

NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL  
MINUTES

Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites  
Lake City, Florida

March 27, 2014  
7:30 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Ed Braddy, City of Gainesville  
**LaBarfield Bryant, City of Jasper**  
Beth Burnam, Hamilton County  
Jim Catron, City of Madison  
**Charles Chestnut IV, Alachua County**  
Don Cook, City of Perry  
**Louie Davis, City of Waldo**  
**Rick Davis, Madison County**  
*Sandra Haas, Suwannee County*  
**Thomas Hawkins, City of Gainesville**  
Timothy Marden, City of Newberry  
*James Montgomery, Columbia County*  
**Garth Nobles, Jr., City of Live Oak**  
Lauren Poe, City of Gainesville  
**Daniel Riddick, Bradford County**  
DeLoris Roberts, City of Hawthorne  
Wayne Smith, Union County  
**Carolyn Spooner, City of Starke**  
*Lorene Thomas, Dixie County*  
**Kenrick Thomas, Gilchrist County**  
Wesley Wainwright, Suwannee County  
Randy Wells, City of Gainesville  
*Charles Williams, Hamilton County*  
*Mike Williams, Madison County*  
Stephen Witt, City of Lake City

NON-VOTING DELEGATE PRESENT

None

EX-OFFICIO MEMBER REPRESENTATIVES  
PRESENT

Brian Delburn, Florida Dept. of Transportation  
Greg Evans, Florida Dept. of Transportation  
Jordan Green, Florida Dept. of Transportation  
Carlos Herd, Suwannee River Water  
Management District  
Russell Simpson, Florida Department of  
Environmental Protection

MEMBERS ABSENT

Stephen Bailey, Columbia County  
Susan Baird, Alachua County  
Bob Barnas, City of High Springs  
Susan Bottcher, City of Gainesville  
Mike Byerly, Alachua County  
Rusty DePratter, Columbia County  
**Donnie Hamlin, Lafayette County**  
Jason Holifield, Dixie County  
Robert Hutchinson, Alachua County  
Frank Ogborn, City of Archer  
Patricia Patterson, Taylor County  
Robert Wilford, City of Alachua

OTHERS PRESENT

David Cobb, Florida Power & Light  
Diana Davis  
Stew Lilker, Columbia County Observer  
Mark Reichert, Florida Transportation Commission  
Joe Riddick

COUNCIL ATTORNEY PRESENT

Jon Wershow

STAFF PRESENT

Steve Dopp  
Scott Koons  
Carol Laine  
Jean Strong

**Board Members names are bolded**  
*Gubernatorial Members names are italicized*

I. INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Nobles called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m. with an invocation given by Mayor Spooner and a pledge of allegiance to the flag. Chair Nobles stated that there was a quorum of the Council.

Chair Nobles asked that Item VI.B.3. - #54, Dixie County Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment, which was received by staff after the meeting packets were distributed, be added to the agenda.

**ACTION: Commissioner Catron made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Roberts to add Item VI.B.3. - #54, Dixie County Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment, to the agenda. The motion carried unanimously.**

Chair Nobles welcomed and introduced Diana Davis, wife of Council member Mayor Louie Davis, Joe Riddick, past member and former Council Chair from Bradford County, Greg Evans, Secretary for the Department of Transportation - District 2, Stew Lilker from the Columbia County Observer and David Cobb from Florida Power and Light.

II. GUEST SPEAKER - Mark Reichert, Florida Transportation Commission

Scott Koons, Executive Director, introduced and welcomed Mark Reichert, Assistant Executive Director, from the Florida Transportation Commission. Mr. Reichert presented an overview of current transportation funding in Florida and at the federal level and the challenges facing the state in securing future transportation funding sources. Chair Nobles thanked Mr. Reichert for his presentation and comments.

