

**NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA
REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL**

SERVING



1998 ANNUAL REPORT

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I am pleased to have been chairman of the Council during the past year when our overriding objectives have been to encourage continued improvements in our management of the region's growth, to help support the expansion of our economy, and to become more proficient in providing services to our cities and counties. This report is presented to record our accomplishments in the pursuit of these ends.

These objectives have been realized through the dedicated work of the Council staff under the guidance provided by our members and by the leaders of our associated agencies, the North Central Florida Economic Development Partnership, The Original Florida Tourism Task Force, and the North Central Florida Areawide Development Co., Inc. These groups are committed to achieving ever higher levels of excellence as they confront similar challenges in future years.

For the past program year, this attitude has resulted in the more aggressive implementation of our Strategic Regional Policy Plan, in the maintenance of a viable technical assistance effort, and in a significant expansion of our economic development program. Our concern for the welfare of the region has been expressed also through such programs as loans for small businesses, hazardous materials planning and monitoring, and local emergency planning.

These and other activities of the Council 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 firmly believe that the record presented here describes a well-functioning, successful public agency. We, the Council members and staff, are grateful for the steadfast support received from our member local governments and the region's citizens. The interest and participation of both are critical to our future existence and success.

Sincerely,



D. Thomas Sawyer
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.

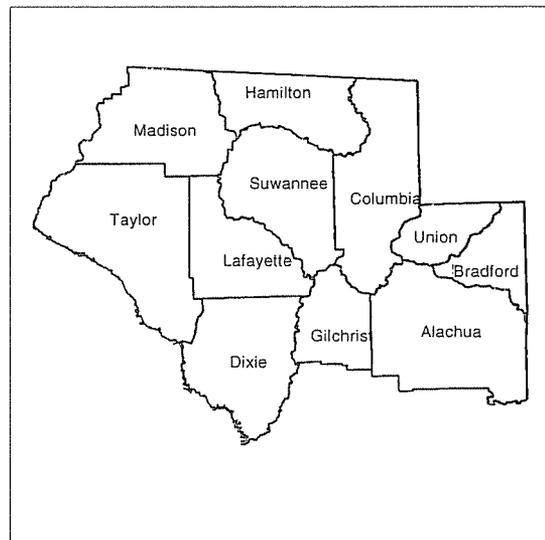
Much of the region is currently sparsely populated although this is beginning to change as people from other parts of the world, nation and Florida are discovering the amenities of north Florida living. According to estimates by the Bureau of Business and Economic Research, University of Florida, the population of the region in 1998 was 425,589, an increase of 71,393 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

Patrick Murphy

ARCHER

William Copeland

GAINESVILLE

Bruce Delaney
 Pegeen Hanrahan
 Ed Jennings, Sr.

HAWTHORNE

Eddie Martin

HIGH SPRINGS

Vacant

MICANOPY

Steve Elder

WALDO

Louie Davis

BRADFORD COUNTY

- Joseph Riddick
- * E.W. Hodges

STARKE

Travis Woods

COLUMBIA COUNTY

- James Montgomery
- * Tom Sawyer

LAKE CITY

W. Ray Kirkland

DIXIE COUNTY

- John D. Driggers
- * 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

- * William W. Howard
- Donald M. Odom, Sr.

LIVE OAK

Garth R. "Sonny" Nobles, Jr.

TAYLOR COUNTY

- * W. Mike Deming
- Edd Sadler

PERRY

William Alexander

UNION COUNTY

- Red Clyatt
- * Billy Ray Foister

**Gubernatorial Appointees*

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

Robert Christianson, *St. John's River Water Management District*
 Ernie Frey, *Department of Environmental Protection*
 Robert J. Rohrlack, Jr., *Council for Economic Outreach*
 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 three decades, 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.

