

NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

SERVING



2003 ANNUAL REPORT

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

As chairman of the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council, I am pleased to provide this report on our activities during the past year. It was a challenging and eventful time for all of our members. As has been true in the past, our services were extensive, and even in this era of constantly shrinking resources and staff, we were able to provide additional program support to both local and state agencies.

As the report relates, we continued to carry out state mandated services in growth management, provided essential technical assistance to our cities and counties, and staffed transportation functions for the Gainesville Urbanized Area Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization, as well as the region-wide Transportation Disadvantaged Program.

Some of our other successful programs were altered somewhat during the year. For example, in Economic Development, our small business loan program was transferred to a statewide agency which will be more efficient and effective. This will give us the ability to place greater emphasis on such projects as improving the revolving loan program which was created to provide "clam seed" to the region's coastal clam farmers, preparing to support a newly designated "Rural Area of Critical Economic Concern" when it becomes functional, and maintaining access to Economic Development Administration programs for our local governments.

Our hazardous materials program has been expanded to include "homeland security" activities by participating in extensive training sessions, and by providing technical assistance to cities and counties to develop required plans and programs. Furthermore, the Regional Hazmat Team has taken on more responsibilities, and it is preparing to expand its service area.

In the following pages is a complete description of the Council's activities, and the contributions it has made to improve the quality of life in north central Florida. Also included is a brief look at the coming program year. The report concludes with a brief financial statement, and how to find more information about the Council by contacting staff and accessing the internet.

As I leave the position of chairman, I want to express my appreciation to my fellow local government and gubernatorial representatives on the Council. They have served well and provided me with much needed support. I also want to thank the staff for their tireless effort in seeing that our policies are carried out. With such dedicated and competent decision-makers and professional employees, the Council is sure to continue its successful tradition of providing worthwhile services.

Sincerely,



Louie Davis
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 sparsely populated although this is changing 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 Economic and Business Research, University of Florida, the population of the region in the year 2003 was 459,450, an increase of 84,005 people over the 1993 estimate of 375,445, representing a 22.4% increase for the past ten years.

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 retail center and, together with Alachua County, accounts for 50 percent of total population of the region.

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 are 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
Cynthia Chestnut
- * Minnie Crevasse
Lee Pinkoson
Penny Wheat

ALACHUA

Tamara Robbins

ARCHER

L. B. Nelson

GAINESVILLE

Ed Braddy
Craig Lowe
Rick Bryant

HAWTHORNE

Eddie Martin

HIGH SPRINGS

Bill Coughlin

MICANOPY

Paul Remzey Samarrai

NEWBERRY

Grady Hartzog

WALDO

Louie Davis

BRADFORD COUNTY

- John Hersey
- * David Dodge

STARKE

Steve Futch

COLUMBIA COUNTY

- James Montgomery
- * Dixie Donovan

LAKE CITY

W. Ray Kirkland

DIXIE COUNTY

- John Driggers
- * Lorene Thomas

GILCHRIST COUNTY

- Mitchell Gentry
- * Emory Philman

HAMILTON COUNTY

Lewis Vaughn

JASPER

Matthew Hawkins

LAFAYETTE COUNTY

Gail Garrard

MADISON COUNTY

Roy Ellis
* James King

CITY OF MADISON

Myra Valentine

SUWANNEE COUNTY

- * Sandra Haas
Douglas Udell

LIVE OAK

Garth "Sonny" Nobles, Jr.

TAYLOR COUNTY

- * Charles Maultsby
Edd Sadler

PERRY

William Alexander

UNION COUNTY

- Ricky Jenkins
- * Alan "Bo" Hammock

**Gubernatorial Appointees*

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

Gene Caputo, *St. John's River Water Management District*
Marvin Miller, *Department of Environmental Protection*
Dave Byrd, *Department of Transportation*
Kirk Webster, *Suwannee River Water Management District*

Mission Statement: *To improve the quality of life of the Region's citizens, by coordinating growth management, protecting regional resources, promoting economic development and providing technical services to local governments.*

REGIONAL PROGRAMS

As the 11 counties comprising the North Central Florida region continue to increase in population, the residents of the region 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 Pursuant to state growth management laws, the Council is responsible for preparing and adopting a Strategic Regional Policy Plan addressing five issue areas: Affordable Housing, Economic Development, Emergency Preparedness, Natural Resources of Regional Significance and Regional Transportation.

