

**NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA
REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL**



1997 ANNUAL REPORT

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I have been privileged to serve as chairman of the Council during a very successful year. This has been particularly gratifying during a time when public resources are scarce and the efforts to provide assistance are appreciated.

Among the purposes of the Council are to provide a forum for city and county elected officials and gubernatorial appointees to participate in making decisions about issues that affect more than one jurisdiction, and to also make available needed technical services to our members. However, we also recognize the growing need to help improve our economy as a means of providing jobs to our citizens and expanding the local tax base.

While the Council has been involved in economic development programs for years, during the past few months we have been especially aggressive in expanding our activities in this much needed area. In addition to carrying out our general overall economic development program, a great deal of success is being realized through our efforts to promote nature tourism and to give support to our region's economic development agencies.

Regarding our other traditional activities, the Council continued to be dedicated to managing growth in the region, and to providing valuable technical assistance to our local governments, businesses and citizens. Among these important programs are providing assistance in comprehensive planning, working to implement the transportation disadvantaged program, and assisting local agencies in planning and training for the handling of hazardous materials.

These and other activities are discussed more thoroughly in the pages that follow. Also provided is a summary of the organization's

financial status, and a brief look at the year ahead. I believe you will agree that the record presented here describes a well-functioning, successful public agency.

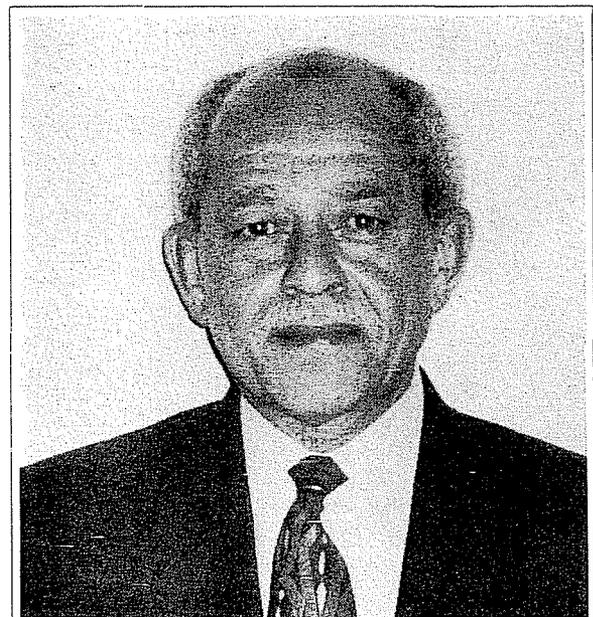
We, the Council members and staff, are grateful for the continuing support received from our member local governments and the region's citizens. The existence of the organization depends almost entirely on the participation and resources of both.

Please call the Council office in Gainesville if you have any questions or wish to have additional information about the Council. We also invite you to visit our Internet web site at <http://ncfrpc.org>. We look forward to serving you during the coming year.

Sincerely,



Charles S. Chestnut, III
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.

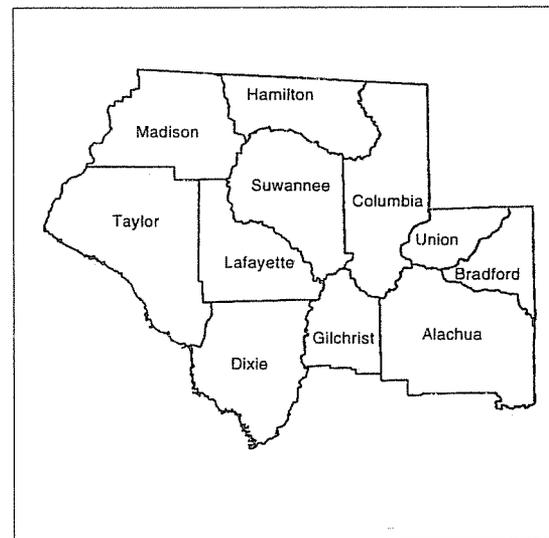
Much of the region is currently sparsely populated although this is beginning to change as people from other parts of the world, nation and Florida are discovering the amenities of north Florida living. According to estimates by the Bureau of Business and Economic Research, University of Florida, the population of the region in 1997 was 417,865, an increase of 63,669 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

- * Stephen Blakewood
- Leveda Brown
- Charles Chestnut
- * Oscar Harris
- * Dale McPherson
- Bobby Summers
- * Jane Walker

ALACHUA

Cleather Hathcock

ARCHER

William Copeland

GAINESVILLE

Bruce Delaney
Pegeen Hanrahan
Ed Jennings, Sr.

