourism promotion activities, and Areawide Development (loan) Company activities.

### ***Economic Development Planning***

Since the federal Economic Development Administration designated the region as an Economic Development District in 1978, the Council has continued to maintain a high level of involvement in providing technical assistance to local governments and development authorities in order to promote economic growth.

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In 1995, the Council continued to work with the Florida State Rural Development Council (FRSDC) in defining strategies for dealing with the problems and needs of rural Florida. Council staff has worked in committees created to develop a strategic action plan for the FSRDC and has contributed to the development of the public relations tools

of that organization.

Finally, the Council continued assisting businesses with SBA 7(a) loan packaging. During the past year, staff processed one \$900,000 7(a) guaranteed loan for a business in Gainesville.

### ***Areawide Development Company***

In cooperation with local businesses, financial institutions and community organizations, the Council was instrumental in creating the North Central Florida Areawide Development Co., Inc. (ADCO) in 1983 as a non-profit corporation.

The company is certified by the Small Business Administration (SBA) to operate as a "504" Certified Development Company to provide subordinated mortgage financing to eligible small and medium-sized commercial and industrial businesses in the area. The typical financing structure is as follows:

- 50% - local bank
- 40% - Development Company
- 10% - business equity

The economic benefits of ADCO's loan activities during 1995 are noteworthy. Two 504 loans totalling \$380,000 were funded. Two projects were under construction with 504 loans totalling \$1,376,000. The resulting increase in full-time employment is projected to be 51 positions. Private sector funds totalling \$2,256,000 were leveraged with these loans. At year end, ADCO had one loan awaiting SBA's response. The project totalled \$2.6 million with a 504 loan of \$960,000. Subsequent to year end, the loan was approved. Added employment on this project totals 22.

An extensive program is underway to create awareness and interest in 504 loans in ADCO's service area. The program includes public speaking, seminars, and direct mailings. Application has been made to SBA for the permanent addition of Marion and Levy counties into the service area. Additionally, SBA implemented changes designed to promote the 504 program. Expectations are for a substantial increase in 504 loans in 1996 and the benefits of economic development which stem from those loans.



*Construction and business acquisition projects such as this Chevron Station can be financed through the Council's economic development loan program.*

## ***The "Original Florida" Tourism Development Activities***

The "Original Florida" tourism promotion program just completed its third year of activities with a second 100,000 plus printing of its very popular map brochure which highlights tourist attractions within the 11-county region.

The Original Florida task force is comprised of representatives from each of the participating counties who are appointed by the Council to oversee and direct the tourism promotion effort. The members have varied backgrounds which they bring to the program, but they share one thing in common--the desire to carve out their share of the number of tourists who visit Florida each year, and to do so without harming the very (natural) resources which are the mainstay of the area's attractions.

After a second year under contract with Geiger & Associates, a public relations firm which is assisting the task

force in promoting the Original Florida area, 49 travel writers have visited the area who, in turn, have written and had published in various news media (travel magazines, travel sections in major newspapers throughout the country, etc.) a total of 111 articles, with an audience of approximately 24 million readers.

The program also contracts with the Lake City Tourist Welcome Center to function as a response center for the Original Florida campaign to handle visitor inquiries and distribute tourism literature. The center has been responding to an increasing number of inquiries over the past several years with spikes of activity identifying areas where an article or news release has just been published.

The task force will have an exhibit for the first time at the 1996 Florida State Fair paid for by a grant from the state. Also in 1996, an auction is planned to raise money to support the program which is funded by contributions from the participating counties and in-kind staff support from the Council. Other fund-raising activities are currently being considered and will be a necessary primary focus of the program during 1996.



*A view from a bridge spanning the Steinhatchee River, a favorite fishing area of residents and visitors alike.*

**D**uring 1995, the Council offered technical assistance to local governments which do not have available staff or expertise for certain activities. These activities ranged from comprehensive planning to community development.

### ***Comprehensive Planning***

In response to the requirements of Florida growth management legislation, the Council continued to place a significant emphasis on comprehensive planning assistance for local governments.

During 1995, the Council continued expanded service to assist the region's counties and cities in complying with the requirements of the Local Government Comprehensive Planning and Land Development Regulation Act.