The Council adopted its Strategic Regional Policy Plan in May 1996 and amended the plan in 1997 to include maps depicting the locations where threatened and endangered species have been seen in past years, along with policies for their protection.

In accordance with Florida law, the Council completed a 5-year assessment of its regional plan during 2000. It found a number of successes, but it also found several areas where the plan needed to be updated to incorporate changes created by recent legislation. These proposed changes underwent state and local review during 2002. In 2003, the Council adopted amendments to the Strategic Regional Policy Plan.

Goals and policies concerning the provision of affordable housing, and maintaining levels of service on the regional road network were amended by the Council. In addition, several springs were added as Natural Resources of Regional Significance and historic buildings and districts were identified as Regional Facilities.



The Council assisted the Santa Fe Land Trust and Bradford County with the preparation of a Florida Communities Trust grant application to purchase environmentally sensitive lands along the shoreline of Santa Fe Lake

Review Activities

One of the ways the Council implements the regional plan is through its 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 2003, the Committee conducted reviews of 131 different projects submitted by private development, private not-for-profit corporations, units of local government, as well as state and federal agencies. The Committee reviewed the following types of items.

- [] 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 U. S. 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. Ensure 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 reviewed an application filed with the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to convert the Gladys Morse Elementary School in the City of Perry into a senior center.

PUBLIC SAFETY AND REGULATORY COMPLIANCE PROGRAMS

Regional Response Plan and Hazards Analyses

In 2003, the Local Emergency Planning Committee continued its efforts to ensure that emergency personnel are properly trained to protect the general public from potential dangers of an accidental or a deliberate chemical release.

Hazards analyses were updated in 2003 for facilities that contain extremely hazardous substances in Columbia, Dixie, Hamilton, Lafayette, Madison, Suwannee, Taylor and Union counties.

Hazardous Materials

The Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act gives the Local Emergency Planning Committee the job of increasing chemical safety in our communities. Florida's Accident Prevention Program assigns additional duties to the Local Emergency Planning Committee to help prevent chemical accidents from occurring in the first place. The emergency response plan for the North Central Florida Region was updated in May 2003.

In addition, the Council provided staff support to the North Central Florida Regional Hazardous Materials Response (Team). The Team is comprised of 5 counties and 3 municipalities that have joined together through an interlocal agreement to create a regional hazmat team.

In 2003, Council staff helped write a successful competitive grant for \$143,400. Four grants have now provided \$515,940 worth of equipment and training to local governments since August 2001.

These funds have been used to place four hazmat response trailers in service in primarily rural areas. The Team provided affordable advanced hazardous materials training for local responders using a fifth training trailer.

Grants from the Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness Program continued to fund hazardous materials training and planning programs. Over 4,550 people have been trained during the first eight years of the Program.

The Local Emergency Planning Committee website (ncflepc.org) is operated out of the Council office, and received over 150,000 hits during 2003.

Hazardous Waste Compliance Assistance

All counties in Florida are required by law to conduct annual site visits to verify the hazardous waste management practices of 20 percent of the businesses and government agencies in a county. In 2003, new reporting requirements were placed on businesses classified as hazardous waste generators. The Council provided compliance assistance during the required verification visits.

Terrorism Preparedness

In 2003, Council staff helped plan and served as an exercise controller for two regional terrorism exercises in cooperation with Regional Domestic Security Task Forces.

In addition, the Council provided technical assistance to its local governments by preparing Continuity of Operations Plans and Terrorism Response Annexes. The Continuity of Operations Plans provide guidance on keeping local governments operating if critical facilities become unusable due to either natural or man-made disasters. The Terrorism Annexes define how local responders will work with regional, state and federal responders if a terrorist incident occurs.