HAWTHORNE

Eddie Martin

HIGH SPRINGS

John Hill

MICANOPY

Steve Elder

WALDO

Louie Davis

BRADFORD COUNTY

- Joseph Riddick
- * E.W. Hodges
- # Thomas Smith

STARKE

Travis Woods

COLUMBIA COUNTY

- James Montgomery
- * Tom Sawyer
- # T.A. Hackney
- # Sharon Tervola

LAKE CITY

W. Ray Kirkland

DIXIE COUNTY

- John D. Driggers
- # Sharon McCall
- * Kathryn McInnis

GILCHRIST COUNTY

- * Emory Philman
- Sue Suggs

HAMILTON COUNTY

- * Ralph Bowers
- Lewis Vaughn

JASPER

Matthew Hawkins

LAFAYETTE COUNTY

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

MADISON COUNTY

- Mike Salls
- * Lorata Franklin

CITY OF MADISON

Judy McGhee

SUWANNEE COUNTY

- # Shirley Daniels
- * William W. Howard
- Donald M. Odom, Sr.

LIVE OAK

- Garth R. "Sonny" Nobles, Jr.
- # Sharon Tervola

TAYLOR COUNTY

- * W. Mike Deming
- Edd Sadler

PERRY

William Alexander

UNION COUNTY

- Red Clyatt
- * Billy Ray Foister

*Gubernatorial Appointees

#Non-Voting Participant

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

Robert Christianson, *St. John's River Water Management District*
Ernie Frey, *Department of Environmental Protection*
Aage Schroeder, *Department of Transportation*
Kirk Webster, *Suwannee River Water Management District*

REGIONAL PROGRAMS

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.

and the Governor's Office, in 1997 the Council amended its regional plan to include maps depicting the locations where sightings of threatened and endangered species have occurred in past years, along with policies to protect the species and their habitats where found. The amendment language was developed by the Council's Regional Planning Committee which was expanded to include representatives of affected state and local agencies, and private associations such as the Farm Bureau and the Florida Forestry Association.

Growth Management

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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 being implemented over a period of several years, significantly affects 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.

The Council submitted a draft of its strategic plan to state agencies and local governments for review in December, 1995, and, after incorporating recommended changes from this review, adopted its plan in May, 1996.

Due to objections of the Florida Department of Community Affairs

Hazardous Materials Planning Program

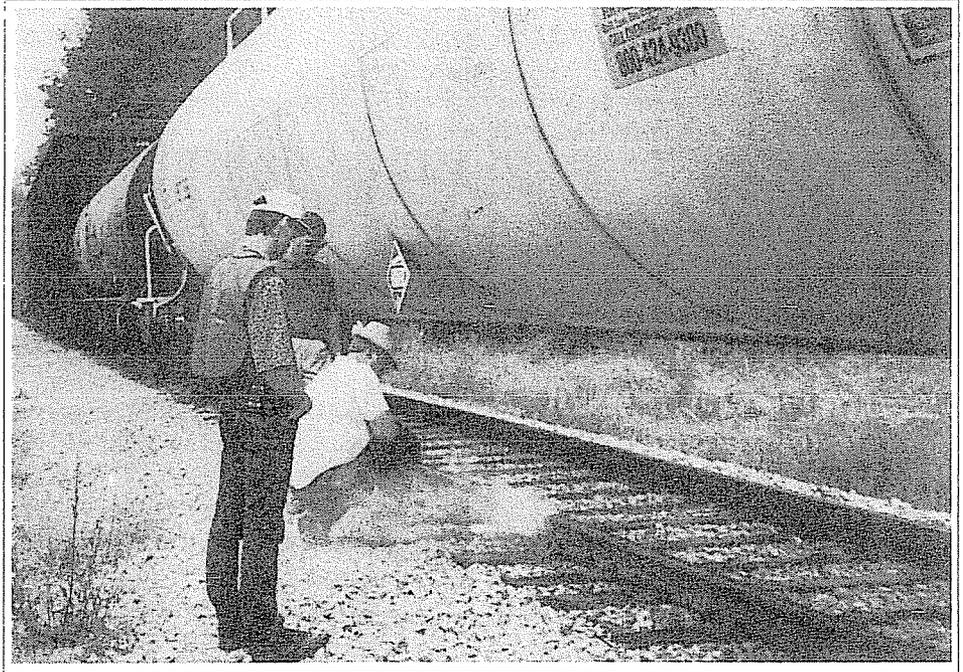
The Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA), passed by Congress in 1986, is also known as Title III of the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA).

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 February 21, 1997.

In 1997, 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 including fire fighters, law enforcement, emergency medical, and public works personnel. Over 1,700 people have been trained during the first four years of the training program.

Some 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.

The LEPC also shared advanced training in 1997 with adjacent LEPCs. An incident management class was held in Madison and a technician-level class in Palatka.



Providing free hazardous materials training and exercises for first responders like fire, EMS and law enforcement personnel remains a priority for the LEPC and the Council.