Greg Evans, District 2 Secretary for the Florida Department of Transportation, stated that the Florida Transportation Commission does an outstanding job of reviewing the Department. The Commission is currently in the process of reviewing the proposed Five-Year Tentative Work Program for District 2. He further stated that in September of each year, the Commission reviews the Department's performance measures. He added that during the review process in September 2013, the Department passed all of the performance measures.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - February 20, 2014

Chair Nobles asked that the minutes of the February 20, 2014 meeting be approved as written.

**ACTION: Mayor Spooner made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Wainwright to approve the minutes of the February 20, 2014 meeting as written. The motion carried unanimously.**

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Monthly Financial Report - February 2014
- B. Amendment to Memorandum of Agreement with Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council Concerning Economic Modeling, Inc.
- C. U.S. Economic Development Administration Short-Term Planning and State Planning Grant Amendment

D. Florida Department of Transportation  
Joint Participation Agreement Amendment and Resolution

Chair Nobles asked if there were any questions regarding the items on the Consent Agenda and requested that these items be approved.

**ACTION: Commissioner Catron made the motion, with a second by Mayor Louie Davis, to approve the items on the Consent Agenda. The motion carried unanimously.**

V. CHAIR'S REPORT

There was no Chair's Report.

VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Executive Committee - Transportation for America's  
Revenue Endorsement Resolution

Mr. Koons reported that the north central Florida region's economic future depends on having a top-notch transportation network that will allow the region to compete both nationally and globally while preserving our quality of life. Florida Department of Transportation Secretary Ananth Prasad has stated that full funding of the Florida Department of Transportation work program will continue the vision of creating a world class transportation system by delivering exceptional projects and providing significant return on investment. This work program will require federal funding in order to move forward.

Mr. Koons also stated that the federal trust fund dedicated to transportation is headed for insolvency, which could lead to the federal transportation program being halted in Fiscal Year 2015 and would adversely affect the undertaking of transportation projects to meet the transportation needs of our residents and businesses, potentially restricting our future economic growth.

Mr. Koons reported that Transportation for America, an alliance of business, civic, and elected leaders from across the country, has put forward an investment plan for the 21st Century that would save the transportation fund of the nation while making it more accountable and increasing local control. Mr. Koons stated that the Executive Committee recommended that the Council:

1. Endorse the Transportation for America's Revenue proposal for saving the nation's transportation fund; and
2. Call upon Congress and the President to act upon the recommendations therein prior to September 30, 2014.

**ACTION: Commissioner Hawkins made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Chestnut, to Adopt Resolution No. 2014-03, which is attached to these minutes and made a part thereof, endorsing the Transportation for America's Revenue Proposal and to call upon Congress and the President to act upon the recommendations therein prior to September 30, 2014. The motion carried with 22 yeas and 3 nays.**

B. Clearinghouse Committee

Chair Sandra Haas gave the Clearinghouse Committee report. She stated that the Clearinghouse Committee met earlier in the evening and reviewed three local government comprehensive plan amendments.

#37 - City of Hawthorne Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment

#38 - City of Newberry Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment

Ms. Haas stated that subsequent to the distribution of the Council meeting packets, the Council received the following late-arriving item which requires action prior to our next meeting.

#54 - Dixie County Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendments (added to agenda)

Ms. Haas stated that the Committee found that the Dixie County and the City of Hawthorne government comprehensive plans, as amended, were not anticipated to result in significant adverse impacts to regional facilities, Natural Resources of Regional Significance or adjoining local governments. She stated that the Clearinghouse Committee recommended forwarding these findings to the respective local governments and the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity as regional comment.

**ACTION: Ms. Haas made the motion, with a second by Councilman Bryant, to approve the Clearinghouse Committee recommendation concerning Item #37, City of Hawthorne Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment and Item # 54, Dixie County Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (added to agenda). The motion carried unanimously.**

Ms. Haas stated that the Committee found the City of Newberry Comprehensive Plan, as amended, was not anticipated to result in significant adverse impacts to Natural Resources of Regional Significance. Furthermore, City items CPA 13-04, CPA 13-06 and CPA 13-07 were not anticipated to result in significant adverse impacts to the Regional Road Network or adjoining local governments.