The Team conducted a Hazmat Boot Camp to train emergency responders.

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) operated by the staff of the Council. The program is governed by a nine 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 17-county area. The area was increased from 12 counties previously served, by virtue of an expansion request that was approved by the SBA in August.

Four loans, totaling \$1,041,000, were approved in Fiscal Year 2003, and loans totaling \$662,000 were funded. These loans will fund 96 new or existing jobs in the area.

ADCO has funded SBA 504 loans totaling more than \$14 million, which have provided 550 jobs, and increased property taxes for local governments. The total impact of the projects, including bank financing and owner's equity, was over \$55 million.

Eighteen 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. Business 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 percent 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 who are seeking financial advice.



Cracker Boy's Country Cafe is a new restaurant located in Hawthorne on U. S. 301. Financing was provided by an SBA 504 loan together with a first mortgage from a private financial institution.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

During the past year, the Economic Development Program of the Council included economic development planning and implementation activities, and tourism promotion activities.

Economic Development Planning

Since the U. S. Department of Commerce 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 2003, the Council continued to work with the Florida State Rural Development Council, the Governor's Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development, 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 the Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development, the Task Force participated in a number of Small Business Partner Opportunities as offered by VISIT FLORIDA. The Task Force also participated in a number of consumer shows during this past year. In addition, the Task Force successfully conducted three familiarization tours of the region for travel writers.

The Task Force distributed previously printed county "Rack Cards." VISIT FLORIDA provided space, free of charge, on a special kiosk in each of its five welcome centers for distribution of the "Rack Cards." Also, the Task Force provided each county with "Rack Cards" for local distribution.

Recently, the Task Force updated and printed 200,000 of the **Natural North Florida** brochure and map. The publication was made possible with the financial assistance of tourist development councils and local governments of the eleven counties of *The Original Florida* Tourism Task Force, Enterprise Florida, Inc., the Planning Council, The Ford Foundation, Economic Development Administration, VISIT FLORIDA, and Florida Power. Additionally, Florida Power provided funding assistance enabling the Task Force to print the 200,000 copies.

In 2003, the Task Force expanded its membership with the addition of Leon County as an active member of the Task Force. 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.



The Original Florida Tourism Task Force promoted nature-based and heritage tourism highlighting bed and breakfast inns throughout north central Florida such as the Herlong Mansion Bed and Breakfast in the Town of Micanopy.

North Central Florida Economic Development Partnership

In late 1996, the eleven counties of the North Central Florida Region joined together forming a regional partnership known as the North Central Florida Economic Development Partnership. The formation of the regional partnership provided 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.

With assistance from the Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development and Enterprise Florida, Inc., efforts continued during the past year in promoting a regional identity.

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 extended through December 31, 2002.

In 1998, the Council assisted the shellfish farmers in forming a not for profit corporation named the "Hidden Coast Shellfish Producers Association, Inc." With technical assistance from the University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, 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 Board of County Commissioners, the Association successfully built a land based shellfish nursery capable of producing over 20 million clam seed annually for area clam farmers. In 2002, the Council provided \$12,000 to assist the Association with needed improvements to the nursery.

Further, the Council provided \$40,000 for the acquisition of hard clam seed and the establishment of a revolving loan program to assist the clam farmers with future seed purchases. In 2003, Council staff continued to work with the Association in maintaining the effectiveness of the loan program.



LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE

During 2003, 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 2003, 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.

Ongoing 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 8 counties and 11 municipalities process 213 development-related applications. This assistance included the review and adoption of 72 comprehensive plan map and text amendments. The Council also assisted these local governments in making 65 land development regulation map and text amendments, 50 land development regulation special exceptions and special permits, 26 concurrency assessments for plats, variances, nonconforming use changes and development orders, and site and development plans.

