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MEETING NOTICE

NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

There will be a meeting of the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council on July 26, 2012. The meeting will be held at the Lake City Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites, 213 Southwest Commerce Boulevard, Lake City, Florida. Dinner will start at 7:00 p.m. and the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

*Please call the Council at (352) 955-2200, or (800) 226-0690, or email laine@ncfrpc.org by July 23rd to let us know if you will be attending the meeting. (You can call after hours and leave a message on voice mail too.) **THANK YOU.***

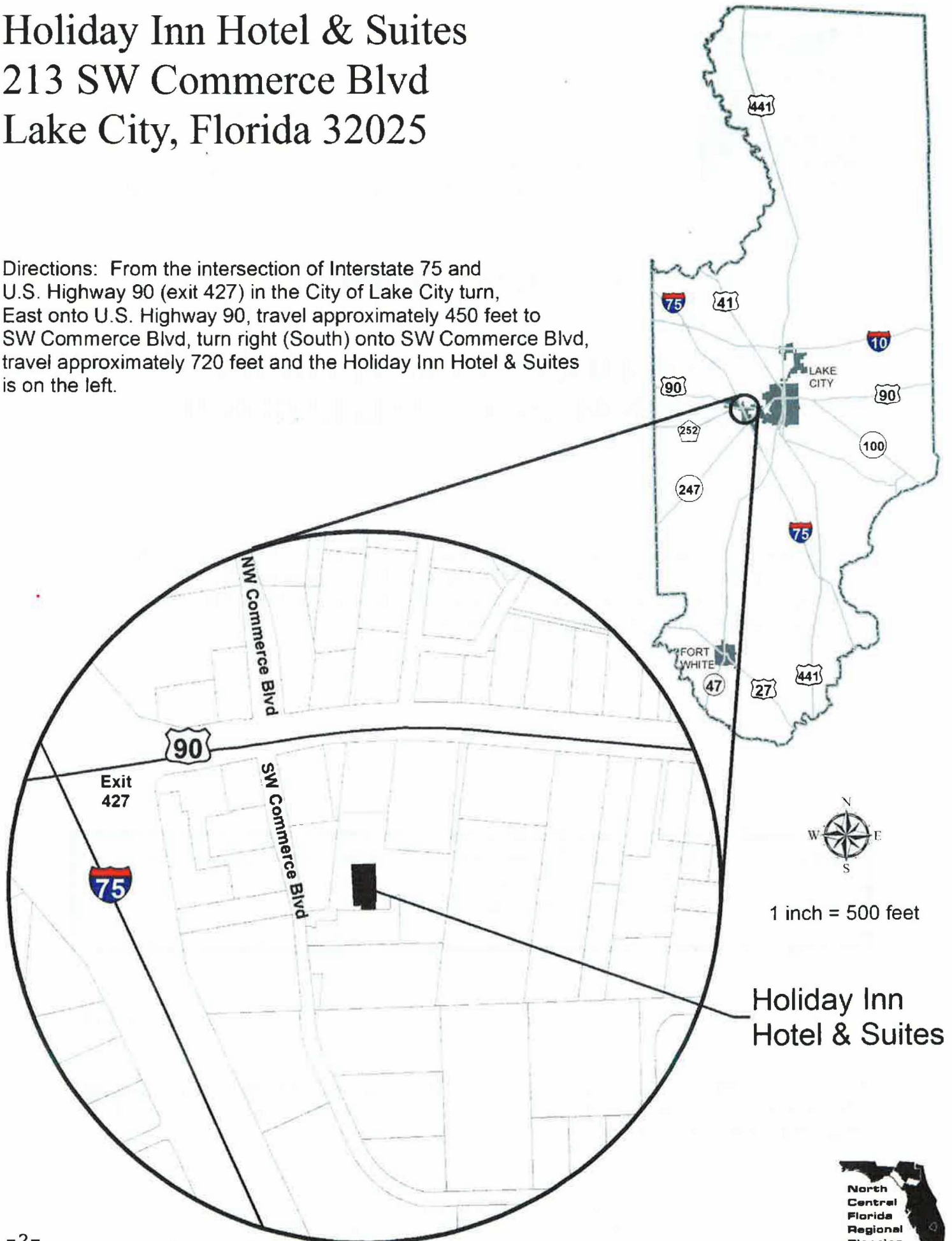
(Location Map on Back)

Please be advised that the Council meeting packet is posted on the Council website at <http://ncfrpc.org> (click on Upcoming Meetings and Meeting Packets, then click on North Central Florida Regional Planning Council Full Packet.)

Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites

213 SW Commerce Blvd
Lake City, Florida 32025

Directions: From the intersection of Interstate 75 and U.S. Highway 90 (exit 427) in the City of Lake City turn, East onto U.S. Highway 90, travel approximately 450 feet to SW Commerce Blvd, turn right (South) onto SW Commerce Blvd, travel approximately 720 feet and the Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites is on the left.



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AGENDA

NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites
213 Southwest Commerce Boulevard
Lake City, Florida

July 26, 2012
7:30 p.m.

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NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL
MINUTES

Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites
Lake City, Florida

June 28, 2012
7:30 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Jim Catron, City of Madison
Thomas Collett, Alachua County
Louie Davis, City of Waldo
Alphonso Dowdell, City of Perry
Roy Ellis, Madison County
Thomas Hawkins, City of Gainesville
Yvonne Hinson-Rawls, City of Gainesville
Jason Holifield, Dixie County
Jordan Marlowe, City of Newberry
Charles Maultsby, Taylor County
James Montgomery, Columbia County
Frank Ogborn, City of Archer
Lauren Poe, City of Gainesville
Daniel Riddick, Bradford County
Carolyn Spooner, City of Starke
Kenrick Thomas, Gilchrist County
Lorene Thomas, Dixie County
Robert Wilford, City of Alachua
Stephen Witt, City of Lake City

STAFF PRESENT

Steve Dopp
Carmelita Franco
Scott Koons
Carol Laine
Jean Strong

COUNCIL ATTORNEY PRESENT

Jon Wershow

Board Members names are bolded

Gubernatorial Members names are italicized

MEMBERS ABSENT

Stephen Bailey, Columbia County
Susan Baird, Alachua County
Bob Barnas, City of High Springs
LaBarfield Bryant, City of Jasper
Mike Byerly, Alachua County
Todd Chase, City of Gainesville
Paula DeLaney, Alachua County
Rusty DePratter, Columbia County
Sandra Haas, Suwannee County
Donnie Hamlin, Lafayette County
Garth Nobles, Jr., City of Live Oak
Ronny Morgan, Hamilton County
Lee Pinkoson, Alachua County
Eleanor Randall, City of Hawthorne
James Tallman, Union County
Wesley Wainwright, Suwannee County
Randy Wells, City of Gainesville
Mark Wiggins, Taylor County
Charles Williams, Hamilton County
Mike Williams, Madison County

OTHERS PRESENT

Tim Bennett, City of Madison
Diana Davis
Jon Dinges, representing Suwannee River
Water Management District
Patricia Ellis
Allison Megrath, Plum Creek
Mickie Salter, Legislative Assistant to
Representative Leonard Bembry
Doyle Thomas

I. INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Lorene Thomas called the meeting to order at 7:31 p.m. with an invocation given by Commissioner Catron and a pledge of allegiance to the flag. Chair Thomas stated that there was a quorum of the Board and all Council members were able to vote.

Chair Thomas asked that Item VI.B.2. #77 - Union County Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment, Item VI.B.3. #78 - City of Gainesville Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendments and Item VI.B.4. #79 - City of Hawthorne Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment, which were received by staff after the meeting packets were distributed, be added to the agenda.

ACTION: Mayor Davis made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Spooner to add Item VI.B.2. #77 - Union County Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment, Item VI.B.3. #78 - City of Gainesville Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendments and Item VI.B.4. #79 - City of Hawthorne Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment to the agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

Chair Thomas introduced and welcomed Tim Bennett, City Manager for the City of Madison, Jon Dinges from the Suwannee River Water Management District, former Council member Joseph Riddick, who served as Chair of the Council during 1995-96, Mickie Salter, Legislative Assistant for Representative Leonard Bembry, Florida House of Representatives, Diana Davis, wife of Council member Mayor Louie Davis, Patricia Ellis, wife of Council member Commissioner Roy Ellis and Chair Thomas' husband, Doyle Thomas.

II. GUEST SPEAKER - Location, Partnerships and Opportunities to Bring Industry to
Columbia County - Allison Megrath, Real Estate Manager, Plum Creek

Chair Thomas welcomed Allison Megrath, Real Estate Manager for Plum Creek. She gave a PowerPoint presentation which identified the location of the 2,590-acre Plum Creek tract of land located east of the Lake City Municipal Airport, of which 500 acres are designated as a Rural Area of Critical Economic Concern catalyst site with a goal of creating jobs that will benefit the 14-county North Central Florida Rural Area of Critical Economic Concern region. She stated that Columbia County Industrial Development Authority, Enterprise Florida, the Florida Ports Council and the Governor's Office of Tourism, Trade and Economic Development are all part of a collaborative effort to position Columbia County as an inland port to handle freight from the Port of Jacksonville. She also stated that legislation adopted during the 2010 session established the site as a Rural Enterprise Zone, allowing businesses that locate there an opportunity to apply for a variety of tax credits and incentives. Chair Thomas thanked Ms. Megrath for her presentation.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - May 24, 2012

Chair Thomas asked that the minutes of the May 24, 2012 meeting be approved as written.

