

# **NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL**

**SERVING**



## **1999 ANNUAL REPORT**

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I am pleased to present this annual report to the citizens of the North Central Florida Region as a means of communicating the activities of a very successful year.

Over the years, the work of our members has resulted in a collective effort to prepare the region for a better future. This has been done not only by improving our ability to add traditional services, but also by providing bold leadership in creating new programs which will help fulfill local and regional development objectives.

For the most part, the services provided involve giving support directly to local governments, as is done in our comprehensive planning assistance program and in providing staff support to the Gainesville Urban Area Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization.

Perhaps equally noteworthy is the assistance provided locally and regionally to attract resources to the area, such as Community Development Block Grants, Economic Development Administration (EDA) grants, and funds to protect the environment through P2000 grants.

The regional development efforts are being fulfilled by the leaders of our associated agencies which have been formed by the Council: the North Central Florida Economic Development Partnership, *The Original Florida* Tourism Task Force, and the North Central Florida Areawide Development Co., Inc. These programs are very fortunate to receive financial support from EDA, the Governor's Office, Enterprise Florida, Inc., and the Ford Foundation.

Of course, the principal role of the Council continues to be providing a forum for city and county elected officials and gubernatorial appointees to participate in making decisions on issues that have multi-jurisdictional impacts. In meeting this responsibility, the Council maintains a process for reviewing and commenting upon programs and projects from local, regional and

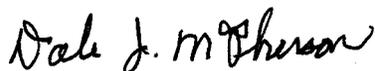
state agencies, by which it aggressively implements its Strategic Regional Policy Plan.

In the following pages, these and other activities of the Council are more thoroughly described. Also provided is a summary of the organization's financial status and a brief look at the year ahead.

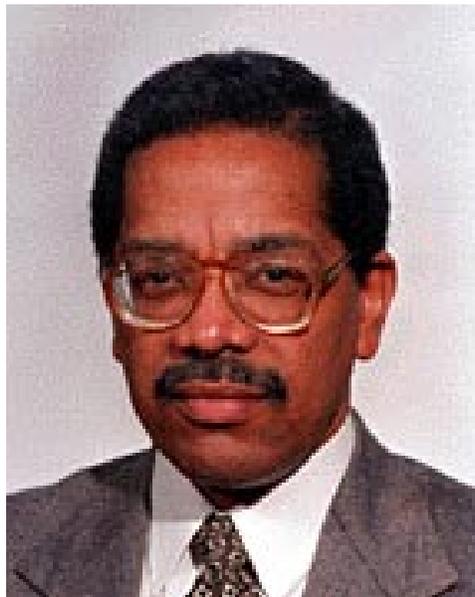
On behalf of the entire Council and staff, I wish to express our appreciation to the residents of the region for your support. We are fully aware that without such support, many of our successes would not have been possible.

Please call or visit our offices in Gainesville if you have any questions or wish to have additional information about the Council. We look forward to serving you during the coming year.

Sincerely,



Dale McPherson  
Chairman



**T**he 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.

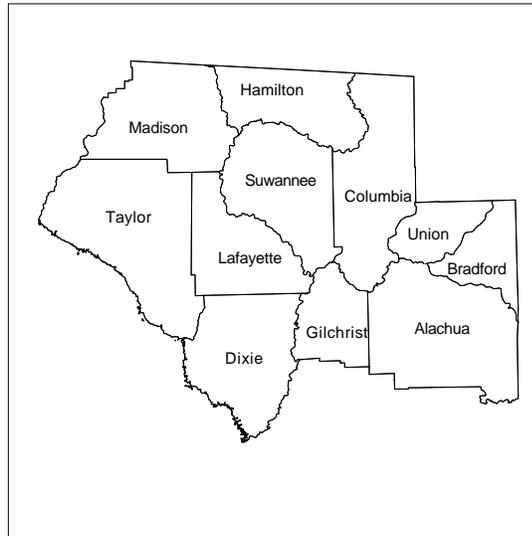
Much of the region is currently sparsely populated although this is beginning to change as people from other parts of the world, nation and Florida are discovering the amenities of north Florida living. According to estimates by the Bureau of Business and Economic Research, University of Florida, the population of the region in 1999 was 434,171, an increase of 79,975 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  
Charles Chestnut
- \* Oscar Harris  
Robert "Hutch" Hutchinson
- \* Dale McPherson  
Dave Newport
- \* Jane Walker

**ALACHUA**

Patrick Murphy

**ARCHER**

William Copeland

**GAINESVILLE**

Bruce Delaney  
Pegeen Hanrahan  
Ed Jennings, Sr.