Growth Management

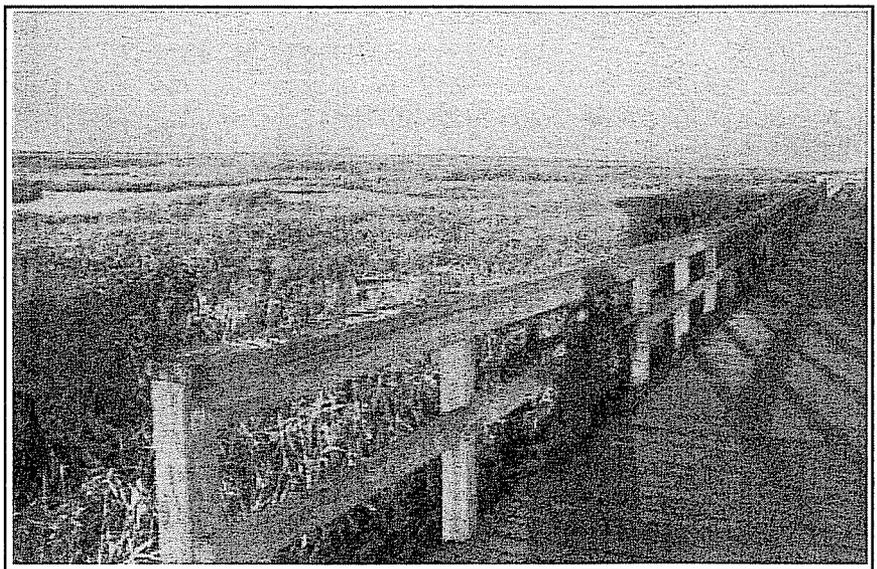
4 Based mostly on the recommendations of the Florida Environmental Land Management Committee (ELMS III) and the Florida Advisory Council on Intergovernmental Relations (ACIR), the 1993 Florida Legislature enacted numerous changes to Florida's growth management laws.

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 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.



A view of Payne's Prairie, one of many natural resources of regional significance in north central Florida.

Hazardous Materials Planning Program

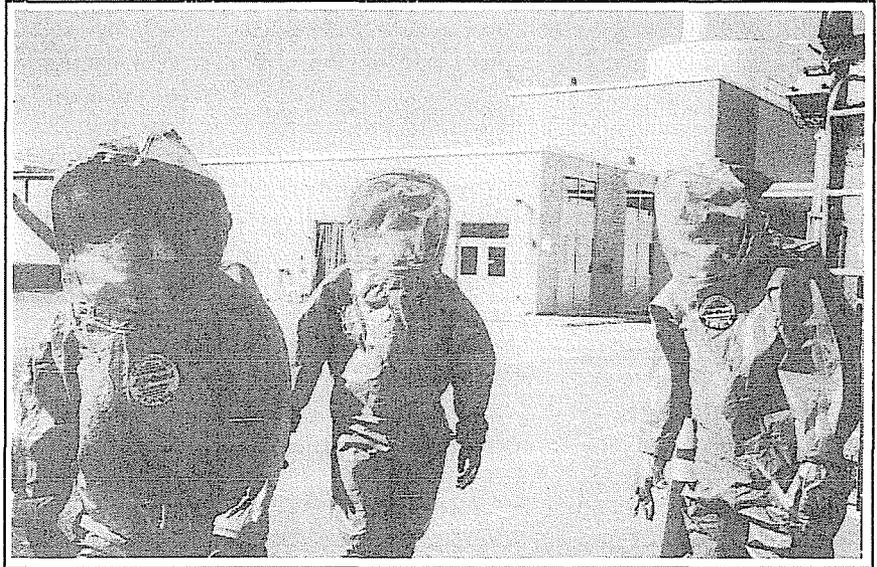
The Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA), passed by Congress in 1986, is also known as Title III of the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA).

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 initially adopted by the Local Emergency Planning Committee on June 9, 1989, and last updated on May 15, 1998.

In 1998, grants from the U.S. Department of Transportation 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 2,000 people have been trained during the first five years of the training program.

The establishment of a regional hazardous materials response team was moved forward during 1998. It is anticipated that the initial Interlocal Agreement establishing the team will be enacted by the participating local governments early in 1999. An accompanying cost recovery ordinance is also recommended as a means of recovering regional response expenses.