ACTION: Mr. Maultsby made the motion, with a second by Mayor Ogborn, to approve the minutes of the May 24, 2012 meeting as written. The motion carried unanimously.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA - Neighborhood Stabilization Program 3 Administrative Services
Agreement - Columbia County

Chair Thomas asked if there were any questions regarding the item on the Consent Agenda and requested that this item be approved.

ACTION: Mayor Ogborn made the motion, with a second by Mayor Davis, to approve the item on the Consent Agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

V. CHAIR'S REPORT

A. Introduction of New Members

Chair Thomas introduced and welcomed new Council members Lauren Poe and Yvonne Hinson-Rawls, who will be representing the City of Gainesville on the Council.

B. Resolution of Appreciation - Susan Bottcher

Chair Thomas asked that a Resolution of Appreciation for past services to the Council be approved for Commissioner Susan Bottcher, representing the City of Gainesville on the Council since May 2011.

ACTION: Commissioner Spooner made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Marlowe, to approve a Resolution of Appreciation for Commissioner Susan Bottcher. The motion carried unanimously.

C. Committee Appointments

Chair Thomas asked that the appointments to the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Committee, Finance Committee, Clearinghouse Committee, Nominating Committee, Program Committee, Regional Planning Committee and Representatives to the Florida Regional Councils Association be approved as recommended by the Chair.

ACTION: Commissioner Ellis made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Marlowe, to approve the appointments to the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Committee, Finance Committee, Clearinghouse Committee, Nominating Committee, Program Committee, Regional Planning Committee and Representatives to the Florida Regional Councils Association as recommended by the Chair. The motion carried unanimously.

D. Employee Certificate of Service - Carmelita Franco

Scott Koons, Executive Director, introduced Carmelita Franco, who joined the Council staff on April 30, 2007. Ms. Franco currently serves as a Planning Administrative Assistant in the Local Government Comprehensive Planning Program. Chair Thomas presented a five-year Certificate of Service and a five-year service pin to Ms. Franco. Mr. Koons and Chair Thomas thanked her for her years of dedicated service to the Council.

VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Executive Committee - No items to report.

B. Clearinghouse Committee

Due to the absence of Clearinghouse Committee Chair Sandra Haas, Vice-Chair Thomas Hawkins gave the Clearinghouse Committee report. He stated that the Clearinghouse Committee met earlier in the evening and reviewed four local government comprehensive plan amendments.

Commissioner Hawkins further stated that subsequent to the distribution of the Council meeting packets, Council staff received three late-arriving local government comprehensive plan amendments which required action prior to the next regularly scheduled Council meeting. He stated that these items were added to the Council meeting agenda earlier tonight and copies of the staff report were handed out prior to the meeting.

#75 - City of Newberry Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment
#77 - Union County Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment (added to agenda)
#78 - City of Gainesville Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendments (added to agenda)
#79 - City of Hawthorne Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment (added to agenda)

Commissioner Hawkins stated that the Clearinghouse Committee found that the comprehensive plans, as amended, do not create significant adverse impacts to Natural Resources of Regional Significance, regional facilities or adjacent local governments. Commissioner Hawkins stated that the Committee recommended forwarding these findings to the respective local governments and the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity as regional comment.

ACTION: Commissioner Hawkins made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Poe, to approve the Clearinghouse Committee recommendations concerning Item #75, City of Newberry Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment, Item #77, Union County Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment (added to agenda), Item #78, City of Gainesville Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendments (added to agenda) and Item #79, City of Hawthorne Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment (added to agenda). The motion carried unanimously.

C. Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Committee
Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Report Update - 2013-2017

Thomas Collett, Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Committee Vice-Chair, stated since 1978, the Council has been designated by the U. S. Economic Development Administration as an Economic Development District. As such, the Council is responsible for developing and adopting a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy. Mr. Collett reported that the Committee has been working with staff during the past several months to complete the required five-year update of the Strategy. He stated that the Committee has reviewed existing strategies and has recommended new strategies for the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy.

Mr. Collett stated that the Florida Chamber Foundation Six Pillars for Florida's Future Economy has been used as the organizing framework for the updated Strategy. The Committee anticipated completing a draft of the Strategy at its July 17, 2012 meeting. He added that Council staff will then provide the draft Strategy for the Council's consideration at the July 26, 2012 Council meeting.

VII. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

A. Florida Leaders Organized for Water

Mr. Koons reported that on June 11, 2012, the sixth meeting of the Florida Leaders Organized for Water was held in Lake City. He stated that the Board of Directors heard a presentation from the Suwannee River Water Management District concerning water use restrictions for the district. He further stated that the Board of Directors also heard reports from the Science, Legislative, Legal and Public Information working groups. Finally, Mr. Koons stated that Council members Commissioner Lee Pinkoson from Alachua County and Commissioner Wesley Wainwright from Suwannee County are serving as representatives for their respective counties to the organization.

Mr. Jon Dinges, Director of Water Supply and Resource Management, Suwannee River Water Management District stated that Dr. Ann Shortelle is the new Executive Director for the District. He also briefly reported on the first meeting of the recently formed North Florida Regional Water Supply Partnership held on June 25, 2012 at the St. Johns River Water Management District Headquarters in Palatka.

B. Original Florida Tourism Task Force Press Familiarization Tour

Mr. Koons stated that, as previously reported, the Council provides staff services to the Original Florida Tourism Task Force to assist them in implementing their work program. In order to increase tourism generated revenues in the north Florida region, the Original Florida Tourism Task Force implements campaigns to increase tourist visits to the Natural North Florida region.

Mr. Koons stated that The Original Florida Tourism Task Force conducted a freshwater fishing themed press familiarization tour June 18-22, 2012. The tour highlighted the local freshwater fishing of counties in the region. He stated that journalists sampled different local specialties at each location along the route, from Monticello to Mayo, Fanning Springs, Bell, Trenton, High Springs and Gainesville. Along the way, the writers fresh-fished in Mays Pond and the Suwannee River, paddled on the Santa Fe River to Rum Island, including a visit to the Oleno/River Rise State Park. He added that restaurants featured on the tour included the Rancho Grande Restaurant in Monticello, the Suwannee River Rendezvous and the Mayo Café in Mayo, the Lighthouse Restaurant in Fanning Springs, Blue Water Bay in Gainesville and the High Springs Diner and Great Outdoors Restaurant in High Springs.

C. Annual City-County Managers Meeting

Mr. Koons advised Council members that the annual city-county manager meeting hosted by the Council would be held at the Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites, 213 Southwest Commerce Boulevard in Lake City on June 29, 2012.

D. Financial Disclosure Report Filing

Mr. Koons reminded all gubernatorial appointees to the Council to file their financial disclosure forms with the supervisor of elections in their respective counties by July 1, 2012.

Chair Thomas informed the Council that the next Council meeting will be held on July 26, 2012 at the Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites in Lake City. The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Lorene J. Thomas, Chair

7/26/12

Date



July 19, 2012

TO: Council Members

FROM: Scott R. Koons, AICP, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Regional Visioning Process

RECOMMENDATION:

Authorize staff to work with the Florida Department of Transportation to develop a scope, schedule and funding mechanism for a regional visioning process in north central Florida.

BACKGROUND:

Regional visioning initiatives bring together elected officials, economic development organizations, workforce boards, educational institutions, environmental and community representatives to develop a vision for the future based upon shared core values. A regional visioning process provides a framework for working together to accommodate growth, protect resources, maintain economic vitality and enhance quality of life while adding value to communities within a region.

Over the past decade, the following ten regional visioning processes have been completed, are currently underway or have been proposed (see attached map).

- First Coast
- Heart of Florida
- Heartland 2060
- How Shall We Grow?
- One Bay
- Our Region Tomorrow
- People Prosperity Preservation
- Southeast Florida Regional Partnership
- Sustainable Emerald Coast
- Sustainable Treasure Coast

Regional visioning processes have taken place in all major metropolitan regions and some small metropolitan/rural regions. However, due to the lack of financial resources, a regional visioning process has not occurred in north central Florida.

As you know, the Florida Department of Transportation has reinitiated its Florida's Future Corridors initiative. This initiative will

- Transform Strategic Intermodal System facilities to provide multimodal options for moving people and freight;
- Improve connectivity to existing and emerging regional employment centers and economically productive rural lands; and
- Make responsible decisions about where transportation facilities are located.

A guiding principle of the Department's future corridors initiative is that it be based upon regional visions throughout the state. Since a regional vision does not currently exist for the north central Florida region, the Department has asked the Council to be the convener and coordinator for a regional visioning process.