**HAWTHORNE**

Eddie Martin

**HIGH SPRINGS**

John Hill  
Kathy Putls#

**MICANOPY**

Steve Elder

**WALDO**

Louie Davis

**BRADFORD COUNTY**

- Joseph Riddick
- \* E.W. Hodges

**STARKE**

Steve Futch

**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 Woods
- \* 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**

- Ricky Jenkins
- \* Billy Ray Foister

*\*Gubernatorial Appointees*

*#Non-voting representative*

**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 10 years, are becoming increasingly aware of the opportunities and problems that population growth can create for local governments. Often, dealing with issues of growth opens up opportunities for regional cooperation and planning.

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

### ***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.

With the election of a new Governor in 1998 who has indicated a desire to evaluate the current effectiveness of Florida's growth management programs, it is anticipated that the legislature will enact additional changes which may affect regional planning activities some time within the next two years.



*A view of Itchey Bottom Lake, San Felasco Hammock, 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) 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 updated on May 21, 1999.

The NCFLEPC helped to get Florida's new Accident Prevention Program started by working with all stakeholders. Technical assistance was provided to many of our municipalities that use ton-containers of Chlorine and thus were required to file Risk Management Plans with the U.S. EPA by June 21, 1999. The LEPC also sponsored "Safety Street" presentations to help explain to the public what is being done to increase chemical safety in our communities.

A second big project was starting-up a regional hazmat 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 governments 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



*The LEPC conducted a full-scale hazardous materials emergency response exercise in the Gainesville Industrial Park.*

for first responders including firefighters, law enforcement, emergency medical, and public works personnel. Over 2,400 people have been trained during the first five years of the training program. Advanced Hazardous Materials Medical Technician and Radiation classes were co-sponsored with Gainesville Fire Rescue.

## **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 Envi-

ronmental Protection. The grant is for up to \$54,000 per year for a five-year cycle. One compliance assistance seminar was conducted in 1999, with more being planned for 2000. On-site inspections of approximately 20 percent of the businesses in a county will again be conducted in 2000.

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

## ***Review Activities***

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

The Council's Clearinghouse Committee is responsible for overseeing these review activities. In 1999, the Committee conducted a review of 255 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.

## ***BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT***

**T**he 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) established and staffed by the Council. ADCO provides financing assistance utilizing the SBA 504 Program to small businesses in a 12-county area. There are more than 275 CDCs in the United States, and nine operate in Florida. Over \$11 billion in SBA

504 loans have been funded by CDCs nationwide as a part of the SBA's Economic Development Program, with \$1.996 billion approved in '99, a 12% increase over '98.

In 1999, ADCO authorized three loans totaling \$1,111,000. These approvals will account for 17 new jobs in the area.

Over its brief history, ADCO has funded SBA 504 loans totaling more than \$10.5 million, which have provided 361 jobs, in addition to the impact on property taxes. The total impact of the projects, including bank financing and owners' equity, was over \$35 million. Ten 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 project assets, and provides 20-year, fixed-rate terms 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. Questions are handled and referrals suggested, where appropriate.

With a growing economy, ADCO anticipates an active Year 2000.

*Martin's Family Appliance Center's new store location on North Main Street in Gainesville.*



## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

**D**uring 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 continues to maintain a high level of involvement in providing technical assistance to local governments and development authorities in order to promote economic growth.

In 1999, the Council continued to work with the Florida State Rural Development Council (FSRDC), Enterprise Florida, Inc. and VISIT FLORIDA in defining strategies for dealing with the problems and needs of rural Florida.

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

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

*The Original Florida* Tourism Task Force is comprised of representatives from each of the participating counties who are appointed by their 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.

The region enjoyed another year successfully promoting *The Original*

*Florida* area. To date, 108 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 561 articles, reaching an audience of approximately 82 million readers.

During this past year, lodging establishments and businesses in the region expanded their participation in a campaign promoting "January" as "Canadian Month." A total of eighteen (18) area lodging establishments as well as other tourism-related businesses participated in the promotion. 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 printed an additional 70,000 map brochures. The brochures are being distributed at each of the five Florida Welcome Centers, Lake City Welcome Center, Alachua County Welcome Center, each of the eleven County Chambers of Commerce, area hotels and lodging establishments, and several real estate agencies, resulting in an increase of 79% in the number of brochure distribution points.

Finally, the Task Force was successful in its efforts to completely re-do the Internet homepage of *The Original Florida*, including the necessary software and program enhancements to begin (January 1, 2000) measuring the number of visits to the website.



## ***North Central Florida Economic Development Partnership***

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

Recognizing that the region has a number of functioning local economic development programs in addition to several regional efforts, the Partnership provides a forum to coordinate, complement, and enhance those economic development programs.