Hazardous Waste Program

Florida Statutes require that each county in the state conduct annual Small Quantity Generator (SQG) Hazardous Waste Assessment, Notification and Verification programs. For the past ten years many of our counties have contracted with the Council to conduct these programs and have paid for them out of general revenues.

In late 1996, the Council received the first regional SQG grant awarded by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. The grant is \$54,000 per year for a five-year cycle. Two compliance assistance seminars were con-

ducted in 1997, with more being planned for 1998. On-site inspections will again be conducted in 1998.

A main goal of the project includes providing additional educational materials and recommendations to local businesses and government agencies that need to improve their waste management procedures. Information will also be provided on recycling and reducing the amounts of hazardous waste generated by using less-hazardous materials.

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 1997, the Committee conducted a review of 172 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

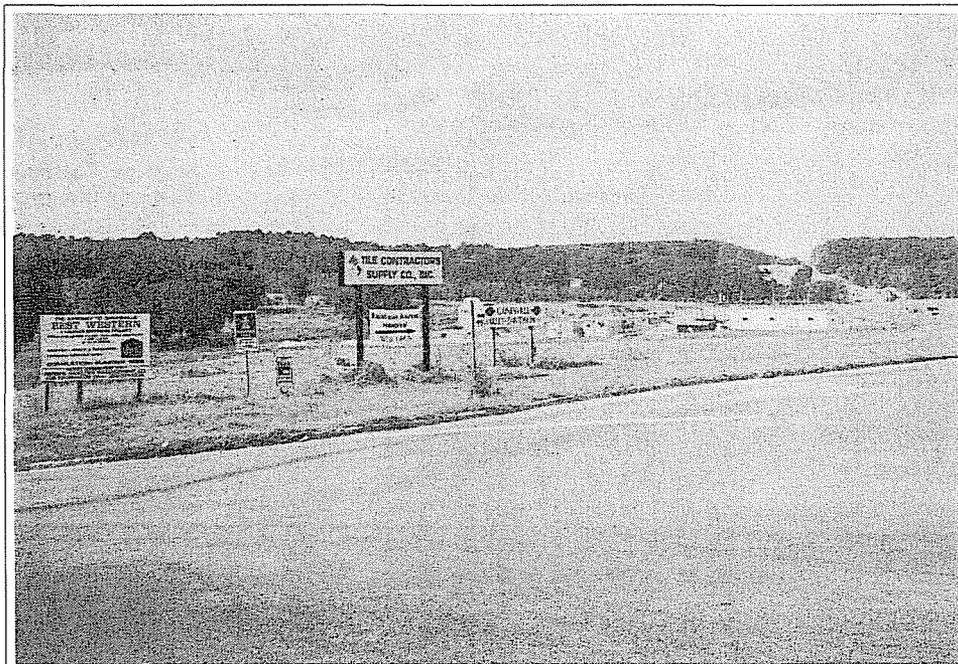
state agency functional plans, projects and proposed rules

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 strategic 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 Springhills Development of Regional Impact project proposed in northwest Gainesville.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

During the past year, the economic development program of the Council consisted of economic development planning and implementation activities, and tourism promotion 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.

Also in 1997, the Council continued to work with the Florida State Rural Development Council (FSRDC) in defining strategies for dealing with the problems and needs of rural Florida.

"The Original Florida" Tourism Development Activities

The Original Florida tourism promotion program wrapped up another successful year of implementing its strategic plan.

The Original Florida Tourism 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 another year under contract with Geiger & Associates, a public relations firm which is assisting the task force in promoting *The Original Florida* area, 80 travel writers have visited the area who, in turn, have written and have published in various news media (travel magazines, travel sections in major newspapers throughout the country, etc.) a total of 281 articles, reaching an audience of approximately 49 million readers.

The task force also had an exhibit for the second time at the 1997 Florida State Fair paid for by a grant from the state. Also in 1997, the task force entered into a partnership agreement with a local internet provider so that, for a nominal fee, businesses in the 11-county region and contiguous counties of Baker, Clay, Jefferson, Levy, Marion, and Putnam can now advertise on the Web through a link with "*The Original Florida*" (<http://OriginalFlorida.org>) home page.

North Central Florida Economic Development Partnership

In late 1996, the eleven counties of north central Florida joined together in forming a regional partnership known as the North Central Florida Economic Development Partnership. The formation of the regional partnership sets in motion the opportunity for local agencies to take full advantage of the re-alignment of functions of the Florida Department of Commerce into the Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development within the Executive Office of the Governor and the creation of Enterprise Florida, Inc.

Recognizing that the region has a number of functioning local economic development programs in addition to several regional efforts,

the partnership provides a forum to coordinate, complement, and enhance those economic development programs.

The regional partnership requires financial or in-kind commitments from the private and public sectors. Efforts in 1997 were directed to (1) developing a regional identity, (2) determining what the region has to sell, (3) deciding on the target industries and activities appropriate for the region, and (4) developing a plan to effectively present the region to the decision makers.