The Department has authorized the use of one of its general planning assistance consultants, Cambridge Systematics, to assist with this effort. Cambridge Systematics has been involved in several of the regional visioning initiatives throughout Florida and played a significant role in assisting the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity in the preparation of the recently completed Five-Year Strategic Plan for Economic Development.

Additional financial resources would be needed to compensate the Council for the provision of convener and coordinator services. Outside funding from state and regional agencies would be solicited to offset these costs. A tentative timetable for the regional visioning process contemplates a nine-month process kicking off in early 2013 and concluding in the fall of 2013.

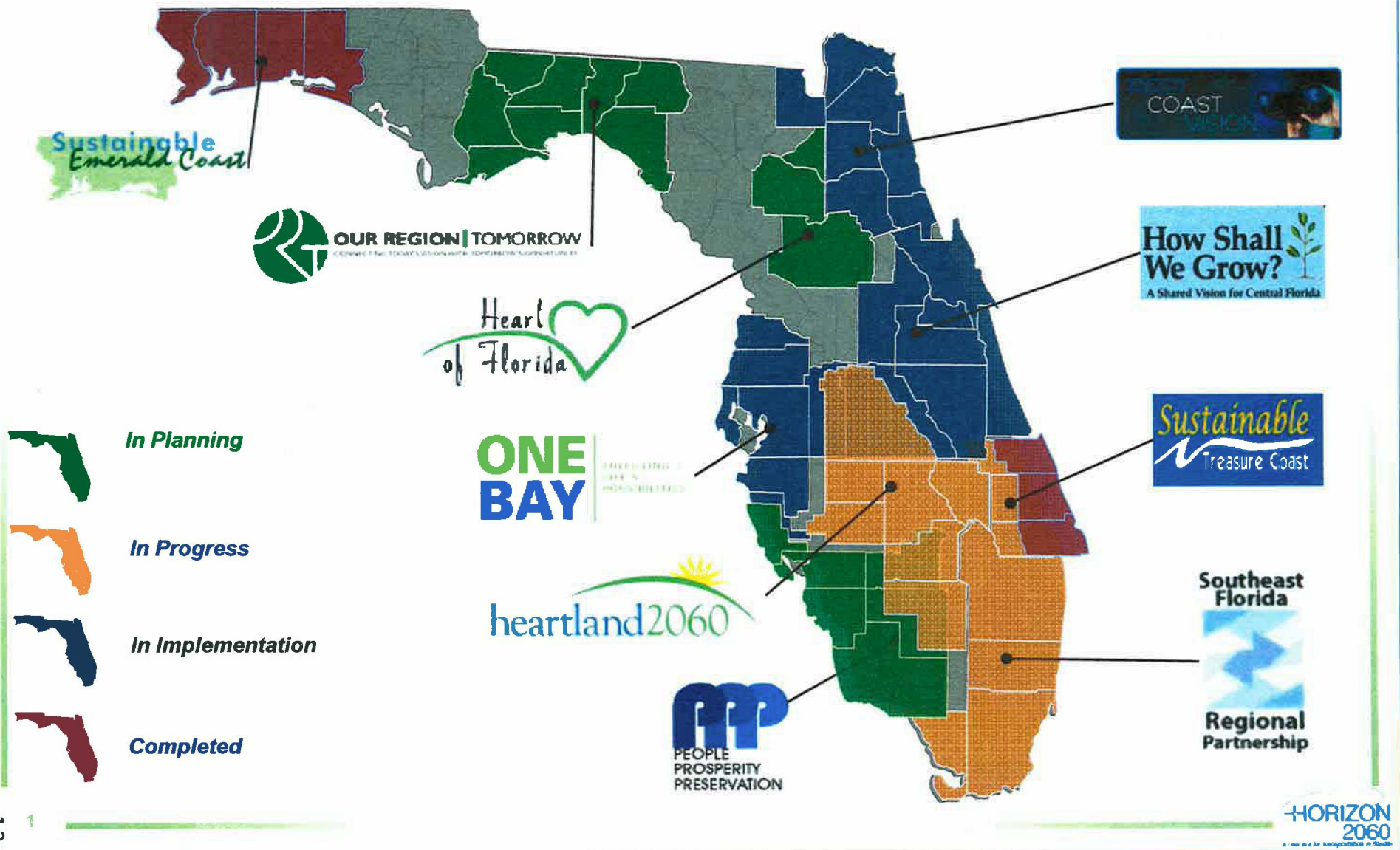
The regional visioning process would advance the Council's mission of *improving the quality of life of the region's citizens, by coordinating growth management, protecting regional resources, promoting economic development and providing technical services to local governments*. Therefore, it is recommended that the Council agree to convene and coordinate a regional visioning process for north central Florida.

If you have any questions concerning this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Attachment

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Inventory: Regional Visioning Processes





V.A.2.

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July 19, 2012

TO: Council Members

FROM: Scott R. Koons, AICP, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Banking Services Proposals

RECOMMENDATION:

Select Capital City Bank for Council and Employee Pension Plan Trust accounts for banking services.

BACKGROUND:

For the past year, the Council has maintained its bank account and the Employee Pension Plan Trust Fund account with Wells Fargo. The Council also manages bank accounts for the Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization for the Gainesville Urbanized Area and The Original Florida Tourism Task Force with Wells Fargo. In addition, Wells Fargo has been assigned the Council's 15-year promissory note by Wachovia for the purchase of the Council office building. The loan will be fully satisfied and paid in full in December 2013.

In 2010, Wells Fargo acquired Wachovia and in 2011 fully integrated and transferred all Wachovia bank accounts to Wells Fargo. The Council previously maintained bank accounts with Wachovia for six years. In 1999, the Council secured a loan from SouthTrust Bank to purchase the Council office building and transferred its bank accounts to SouthTrust Bank and maintained bank accounts with them also for six years. Prior to that time, the Council maintained its bank accounts with American National Bank for 26 years.

At its April 26, 2012 meeting, the Council authorized staff to solicit proposals for banking services and authorized the Executive Committee to review the proposals and make a recommendation to the Council for final action. Staff solicited, received and reviewed three banking services proposals. Based upon estimated interest income and fees, the following estimated net income/loss was calculated for each proposal.

| | <u>Regional Planning Council</u> | <u>Employee Pension Plan</u> | <u>Combined</u> |
|---------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------|
| • Wells Fargo | (\$ 684) | (\$1,273) | (\$1,957) |
| • Capital City Bank | \$ 2,365 | (\$ 646) | \$1,719 |
| • Sun Trust | \$ 70 | (\$ 987) | (\$ 917) |

The Executive Committee met on July 17, 2012 and reviewed the above three proposals for banking services. The Committee recommended that the Council select Capital City Bank for Council and Employee Pension Plan Trust accounts for banking services.

If you have any questions concerning this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.




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July 19, 2012

TO: Council Members

FROM: Scott R. Koons, AICP, Executive Director 

SUBJECT: Employee Health Insurance Proposal

RECOMMENDATION:

- Approve the alternative proposal received from UnitedHealthcare for Plan 9FU for employee health insurance, Plan P3416 for dental insurance and life insurance for the year beginning September 1, 2012;
- Approve making dental insurance a voluntary option with employees paying 100 percent of the premium effective September 1, 2012;
- Approve changing the employee life insurance premium payment Council share from 75 percent to 100 percent effective September 1, 2012; and
- Approve changing the health insurance premium payment Council share from 75 percent for both employee and dependent coverage to 100 percent for employee coverage only and 0 percent for dependent coverage by increasing the health insurance premium payment Council share for employee coverage by 5 percent per year over a five-year period and decreasing the health insurance premium payment Council share for dependent coverage by 15 percent per year over a five-year period beginning September 1, 2013.

BACKGROUND:

UnitedHealthcare has offered to continue health insurance coverage for the Council with an increase in premiums for the coming year beginning September 1, 2012. The total increase in cost to the Council for the coming year would be \$853 per month, or an increase of 7.5 percent. The resulting total monthly cost to the Council would be \$12,190.

UnitedHealthcare is proposing no change in life insurance premiums for the coming year.

UnitedHealthcare is proposing to increase the cost for dental insurance to the Council for the coming year by \$45 per month or an increase of 5.4 percent. The resulting total monthly cost to the Council would be \$865.

The total combined increase for health, dental and life insurance cost to the Council for the coming year would be \$898 per month, or an increase of 7.4 percent. The resulting total combined monthly cost for health, dental and life insurance to the Council would be \$13,317.

On July 17, 2012, the Executive Committee reviewed two alternative proposals for health insurance from UnitedHealthcare. Both of the alternative proposals include reduced benefits for employees. Attached is a summary of the existing plan and the two alternative plans with coverage and costs reviewed by the Executive Committee.

After reviewing the renewal proposal and two alternative proposals for health insurance, the Executive Committee recommends approval of alternative Plan 9FU resulting in a total decrease in cost to the Council for the coming year of (\$297) per month and (\$3,564) per year or a decrease of (2.6) percent for the plan year beginning September 1, 2012. The resulting total monthly cost to the Council would be \$11,040.