The Planning Council assisted municipalities and counties in preparing concurrency assessments to evaluate the impact of development on the level of service for roads, water, sanitary sewer, solid waste, stormwater drainage, and recreation facilities, such as the new Tri-County Bank building in the City of Trenton.



Community Development Block Grants (CDBG)

The Council assisted local governments in assessing their community development needs in 2003. These assessments addressed the need for housing rehabilitation, commercial revitalization, economic development and neighborhood revitalization. Utilizing these community development needs assessments, the Council assisted with the preparation of the following Community Development Block Grant applications in 2003:

Commercial Revitalization

City of Live Oak - \$700,000

Economic Development

City of Lake City - \$750,000

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

The Council assisted Suwannee County with the preparation of a Community Development Block Grant application to construct an elevated water supply tank for the community of Wellborn.



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 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 2003, the MTPO conducted a number of transportation planning activities, including the following.

MTPO Boundary and Voting Membership Report

The MTPO approved a reapportionment plan concerning its voting membership and planning area boundary and submitted this plan to the Governor for approval. The plan included major policy decisions made by the MTPO to have the MTPO's planning area boundary include only the Gainesville Metropolitan Area and not expand the boundary to include all of Alachua County. In addition, the MTPO decided to keep its voting membership the same, which is the Mayor and the remaining six City of Gainesville Commissioners and all five Alachua County Commissioners. However, the MTPO did make one change in its membership to include

one additional nonvoting representative selected by the Alachua County League of Cities to represent rural areas within Alachua County.

Plan East Gainesville

The MTPO approved a special area plan for East Gainesville that overlaps City of Gainesville and Alachua County boundaries. This planning effort resulted in updated land use, conservation and transportation plans for this area. The MTPO referred this plan to the Gainesville City Commission and the Alachua County Commission, requesting that it be included in their respective comprehensive plans as a Special Area Plan.

Year 2025 Long Range Transportation Plan

In 2003, the MTPO selected The Corradino Group to assist in updating the Year 2025 Long Range Transportation Plan for the Gainesville Metropolitan Area. This planning effort will take all of calendar years 2004 and 2005 to complete and will result in updated transportation project priorities.



Public involvement played a significant role in the transportation planning process of the Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization.

Transportation Disadvantaged Program

During 2003, the Council continued to serve as the designated official planning agency for nine counties in the region for Florida's 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 provide transportation services to individuals who are unable to transport themselves because of age, disability or income status. The Council and the MTPO appoint and staff ten transportation disadvantaged boards in the region.

This year, the MTPO received \$57,750 in Federal Transit Administration U.S.C. Section 5311 grant funds through the Florida Department of Transportation. These funds will be used to provide additional public transportation service in Alachua County.

In addition, the Council assisted the Alachua County Transportation Coordinator apply for Rural Capital Assistance Grant Funds. As a result of this coordinated effort, The State awarded Alachua County \$90,000 in grant funds to purchase two vehicles. The Council assisted the City of Archer in securing grant funds used to purchase vehicles for the "Archer Shuttle" which will provide transportation from Archer to Gainesville.

At the 11th Annual Training and Technology Conference, the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged awarded the Council the 2003 Designated Official Planning Agency of the Year award. 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 City of Archer purchased vehicles to provide transportation disadvantaged van service between Archer and Gainesville.

COMMUNICATIONS

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 2003.

Regional Programs

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

Public Safety and Regulatory Compliance Program

- Draft Continuity of Operations (COOP) and Terrorism Response Annexes for Bradford, Columbia, Dixie, Lafayette, Suwannee and Taylor Counties.
- Hazards Analysis Updates for Columbia, Dixie, Hamilton, Lafayette, Madison, Suwannee, Taylor and Union Counties.
- Columbia County Hazardous Materials Exercise After Action Report.
- Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Plan 2003 Update.