Ms. Haas further stated that significant adverse impacts may occur to segments of the Regional Road Network and to adjoining local governments as a result of City item CPA 13-08. Therefore, the Committee recommends that the City provide a transportation analysis of impacts to the Regional Road Network as a result of the City item CPA 13-08, and either add new policies to the City Transportation Element which prevent any identified adverse impacts or explain how existing policies contained in the City Comprehensive Plan prevent adverse impacts to the Regional Road Network.

Ms. Haas stated that alternatively, it is recommended that the City include Transportation Planning Best Practices contained in the Regional Plan as goals and policies in the City Comprehensive Plan and that such goals and policies clearly state that Transportation Planning Best Practices are applicable to areas located outside of the City Urban Service Area. She stated that the Clearinghouse Committee recommended forwarding these findings to the City and the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity as regional comment.

**ACTION: Ms. Haas made the motion, with a second by Ms. Thomas, to approve the Clearinghouse Committee recommendation concerning Item #38, City of Newberry Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment. The motion carried unanimously.**

C. Program Committee - 2014-15 Overall Program Design

Mayor Spooner reported that the Program Committee met earlier in the evening to review a draft of the Overall Program Design for the coming year. This document is to be used as the basis for the development of a budget and is also to give instruction to staff as to the work which is to be done during the next year.

Mayor Spooner stated that there are no changes proposed in the Overall Program Design which include new programs not previously discussed and/or approved by the Council. Except for editorial changes, the document is essentially the same as the current year edition.

Mayor Spooner stated the Committee anticipates recommending the Overall Program Design to the Council for adoption at the May 22, 2014 meeting.

VII. EX-OFFICIO MEMBER REPORTS

Russell Simpson, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, stated that the Northeast District Drinking staff is partnering up with Florida Water Rural Association will be conducting three workshops in May 2014 to assist Drinking Water Facilities in completing their required 2013 Consumer Confidence Report.

Jordan Green, Rural Area Transportation Development Engineer, Florida Department of Transportation District 2 - no report.

Carlos Herd, Water Supply Division Director, Suwannee River Water Management District, reported that the Consumptive Use Permitting Consistency Rules became effective March 24, 2014. He also mentioned that the Department will be conducting a public hearing on April 3, 2014 on the proposed rule concerning Minimum Flows and Levels for the Lower Santa Fe and Ichetucknee Rivers.

## VIII. CITIZEN COMMENTS

There were no citizen comments.

Mayor Spooner announced that on April 4, 2014 the City of Starke at 12:00 p.m. will be revealing a new City seal to celebrate the 144th Anniversary of the City. She also stated that there will be an open house at City Hall following the revealing of the new City seal.

## IX. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

### A. Florida Regional Councils Association Monthly Activity Report

Mr. Koons reported that the Florida Regional Councils Association is the statewide organization of the 11 regional planning councils. The Association strengthens Florida's regional planning councils, partners with government and the business community to enhance regional economic prosperity and improves the consistency and quality of regional planning councils programs to ensure they add value to state, regional and local initiatives. He stated that the accomplishments of the Association's Director of Intergovernmental Affairs, Sheri Coven, are reported each month to the Council. He also highlighted several of the accomplishments listed in the February 2014 monthly activity report included in the Council meeting packet.

### B. Florida Chamber Foundation Scorecard™

Mr. Koons stated that the Florida Chamber Foundation has developed the Florida Scorecard™ to provide Florida leaders the metrics needed to secure Florida's future. The Florida Chamber Foundation's objective to develop a 20-year, statewide strategic plan requires a commitment to measuring our current status and progress toward the stated goals of the Six Pillars 20-year Strategic Plan. He further stated that the Scorecard reports metrics for each of the Six Pillars benchmarked to the other 49 states. The Six Pillars are Talent Supply and Education, Innovation and Economic Development, Infrastructure and Growth Leadership, Business Climate and Competitiveness, Civic and Governance Systems and Quality of Life and Quality Places. He reviewed the March 2014 Scorecard™ included in the Council meeting packet.