The LEPC also was busy planning *Safety Street* presentations to be held in Perry, White Springs and Gainesville in March, 1999. These presentations will explain risks associated with chemicals in our communities, emergency response



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.

planning, and what facilities are doing to prevent accidental releases.

Finally, technical assistance was also provided to regulated facilities, including many municipal water treatment plants, to help them meet the June 21, 1999, deadline for submitting a Risk Management Plan to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

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. This year facilities were provided with a one-page list of management practices to eliminate the most common problems. More on-site, compliance-assistance inspections will be conducted in 1999.

A main goal of the project is to provide educational materials and recommendations to local businesses and government agencies that need to improve their waste management procedures. Information is also 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 1998, the Committee conducted a review of 219 different projects submitted by private developers, units of local government, and state and federal agencies. Reviews included the following types:

6 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.



Part of Phase I, SpringHills DRI, located in the Gainesville Urban Area.

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, counseling and referral of new business inquiries.

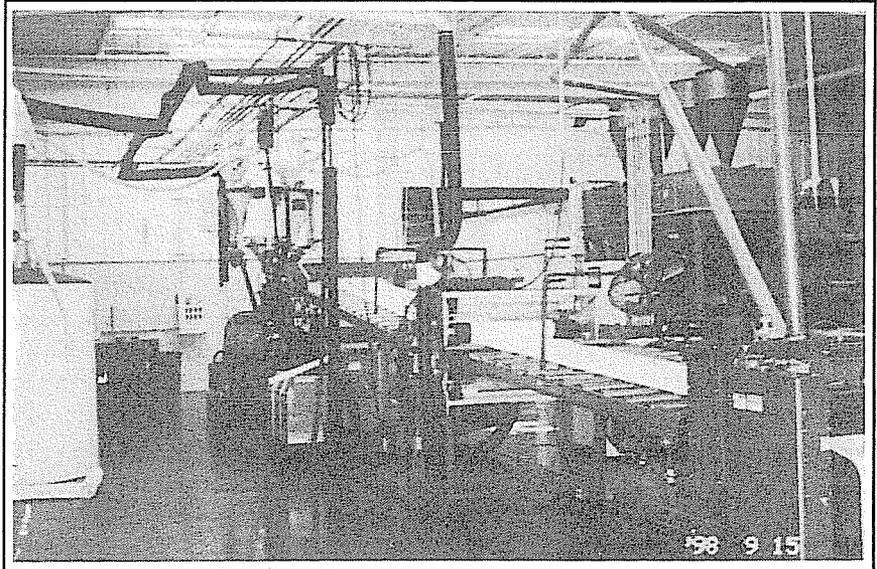
Certified Development Company

The North Central Florida Areawide Development Co., Inc. (ADCO) is a U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) Certified Development Company (CDC) which provides long-term, low interest financing assistance through the SBA 504 Program to small businesses in a 12-county area. There are more than 250 CDCs in the United States, and 9 operate in Florida. Almost \$9 billion in SBA 504 loans have been funded by CDCs nationwide as a part of the SBA's Economic Development Program, with \$1.767 billion approved in 1998, a 23% increase over the previous year.

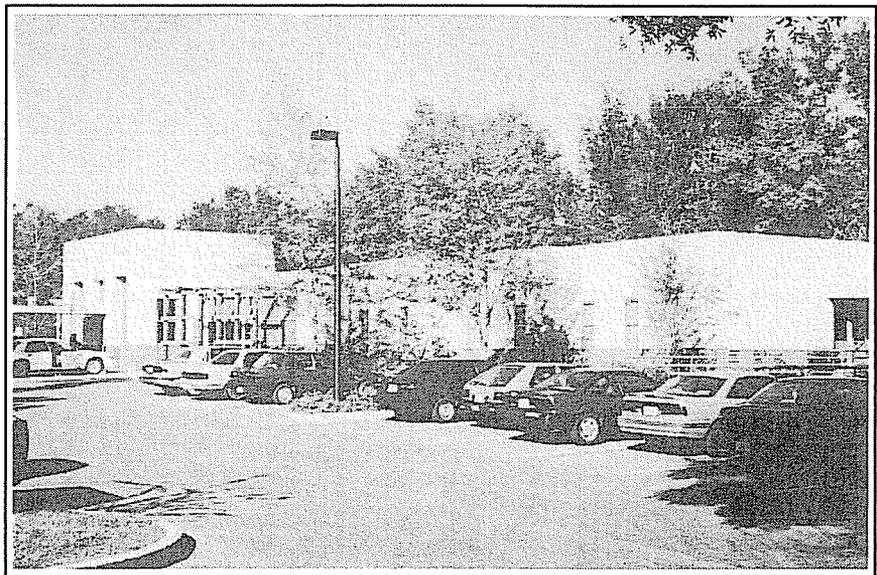
ADCO provided 504 funding for 8 new loans totaling \$4.5 million in 1998 for projects totaling over \$13 million. These loans created or retained 83 jobs in the 12-county region. The impact of the projects also includes the addition to the tax base for the counties involved. Over the years, ADCO has participated in projects totaling over \$31 million with seven financial institutions.