On-going comprehensive planning assistance was provided to local governments to assist with interpretations of comprehensive plans and land development regulations, preparation of annual Concurrency Management System Reports, preparation of comprehensive plan and land development regulation amendments, and concurrency assessments of plats, site and development plans.

In particular, the Council assisted seven counties and ten municipalities with the review and adoption of 59 comprehensive plan map and text amendments, 69 land development regulation map and text amendments, 36 land development regulation special exceptions and special permits, 14 concurrency assessments for plats, and 22 site and development plans.

*The Planning Council assisted municipalities and counties prepare concurrency assessments to evaluate the impact of development on the level of service for roads, water, sanitary sewer, solid waste, stormwater drainage and recreation facilities.*



## ***Community Development Block Grants (CDBG)***

The Council assisted several local governments in assessing their community development needs in 1995. These assessments addressed the need for housing rehabilitation of low- and moderate-income occupied dwelling units, the need for the commercial revitalization of downtowns, and the need for revitalizing public facilities in neighborhoods occupied by low- and moderate-income persons. These community development needs assessments resulted in the Council assisting 9 local governments with the preparation of the following 12 Community Development Block Grant applications in 1995:

### Housing

Bradford County	- \$700,000
Taylor County	- \$600,000
Brooker	- \$250,000
Lake City	- \$700,000
Live Oak	- \$600,000
Perry	- \$600,000

### Neighborhood Revitalization

Suwannee County	- \$700,000
Hawthorne	- \$500,000
Mayo	- \$500,000

### Commercial Revitalization

Lake City	- \$700,000
Live Oak	- \$600,000
Perry	- \$600,000

The Council continued to provide administrative assistance on current projects for the municipalities of Hawthorne, Lake City, Live Oak and Perry. In addition, the Council initiated administrative assistance on a community development project in Columbia County.

Finally, the Council assisted the municipality of Lake City and Columbia County with the preparation of Florida Recreation Development Assistance Program Grant applications for the development of parks.



*Community Development Block Grant funds were utilized to revitalize downtown Lake City.*

*Community Development Block Grant funds were utilized for housing rehabilitation projects in Live Oak, Madison and Perry.*



**T**hrough 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 to conduct transportation planning activities in the Gainesville urbanized area. This program is required in order to receive federal funds for transportation projects. The Council serves as the staff providing technical and administrative assistance in developing transportation plans and programs.

Another major transportation planning activity is the transportation disadvantaged program. This program is required in order to receive state funds to increase transportation services to low-income individuals, elderly individuals, persons with disabilities and children-at-risk.

### **MTPO ACTIVITIES**

In 1995, the MTPO conducted a number of transportation planning activities.

### **Year 2020 Long Range Transportation Plan**

In December, the MTPO adopted its Year 2020 Long Range Transportation Plan for the Gainesville Metropolitan Area. Developed as an integrated, multi-modal transportation system, this plan includes proposed improvements for highway, transit, bicycle and pedestrian facilities.

High priority road construction projects in this plan include widening SW 20th Avenue and Depot Avenue to four lanes, widening the overpass at Interstate 75 and NW 39th Avenue to four lanes, and implementing a one-way pair system on W. University Avenue and SW 2nd Avenue.

The Year 2020 Plan also calls for increased transit service, especially in and around the University of Florida. An expanded transit system is expected to be needed to relieve traffic congestion on major roads serving the University and downtown Gainesville.

### **University of Florida Comprehensive Master Plan**

Also in 1995, the MTPO reviewed and commented on the University of Florida Comprehensive Master Plan. During this review process, the MTPO developed recommendations concerning ways to coordinate better the community's transportation plan with plans being developed at the University.

### **Other MTPO Transportation Planning Activities**

Regular transportation planning activities include staff support for the MTPO and advisory committee meetings, overall project administration, and responding to numerous requests by the public regarding transportation plans and programs.

Each year, the MTPO approves the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The TIP includes highway, bicycle, mass transit and airport improvement projects programmed for the next five years. The MTPO must



*Improvements to southwest 34th Street in Gainesville were begun in 1995.*

approve federal and state transportation projects contained in the TIP in order for these projects to be funded in the Gainesville urbanized area.