### C. Legislative Report

Mr. Koons reported that the 2014 regular Legislature session convened on March 4, 2014 and is scheduled to adjourn on May 2, 2014. The Florida Department of Economic Opportunity budget request for Fiscal Year 2014-15 submitted to Governor Scott does not include any appropriation request for all 11 regional planning councils. In addition, the budget for Fiscal Year 2014-15 submitted by the Governor to the Legislature does not include any appropriation request for all 11 regional planning councils. However, the House Transportation and Economic Development Appropriations Committee has included \$2.5 million for all 11 regional planning councils. As you know, the Legislature appropriated \$2.5 million for all 11 regional planning councils for Fiscal Year 2013-14. However, Governor Scott vetoed the appropriation for regional planning councils. The Council's share of this appropriation would have been approximately \$179,000.

Mr. Koons then reviewed the status of several bills of interest to regional planning councils and local governments.

D. North Florida Regional Water Supply Partnership

Mr. Koons reported that the Stakeholder Advisory Committee met on February 24, 2014. The Committee discussed the revised Recovery Strategy for the Lower Santa Fe River Basin and heard a presentation on population and water demand projections. He stated the Committee also met on March 17, 2014 and heard presentations from water management district staff on water resource assessment methods as well as an update on the status of the regional groundwater model.

F. Check Fraud Status Report

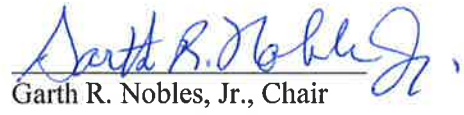
Mr. Koons reported that on March 20, 2013, a fraudulent check in the amount of \$49,523.00 that was written on the Council's bank account was processed and paid by Wells Fargo. Also on March 20, 2013, Council staff filed an affidavit of check fraud concerning this matter with Wells Fargo. On March 25, 2013, Council staff filed a crime report concerning this matter with the Gainesville Police Department. On April 18, 2013, the Council Attorney sent a letter to Wells Fargo requesting that Wells Fargo remit to the Council within 30 days the unauthorized \$49,523.00 released by Wells Fargo from the Council's account. He added that on June 3, 2013, attorneys for Wells Fargo responded via letter stating that Wells Fargo will not reimburse the Council for the \$49,523.00 released from the Council's account by Wells Fargo.

Mr. Koons stated that at their meeting on July 25, 2013, the Council authorized the Council Attorney to file a lawsuit against Wells Fargo to recover the unauthorized \$49,523.00, to engage Stanley Cushman from the law firm of Scruggs and Carmichael to serve as co-counsel for the lawsuit and to designate Scott Koons, Executive Director, as the Council's representative concerning all matters related to such lawsuit. He stated that on August 6, 2013, a lawsuit was filed against Wells Fargo to recover the Council's funds.

Mr. Koons further reported that on September 9, 2013, Wells Fargo responded to the complaint by filing a Motion to Compel Arbitration. Council Attorney Wershow and Co-Counsel Cushman responded to the motion stating that arbitration does not apply to the dispute and have filed a motion for a hearing on the motion to compel arbitration. A hearing originally scheduled for October 30, 2013 in the Circuit Court of the Eighth Judicial Circuit in and for Alachua County, Florida on the Motion to Compel Arbitration filed by Wells Fargo to resolve the dispute between the Council and Wells Fargo was rescheduled for January 24, 2014. Mr. Koons reported that at the conclusion of the hearing, the Circuit Court granted the Motion to Compel Arbitration.