Economic Development

- Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy 2002-2003 Annual Report.
- North Central Florida Areawide Development Co., Inc. Annual Report, Oct. 1, 2002 - Sept. 30, 2003.
- *The Original Florida's* Brochure and Map

Transportation

- Fiscal Years 2004-2008 Transportation Improvement Program.
- Fiscal Year 2004 Unified Planning Work Program
- Annual Report for Regional Transit System Ridership
- MTPO List of Priority Projects-2003
- 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 2004, the Council will continue a number of programs started in the year 2003 or earlier, and initiate a number of new projects and activities as follows.

Regional Activities

I-75 Corridor Council

The Withlacoochee and North Central Florida Regional Planning Councils have established an 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 2004.

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.

Completion of Continuity of Operations Plans (COOPs) and Terrorism Response Annexes will occur for Bradford, Columbia, Dixie, Lafayette, Suwannee and Taylor Counties.

The Council will review School District Emergency Plans for 11 counties.

The Council will continue providing staff support to the North Central Florida Regional Hazardous Materials Response Team.

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.

Transportation

Fiscal Years 2004/2005 to 2008/2009 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 Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization 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

The Council will participate in the Medicaid Nonemergency Transportation Request for Proposals process as an evaluation team member. 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

2002-2003 Revenues

Sources

Federal		\$	109,972
Direct	\$	62,106	
Pass-through from State		47,866	
State			449,784
Local Government Contracts for Planning			337,136
Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization for the Gainesville Urbanized Area			433,191
North Central Florida Areawide Development Co., Inc.			120,738
North Central Florida Regional Hazardous Materials Response Team			93,117
The Original Florida Tourism Task Force			45,927
Council Members' Contributions (\$.30 per capita)			108,142
Other			135,530
Ford Foundation		60,966	
Other Agencies and Organizations		57,682	
Miscellaneous		16,882	
<hr/>			
Total Revenues			\$ 1,833,537

16

2002-2003 Expenditures

Programs

Regional Activities		\$	471,283
LEPC, Planning and Training	\$	67,234	
Hazardous Materials Planning and Monitoring		155,716	
COOPS/TAPS		18,244	
General Planning and Intergovernmental Coordination		174,907	
Review Activities		55,182	
Economic Development			350,343
North Central Florida Economic Development Partnership		27,942	
North Central Florida Areawide Development Co., Inc.		120,738	
Original Florida Tourism Promotion Program		68,149	
General Economic Development		133,514	
Local Technical Assistance			371,363
Community Development Block Grant Administration		92,736	
Comprehensive Planning		233,973	
Other Local		44,652	
Transportation			596,301
Comprehensive Transportation Planning		320,566	
Mass Transit Planning		56,654	
Transportation Disadvantaged Planning		219,081	
Program Development			20,359
<hr/>			
Total Expenditures			\$ 1,809,649

NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

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Scott Koons, Assistant Executive Director	104
W.D. Higginbotham, Economic Development Program Director	106
Scott Koons, Director of Regional & Local Government Programs	104
Dwayne Mundy, Director of Public Safety and Regulatory Compliance Programs	108
Thomas Olmsted, Finance Director	105
Marlie Sanderson, Director of Transportation Planning	103
Robin Barnes, Secretary	100
Steve Dopp, Senior Planner, Regional Planning, Census Info	109
Enid Ehrbar, Principal Planner, Local Government Planning Assistance	111
Michael Escalante, Principal Planner, Transportation	114
Lynn Franson-Godfrey, Senior Planner, Transportation Disadvantaged	110
Thomas Hill, Senior Planner, Transportation	149
Carol Laine, Office Manager	134
Tony Marshall, Assistant Finance Director	116
Martha Orthofer, Principal Planner, Community Development Block Grants	112
Kevin Parrish, Database and Property Manager, Geographic Information System	133
Vickie Vandernoot, Planning Administrative Assistant	124

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: ncfrpc.org

The Original Florida: originalflorida.org

North Central Florida Economic Development Partnership: originalfloridabusines.org

North Central Florida Local Emergency Planning Committee: ncflepc.org

North Central Florida Areawide Development Co., Inc.: adco.org

I-75 Corridor Council: i75floridagateway.com

Scenic U.S. 441: scenicus441.com

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