The regional partnership requires financial or in-kind commitments from the private and public sectors. Efforts in 1999 were directed to: (1) promoting a regional identity; (2) developing procedures for the dissemination of Partnership promotional material including regional brochures and "fact" sheets on each county, etc.; (3) active participation in Community Showcases, Trade Events, and Incoming Trade Missions sponsored by Enterprise Florida and the World Trade Centers of Florida; and (4) providing assistance in overseeing the tourism and aquaculture activities of *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 and second two-year grants, the Ford Foundation agreed to continue providing financial assistance to the Council over a third two-year period ending in March, 2002.

Also in 1999, the Council obtained a grant from Enterprise Florida, Inc. to promote international trade. The grant funding offered the Hidden Coast Shellfish Producers



Association, Inc. the opportunity to participate in a graduate program at the University of Florida (IB 2000) promoting international trade. Additionally, the Association president participated in a "Team Florida Trade mission" to Mexico City which was led by Governor Bush.

9



*David Capo, President of Hidden Coast Shellfish Producers Association, Inc., in Partnership booth in Mexico City.*

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE

**D**uring 1999, 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 1999, 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 process 363 development-related applications. This assistance included the review and adoption of 104 comprehensive plan map and text amendments. The Council also assisted these local governments in making 94 land development regulation map and text amendments, 87 land development regulation special exceptions and special permits, 51 concurrency assessments for plats, variances and building permits, and 27 site and development plans.

### ***Hazard Mitigation***

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

to reduce communities vulnerability to natural disasters.

The first year of this effort 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 this year, the final phase of the strategies was completed, resulting in the development of hazard vulnerability maps and the identification of projects designed to implement mitigation initiatives.

The benefits of developing the strategies includes 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 1999. 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 1999:

### Housing

Bradford County - \$750,000  
Lafayette County - \$600,000  
Lake City - \$750,000  
Live Oak - \$600,000  
City of Madison - \$600,000

### Neighborhood Revitalization

Suwannee County - \$750,000  
Mayo - \$500,000  
Perry - \$600,000

### Commercial Revitalization

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

### Natural Disaster Mitigation

Columbia County - \$500,000  
Union County - \$850,000  
Live Oak - \$1,250,000

The Council continued to provide administrative assistance on current projects for the municipalities of Brooker, Hawthorne, Lake City, Mayo, Trenton and White Springs. In addition, administrative assistance was initiated for a new project in Taylor County.

## **Florida Recreation Development Assistance Program (FRDAP)**

The Council assisted the counties of Columbia and Lafayette and the municipalities of Brooker, Hampton and Trenton with the preparation of Florida Recreation Development

Assistance Program Grant applications for the development of parks totaling \$562,500 in recreation improvements.

*Before rehabilitation*



*Community Development Block Grant funds were utilized to rehabilitate substandard houses in Taylor County.*

*After rehabilitation*



**T**hrough an interlocal agreement signed by the Florida Department of Transportation, Alachua County and the City of Gainesville, the Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization (MTPO) was formed to conduct transportation planning activities in the Gainesville 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 1999, the MTPO conducted a number of transportation planning activities.

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

Nine times during the year, public workshops were held concerning an update of the community's long-range transportation plan. Five of these workshops identified problems, issues and concerns that the participants had concerning both existing and future transportation facilities in the Gainesville Metropolitan Area. From these identified problems, issues and concerns, a draft set of goals and objectives for the plan update was prepared.

In addition, three workshops were held concerning the relationship between future land use and the development of the transportation system. Four draft urban form concepts were developed and are currently being refined.

## ***Tower Road Charrette***

During 1999, the MTPO contracted with Walkable Communities to conduct the Tower Road/SW 24th Avenue Charrette. After conducting this charrette, the MTPO voted to amend the long-range transportation plan to revise the project description for the Tower Road project to read "two-lane facility consistent with the Tower Road/SW 24th Ave-



*Construction continues on SW 75 Street/Tower Road, where Alachua County is considering a proposal to construct most of the section as a modified three-lane road with traffic calming features such as roundabouts, and improved bicycle and pedestrian facilities.*

nue Charrette.” In addition, the MTPO approved Tower Road/SW 24th Avenue Implementation Guidelines that describe in line item detail how this project is to be constructed when funds become available.

### **TRANSPORTATION DISADVANTAGED PROGRAM**

During the year, the Council continued to serve as the designated official planning agency for nine of the ten rural 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, while Taylor County serves as its own planning agency. 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.

This year, the Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged awarded the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council and the Alachua County Transportation Dis-

advantaged Coordinating Board with Certificates of Achievement. These certificates were awarded for contributing extraordinary efforts to the Transportation Disadvantaged Program.

In addition, the Council completed its *Innovative Transportation Solutions for WAGES Participants* project for Alachua and Bradford counties. The objective of this project was to facilitate the development of transportation services for job-related trips for WAGES participants in Alachua and Bradford counties. The Planning Council conducted transportation needs surveys for WAGES and JTPA participants and used ESRI's ArcView Geographic Information System (GIS) to map the location of WAGES customers, the One-Stop Centers, major employers and day-care facilities in Alachua and Bradford counties. The Regional Transit System was able to use information from this study to apply for Service Development and Commuter Assistance grant funds from the Florida Department of Transportation.