The transportation planning activities described in this section are part of a continuous, ongoing transportation planning program. Through this process, the MTPO attempts to ensure that adequate transportation facilities are provided to meet future needs.

### **TRANSPORTATION DISADVANTAGED PROGRAM**

During the year, the Council continued to serve as the designated official planning agency for nine counties in the region under the Transportation Disadvantaged Program. The Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization (MTPO) for the Gainesville urbanized area served as the planning agency for Alachua County. As the designated official planning agency, the Council is responsible for conducting planning studies needed to increase transportation services to low-income individuals, elderly individuals, persons with disabilities and children-at-risk.

The Council and the MTPO also appoint and staff 10 individual county transportation disadvantaged coordinating boards. The coordinating boards provide advice and direction to their respective transportation coordinators on the provision of transportation disadvantaged services. Some of the duties of the coordinating boards include: identifying local service needs; approving the coordinator's Service Plan; annually evaluating the coordinator; and reviewing all applications for local, state and federal transportation disadvantaged funds.

In addition, Council staff assisted local coordinators during the year in applying for funds through the State Transportation Disadvantaged Trust Fund. These funds were used to purchase trips for transportation disadvantaged persons who were not sponsored by social service agencies. A few of the local coordinators in the region used a portion of their funds to purchase capital equipment to improve the provision of transportation services. In 1995, the Transportation Disadvantaged Trust Funds for the 10 counties totalled more than \$1,000,000.



*The Transportation Disadvantaged Program funds trips for medical, employment, education and shopping purposes for disadvantaged individuals.*

**F**rom time to time a newsletter is published to inform Council members, government agencies, the private sector, and the general public about new programs and other various activities in which the Council is involved. Brochures and informational briefs are also published for special programs, studies and projects.

In addition to the numerous planning and other technical studies prepared under contract with local governments throughout the region, the Council prepared the following materials in 1995.

## ***Regional Programs***

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□ Evaluation Reports on Local Comprehensive Plans, Developments of Regional Impact and other Council Review Items

□ Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Plan 1995 Update

## ***Job Training Partnership Act Program***

□ Employment and Training Plan for Florida's Suwannee Valley Service Delivery Area for Program Years 1996 & 1997

## ***Economic Development***

□ Overall Economic Development Program 1994 Annual Report

□ North Central Florida Areawide Development Co., Inc. Annual Report, Oct. 1, 1994 - Sep. 30, 1995

## ***Transportation***

□ Fiscal Years 1996-2000 Transportation Improvement Program

□ Fiscal Year 1996 Unified Planning Work Program

□ 1995 Level of Service Report

□ Transit Monitoring Program Quarterly Progress Reports for the Regional Transit System

□ 1995 Bicycle Usage Trends Program

□ Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinated Transportation Development Plans

## ***General***

□ NCFRPC Annual Report  
□ NCFRPC Overall Program Design

The Council also provides general planning assistance and referral services to the public along with the following maps and information resources which are available at reproduction cost.

□ Existing and Future Land Use Maps  
□ Census Information

## ***CITIZEN PARTICIPATION***

Citizens participate in Council programs in a variety of ways. Ongoing citizen participation is accomplished by including non-voting citizen members on the Council and the various Council committees.

This format allows direct citizen input at the policy-making level. Also, citizen advisory committees are created for special projects in which citizen input is desirable or necessary. Finally, the Council maintains extensive lists of interested persons to whom meeting notices and newsletters are sent.

In 1996, the Council will continue a number of programs started in 1995 and initiate a number of new projects and activities as follows.

**Regional Activities**

**Growth Management**

The Council will finalize its strategic regional policy plan during 1996 to conform to changes required by legislation enacted in 1993.

**Regional and Local Emergency Response Plans**

Due to the constantly changing situation facing emergency service personnel, the regional emergency response plan will be updated to incorporate the most recent information on the location of hazardous materials. The Local Emergency Planning Committee will continue its efforts to ensure that emergency personnel are properly trained and the general public informed of potential dangers facing their communities.