"The Original Florida's Hidden Coast"

Subsequent to the successful attainment of a grant from the Ford Foundation, the Big Bend Tri-County Task Force was formed in late 1995. The task force was comprised of residents, business owners, and local government officials from Dixie, Levy, and Taylor counties. The Council utilized the grant to employ a coordinator to work with the task force as it addressed the economic revitalization of the tri-county area.

Given the successes and progress of the program in its first two years, the Ford Foundation agreed to continue providing financial assistance to the Council over a second two-year period commencing October 1, 1997.

Also in 1997, The task force agreed to accept a proposal to become part of the larger, 11-county North Central Florida Economic Development Partnership which will provide the coastal counties greater resources on which to draw. The Partnership will benefit from the experiences gained, and public/private relationships established by the coastal effort. In one of its final acts prior to becoming part of the larger effort, the Big Bend Task Force renamed the tri-county area "*The Original Florida's Hidden Coast*."

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

The Council supports increases in economic activity, employment, and the standard of living throughout its service area through its business development program.

Council staff provide technical assistance to new and existing business owners. Assistance includes active partnership roles with other business development entities in the region as well as support with capital acquisition. The Council continues to assist businesses with SBA 7(a) loan packaging. During the year, staff processed one 7(a) guaranty loan for \$815,000.

Areawide Development Company

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The Council worked with local businesses, financial institutions, and community organizations to create the North Central Florida Areawide Development Co., Inc. (ADCO) in 1983 as a non-profit corporation. ADCO is a SBA Certified Development Company. In this role, ADCO works with lenders via SBA's 504 Loan Program to provide favorable financing to businesses when the proposed project retains or increases employment. The typical loan structure under the 504 Program is as follows:

50% First Mortgage Loan

40% ADCO/SBA Second Mortgage Loan

10% Business Equity Investment

ADCO generated an additional 5 loans in FY 1997, with total project costs exceeding \$5.63 million of which ADCO funded \$1.75 million. These projects will result in the addition of 48 full-time jobs to the local economy. ADCO's contribution to the local economy over the last two years totals \$19.9 million in project costs and a projected increase in employment of 250 jobs. Approximately \$7.01 million in funding was obtained by ADCO to bring to reality the 17 projects that have received approval for funding.



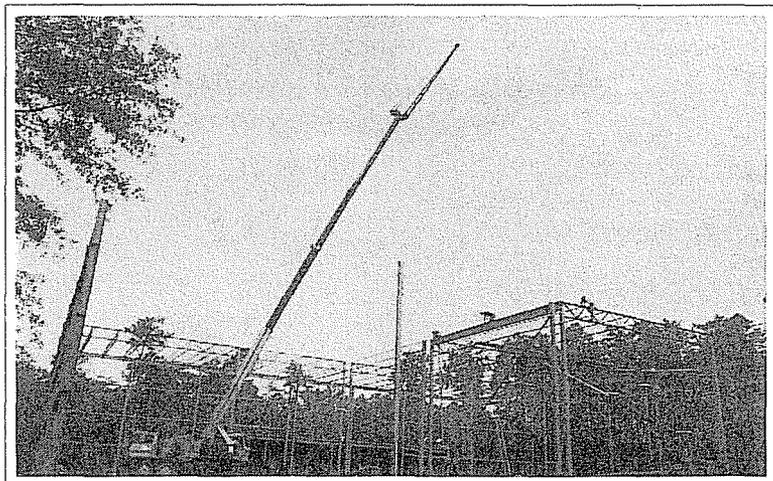
1. Laying the foundation at the new 42,000 square foot headquarters of Florida Food Service.

Key achievements for ADCO during FY 1997 included being recognized by the Florida SBA District Office as the most improved CDC in the state and by the national trade organization as having tied for the "Fastest Growing Small CDC" in the nation.

Additionally, ADCO's counsel received Expedited Closing status by SBA signifying an extensive knowledge of the 504 Program such that ADCO will benefit from a streamlined loan closing process.