Currently, the Council pays 75 percent and employees pay 25 percent of the dental insurance premium for both employee and dependent coverage. The Executive Committee recommends that the Council make dental insurance a voluntary option with employees paying 100 percent of the premium effective September 1, 2012. By making dental insurance a voluntary option, it would result in a decrease in cost to the Council of (\$10,380) per year.

In addition, the Council currently pays 75 percent and employees pay 25 percent of the employee life insurance premium. The Executive Committee recommends that the Council change the life insurance premium payment Council share from 75 percent to 100 percent effective September 1, 2012. This change would result in an increase in cost to the Council of \$1,046 per year.

Also, the Council currently pays 75 percent and employees pay 25 percent of the health insurance premium for both employee and dependent coverage. The Executive Committee recommends that the Council change the health insurance premium payment Council share from 75 percent for both employee and dependent coverage to 100 percent for employee coverage only and 0 percent for dependent coverage by increasing the health insurance premium payment Council share for employee coverage by 5 percent per year over a five-year period and decreasing the health insurance premium payment Council share for dependent coverage by 15 percent per year over a five-year period beginning September 1, 2013. This change under Plan 9FU would result in a net decrease in cost to the Council in the first year of (\$5,523).

Please find attached for your information a graph showing the total cost to the Council and employees for health, life and dental insurance costs from Fiscal Year 2003-04 through Fiscal Year 2011-12 and proposed costs for Fiscal Year 2012-13.

If you have any questions concerning this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Attachments

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NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

**SUMMARY OF HEALTH INSURANCE BENEFIT PLANS
UNITED HEALTHCARE**

July 19, 2012

| | <u>DEDUCTIBLE</u> (Individual/Family) | <u>CO-INSURANCE</u> (In Network/Out Network) | <u>OUT-OF-POCKET MAXIMUM</u> (Individual/Family) | <u>PRESCRIPTIONS</u> (Generic/Brand/ Non-Preferred) |
|----------------------------|--|---|---|---|
| <u>CURRENT PLAN</u> | | | | |
| 9G-O | \$2,000/\$6,000 | 100%/80% | \$4,000/\$8,000 | \$15/\$45/\$85 |
| <u>OPTION #1</u> | | | | |
| PLR | \$3,000/\$9,000 | 50%/0% | \$10,000/\$20,000 | \$15/\$45/\$85 |
| <u>OPTION #2</u> | | | | |
| 9FU | \$2,500/\$4,500 | 100%/80% | \$4,500/\$8,500 | \$15/\$45/\$85 |

Council Cost per Month/Annum at 75 percent for both employee and dependent coverage

| | <u>Month / Annum</u> | <u>Annual Change</u> | <u>Percent Change</u> |
|------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Current Plan - Existing Cost | \$11,337 / \$136,044 | N/A | N/A |
| Current Plan - Proposed Cost | \$12,190 / \$146,280 | \$10,236 | 7.5% |
| Option #1 - PLR | \$10,239 / \$122,868 | (\$13,176) | (9.7%) |
| Option #2 - 9FU | \$11,040 / \$132,480 | (\$ 3,564) | (2.6%) |

N/A - Not Applicable

North Central Florida Regional Planning Council Total Health, Life and Dental Insurance Costs 2003-04 to 2012-13





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July 19, 2012

TO: Council Members

FROM: Sandra Haas, Chair
Clearinghouse Committee

RE: Chair's Report

The next regularly-scheduled meeting of the Clearinghouse Committee is 6:00 p.m., July 26, 2012 at the Holiday Inn and Suites, 213 SW Commerce Boulevard, Lake City. At its meeting, the Committee will review the following Committee-level item which requires Council action. I will present an oral report on the Committee's actions and recommendations at the Council meeting held later that evening.

COMMITTEE-LEVEL REVIEW ITEMS

Local Government Comprehensive Plan Amendments

#81 - Alachua County Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendments (DEO No. 12-2 ESR)

Please be advised that the Clearinghouse Committee meeting packet is posted on the Council website at <http://ncfrpc.org> (click on Upcoming Meetings and Meeting Packets, then click on Clearinghouse Committee Full Packet).

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July 19, 2012

TO: Council Members

FROM: Scott R. Koons, AICP, Executive Director 

SUBJECT: Draft Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy 2013-2017

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve the draft Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy 2013-2017 and authorize that it be noticed for a 30-day public comment period as recommended by the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Committee.

BACKGROUND:

Periodically, the Council prepares an update of the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy for submission to the U.S. Economic Development Administration to meet our contractual obligations with that agency, and to qualify our counties for funding under its economic development program.

The Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Committee met July 17, 2012 to review and recommend to the Council Goals and Objectives and Priority Project Areas. As you know, the Strategy has been organized using the Florida Chamber Foundation Six Pillars for Securing Florida's Future Economy. By organizing the Strategy by the Six Pillars, it is in alignment with the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity's recently prepared Five-Year Strategic Economic Development Plan and the Florida Chamber Foundation's Six Pillars 20-Year Strategic Plan. Projects must be regional in nature, must be connected to jobs, usually 100 jobs or more, and must include private investment, and can be funded through either planning grants or construction grants from the U.S. Economic Development Administration.

Please find attached the draft Executive Summary, Goals and Objectives, and Priority Project Areas for the Strategy. The proposed priority project areas organized by the Six Pillars as recommended by the Committee are listed below.

1. Talent Supply & Education

Support the development of educational programs to increase the labor force in the healthcare and life sciences industries.

2. Innovation & Economic Development

- a. Support the development of the catalyst sites for the North Central Florida Rural Area of Critical Economic Concern.
- b. Support the development and expansion of regional business incubators and research parks.

3. Infrastructure & Growth Leadership

Support continuing improvements to multi-modal infrastructure, including highway interchanges along interstate corridors, railway corridors, airport facilities and broadband infrastructure.

4. Business Climate & Competitiveness

Support streamlining processes at the local level to encourage new businesses to open and help existing businesses thrive.

5. Civic & Governance Systems

Support programs to educate local government officials in the fundamentals of economic development.

6. Quality of Life & Quality Places

Support regional tourism promotional initiatives.

Next, a 30-day public comment period on the draft Strategy will occur subject to Council approval. The final Strategy will be presented to the Council at its September 27, 2012 meeting for adoption. The final adopted Strategy will then be submitted to the U.S. Economic Development Administration by September 30, 2012.

If you have any questions concerning this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Attachment

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North Central Florida Economic Development District Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy

For the 2013-2017 Planning Period

July 26, 2012

Executive Summary

The North Central Florida Regional Planning Council has served as the North Central Florida Economic Development District since January 1978, when the Council received its district designation from the U.S. Economic Development Administration. Counties that are members of the Council, and thereby included in the North Central Florida Economic Development District, are designated by the U. S. Economic Development Administration as redevelopment areas and are eligible for financial assistance from the U.S. Economic Development Administration.

The primary function of the North Central Florida Economic Development District is to create and update the region's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy. The Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy provides the framework by which economic development projects in the region qualify for grant funding from the U.S. Economic Development Administration. The Strategy is developed by a strategy committee comprised of a broad range of regional economic development, business, civic, education and workforce development professionals.

The following report provides an outline of current economic and demographic conditions of the region, an analysis of regional strengths and weaknesses and an analysis of regional industry clusters. The report also lists the economic development goals and objectives as well as the Priority Project Areas developed by the Strategy committee. The report then summarizes a plan of action that outlines the activities necessary to implement the goals and objectives of the Strategy.

The Priority Project Areas of the 2013-2017 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy:

1. Talent Supply & Education

- a. Support the development of educational programs to increase the labor force in the healthcare and life sciences industry.

2. Innovation & Economic Development

- a. Support the development of the catalyst sites for the North Central Florida Rural Area of Critical Economic Concern.
- b. Support the development and expansion of regional business incubators and research parks.

3. Infrastructure & Growth Leadership

- a. Support continuing improvements to multi-modal infrastructure, including highway interchanges along interstate corridors, railway corridors, airport facilities and broadband infrastructure.

4. Business Climate & Competitiveness

- a. Support streamlining processes at the local level to encourage new businesses to open and help existing businesses thrive.

5. Civic & Governance Systems

- a. Support programs to educate local government officials in the fundamentals of economic development.

6. Quality of Life & Quality Places

- a. Support regional tourism promotional initiatives.

1. Talent Supply and Education

- a. Goal 1 - Connect and align education and workforce development programs to develop the region's current and future talent supply chain and meet employer needs.
 - i. Objective 1.1 - Expand options for high school students to become industry certified while still in high school, as an alternative to college path.
 - ii. Objective 1.2 - Integrate education, training and workforce development to develop a strong supply chain.
 - iii. Objective 1.3 - Support efforts by Florida Gateway College, North Florida Community College and Santa Fe College to expand education programs in healthcare related fields and create a marketing strategy to promote enrollment in health professions programs.
 - iv. Objective 1.4 - Support the creation of electronic medical records education and training programs utilizing a regional community-adaptive health information technology model.
- b. Goal 2 - Expand access to education and training programs for talent in distressed markets (e.g., rural, urban core) throughout the region.
 - i. Objective 2.1 - Support the creation of online and distance learning programs for students that lack other means of attaining necessary training.

