

NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

SERVING



2001 ANNUAL REPORT

- 1 Letter to Our Citizens
- 2 The Region
- 3 The Council
- 4 Regional Programs
- 7 Business Development
- 8 Economic Development
- 10 Local Government Assistance
- 12 Transportation
- 14 Communications
- 15 Upcoming Activities
- 16 Financial Report

A decade ago, the Legislature concluded, and formally recognized in law, that "The Regional Planning Council is recognized as Florida's only multi-purpose entity that is in a position to plan for and coordinate intergovernmental solutions to growth-related problems on greater than local issues, provide technical assistance to local governments, and meet other needs of the communities in each region." Since that time, the Council has made every effort to respond to those responsibilities. The following pages summarize these efforts during the past year.

As we review these activities, it is especially important to point out that much of the credit for the Council's success belongs to a number of our associated agencies. These include the North Central Florida Economic Development Partnership, The Original Florida Tourism Task Force, and the North Central Florida Areawide Development Co., Inc. The combination of these entities is the very backbone of our economic development program. Another such entity is the Hidden Coast Shellfish Producers Association, which has been fundamental in our effort to assist clam farmers with funds that we have received from the Ford Foundation.

In an effort to make our region a safer place in which to live, we have assisted our cities and counties in emergency response planning and in hazardous waste monitoring. We also have provided staff support for

the North Central Florida Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC), an entity which establishes the framework for all of these activities. And, during the past year, another agency which developed out of the activities of the LEPC, has become very active. It is the North Central Florida Regional Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Team, which is becoming very effective in assisting our local governments.

Our technical assistance program has many necessary partners as well. We have 25 contracts with local governments to provide them with comprehensive planning assistance, and six for which we are administering their CDBG programs. Also, we continue to provide staff support to the Gainesville Urbanized Area Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization.

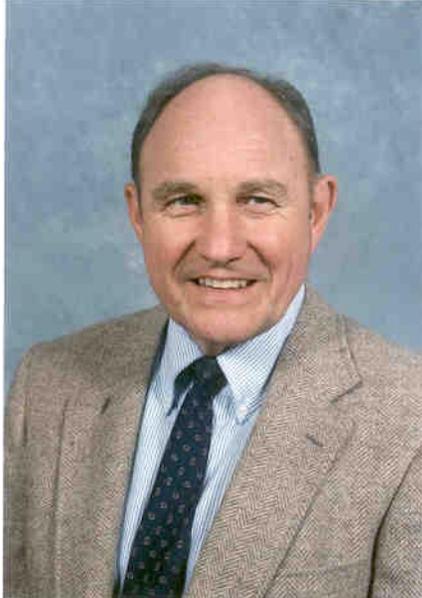
The regional planning program, our major area of responsibility, has been tremendously successful this year also. The Strategic Regional Policy Plan has been reviewed and amended, and the review of the largest development of regional impact (DRI) ever submitted to the Council has been completed. Many agencies and local staff members have participated in these activities, and of course, we appreciate the funding provided by the Florida Department of Community Affairs for this work.

In expanding upon the programs described above, I sincerely hope that the following report clearly de-

scribes the Council as a valuable organization to the region, and one that fulfills the Legislative mandate cited earlier. Again, I emphasize that much of the credit for our success must be shared by the participating member governments, other agencies with which we work and our staff. I wish to express our appreciation for the contributions made by each of these groups and ask that we continue to receive their support.

Sincerely,

James Montgomery
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.

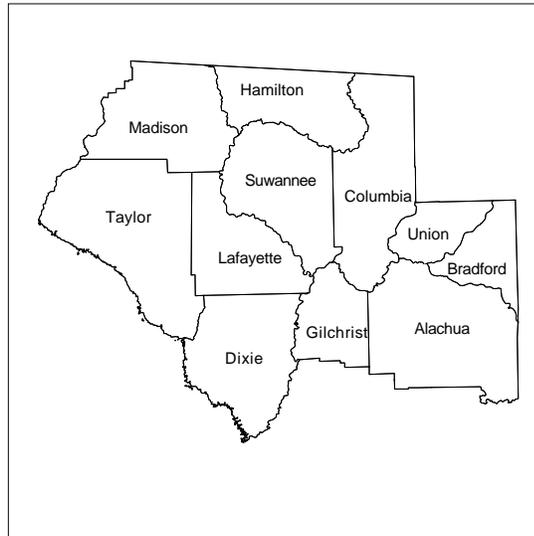
Much of the region is currently sparsely populated although this is beginning to change as people from other parts of the world, nation and Florida are discovering the amenities of north Florida living. According to estimates by the Bureau of Business and Economic Research, University of Florida, the population of the region in the year 2000 was 435,444, an increase of 81,248 people over the 1990 Census count, representing a 22.9% increase for this decade.