**Job Training Partnership Act**

**Net Ban Re-Employment Services**

The Council will participate with the Florida Department of Labor & Employment Security (FDLES) in a program funded by the Job Training Partnership Act to provide re-employment services to individuals affected by the constitutional amendment banning net fishing. An interagency net fishing ban task force composed of FDLES and Florida Departments of Commerce, Community Affairs, Agriculture and Consumer Services, Environmental Protection, the Florida Marine Fisheries Commission

and the University of Florida's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS) has already worked with representatives of the seafood industry and the Rural Economic Development Initiative (REDI) to identify resources and eliminate red tape to move rapidly to provide assistance.

**Economic Development**

**Economic Development Assistance**

The Council will continue to provide assistance to local governments and area development authorities in securing federal funds and assistance from other sources to accommodate additional industrial growth.

The Council will also assist local governments and organizations in the implementation of the tourism plan.

In addition, the Council will continue assisting businesses with SBA 7(a) loans and, through its contract with the North Central Florida Areawide Development Co., Inc., SBA 504 loans, both guaranteed by the U.S. Small Business Administration.

**Big Bend Tri-County Task Force**

The Council will utilize a \$150,000 grant from the Ford Foundation to hire a coordinator to work with a task force in addressing economic development issues in the three coastal counties of Dixie, Levy and Taylor. The project is expected to last a minimum of two years.

**Transportation**

**Fiscal Years 1996/1997 to 2000/2001 Transportation Improvement Program**

Working in cooperation with the Florida Department of Transportation, Council staff will update this

five-year funding program for transportation projects.

**Level of Service Studies**

Each year, Council staff update level of service information concerning the amount of traffic congestion on arterial and collector roads in the Gainesville Metropolitan Area.

**Bicycle Planning**

Annual bicycle counts will be taken at a number of intersections in the Gainesville Metropolitan Area to monitor bicycle ridership trends.

**Transportation Disadvantaged Program**

Council staff will continue to provide staff support to 10 county coordinating boards.

**Local Government Assistance**

**Community Development Block Grants**

Applications will be prepared for local governments in the region. Other community development assistance, including administrative services, will be provided as requested.

**Local Planning Assistance**

The Council will continue its service to assist the region's counties and cities in complying with the requirements of the Local Government Comprehensive Planning and Land Development Regulation Act.

In particular, the Council will initiate the provision of assistance to coastal counties and cities with the preparation of Evaluation and Appraisal Reports of their comprehensive plans.

**1994-95 Revenues**

**Sources**

<b>Federal</b>	\$	\$ 4,063,930
Direct	41,393	
Pass-through from State	4,022,537	
<b>State</b>		458,751
<b>School Boards</b>		151,920
<b>Local Government Contracts for Planning</b>		425,089
<b>Gainesville/Alachua County Metropolitan</b>		
<b>Transportation Planning Organization</b>		378,093
<b>Council Members' Contributions (\$.30/capita)</b>		97,485
<b>Other</b>		86,096
Other Agencies	42,700	
Miscellaneous	24,273	
Increase in Unemployment Compensation Reserve	19,124	
<hr/>		
<b>Total Revenues</b>		\$ 5,661,363

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**1994-95 Expenditures**

**Programs**

<b>Regional Activities</b>		\$ 226,748
Strategic Regional Policy Plan	\$ 67,575	
Local Emergency Planning Committee	47,089	
General Planning and Intergovernmental Coordination	109,366	
Review Activities	2,719	
<b>Economic Development</b>		141,961
<b>Local Technical Assistance</b>		393,138
Block Grant Administration	129,026	
Comprehensive Planning	222,639	
Hazardous Waste Monitoring	41,474	
<b>Transportation</b>		608,847
Comprehensive Transportation Planning	389,521	
Mass Transit Planning	41,960	
Transportation Disadvantaged Planning	177,366	
<b>Job Training</b>		4,174,457
Administration	463,980	
Training	3,710,477	
<b>Program Development</b>		67,101
<b>Other</b>		17,064
<hr/>		
<b>Total Expenditures</b>		\$ 5,629,316



***NCFRPC***

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*Vice Chairman*  
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