2. Innovation & Economic Development

- a. Goal 1 - Grow, sustain and integrate efforts related to research and development, technology commercialization, and seed capital to create, nurture and expand regional innovation businesses.
 - i. Objective 1.1 - Support development of the Innovation Square research and development park in Gainesville, and the integration of the University of Florida's research enterprise and commercialization programs into the fabric of the Innovation Square project through the Florida Innovation Hub at the University of Florida.
 - ii. Objective 1.2 - Support the development of existing and new business incubators/accelerators throughout the region.
- b. Goal 2 - Increase the number of regional businesses engaged in selling goods and services internationally and the diversification of the markets they serve.

- i. Objective 2.1 - Provide educational opportunities to regional businesses interested in international trade on the advantages of exporting their goods and services.
- c. Goal 3 - Brand and market the north central Florida region as the best location for business.
 - i. Objective 3.1 - Support the North Florida Economic Development Partnership asset mapping and geographic information system projects in the region.
 - ii. Objective 3.2 - Support the development of the Enterprise Florida/Rural Economic Development Initiative Catalyst Sites located in Columbia County and Suwannee County by pursuing funding sources for the infrastructure necessary to develop the catalyst sites to shovel ready status.
- d. Goal 4 - Promote the continued viability of military installations in close proximity to the region.
 - i. Objective 4.1 - Improve collaboration between local government and military leaders to utilize best management practices that ensure successful economic partnerships.

3. Infrastructure & Growth Leadership:

- a. Goal 1 - Modernize the region's transportation, telecommunications, energy, water and wastewater systems to meet future demand and respond to changing business needs.
 - i. Objective 1.1 - Support the development of diverse, reliable and cost effective energy sources and systems to meet the region's economic and environmental goals.
 - ii. Objective 1.2 - Ensure the future supply and quality of water to meet the region's economic and quality of life goals by encouraging the use of the groundwater resources of the region in a sustainable manner and by strengthening local control of area surface and groundwater systems and supplies.
 - iii. Objective 1.3 - Develop and maintain a cutting-edge telecommunications infrastructure by supporting the North Florida Broadband Authority's initiative to bring high-speed internet service to the rural areas of the region.
 - iv. Objective 1.4 - Develop and maintain multimodal, interconnected trade, logistics and transportation systems to enhance freight mobility in support of a prosperous, competitive economy.
 - v. Objective 1.5 - Support the continued development of the Gainesville Regional Airport as part of the State's Strategic Intermodal System and promote the designation of the Lake City Municipal Airport as part of the State's Strategic Intermodal System.

- b. Goal 2 - Improve coordination of economic development, land use, infrastructure, water, energy, natural resources, workforce and community development decision-making and investments at the regional level.
 - i. Objective 2.1 - Improve collaboration and alignment between regional/local agencies and business leaders through a regional vision.

4. Business Climate & Competitiveness

- a. Goal 1 - Streamline permitting, development and other regulatory processes at the local level to meet changing business needs and provide a predictable legal and regulatory environment in the region.
 - i. Objective 1.1 - Reduce barriers to small business and entrepreneurial growth.
 - ii. Objective 1.2 - Develop a government revenue structure that encourages business growth and development.
- b. Goal 2 - Ensure local government agencies provide collaborative, seamless, consistent and timely customer service to regional businesses.
 - i. Objective 2.1 - Work with water management districts in the region to simplify permitting process for new and expanding businesses.
- c. Goal 3 - Expand opportunities for access to capital for businesses throughout their life cycle.
 - i. Objective 3.1 - Create a database of capital sources available to regional businesses.

5. Civic & Governance Systems

- a. Goal 1 - Support and sustain regional partnerships to accomplish the region's economic and quality of life goals.
 - i. Objective 1.1 - Utilize the North Florida Economic Development Partnership's Economic Development Academy as a vehicle to provide a functional understanding of economic development concepts to local elected officials.
 - ii. Objective 1.2 - Work with the Florida Association of Counties and the Florida League of Cities to add economic development information to their curriculums for newly elected officials.
 - iii. Objective 1.3 - Invest in strategic regional economic development priorities.

6. Quality of Life & Quality Places

- a. Goal 1 - Ensure future growth and development decisions maintain a balance between sustaining the region's environment and enhancing the region's economy and quality of life.
 - i. Objective 1.1 - Create and sustain vibrant, healthy communities that attract workers, businesses, residents and visitors to the region.
 - ii. Objective 1.2 - Promote and incentivize local government in the development of vibrant city centers.
- a. Goal 2 - Promote, develop, and leverage the region's natural and cultural assets in a sustainable manner.
 - i. Objective 2.1 - Support the efforts of the Original Florida Tourism Task Force and other regional tourism marketing organizations to develop sustainable tourism-based economic development programs and increase the entrepreneurial capacity of the hospitality industry.
 - ii. Objective 2.2 - Improve the branding and awareness of the region as a tourism destination by leveraging regional resources with VISIT FLORIDA, the State's official tourism marketing organization.
 - iii. Objective 2.3 - Promote and support the state parks within the region and improve branding and awareness of the parks as a tourist destination.

North Central Florida Economic Development District
Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Committee
Draft Priority Project Areas as of 7/17/2012

1. Talent Supply & Education

- a. Support the development of educational programs to increase the labor force in the healthcare and life sciences industry.

2. Innovation & Economic Development

- a. Support the development of the catalyst sites for the North Central Florida Rural Area of Critical Economic Concern.
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July 19, 2012

TO: Council Members
 FROM: Scott R. Koons, AICP, Executive Director *SRK*
 SUBJECT: State Infrastructure Bank Loans

The State Infrastructure Bank is a revolving loan and credit enhancement program consisting of two separate accounts and is used to leverage funds to improve project feasibility administered by the Florida Department of Transportation. The State Infrastructure Bank can provide loans and other assistance to public or private entities for projects eligible under federal and state law. The State Infrastructure Bank cannot provide assistance in the form of a grant.

Proposed application dates for State Fiscal Year 2013-14 production-ready projects are, as follows.

Open for applications: July 2, 2012
 Close for applications: August 31, 2012
 Tentative Awards: October 31, 2012

Funds will be available the week of July 1, 2013 for successful awards.

Federally-Funded Account - approximately \$50 million anticipated for new loans

- capitalized by federal money matched with state money;
- repayments returned to the federally-funded account and revolved for future loans;
- must be eligible for assistance under Title 23, United States Code or capital projects as defined in Section 5302 or Title 49 United States Code;
- must be included in the adopted long-range transportation plan of the applicable metropolitan planning organization; and
- must conform to all federal and state laws, rules and standards.

State-Funded Account - approximately \$75 million anticipated for new loans

- capitalized by state money and bond proceeds;
- repayments returned to the state-funded account after debt service is paid on any outstanding bonds and revolved for future loans;
- must be on the State Highway System or provide increased mobility on the State Highway System, or provide intermodal connectivity with airports, seaports, rail facilities and other transportation terminals;

- must be consistent, to the maximum extent feasible, with local metropolitan planning organization long-range transportation plans and local government comprehensive plans;
- must conform to policies and procedures within applicable Florida Statutes and other appropriate state standards for the transportation system; and
- repayments due from work program, internal loans, may not exceed 0.75 percent of the revenues deposited into State Transportation Trust Fund.

All projects will be integrated into the Department's five-year work program cycle. Acceptable applications should include at a minimum, but may not be limited to, the following criteria.

- net present value of repayments;
- secure source of funding to repay loan;
- higher level of financial feasibility;
- financial safeguards in place as secondary repayment sources to complete project and ensure loan is repaid;
- encourage, enhance and/or create economic benefits, jobs creation;
- enable project to be advanced to an earlier date;
- foster innovative public-private partnerships;
- new technologies including intelligent transportation systems;
- maintain or protect the environment;
- improve intermodalism;
- use State Infrastructure Bank as a smaller percentage of total project costs;
- secured local and private funding sources to leverage project; and
- improve safety.

The State Infrastructure Bank website is <http://www.dot.state.fl.us/financialplanning/finance/sib.shtm>. For more information contact Robin Naitove, Comptroller at 850.414.4151, Leon Corbett, Manager - Project Finance at 850.414.4421 or Jennifer Weeks, State Infrastructure Bank Program Manager at 850.414.4459.



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July 19, 2012

TO: Council Members

FROM: Scott R. Koons, AICP, Executive Director *SRK*

SUBJECT: 2012 Proposed Constitutional Amendments

The following 11 proposed constitutional amendments have been placed on the ballot by the Legislature for the general election to be held November 6, 2012.