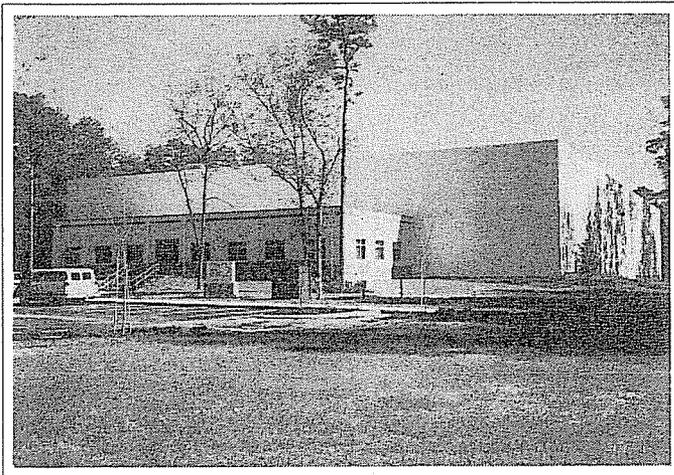
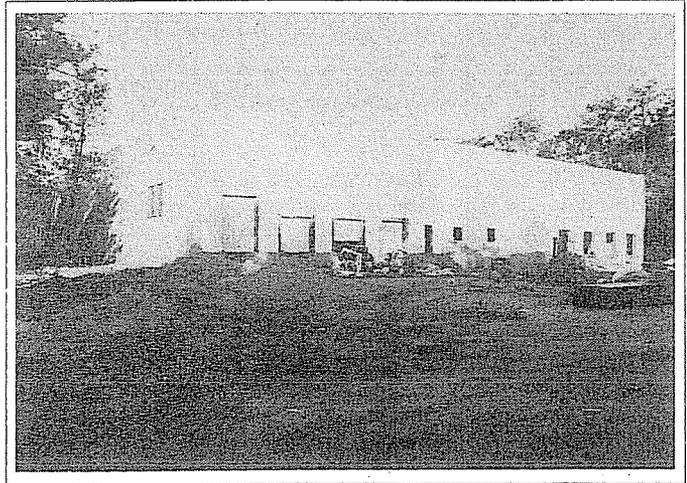
One of the goals ADCO has established for FY 1998 is a planned increase in outreach activities to key participants involved in business expansions.

2. Early stages of the building construction.



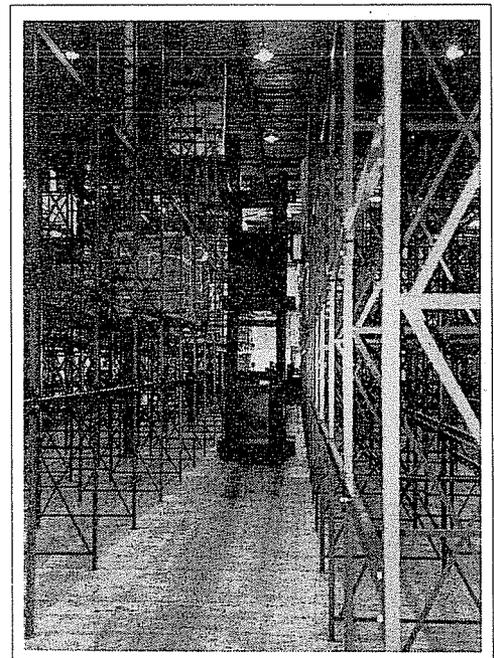
**SBA 504 Project Financed
by ADCO in FY 1997**

3. Completion of the loading dock.



4. The completed building on opening
day, January 1998.

5. Racking system uses automatic
forklifts to move merchandise.



LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE

During 1997, 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 places a significant emphasis on comprehensive planning assistance for local governments.

During 1997, the Council continued to assist the region's counties and cities in complying with the requirements of the Local Government Comprehensive Planning and Land Development Regulation Act.

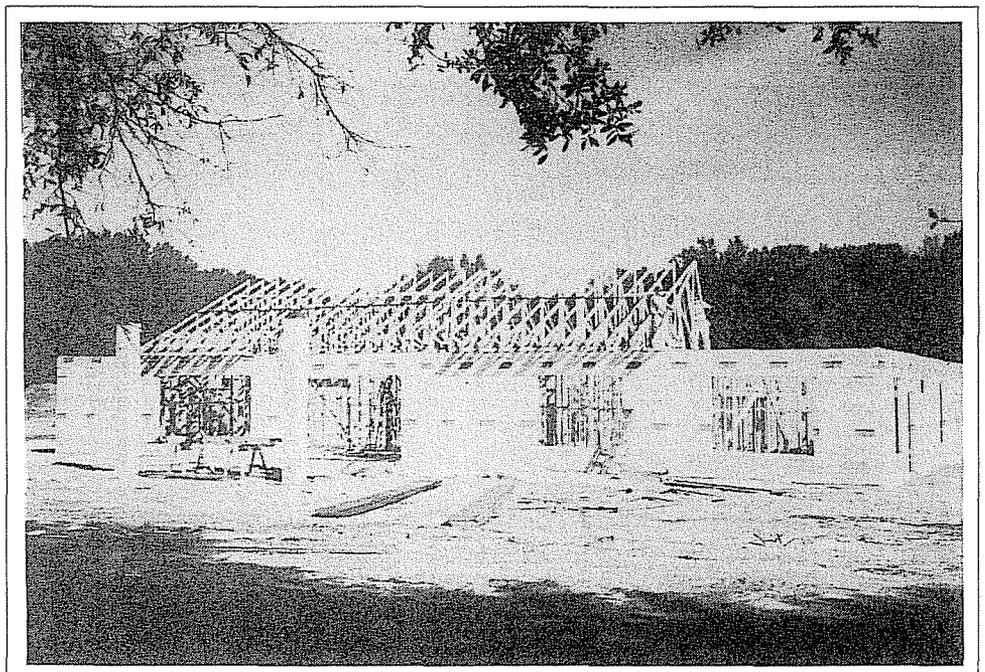
On-going comprehensive planning assistance was provided to local governments to assist with interpretations of comprehensive plans and land development regulations, preparation of comprehensive plan and land development regulation amendments, concurren-

cy assessments of plats, and site and development plans.