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 25 units of general purpose local government. Membership includes all 11 counties and 14 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

- * John Carlson
- * Minnie Crevasse
Robert "Hutch" Hutchinson
- * William Naulls
Dave Newport
- * Tom Robinson
Penny Wheat

ALACHUA

Gib Coerper

ARCHER

L. B. Nelson

GAINESVILLE

John Barrow
Chuck Chestnut
Warren Nielsen

HAWTHORNE

Eddie Martin

HIGH SPRINGS

Bill Coughlin
Kathy Pults#

MICANOPY

Steve Elder

NEWBERRY

Grady Hartzog

WALDO

Louie Davis

BRADFORD COUNTY

- John Cooper
- * David Dodge

STARKE

Steve Futch

COLUMBIA COUNTY

- James Montgomery
- * Dixie Donovan

LAKE CITY

W. Ray Kirkland

DIXIE COUNTY

- John D. Driggers
- * Lorene J. Thomas

GILCHRIST COUNTY

- Wilbur Bush
- * Emory Philman

HAMILTON COUNTY

- * Jim Tompkins
Lewis Vaughn

JASPER

Matthew Hawkins

LAFAYETTE COUNTY

Gail Garrard

MADISON COUNTY

- Roy Ellis
- * James L. King

CITY OF MADISON

Myra Valentine

SUWANNEE COUNTY

- * Sandra K. Haas
Douglas M. Udell

LIVE OAK

Garth R. "Sonny" Nobles, Jr.

TAYLOR COUNTY

- * Charles T. Maultsby
Edd Sadler

PERRY

William Alexander

UNION COUNTY

- Melaine "Red" Clyatt
- * Alan "Bo" D. Hammock

**Gubernatorial Appointees
#Non-voting representative*

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

Gene Caputo, *St. John's River Water Management District*
Jodie Hopkins, *Department of Environmental Protection*
Dave Byrd, *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 past decade, 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 Not many changes have occurred since the enactment of significant changes to Florida's growth management laws by the 1993 Legislature. In fact, it took much of the intervening time to implement the changes made at that time.

One of the more significant changes was the conversion of the Comprehensive Regional Policy Plan (CRPP) which was required to address all 26 goals of the State Comprehensive Plan (SCP), to the Strategic Regional Policy Plan (SRPP) which is required to address 5 issue areas: Affordable Housing, Economic Development, Emergency Preparedness, Natural Resources of Regional Significance, and Regional Transportation.

The Council adopted its SRPP in May, 1996, and, due to objections of the Florida Department of Community Affairs and the Governor's Office, amended the plan in 1997 to include maps depicting the locations where sightings of threatened and endangered species have occurred in past years, along with policies for their protection.

In accordance with Florida law, the Council completed a 5-year assessment (EAR) of its regional plan during 2000. It found a number of successes, but it also found several areas where the plan needs to be updated to incorporate changes created by recent legislation. These proposed changes are currently undergoing state and local review.

It is anticipated that the changes will be formally adopted by rule by the spring of 2002.

Hazardous Materials Planning Program

The Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA) gives Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPC) the job of increasing chemical safety in our communities. Florida's Accident Prevention Program adds the additional duty to help prevent chemical accidents from happening in the first place. The emergency response plan for the North Central Florida Region was last updated in May 2001.

The NCFLEPC helped to start the North Central Florida Regional Hazardous Materials Response Team, based primarily on Gainesville Fire Rescue's hazmat team. Planning Council staff assisted the LEPC in writing an interlocal agreement, initially for 5 counties and 3 municipalities, to allow responders from different agencies to coordinate their actions better at a chemical spill.