- Amendment 1: Health Care Services
- Amendment 2: Veterans Disabled Due to Combat Injury Homestead Property Tax Discount
- Amendment 3: State Government Revenue Limitation
- Amendment 4: Property Tax Limitations
- Amendment 5: State Courts
- Amendment 6: Public Funds for Abortions
- Amendment 8: Religious Freedom
- Amendment 9: Homestead Property Tax Exemption for Surviving Spouse of Military Veteran or First Responder
- Amendment 10: Tangible Personal Property Tax Exemption
- Amendment 11: Additional Homestead Tax Exemption for Seniors
- Amendment 12: Board of Governors/Student Member of Board of Governors

Summaries of the amendments are listed below. Amendments with local government implications are in bold.

- **AMENDMENT 1: Health Care Services (Legislative Joint Resolution).** Amendment 1 would prohibit laws from compelling any Floridian/employer to purchase, obtain or provide health care coverage. This would allow a person/employer to purchase services directly from a health care provider and allow a health care provider to accept direct payment for services if a patient chooses to pay out of pocket.
- **AMENDMENT 2: Veterans Disabled Due to Combat Injury; Homestead Property Tax Discount (Legislative Joint Resolution).** Amendment 2 would expand the current property tax discount to an increased number of veterans who became disabled as a result of combat injury. This would allow partially or totally disabled veterans who were not Florida residents at the time of entering military service to qualify for the combat-related disabled veterans ad valorem tax discount on homestead property.
- **AMENDMENT 3: State Government Revenue Limitation (Legislative Joint Resolution).** Amendment 3 would replace the existing state revenue limitation with a new limitation based on inflation and population change. This would require any revenue collected above the state cap to first be deposited in the Budget Stabilization Fund, then used for public

education, then to be given to the taxpayers if there is enough excess. It would authorize the Legislature to increase the revenue limitation for a fiscal year by a supermajority vote or a 3/5 vote by the Florida electorate.

- **AMENDMENT 4: Property Tax Limitations; Property Value Decline; Reduction for non-Homestead Assessment Increase; Delay of Schedule Appeal (Legislative Joint Resolution).** Amendment 4 would prohibit increases in assessed value of homestead and specified non-homestead property if the value of a property decreases. Non-homestead or commercial property would have their assessment increases capped at 5 percent, down from the previous 10 percent. Non-homestead residential, rental and commercial real properties might experience property tax savings and would not see their taxes increase significantly in a single year, due to the change in assessment increase limitation from 10 percent to 5 percent. There will be an additional homestead exemption for owners who have not owned the property for a specific amount of time and remove future repeal of provisions limiting annual assessment increases for specified non-homestead property. Further, the measure would implement an additional homestead exemption for first-time buyers equal to 50 percent of the median home price in the county. The additional exemption, however, would be gradually reduced until it expires within five years.
- **AMENDMENT 5: State Courts (Legislative Joint Resolution).** Amendment 5 addresses reforms to Florida's court system structure and functions. This would revise provisions relating to the repeal of court rules from needing a two-thirds vote of both houses of the Legislature to overturn rules of the court, to now require a majority vote of both houses; limits the re-adoption of repealed court rules; allows for Senate confirmation of Supreme Court Justices; requires the Judicial Qualifications Commission to make all files and records available to the Speaker of the House during an investigation, such that the files remain confidential until impeachment is initiated.
- **AMENDMENT 6: Public Funds for Abortions (Legislative Joint Resolution).** Amendment 6 would prohibit the spending of public funds for any abortion or for health-benefits coverage that includes that coverage of abortion. Exceptions are expenditures required by federal law; a case in which a woman is in danger of death unless an abortion is performed; or an abortion due to a pregnancy resulting from rape or incest. The Florida Constitution may not be interpreted to create broader rights to an abortion than those contained in the U. S. Constitution.
- **AMENDMENT 8: Religious Freedom (Legislative Joint Resolution).** Amendment 8 would remove a prohibition on revenues from the public treasury being used to aid any church, sect or religious denomination in aid of a sectarian institution. This would ensure that no individual/entity can be denied any government benefit, funding or support based on religious identify or belief.
- **AMENDMENT 9: Homestead Property Tax Exemption for Surviving Spouse of Military Veteran or First Responder (Legislative Joint Resolution).** Amendment 9 would allow the Legislature by general law to provide ad valorem homestead property tax relief to the surviving spouse of a military veteran who died from service-connected causes while on active duty or the surviving spouse of a first responder who died in the line of duty, provide definitions with respect thereto, and provide an effective date.

- **AMENDMENT 10: Tangible Personal Property Tax Exemption (Legislative Joint Resolution).** The joint resolution amends the section of law regarding the exemption for tangible personal property. It primarily does two things. First, it provides an exemption from ad valorem taxes levied by counties, municipalities, school districts and other local governments on tangible personal property if the assessed value of an owner's tangible personal property is greater than \$25,000, but less than \$50,000. Second, it authorizes a county or municipality to provide additional tangible personal property tax exemptions by ordinance.
- **AMENDMENT 11: Additional Homestead Tax Exemption for Seniors (Legislative Joint Resolution).** Amendment 11 would authorize the Legislature to allow counties and municipalities to grant an additional homestead tax exemption equal to the assessed value of a homestead property, if the property has a value lower than the specified amount, to the owner who has maintained permanent residency on the property for a specified duration, who has attained age 65, and whose household income does not exceed a specified amount.
- **AMENDMENT 12: Board of Governors/Student Member of Board of Governors (Legislative Joint Resolution).** Amendment 12 would revise the selection process for the student member of the Board of Governors of the State University System. It would remove the president of the Florida Student Association as a student member of the Board of Governors of the State University System and replace the member with the chair of the council of student body presidents. The council will include all universities, not just the universities that are members of the Florida Student Association.

If you have any questions concerning this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.




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July 19, 2012

TO: Council Members

FROM: Scott R. Koons, AICP, Executive Director 

SUBJECT: Planning In America Opinion Poll

The American Planning Association has recently released the results of a poll on the attitudes of Americans toward planning. A news release concerning the poll is attached. Some of the major findings of the poll are, as follows.

1. Community planning is perceived as an “essential” part of economic recovery by a large majority of every demographic group.
2. More than two-thirds of Americans want planners to focus most on creating jobs.
3. Planners are seen as key leaders who will help design the path to economic recovery.
4. People see a connection between planning and improving their community.
5. There is a sense of stagnation among Americans about their communities.
6. More than 50% of Americans want to personally be involved in community planning efforts.
7. Only six percent of Americans oppose Agenda 21 while most, 85%, say they do not know enough to have an opinion either way.

If you have any questions concerning this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Attachment

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American Planning Association

Making Great Communities Happen

NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Denny Johnson, APA, Tel. 202.349.1006, djohnson@planning.org
Jason Jordan, APA, Tel. 202.349.1005, jjordan@planning.org

**National Poll: Community Planners Essential to
Putting America on Road to Economic Recovery**
Americans' Top Priorities: Jobs, Safety, Schools

Washington, D.C. – With the U.S. economy struggling, Americans believe community planners should play a major role in helping the nation get back on its feet, according to a national poll released today by the American Planning Association (APA). Two-thirds of Americans believe their community needs more planning to promote economic recovery.

The poll found that Americans want planners to focus most on creating jobs -- followed by safety, schools, protecting neighborhoods and water quality. "Not only do Americans strongly believe community planning is critical to jump starting our nation's economy," said APA Chief Executive Officer Paul Farmer, FAICP, "but a majority want to be personally involved with community planning efforts, whether they live in an city, suburb, small town or rural America."

According to the poll findings, planners are seen by a majority of the public as key leaders in local economic recovery. The poll, which surveyed 1,300 Americans, asked: "Which of the following do you want your local planners to spend their time on?"

The top priorities:

- Job creation – 70 percent
- Safety – 69 percent
- Schools – 67 percent
- Protecting neighborhoods – 64 percent
- Water quality – 62 percent

APA President Mitchell Silver, AICP, said the association commissioned the poll to better understand what Americans think planners' priorities should be in light of several trends including local government budget tightening; a decline in private sector investment; significant new federal investment in planning grants to sustain communities; and attempts by a small but vocal minority of the country's electorate to obstruct local planning and community engagement activities.

Silver said that 67 percent of respondents believe that "engaging citizens through local planning is essential to rebuilding local economies, creating jobs and improving people's lives."

-- more --



A broad majority of poll respondents – 79 percent – agreed that their community could benefit from a plan. The desire for increased local planning for economic growth runs across the political spectrum with support among two-thirds of Republicans and Independents and three-quarters of Democrats.

Among the poll's other findings:

- Compared to five years ago, 84 percent of Americans believe their community is getting worse or staying the same.
- About two-thirds of respondents (66 percent) say both market forces and community planning are necessary for economic improvement and job creation. Just 14 percent believe that market forces alone will do the job.
- Asked what makes an ideal community, half or more of respondents said having locally-owned businesses nearby (55 percent); the ability to grow old in the same neighborhood (54 percent); availability of sidewalks (53 percent); energy-efficient homes (52 percent); and availability of transit (50 percent).
- The vast majority of Americans – 85 percent – do not know enough about United Nations Agenda 21 to have an opinion about it. Nine percent said they support the document and 6 percent oppose it.