The SBA 504 Loan Program provides user-financing for fixed assets, such as buildings, machinery and equipment, when the project will create or retain jobs in the community. Loans are made in cooperation with a bank or other

lending institution to finance up to 90% of eligible project costs. The 504 loan is secured by a second lien on the project assets, and provides up to 20-year, fixed rate terms. New businesses or special properties may require a higher down payment than the typical 10% down for conventional properties and existing businesses.



Blender/extruder machine used in the manufacture of foam plastic sheeting.



New family practice physicians' office building.

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 1998, the Council continued to work with the Florida State Rural Development Council (FSRDC) and Enterprise Florida, Inc. in defining strategies for dealing with the problems and needs of rural Florida.

"The Original Florida" Tourism Development Activities

Following a mid-year reorganization, *The Original Florida* tourism promotion program wrapped up another successful year of implementing its strategic plan.

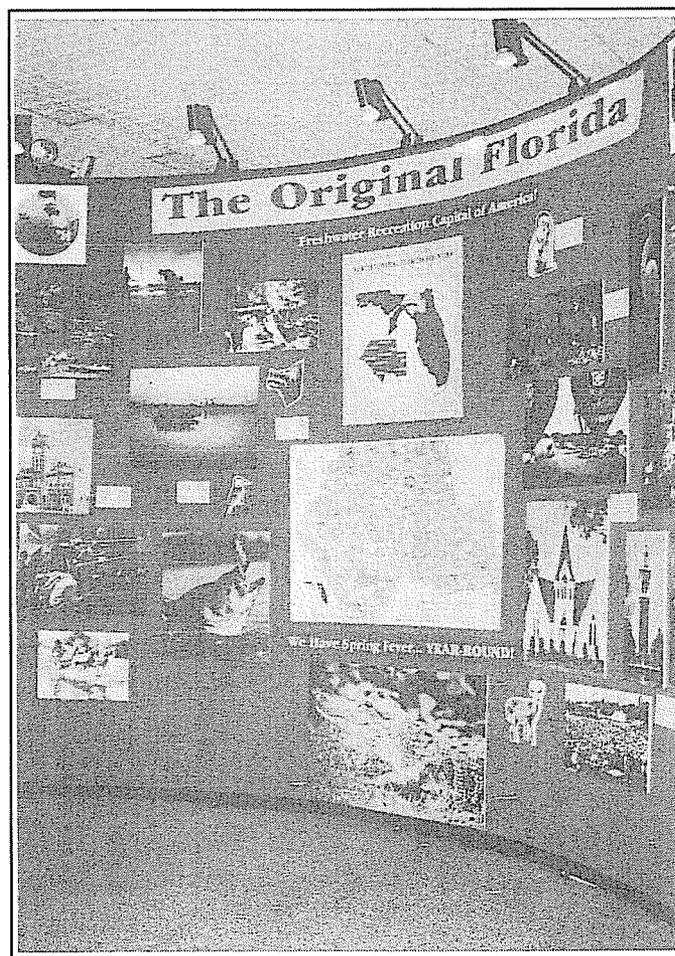
The Original Florida Tourism Task Force is comprised of representatives from each of the participating counties who are appointed by County Commissions to oversee and direct the tourism promotion effort. The members have varied backgrounds which they bring to the program, but they share one thing in 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, 96 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 389 articles, reaching an audience of approximately 63 million readers.