In particular, the Council assisted 8 counties and 14 municipalities with the review and adoption of 103 comprehensive plan map and text amendments. The Council also assisted these local governments in making 140 land development regulation map and text amendments, 63 land development regulation special exceptions and special permits, 61 concurrency assessments for plats, variances and building permits, and 20 site and development plans.

In addition, the Council assisted 6 counties and 2 municipalities with the preparation of the required evaluation and appraisal reports (EAR) of their comprehensive plans.

The Planning Council assisted municipalities and counties in preparing concurrency assessments to evaluate the impacts 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 local governments in assessing their community development needs in 1997. These assessments addressed the need for housing rehabilitation and neighborhood revitalization. These community development needs assessments resulted in the Council assisting with the preparation of the following three Community Development Block Grant applications in 1997:

Housing

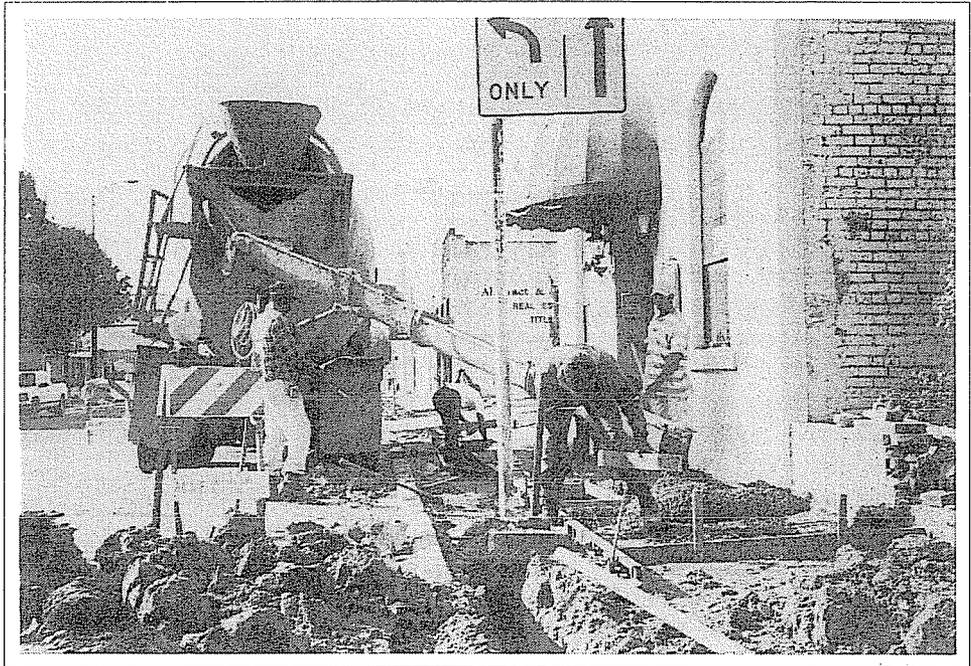
White Springs - \$500,000

Neighborhood Revitalization

City of Madison - \$500,000
City of Trenton - \$550,000

The Council continued to provide administrative assistance on current projects for the municipalities of Brooker, Hawthorne, Lake City, Live Oak, Mayo and Perry, and the counties of Columbia, Suwannee and Taylor. In addition, the Council initiated administrative assistance on community development projects in the municipalities of Trenton and White Springs, and Lafayette County. These new projects totaled \$1,400,000 in community development improvements.

Finally, the Council assisted the counties of Columbia and Lafayette with the preparation of Florida Recreation Development Assistance Program Grant applications for the development of parks totaling \$150,000 in recreation improvements.



Community Development Block Grant funds were utilized to revitalize downtown Live Oak.

Community Development Block Grant funds were also utilized to install sanitary sewer lines in a low- and moderate-income neighborhood in Hawthorne.



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 to conduct transportation planning activities in the Gainesville metropolitan 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.