"Planners are at the forefront of building communities that foster economic growth and create jobs. We're working to add value to communities around the country, and this poll confirms that our expertise is aligned with the priorities of most Americans," Farmer said.

Silver added, "Communities that plan for the future are stronger and more resilient than those that don't. The country faces significant changes and challenges. Planners stand ready to work with local citizens to build this recovery, and a better future, one neighborhood at a time."

The research study was commissioned to objectively determine what the general public wants from community planning and what perceptions exist. Collective Strength, a firm specializing in outreach and communications, designed the questionnaire and performed the analytics. Harris Interactive reviewed the questionnaire to ensure objectivity and fielded the survey in March. A representative sample of Americans, based on the most recent U.S. Census estimates, was surveyed with a margin of error of plus or minus 3 percent.

The American Planning Association is an independent, not-for-profit educational organization that provides leadership in the development of vital communities. APA and its professional institute, the American Institute of Certified Planners, are dedicated to advancing the art, science and profession of planning -- physical, economic and social -- so as to create communities that offer better choices for where and how people work and live. Members of APA help create communities of lasting value and encourage civic leaders, business interests and citizens to play a meaningful role in creating communities that enrich people's lives. APA has offices in Washington, D.C., and Chicago, Ill. For more information, visit www.planning.org.



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July 19, 2012

TO: Council Members

FROM: Scott R. Koons, AICP, Executive Director 

SUBJECT: Statewide Regional Evacuation Study Award

Working together in a coordinated manner, all 11 regional planning councils recently completed a multi-year Statewide Regional Evacuation Study. The award-winning Study represented an unprecedented undertaking to concurrently update the regional evacuation studies for each region.

Following the destructive 2004 and 2005 hurricane seasons, the Legislature appropriated \$29.0 million for the purpose of hurricane evacuation planning. The Statewide Regional Evacuation Study Program began in 2006 as a direct result of this funding. The Legislature funded two inter-related and dependant projects, \$24.5 million for Light Detection and Ranging data and \$4.5 million to update regional evacuation studies.

The majority of funding was used for developing the Light Detection and Ranging data, which provides elevation data for the entire coastline of Florida with an elevation point every six inches. This data greatly improves the accuracy of the Sea, Lake and Overland Surge from Hurricanes Model and Surge Inundation Model results. Use of such emerging technology sets the Study apart from those previously completed.

The remaining funding was used to design state-of-the-art products to advance the study of evacuation planning. The Study utilized new technology in creating an evacuation study for the 11 regional planning council regions. Most significantly, the same methodology was applied statewide. This was an unprecedented strategy, as no other state has ever addressed evacuation planning in a holistic, integrated, coordinated approach.

In order to achieve one of the primary project goals of a consistent methodology, the Statewide Regional Evacuation Study Program required the coordination of local, regional, State and Federal agencies. As the program manager, the Northeast Florida Regional Council assumed this coordinating role. The Federal Emergency Management Agency and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration played key roles in the funding of the program and the modeling of the Sea, Lake and Overland Surge from Hurricanes basins. State agencies within Florida, including the Florida Division of Emergency Management, the Florida Department of Transportation and the Florida Department of Community Affairs were partners that assisted in achieving a methodology that was consistent and applicable across multiple disciplines.

A statewide behavioral survey was undertaken, the largest of its kind in Florida, to collect data from every county on the subject of evacuation. Nearly 400,000 calls were placed, with over 18,800 interviews conducted. The data was then analyzed using behavioral assumptions about how people will react to an evacuation order. The survey results were used in the transportation evacuation model. The result of these efforts is an evacuation study for each region, unique to each region, completed using the same methodology across the State.

The Study had been previously recognized for excellence both at the state and national level. The Florida Planning and Zoning Association granted the Study their 2011 Outstanding Public Study Award. At the national level, both trade associations for regional planning councils and regional development organizations have also granted awards for the Study. The National Association of Regional Councils granted the Study a 2011 Achievement Award and the National Association of Development Organizations granted the Study a 2011 Innovation Award. In addition, the American Planning Association recently recognized the Study by granting it the 2012 Best Practices in Hazard Mitigation and Disaster Planning Award.

If you have any questions concerning this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.



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July 19, 2012

TO: Council Members

FROM: Scott R. Koons, AICP, Executive Director 

SUBJECT: 2011-12 Member Certificates of Outstanding Attendance

An essential component of the ability of the Council to conduct its business is the regular attendance of members at Council meetings. A Council Member Attendance Recognition Program was established by the Council at the May 22, 2008 Council meeting to recognize the commitment of those Council members actively engaged in the organization by regularly attending Council meetings.

A Certificate of Outstanding Attendance will be awarded to the following members at the July 26, 2012 Council meeting in recognition of their attendance at every scheduled Council meeting during Program Year 2011-12.

City

Alphonso Dowdell, Councilman, City of Perry

Garth Nobles, Jr., Mayor, City of Live Oak

Carolyn Spooner, Commissioner, City of Starke

County

Daniel Riddick, County Commissioner, Bradford County

Please join me in recognizing the service and commitment of these Council members as exhibited by their perfect attendance record.

If you have questions concerning this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

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July 19, 2012

TO: Council Members

FROM: Scott R. Koons, AICP, Executive Director 

SUBJECT: Executive Director's Cup

In furtherance of the Council Member Attendance Recognition Program and to encourage attendance at Council meetings, an Executive Director's Cup is awarded each year to recognize the perfect attendance by either county, city or gubernatorial members during a program year.

For Program Year 2011-12, the Executive Director's Cup will be awarded at the July 26, 2012 Council meeting to the city members, Alphonso Dowdell, City of Perry, Garth Nobles, Jr., City of Live Oak and Carolyn Spooner, City of Starke, in recognition of their perfect attendance. The Executive Director's Cup is prominently displayed at the Council office.

Congratulations to the city team of Councilman Dowdell, Mayor Nobles and Commissioner Spooner for winning the Program Year 2011-12 Executive Director's Cup for the city members.

If you have questions concerning this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

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July 19, 2012

TO: Council Members

FROM: Scott R. Koons, AICP, Executive Director 

SUBJECT: 2011-12 Florida Regional Councils Association Annual Report

The 2011-12 Annual Report for the Florida Regional Councils Association is attached for your information. The Florida Regional Councils Association is the statewide association of all 11 regional councils in Florida. It is governed by a Policy Board made up of three representatives (county, municipal, gubernatorial) from each Council who are in turn advised by the Executive Directors Advisory Committee comprised of all 11 executive directors.

The following members of the Council currently serve on the Florida Regional Councils Association Policy Board.

Ms. Lorene Thomas, Chair
Honorable Garth Nobles, Jr., Vice-Chair
Honorable Roy Ellis, Immediate Past Chair

Activities of the Council are featured on pages 27 and 28. However, you are encouraged to review the document in its entirety to gain an understanding of the activities that are occurring on a statewide basis.

If you have any questions concerning this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

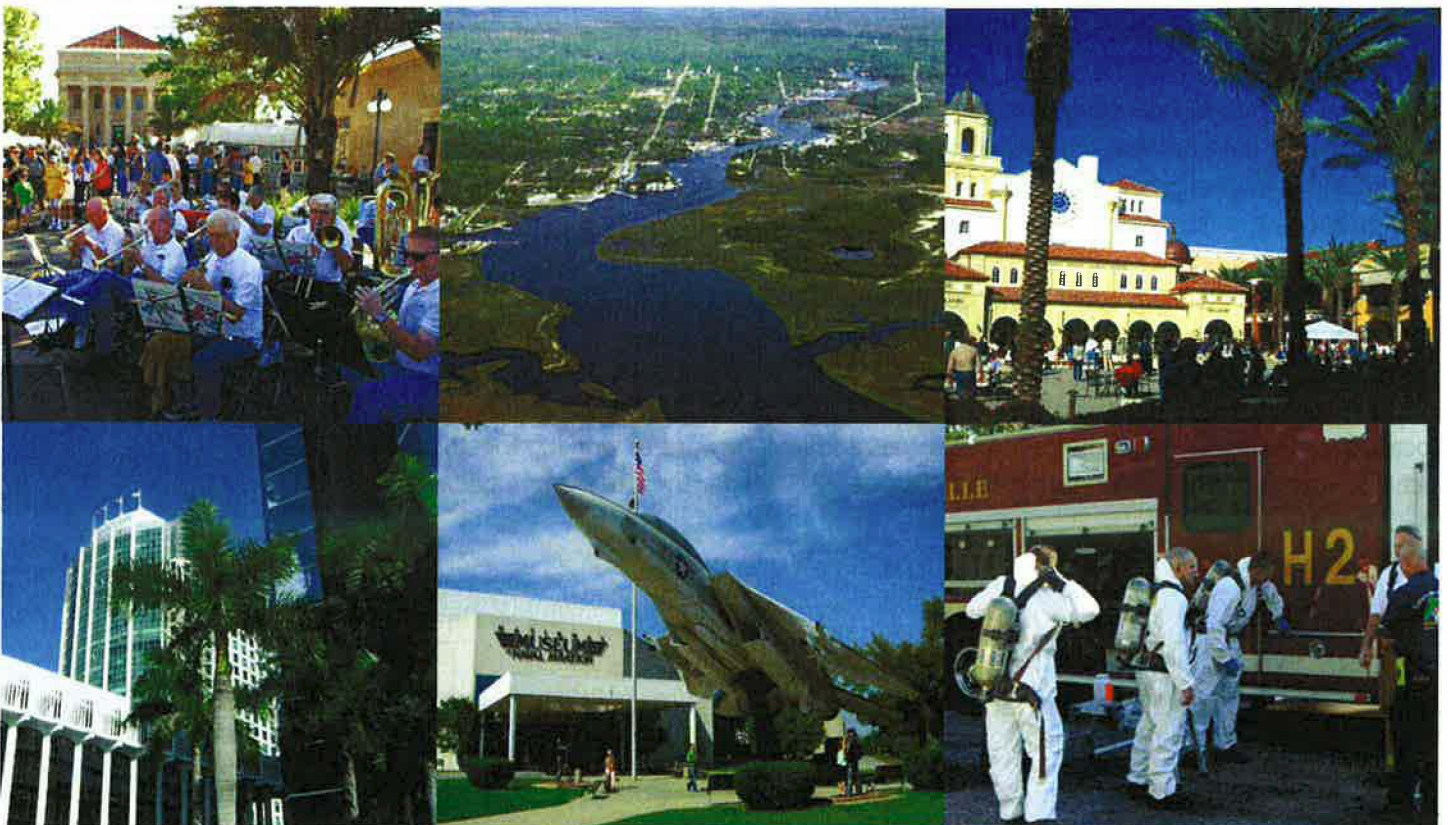
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Dedicated to improving the quality of life of the Region's citizens,
by coordinating growth management, protecting regional resources,
promoting economic development and providing technical services to local governments.