The goal is to expand the team to the entire 11-county region once it is fully functional. These local govern-

ments are also adopting cost recovery ordinances so that the spiller, and not the local government, pays the cost of an emergency response to a chemical spill.

Grants from the Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness (HMEP) Program continue to fund training and planning programs. Free hazardous materials emergency response training classes were held for first responders including firefighters, law enforcement, emergency medical, and public works personnel. Over 3,700 people have been trained during the first seven years of the training program.

The internet and email are being used to help distribute hazardous materials safety information to responders, regulated companies and the general public. The LEPC website (ncflepc.org) is operated out of the Council office, and received approximately 8,000 visits per month during 2001.

The LEPC was named the winner of the 2001 Chemical Educational Foundation Community Award at a national meeting held September 20, 2001, in Charlotte, North Carolina.

Team Chairman Cliff Chapman accepting check from Director of the Florida Division of Emergency Management, Craig Fugate (on right)



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 the year 2001, the Committee conducted a review of 178 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.



During the year 2001, the Council completed its review of the Alachua West Development of Regional Impact project which is being planned to surround the new Dollar General site in the City of Alachua.

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 Company (ADCO) is a U. S. Small Business Administration Certified Development Company (CDC) which contracts with the Council for staff support. The program is governed by a 9-member Board of Directors, whose members include business owners, community leaders, and bankers. The Board provides financing assistance through the SBA 504 Program to small businesses in a 12-county area.

There are more than 260 CDCs in the United States, and nine operate in Florida. Over \$13 billion in SBA 504 loans have been funded by CDCs nationwide as a part of the SBA's Economic Development Program, with over \$2.2 billion approved in FYE 2001.

ADCO funded five loans, totaling \$986,000, in FYE 2001, and six loans totaling \$2,987,000 were authorized. These approvals will account for 71 new or retained jobs in the area.

ADCO has funded SBA 504 loans totaling more than \$11 million, which have provided 393 jobs, in addition to the impact on property taxes for

the respective counties. The total impact of the projects, including bank financing and owners equity, was over \$46 million. Fifteen financial institutions have participated with ADCO in providing this financing.

The SBA 504 Loan Program provides financing for fixed assets, such as buildings, machinery and equipment, when the project will create or retain jobs in the community. Businesses must be for-profit and meet size requirements to be eligible. Loans are made in cooperation with a bank or other lending institution to finance as much as 90% of eligible project costs.

The 504 loan is secured by a second lien on the project assets, and provides 20-year, fixed rate maturities for real estate, and 10-year terms for machinery and equipment. New businesses or special purpose properties may require a higher down payment than the typical 10% down for conventional properties and existing businesses.

SBA 504 loans are funded by debentures sold in the open market which are guaranteed by the U. S. Small Business Administration, thus giving small businesses access to the capital markets. As a result,

government funds are not used to fund the projects.

In addition to packaging, closing, and servicing its SBA 504 portfolio, ADCO fields inquiries from current and prospective small businesses in the region which are seeking financial advice, with questions handled and referrals suggested, where appropriate.

Awards received during 2001 include the following:

* National Association of Development Companies, Timothy J. McDowell Memorial Award for Excellence; and

* U.S. Small Business Administration, Most Improved CDC for the Year 2000

The Other Store (below) is a new convenience store located in Lake City on US 90, near I-75, constructed at the location of a former gas station and auto repair shop. Financing was provided by an SBA 504 loan, together with first mortgage financing by Columbia County Bank.



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 (EDA) designated the region as an Economic Development District in 1978, the Council continues to maintain a high level of involvement in providing technical assistance to local governments and development authorities in order to promote economic growth.

8 In 2001, the Council continued to work with the Florida State Rural Development Council (FSRDC), the Governor's Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development (OTTED), and Enterprise Florida, Inc., in further developing the state's strategic plan as it addresses the problems and needs of the North Central Florida Region.