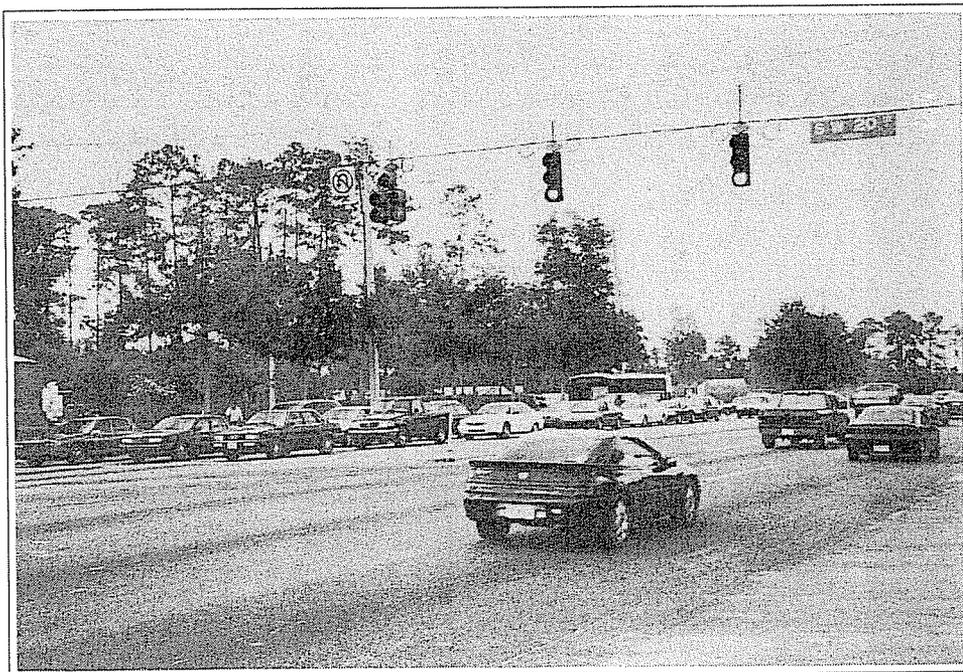
MTPO ACTIVITIES

In 1997, the MTPO conducted a number of transportation planning activities.

Year 2020 Long Range Transportation Plan

Special planning studies were conducted during 1997 for two projects in the long-range transportation plan. Both of these studies were concerned with identifying alternative ways to address future transportation needs without having to construct four-lane roads. One of these special studies involved the SW 20th Avenue area immediately west of the University of Florida. This study recommended higher densities and intensities of land uses for this area, expanding the two-lane road network, and constructing bicycle, pedestrian and transit facilities.

The second special study was for Depot Avenue. Based on this study, the MTPO is considering making improvements that will divert traffic in this area to SW 16th Avenue, rather than four laning this road.



Late afternoon traffic at the intersection of SW 34th Street and SW 20th Avenue.

Truck Route System Improvements

During the past year, the MTPO and the Florida Department of Transportation identified ways to improve the truck route system in the Gainesville metropolitan area. These efforts were primarily directed toward doing a better job of educating and informing truck drivers about the area's truck route system.

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 approve federal and state transportation projects contained in the TIP in order for these projects to be funded in the Gainesville metropolitan 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 MTPO served as the planning agency for Alachua County. As the planning agency, the Council conducts planning studies to increase and coordinate transportation services to the elderly, low-income persons with disabilities and children-at-risk. The Council and the MTPO also appointed and staffed ten individual county transportation disadvantaged coordinating boards in the region.

At its Fifth Annual Conference, the Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged awarded the 1997 Outstanding Coordinating

Board of the Year Award to Bradford County. This award recognizes a coordinating board in the State of Florida that has shown its dedication and support to the transportation disadvantaged system. In selecting the award recipient, the Commission gave consideration to leadership, oversight of costs, evaluation of the community transportation coordinator, and other extraordinary efforts of the board.

The Commission also awarded the Suwannee River Economic Council and the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council Outstanding Leadership Awards. These were special awards given in recognition of outstanding leadership during an emergency situation in Dixie and Gilchrist counties.

During the year, the Council prepared Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plans in cooperation with the community transportation coordinators in the region. The Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan is a new document that combines the community transportation coordinator's Service Plan and the planning agency's Coordinated Transportation Disadvantaged Plan.

The Transportation Disadvantaged Program helps elderly, low-income persons with disabilities and children-at-risk with their transportation needs.



COMMUNICATIONS

A quarterly 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 1997.

Regional Programs

14 [] Evaluation Reports on Local Comprehensive Plans, Developments of Regional Impact and other Council review items

[] Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Plan 1997 Update

[] Amendment to the North Central Florida Strategic Regional Policy Plan

Economic Development

[] Overall Economic Development Program 1996 Annual Report

[] North Central Florida Areawide Development Co., Inc. Annual Report, Oct. 1, 1996 - Sep. 30, 1997

Transportation

[] Fiscal Years 1998-2002 Transportation Improvement Program

[] Fiscal Year 1998 Unified Planning Work Program

[] 1997 Level of Service Report

[] Quarterly Progress Reports for Regional Transit System Ridership

[] 1997 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 1998, the Council will continue a number of programs started in 1997 and initiate a number of new projects and activities as follows.