During this past year, lodging establishments and businesses in the region began participating in a campaign promoting January as "Canadian Month." Participating organizations throughout *The Original Florida* region offer discounts on lodging to Canadian citizens during the month of January each year.

Additionally, the Task Force believes the program can be enhanced by creating and promoting "private/public partnerships." As such, the Task Force entered into a partnership agreement with Florida Living Magazine. The arrangement promotes *The Original Florida* region as a tourism destination, both nationally and internationally.

Finally, the Task Force was successful in its efforts to have **FLA/USA, VISIT FLORIDA** create an eighth tourism district for the State of Florida. In doing so, all of the 11 counties of *The Original Florida* are now in one region called the North Central Florida Region.



Trade show display for promotion of tourism and business development in "The Original Florida" region.

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 set in motion the opportunity for local agencies to take full advantage of the realignment 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 1998 were directed to (1) promoting a regional identity; (2) creating a regional data base for businesses properties available throughout the region; and (3) providing expertise and overseeing the tourism and aquaculture activities for *The Original Florida's Hidden Coast* counties.

"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.

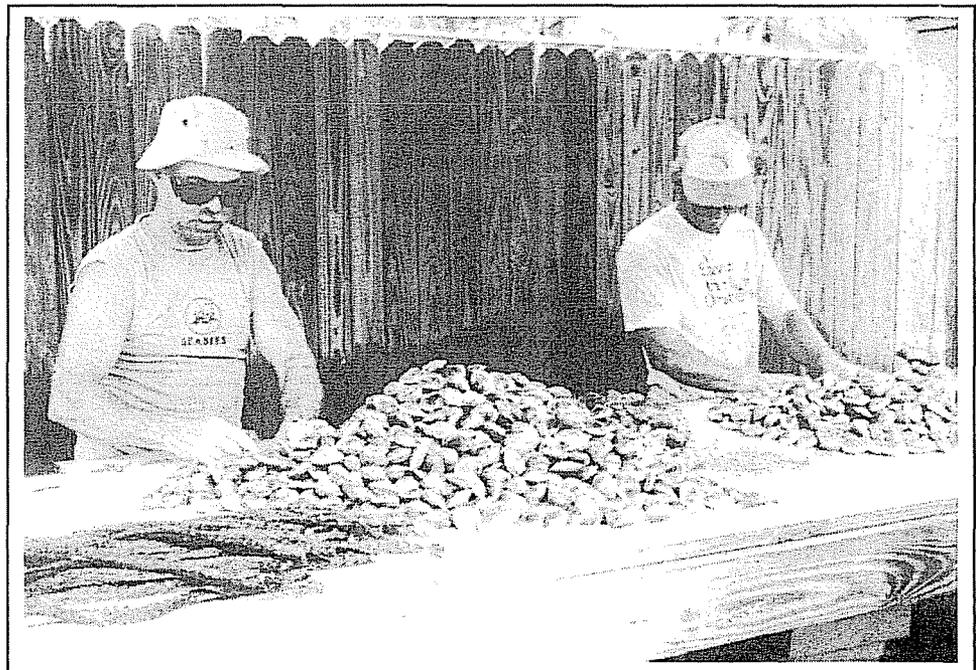
Given the successes and progress of the program in its first two years, the Ford Foundation agreed to continue providing financial assistance to the Council over a second two-year period commencing October 1, 1997.

In 1998, the Council assisted the shellfish farmers in forming a non-profit corporation named the "Hidden Coast Shellfish Producers Association, Inc." With technical assistance from IFAS, Harbor Branch International, and the Planning Council, along with grant funds



from the State of Florida, and the donation of land by the Dixie County Commission, the Association was successful in building a land based shellfish nursery capable of producing over 20 million clam seed annually for area clam farmers.

Photo: Courtesy of IFAS



"Hidden Coast" clam farmers examining harvested farm-raised clams.