Mr. Koons reported that Council Attorney Wershow and Co-Council Stanley Cushman are coordinating with the attorney of Wells Fargo on the selection of an arbitrator and scheduling of the arbitration hearing.

Chair Nobles informed the Council that the next Council meeting will be held on April 24, 2014 at the Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites in Lake City. The meeting was adjourned at 8:38 p.m.

  
Garth R. Nobles, Jr., Chair

4/24/14  
Date



RESOLUTION NO. 2014-02

A RESOLUTION OF THE NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL AUTHORIZING AN AMENDMENT TO THE JOINT PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT WITH THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

WHEREAS, the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council entered into a Joint Participation Agreement, Financial Project Number 433775-1-18-01, on April 15, 2013 with the Florida Department of Transportation, as authorized under Section 339.12, Florida Statutes; and

WHEREAS, the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council has the authority to receive support for transportation planning and regional visioning for Alachua, Bradford, Columbia, Dixie, Gilchrist, Hamilton, Lafayette, Levy, Madison, Marion, Suwannee, Taylor and Union Counties for the period ending June 30, 2014; and

WHEREAS, the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council will coordinate with neighboring regional planning councils and adjoining counties in order to accomplish said transportation planning and regional visioning; and

WHEREAS, the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council will coordinate said transportation planning and regional visioning with the on-going Future Corridors studies of the Florida Department of Transportation; and

WHEREAS, the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council authorizes the Chair to execute a 12-month extension to the Joint Participation Agreement on behalf of the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council with the Florida Department of Transportation; and

WHEREAS, this resolution shall be effective upon adoption.

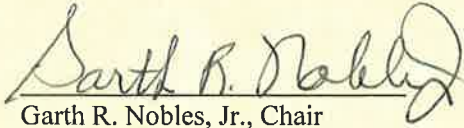
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council authorizes the Chair to execute a 12-month extension amendment to the Joint Participation Agreement, Financial Project Number 433775-1-18-01, with the Florida Department of Transportation to accomplish transportation planning and regional visioning in a 13-county area.

DULY ADOPTED by the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council this 27th day of March 2014.

NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA  
REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

Attest:

  
Scott R. Koons, Executive Director

  
Garth R. Nobles, Jr., Chair

RESOLUTION NO. 2014-03

A RESOLUTION OF THE NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL  
ENDORING TRANSPORTATION FOR AMERICA'S REVENUE PROPOSAL

WHEREAS, the north central Florida region's economic future depends on having a top-notch transportation network that will allow the region to compete both nationally and globally while preserving our quality of life; and

WHEREAS, investing in important transportation projects will require more funding to ensure that goods can get to market and workers to jobs; and

WHEREAS, many transportation projects will require federal funding in order to move forward; and

WHEREAS, the federal trust fund dedicated to transportation is headed for insolvency, which could lead to the federal transportation program being halted in Fiscal Year 2015; and

WHEREAS, these crippling cuts will adversely affect the undertaking of transportation projects to meet the transportation needs of our residents and businesses, potentially restricting our future economic growth; and

WHEREAS, Transportation for America, an alliance of business, civic, and elected leaders from across the country, has put forward an investment plan for the 21st Century that would save the transportation fund of the nation while making it more accountable and increasing local control.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL:

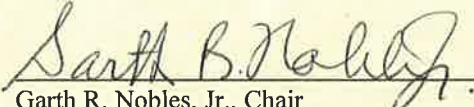
1. That the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council endorses the Transportation for America's Revenue proposal for saving the nation's transportation fund.
2. That the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council calls upon Congress and the President to act upon the recommendations therein prior to September 30, 2014.
3. That this resolution shall take effect upon its adoption.

APPROVED AND DULY ADOPTED by the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council, this 27th day of March 2014.

ATTEST:

NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA  
REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Scott R. Koons, Executive Director

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Garth R. Nobles, Jr., Chair