Regional Activities

I-75 Corridor Council

In late 1997, the Withlacoochee and North Central Florida Regional Planning Councils established the I-75 Corridor Council composed of local-elected officials whose jurisdictions are bisected by or abuts the corridor. The Council will address the issues of corridor beautification and tourism promotion during 1998.

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.

Economic Development

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.

Original Florida Tourism Promotion

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

North Central Florida Economic Development Partnership

The Council will continue working with this new organization which is joining the resources of 11 counties to address regional economic development problems and opportunities.

Business Development

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.

Transportation

Fiscal Years 1998/1999 to 2002/ 2003 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.

Review Year 2020 Priorities

The MTPO will be reviewing the currently adopted long-range transportation plan to identify whether any changes need to be made in the project priority list.

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

As the designated official planning agency, the Council will continue to provide staff support to the local coordinating boards. Council staff will jointly evaluate community transportation coordinators with the Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged in the upcoming year. In cooperation with the local coordinating boards, Council staff will work with the local WAGES Coalitions to provide transportation to WAGES clients. Council staff also intends to participate in statewide discussions concerning the Transportation Disadvantaged Trust Fund distribution formula and eligibility criteria.

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 services in assisting the region's counties and cities in complying with the requirements of the Local Government Comprehensive Planning and Land Development Regulation Act.

FINANCIAL REPORT

1996-97 Revenues

Sources

Federal		\$ 62,536
Direct	\$ 51,124	
Pass-through from State	11,412	
State		441,047
Local Government Contracts for Planning		604,556
Gainesville/Alachua County Metropolitan		
Transportation Planning Organization		348,153
North Central Florida Areawide		
Development Co., Inc.		88,079
North Central Florida Economic		
Development Partnership		15,000
Council Members' Contributions (\$.30/capita)		95,800
Local Contributions for Tourism Development		31,320
Other		153,526
Ford Foundation	96,577	
Other Agencies	17,965	
Miscellaneous	38,984	
Unencumbered Funds Used		2,814
16 Unemployment Claims & Return of Excess Funds		48,500

Total Revenues		1,891,331
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1996-97 Expenditures

Programs

Regional Activities		313,729
Local Emergency Planning	82,598	
General Planning and Intergovernmental Coordination	214,418	
Review Activities	16,712	
Economic Development		311,082
Big Bend	98,607	
Regional Economic Development	15,000	
Small Business Loans	87,990	
Tourism Development	41,320	
General	68,166	
Local Technical Assistance		639,647
Block Grant Administration	253,543	
Comprehensive Planning	339,382	
Hazardous Waste Planning & Monitoring	46,722	
Transportation		488,702
Comprehensive Transportation Planning	291,591	
Mass Transit Planning	39,524	
Transportation Disadvantaged Planning	157,586	
Job Training		11,412
Program Development		77,006
Other		1,253
Unemployment Claims & Return of Excess Funds		48,500

Total Expenditures		\$ 1,891,331
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NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

2009 NW 67 Place, Suite A

Gainesville, FL 32653-1603

352/955-2200; SUNCOM 625-2200; Fax 352/955-2209

	EXTENSION NUMBER
Charles Justice, Executive Director	101
Chuck Kiester, Assistant Executive Director	102
A. Blake Harper, Business Development Program Director	107
W.D. Higginbotham, Economic Development Program Director	106
Chuck Kiester, Director of Regional Programs	102
Scott Koons, Director of Local Government Assistance	104
Thomas Olmsted, Finance Director	105
Marlie Sanderson, Director of Transportation Planning	103
Robin Barnes, Secretary	100
Ann Brosius, Bookkeeper	116
Lori Cornelius, Planning Administrative Assistant, Local Government Assistance	124
Mary-Ellen Cross, Principal Planner, Transportation Disadvantaged	113
Gerry Dedenbach, Senior Planner, Transportation	115
Steve Dopp, Senior Planner, Regional Planning, SRPP, Census Info	109
Michael Escalante, Principal Planner, Transportation	114
Lynn Franson-Godfrey, Senior Planner, Transportation Disadvantaged	110
Lowell Garrett, Senior Planner, Local Government Assistance	111
Brian Kepner, Associate Planner, Local Government Assistance	121
Carol Laine, Planning Administrative Assistant, CDBG	123
Maria Masque, Associate Planner, Local Government Assistance	122
Dwayne Mundy, Senior Planner, LEPC, Hazardous Materials	108
Kevin Parrish, Database Manager, GIS,	133
Candy Ramseur, Secretary	117
Marcy Wilson, Administrative Secretary	134

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Executive Director
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