During 1998, 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 1998, 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 7 counties and 14 municipalities with the review and adoption of 74 comprehensive plan map and text amendments. The Council also assisted these local governments in making 107 land development regulation map and text amendments, 77 land development regulation special exceptions and special permits, 43 concurrency assessments for plats, variances and building permits, and 15 site and development plans.

In addition, the Council assisted 6 counties and 4 municipalities with the adoption of the required evaluation and appraisal reports (EAR) of their comprehensive plans.

Hazard Mitigation

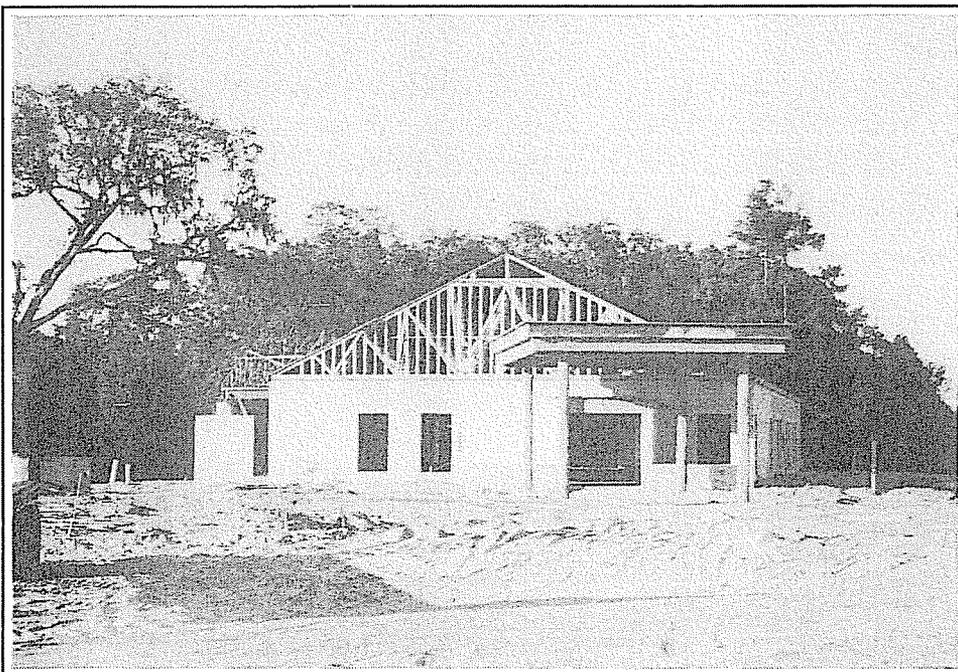
In response to a statewide initiative of the Florida Department of Community Affairs, Division of Emergency Management, the Council began assisting eight counties and the municipalities located within those counties with the preparation of local mitigation strategies. These strategies are being

prepared to reduce communities vulnerability to natural disasters.

The first year of this effort has resulted in the establishment of a working group in each county, and the development of conflict resolution procedures, evaluation criteria for updating the strategies, community guiding principles, and goals and objectives.

During the coming year, the final phase of the strategies will result in the development of hazard vulnerability maps and the identification of projects designed to implement mitigation initiatives.

The benefits of developing the strategies include the saving of lives and property, reducing the amount of money spent on recovery, and receiving more post-disaster funding by pre-identifying mitigation projects.



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 1998. These assessments addressed the need for housing rehabilitation, commercial revitalization, economic development, neighborhood revitalization, and natural disaster mitigation. These community development needs assessments resulted in the Council assisting with the preparation of the following Community Development Block Grant applications in 1998:

Housing

Lafayette County	\$ 600,000
Taylor County	\$ 600,000
Live Oak	\$ 600,000
City of Madison	\$ 600,000

Neighborhood Revitalization

Suwannee County	\$ 750,000
Perry	\$ 360,000

Commercial Revitalization

Live Oak	\$ 600,000
City of Madison	\$ 600,000
Perry	\$ 600,000

Economic Development

Perry	\$ 200,000
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Natural Disaster Mitigation

Columbia County	\$ 350,000
Union County	\$ 350,000
Live Oak	\$ 175,000

The Council continued to provide administrative assistance on current projects for the municipalities of Brooker, Hawthorne, Lake City, Live Oak, Mayo, Perry, Trenton and White Springs, and the counties of Lafayette, Suwannee and Taylor.