"The Original Florida" Tourism Development Activities

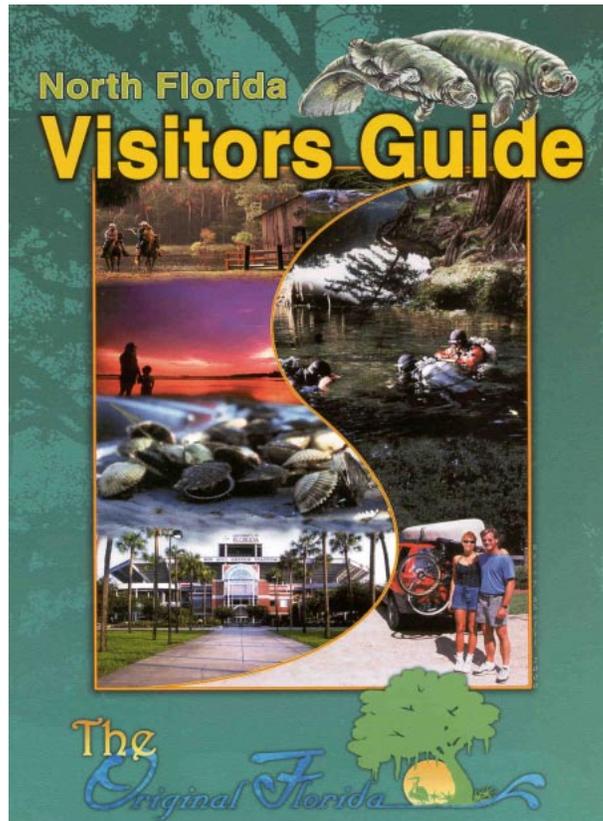
The Original Florida Tourism Task Force is comprised of representatives from each of the participating counties who are appointed by County Commissions to oversee and direct the tourism promotion effort. The members have varied backgrounds which they bring to the program, but they share one thing in 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 and historic resources which are the mainstay of the area's attractions.

With financial assistance from VISIT FLORIDA and OTTED, the Task Force was able to participate in a number of consumer shows during this past year. Among the consumer shows the Task Force participated in was the World Travel

Market in London, England.

The Task Force continues to believe the program can be enhanced by creating and promoting "private/public partnerships." Among those partnerships is a partnership agreement with Florida Media, Inc., publisher of Florida Monthly magazine. The arrangement promotes *The Original Florida* Region as a tourism destination, both nationally and internationally.

Finally, the Task Force was successful in developing and printing (for distribution) a 72-page, full color magazine, entitled, "*The Original Florida* Visitors Guide." The publication was made possible with the assistance of the Alachua County Visitors & Convention Bureau, Chambers of Commerce, Tourist Development Councils, local governments of the eleven counties of *The Original Florida* Tourism Task Force, Enterprise Florida, Inc., the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council, the Suwannee River Water Management District, The Ford Foundation, the U.S. Economic Development Administration, and VISIT FLORIDA.



North Central Florida Economic Development Partnership

In late 1996, the eleven counties of the North Central Florida Region 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 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.

With assistance from OTTED and Enterprise Florida, efforts continued in the past year with promoting a regional identity. Also, the Partnership participated in three trade shows in Chicago and one trade show in New Orleans.

From left to right W.D. Higginbotham, NCFRPC; D. Capo, HCSPA; J. Spradley, HCSPA; J. Valentine, Dixie County Commission; J. Fulford, HCSPA; L. Sturmer, IFAS, working on terms of the Council's \$75,000 grant.

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 and a third commencing October 1, 1999. The completion date for the third grant has been extended through December 31, 2002.

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. Currently, the Council is assisting the Association with efforts to improve the nursery and develop a revolving loan program to assist the clam farmers with seed purchases. This includes providing a \$75,000 grant to the Hidden Coast Shellfish Producers Association (HCSPA) to help insure that the successes achieved since 1997 will be sustained.



LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE

During 2001, 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 2001, 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, concurrency assessments of plats, and site and development plans.

In particular, the Council assisted 6 counties and 14 municipalities process 281 development-related applications. This assistance included the review and adoption of 66 comprehensive plan map and text amendments. The Council also assisted these local governments in making 92 land development regulation map and text amendments, 71 land development regulation special exceptions and special permits, 28 concurrency assessments for

plats, variances, non-conforming use changes and development orders, and 24 site and development 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.

Pizza Hut under construction in Lake City.