As required by the Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged, the Council issued three requests for proposals for Commu-

nity Transportation Coordinators. In addition, the Council also participated in an Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Transportation Task Force. The Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization created this task force to improve transportation services to persons with disabilities in Alachua County.

*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 1999.

## **Regional Programs**

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

□ Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Plan 1999 Update

## **Economic Development**

□ Overall Economic Development Program 1998 Annual Report

□ North Central Florida Areawide Development Co., Inc. Annual Report, Oct. 1, 1998 - Sep. 30, 1999

□ The Original Florida Guide & Map to Adventure

□ Hidden Coast Aquaculture Clam Recipes

□ Hidden Coast and Suwannee River Attractions

□ The Original Florida Eco-Heritage Opportunities

□ Looking for Business - Business Opportunities in The Original Florida

## **Transportation**

□ Fiscal Years 2000-2004 Transportation Improvement Program

□ Fiscal Year 2000 Unified Planning Work Program

□ Annual Report for Regional Transit System Ridership

□ 1999 Bicycle Usage Trends Program

□ Transportation Disadvantaged-Coordinated Transportation Development Plans

□ Bicycle Facilities Maps for North Central Florida (4 available):  
Alachua/Bradford/Union  
Dixie/Gilchrist/Levy  
Columba/Hamilton/Suwannee  
Lafayette/Madison/Taylor

## **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 2000, the Council will continue a number of programs started in 1999 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 abuts the corridor. The Council will continue to address the issues of corridor beautification and tourism promotion during 2000.

#### **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 were updated for facilities that contain extremely hazardous substances for Columbia, Dixie, Hamilton, Lafayette, Madison, Suwannee, Taylor and Union County.

#### ***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.

#### ***The 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 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 2000/2001 to 2004/2005 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.

#### ***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. The Council plans to issue four requests for proposals for Community Transportation Coordinators in the Year 2000. Continued participation with the ADA Transportation Task Force is also planned in the Year 2000. In addition, the Council will continue to assist in the development of transportation services for WAGES participants.

#### ***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

## 1998-99 Revenues

### Sources

<b>Federal</b>		\$ 78,789
Direct	\$ 62,192	
Pass-through from State	16,597	
<b>State</b>		462,222
<b>Local Government Contracts for Planning</b>		617,616
<b>Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization for the Gainesville Urbanized Area</b>		371,273
<b>North Central Florida Areawide Development Co., Inc.</b>		73,163
<b>North Central Florida Economic Development Partnership</b>		62,763
<b>The Original Florida Tourism Task Force Council Members' Contributions (\$.30/capita)</b>		43,439
<b>Other</b>		98,637
Ford Foundation	69,198	219,412
Other Agencies and Organizations	98,253	
Miscellaneous	51,961	
<b>Council Note Proceeds</b>		459,000
<hr/>		
<b>Total Revenues and Council Note Proceeds</b>		2,486,314

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## 1998-99 Expenditures

### Programs

<b>Regional Activities</b>		381,237
Emergency Planning	92,903	
General Planning and Intergovernmental Coordination	213,208	
Review Activities	75,126	
<b>Economic Development</b>		349,711
North Central Florida Economic Development Partnership	134,442	
North Central Florida Areawide Development Co., Inc.	69,208	
Original Florida Tourism Promotion Program	74,763	
General Economic Development	71,298	
<b>Local Technical Assistance</b>		640,141
Block Grant Administration	142,897	
Comprehensive Planning	455,744	
Hazardous Waste Planning & Monitoring	41,500	
<b>Transportation</b>		573,287
Comprehensive Transportation Planning	390,948	
Mass Transit Planning	32,366	
Transportation Disadvantaged Planning	149,973	
<b>Program Development</b>		49,732
<b>Facilities Acquisition</b>		512,985
<hr/>		
<b>Total Expenditures</b>		\$ 2,507,093

## **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 Kiestler, Assistant Executive Director	102
Jim Emerson, Business Development Program Director	107
W.D. Higginbotham, Economic Development Program Director	106
Chuck Kiestler, 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
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, Principal Planner, Local Government Assistance	121
Carol Laine, Planning Administrative Assistant, CDBG	123
Debbie Le Van, Planning Administrative Assistant	124
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](mailto:ncfrpc@ncfrpc.org)**. E-mail addresses for each staff member is the last name @ncfrpc.org, ex. **[justice@ncfrpc.org](mailto: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>**

***NCFRPC***

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

*Chairman*

**Dale McPherson**

*Vice Chairman*

**W. Ray Kirkland**

*Secretary-Treasurer*

**James Montgomery**

*Executive Director*

**Charles F. Justice**