Florida Recreation Development Assistance Program (FRDAP)

The Council assisted Lafayette County and the municipalities of Brooker and Hampton with the preparation of Florida Recreation Development Assistance Program Grant applications for the development of parks totaling \$200,000 in recreation improvements.

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



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 1998, the MTPO conducted a number of transportation planning activities.

Year 2020 Long Range Transportation Plan Update

During this past year, the MTPO decided to place a greater emphasis on public involvement/participation and consensus building, rather than working to try and improve the computer model that forecasts future traffic.

The MTPO requested and received permission from federal and state agencies to use the existing validated computer model to forecast future traffic. The benefit of using the existing model is that the time and money that would have been used to re-validate the model can now be used for other tasks.

Federal and state agencies also

approved the MTPO's request to make the focus of this update the development of a strategic vision for the community's future transportation system.

During the next two years, the MTPO will be updating the Long Range Transportation Plan for the Gainesville Metropolitan Area. The MTPO has selected a consultant to assist in updating the long-range transportation plan. The consultant selected was the one that had the best proposal and team to work with the public to develop this strategic vision.

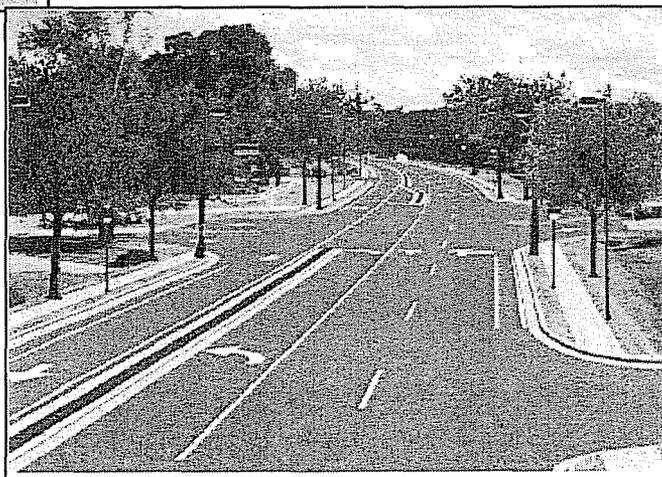
One-Way Pairs Project on State Roads 26/26A

In 1998, the MTPO amended its long range transportation plan to make the One-way Pairs Project on State Roads 26/26A in Gainesville its number one road construction project. MTPO staff are currently using advanced computer-enhanced graphics to show alternative build options for this project.



Existing photo shows current two-lane road with concrete utility poles and single sidewalk.

Computer enhanced graphic of proposed one-way pair project on State Roads 26/26A



Proposed project includes dedicated turn lanes underground utilities, in-street bicycle lanes, dual sidewalks, enhanced lighting and landscaping.

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 Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization (MTPO) for the Gainesville Urbanized Area 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 appoint and staff ten transportation disadvantaged coordinating boards in the region.

At its Fifth Annual Conference, the Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged awarded the 1998 Outstanding Planning Agency of the Year Award to the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council. This award recognizes a planning agency in the State of Florida that went beyond the scope of its work to implement coordinated transportation. In selecting the award recipient, the Commission considered the agency's success staffing

the local coordinating boards, evaluation of the coordinators, strength of the local coordinating boards and efforts to include transportation disadvantaged planning into local plans.

The Commission also awarded Jones Convalescent Services, Inc. the 1998 Operator of the Year Award. Jones Convalescent Services is a contracted transportation service provider in Bradford County. This award recognizes an operator who has delivered services to the transportation disadvantaged in a safe, cost effective and quality service manner. The Commission considered safety records, annual operating report information and driver training in its selection of the operator of the year.