Community Development Block Grants (CDBG)

The Council assisted local governments in assessing their community development needs in 2001. These assessments addressed the need for housing rehabilitation, commercial revitalization, economic development and neighborhood revitalization. These community development needs assessments resulted in the Council assisting with the preparation of the following Community Development Block Grant applications in 2001:

Housing

Bradford County - \$750,000
Taylor County - \$600,000
City of Madison - \$600,000

Commercial Revitalization

City of Madison - \$600,000

Economic Development

City of Perry - \$235,000

The Council continued to provide administrative assistance on current projects for Columbia and Taylor Counties, Live Oak, Mayo and Perry. In addition, administrative assistance was initiated for new projects in Suwannee County, Lake City and Perry.

Florida Recreation Development Assistance Program (FRDAP)

The Council assisted Columbia and Union Counties with the preparation of Florida Recreation Development Assistance Program Grant applications for the development of parks totaling \$250,000 in recreation improvements.

Community Development Block Grant funds were utilized to upgrade the sanitary sewer plant in Mayo.



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 coordinated planning program is required in order for the area to receive federal funds for transportation projects. The Council serves as 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 for counties to receive state funds for transportation services to low-income individuals, elderly individuals, persons with disabilities and children-at-risk.

MTPO ACTIVITIES

In the year 2001, the MTPO conducted a number of transportation planning activities.

Countywide Bicycle MasterPlan- The MTPO approved a proactive plan for constructing bicycle facilities throughout Alachua County.

Main Street- The MTPO approved plans to reconstruct Main Street between S. Depot Avenue and N. 8th Avenue. This project will reduce the four travel lanes to two lanes, provide on-street parking and bikelanes, and widen sidewalks for pedestrians.

Plan East Gainesville- The MTPO is coordinating a special area plan for East Gainesville that overlaps City of Gainesville and Alachua County boundaries. This planning effort will result in an updated land use map, and conservation and transportation plans for the area. The project is being jointly funded

by the Florida Department of Transportation, the MTPO, Alachua County, the City of Gainesville and Gainesville Regional Utilities. A resource center for this project has been established, within the study area, at the Gainesville Technology Enterprise Center on Hawthorne Road.

Review of City of Gainesville and Alachua County Comprehensive Plans- The MTPO reviewed these plans for consistency with the MTPO adopted 20-year plan for transportation called "*The Livable Communities Reinvestment Plan.*"

US 441 Paynes Prairie Bicycle Safety Study- This popular cycling route has been the scene of several fatal crashes as it passes through the Paynes Prairie State Preserve. The MTPO is investigating ways to improve safety in this area by developing and evaluating alternative cross-section options for US 441.



Plan East Gainesville Subcommittee Chairman, Alachua County Commissioner Rodney Long, introduces the planning study to over 120 participants who attended the kickoff meeting.

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 serves as the planning agency for Alachua County. As the planning agency, the Council conducts planning studies to increase 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.

This year, the MTPO applied for and received \$35,600 in grant funds from the Florida Department of Transportation to provide additional trips to disadvantaged individuals in Alachua County.

At the 9th Annual Training and Technology Conference, the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged presented the following awards to members of coordinating boards and transportation providers in the region:

- 2001 Safety Award to Suwannee River Economic Council. The Safety Award recognizes the transportation system in the State of Florida that has demonstrated an outstanding safety record or initiated new or improved safety programs.
- 2001 Dispatcher/Scheduler of the Year award to Ms. Deanna Land, Suwannee River Economic Council Dispatcher. This award recognizes a dispatcher or scheduler who has performed in an outstanding manner and has shown care and concern for their passengers.
- Certificate of Achievement to Ms. Ruth Jenkins who is a member of the Union County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board for her volunteer service on the Board.
- Certificate of Achievement to A & A Transport for their outstanding service as the Community Transportation Coordinator for Union County.

Ms. Deanna Land and Mr. Matt Pearson of Suwannee River Economic Council receive awards at the 2001 Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged Training and Technology Conference.



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 the year 2001.

Regional Programs

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

Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Plan 2001 Update

Proposed Amendments to the Strategic Regional Policy Plan

Economic Development

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy 2000 Annual Report

North Central Florida Areawide Development Co., Inc. Annual Report, Oct. 1, 2000 - Sep. 30, 2001

The Original Florida's Visitor Guide

Transportation

Fiscal Years 2002-2006 Transportation Improvement Program

Fiscal Year 2002 Unified Planning Work Program

Annual Report for Regional Transit System Ridership

MTPO List of Priority Projects - 2001

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 2002, the Council will continue a number of programs started in the year 2001 or earlier, 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 abut the corridor. The Council will continue to address the issues of corridor beautification and tourism promotion during 2002.

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.

Hazards analyses will be updated for facilities that contain extremely hazardous substances for Columbia, Dixie, Hamilton, Lafayette, Madison, Suwannee, Taylor and Union counties.

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 and business growth.

The Original Florida Tourism Promotion

The Council will continue to staff this organization in the implementation of the tourism plan.

North Central Florida Economic Development Partnership

The Council will continue to staff this organization which joins the resources of 11 counties addressing 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., (ADCO), SBA 504 loans, both guaranteed by the U.S. Small Business Administration.

Transportation

Fiscal Years 2002/2003 to 2006/ 2007 Transportation Improvement Program

Working in cooperation with the Florida Department of Transportation, Council staff will update this five-year funding program of transportation projects for the Gainesville metropolitan area.

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.

Transportation Disadvantaged Program

As required by the Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged, the Council will issue requests for proposals for Community Transportation Coordinators as contracts expire. The Council will also continue to provide staff support to the local coordinating boards and technical support to the Community Transportation Coordinators.

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

2000-2001 Revenues

Sources

Federal		\$	94,957
Direct	\$	68,744	
Pass-through from State		26,213	
State			384,642
Local Government Contracts for Planning			480,077
Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization for the Gainesville Urbanized Area			419,343
North Central Florida Areawide Development Co., Inc.			82,464
North Central Florida Economic Development Partnership			33,228
North Central Florida Regional Hazardous Materials Response Team			16,404
The Original Florida Tourism Task Force			56,968
Council Members' Contributions (\$.30/capita)			99,697
Other			124,789
Ford Foundation		31,043	
Other Agencies and Organizations		63,208	
Miscellaneous		30,538	
Total Revenues			\$ 1,792,569

16

2000-2001 Expenditures

Programs

Regional Activities		\$	302,531
Emergency Planning	\$	57,976	
North Central Florida Regional Hazardous Materials Response Team		16,404	
General Planning and Intergovernmental Coordination		165,769	
Review Activities		62,382	
Economic Development			362,939
North Central Florida Economic Development Partnership		103,719	
North Central Florida Areawide Development Co., Inc		82,464	
Original Florida Tourism Task Force		113,519	
General Economic Development		63,237	
Local Technical Assistance			510,028
Block Grant Administration		177,830	
Comprehensive Planning		294,350	
Hazardous Waste Planning & Monitoring		37,848	
Transportation			591,119
Comprehensive Transportation Planning		340,341	
Mass Transit Planning		53,852	
Transportation Disadvantaged Planning		196,926	
Program Development			51,743
Total Expenditures			\$ 1,818,360

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

STAFF

PHONE EXTENSION

Charles Justice, Executive Director	101
Chuck Kiester, Assistant Executive Director	102
Ann Brosius, Finance Director	105
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
Marlie Sanderson, Director of Transportation Planning	103
Robin Barnes, Secretary	100
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
Carol Laine, Planning Administrative Assistant, CDBG	123
Debbie Le Van, Planning Administrative Assistant, Local Government Assistance	124
Dwayne Mundy, Senior Planner, LEPC, Hazardous Materials	108
Kevin Parrish, Database Manager, GIS	133
Candy Ramseur, Secretary	117
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://ncflepc.org>**

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

I-75 Corridor Council - **<http://www.i75floridagateway.com>**

Scenic U.S. 441: **<http://www.scenicus441.com>**

NCFRPC

PRESORTED STANDARD
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit No. 475
Gainesville, FL 32601

***NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA
REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL
2009 NW 67 Place, Suite A
Gainesville, Florida 32653-1603
(352)955-2200***

Chairman

James Montgomery

Vice Chairman

Louie Davis

Secretary-Treasurer

Edd Sadler

Executive Director

Charles F. Justice