In addition, the Commission awarded Suwannee Valley Transit Authority the 1998 Safety Award. Suwannee Valley Transit Authority is the Community Transportation Coordinator for Columbia, Hamilton and Suwannee counties. This award recognizes a transportation system that has demonstrated an outstanding safety record or initiated new or improved safety programs. The Commission recognized the Suwannee Valley Transit Authority because of its excellent safety record and because a recent Florida Department of Transportation safety review commended Suwannee Valley Transit Authority for its attention to safety matters.



The Transportation Disadvantaged Program helps individuals who are unable to transport themselves because of age, disability or income status.

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 1998.

Regional Programs

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

□ Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Plan 1998 Update

Economic Development

□ Overall Economic Development Program 1997 Annual Report

□ North Central Florida Areawide Development Co., Inc. Annual Report, Oct. 1, 1997 - Sep. 30, 1998

Transportation

□ Fiscal Years 1999-2003 Transportation Improvement Program

□ Fiscal Year 1999 Unified Planning Work Program

□ Quarterly Progress Reports for Regional Transit System Ridership

□ 1998 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

In 1999, the Council will continue a number of programs started in 1998 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 continue to address the issues of corridor beautification and tourism promotion during 1999.

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 1999/2000 to 2003/2004 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 plans to jointly evaluate community transportation coordinators with the Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged in the upcoming year. In addition, the Council will assist in the development of transportation services for WAGES clients in Alachua and Bradford Counties.

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

1997-98 Revenues

Sources

Federal		\$ 66,638
Direct	\$ 50,041	
Pass-through from State	16,597	
State		422,491
Local Government Contracts for Planning		610,288
Gainesville/Alachua County Metropolitan		
Transportation Planning Organization		300,669
North Central Florida Areawide		
Development Co., Inc.		87,352
North Central Florida Economic		
Development Partnership		29,270
Council Members' Contributions (\$.30/capita)		105,758
Local Contributions for Tourism Development		33,649
Other		217,534
Ford Foundation	90,866	
Other Agencies	65,185	
Miscellaneous	61,482	

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Total Revenues		1,873,676
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1997-98 Expenditures

Programs

Regional Activities		276,925
Local Emergency Planning	56,061	
General Planning and Intergovernmental Coordination	155,679	
Review Activities	65,185	
Economic Development		337,440
Big Bend	90,866	
Regional Economic Development	39,270	
Small Business Loans	86,934	
Tourism Development	53,649	
General	66,721	
Local Technical Assistance		670,288
Block Grant Administration	169,674	
Comprehensive Planning	458,114	
Hazardous Waste Planning & Monitoring	42,500	
Transportation		501,153
Comprehensive Transportation Planning	299,106	
Mass Transit Planning	28,503	
Transportation Disadvantaged Planning	173,544	
Program Development		60,300

Total Expenditures		\$ 1,846,105
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NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

2009 NW 67 Place, Suite A
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352/955-2200; SUNCOM 625-2200; Fax 352/955-2209

STAFF

PHONE EXTENSION

Charles Justice, Executive Director	101
Chuck Kiester, Assistant Executive Director	102
Jim Emerson, 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
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
Helen Harris, General Administrative Assistant	119
Brian Kepner, Associate Planner, Local Government Assistance	121
Carol Laine, Planning Administrative Assistant, CDBG	123
Debbie Le Van, General Administrative Assistant	125
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
Andrea Vogler, Planning Technician, Transportation Disadvantaged	113
Marcy Wilson, Administrative Secretary	134

E-MAIL ADDRESSES

General e-mail address for Council is **ncfrpc@ncfrpc.org**. E-mail addresses for each staff member is the last name @ncfrpc.org, e.g. **justice@ncfrpc.org**.

WEB PAGES OF INTEREST

North Central Florida Regional Planning Council - <http://ncfrpc.org>

The Original Florida - <http://originalflorida.org>

North Central Florida Economic Development Partnership - <http://originalfloridabusines.org>

North Central Florida Local Emergency Planning Committee - <http://www.afn.org/~lepc/>

North Central Florida Areawide Development Co., Inc. - <http://adco.org>

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Vice Chairman
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Executive Director
Charles F. Justice