Florida REGIONAL COUNCILS Association

Partnerships for the Future



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This past year marked the 50th anniversary of two regional planning councils – the East Central Florida Regional Planning Council and the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council. These councils were recognized for providing a forum where leaders can discuss complex regional issues, develop strategic responses, and build consensus for setting and accomplishing regional goals among their local jurisdictions for over half a century.

Another exciting event this past year resulted from a newly forged collaborative relationship with the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity. Florida's regional planning councils teamed up with the Department to host ten Five-Year Statewide Strategic Plan regional forums, reaching out to over 1,000 Floridians representing local and state elected officials, economic development organizations, chambers of commerce, workforce boards, members of the business community, educational institutions, and many others. The purpose of the regional forums was to gather strategies and recommendations for the Plan. As the Department analyzes the results and organizes the Plan around the Florida Chamber's Six Pillars of Florida's Future Economy™, regional planning councils are concurrently updating their Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies using the Six Pillars as an organizing foundation to align their plans for regional economic development with the Five-Year Statewide Strategic Plan.

This past year, regional planning councils also completed the award-winning Statewide Regional Evacuation Study. An unprecedented strategy, the project updated all 11 regional evacuation studies in the State of Florida at the same time. Working with local emergency management agencies, the Florida Department of Transportation, and the Florida Division of Emergency Management, regional planning councils developed the necessary methodologies and strategies to document a consistent and coordinated approach statewide for evacuations. The Statewide Regional Evacuation Study won awards from the National Association of Development Organizations, National Association of Regional Councils, American Planning Association, and Florida Planning and Zoning Association.

Of course, economic challenges have been foremost in the minds of Florida's citizens and the local governments which serve them. Due to the unprecedented economic events of the past few years, regional planning councils continue to use resources wisely and in a fiscally responsible manner without compromising their work products or the attentive service given to their local governments. In spite of the economic downturn, regional planning councils, in partnership with economic development organizations and local governments, continue to promote regional strategies, partnerships, and solutions to strengthen the economic competitiveness of Florida's 67 counties and over 400 incorporated municipalities.

Florida's regional planning councils will continue to provide a foundation and play a pivotal role in developing a comprehensive framework for managing regional growth and economic development. It has been my honor to serve as President of the Florida Regional Councils Association. Florida's regional planning councils appreciate the continued support from their member local governments and gubernatorial appointees and look forward to working together to achieve economic prosperity and improve the quality of life for the citizens of Florida.

Sincerely yours,

Scott Black, President
Florida Regional Councils Association





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POLICY BOARD MEMBERS

Apalachee Regional Planning Council

Honorable Jane Sauls, Leon County Commissioner
Honorable Delores Madison, Midway City Commissioner
Mr. Kendall Wade, Gubernatorial Appointee

Central Florida Regional Planning Council

Honorable Minor Bryant, Hardee County Commissioner
Honorable Pat Huff, City of Bartow Commissioner
Ms. Jackie Tucker, Gubernatorial Appointee

East Central Florida Regional Planning Council

Honorable Andy Kelly, Volusia County Commissioner
Honorable Sean Parks, Lake County Commissioner
Ms. Christina Dixon, Gubernatorial Appointee

North Central Florida Regional Planning Council

Honorable Roy Ellis, Madison County Commissioner
Honorable Garth Nobles, Jr., City of Live Oak Mayor
Ms. Lorene Thomas, Gubernatorial Appointee

Northeast Florida Regional Council

Honorable Milissa Holland, Flagler County Commissioner
Honorable Bill Leary, St. Augustine City Commissioner
Ms. Elaine Brown, Gubernatorial Appointee

South Florida Regional Planning Council

Honorable Heather Carruthers, Monroe County Mayor
Honorable Michael Blynn, North Miami City Councilman
Honorable Patricia Asseff, Gubernatorial Appointee

Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council

Honorable James Coletta, Collier County Commissioner
Honorable Teresa Heitmann, City of Naples Councilwoman
Ms. Laura Holquist, Gubernatorial Appointee

Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council

Honorable Scott Black, City of Dade City Commissioner
Honorable Bill Dodson, City of Plant City Vice-Mayor
Ms. Barbara Sheen Todd, Gubernatorial Appointee

Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council

Honorable Doug Smith, Martin County Commissioner
Honorable Samuel Ferreri, City of Greenacres Mayor
Ms. Susan Hershey, Gubernatorial Appointee

West Florida Regional Planning Council

Honorable David Cadle, City of Crestview Mayor
Honorable Grady Hester, City of Milton Councilman
Mr. J.D. Smith, Gubernatorial Appointee

Withlacoochee Regional Planning Council

Honorable James Adkins, Hernando County Commissioner
Honorable Dennis Damato, Citrus County Commissioner
Ms. Martha Hanson, Gubernatorial Appointee



**Honorable Scott Black
President**



**Honorable Minor Bryant
Vice-President**

FLORIDA REGIONAL COUNCILS ASSOCIATION



- ◆ The Florida Regional Councils Association is an association of Florida's 11 regional planning councils.
- ◆ The Association serves to strengthen Florida's regional planning councils, enhance regional economic prosperity, and improve the consistency and quality of regional planning council programs to ensure they add value to state, regional, and local initiatives.
- ◆ The Association is governed by a Policy Board made up of two elected officials and one gubernatorial appointee from each regional planning council.
- ◆ The Policy Board meets to discuss issues affecting regional planning councils, to share information with its partners, and to set policy and a legislative agenda.

"Florida Regional Councils Association fosters relationships and partnerships with regional, state, and national entities."

- ◆ The Policy Board seeks support of the national regional agenda from Florida's Congressional Delegation as well as support for state funding of regional planning councils to carry-out state mandates and further economic development.

- ◆ Regional planning council executive directors serve as the Policy Board's Executive Directors Advisory Committee to coordinate statewide initiatives, meet with state agency senior level staff, and share best practices.
- ◆ The Association ensures regional planning councils are consensus builders and problem solvers, and serve as conveners of the region.
- ◆ The Association encourages and promotes opportunities for regional planning councils to become partners in state programs and initiatives, while promoting the uniqueness of each region.
- ◆ The Association represents regional planning councils in the National Association of Regional Councils, National Association of Development Organizations, and SouthEast Regional Directors Institute.



- ◆ The Association fosters relationships and partnerships and coordinates with regional, state, and national associations and organizations; non-profit entities; public-private partnerships; the Governor's Office; state agencies; and others on issues of mutual interest and concern, and with whom the Association shares mutual goals and priorities.

REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCILS

- ◆ By the late 1970s, most Florida counties had entered into interlocal agreements under Section 163.01, Florida Statutes, to create regional planning councils in response to areawide circumstances and needs.
- ◆ Passage of the Florida State and Regional Planning Act of 1984 authorized the designation of comprehensive planning districts - regional planning councils - as the primary organizations to address problems of greater than local concern.



- ◆ Florida Statutes recognizes regional planning councils as "Florida's only multipurpose regional entity that is in a position to plan for and coordinate intergovernmental solutions to growth-related problems on greater-than-local issues, provide technical assistance to local governments, and meet other needs of the communities in each region."
- ◆ Regional planning councils adopt Strategic Regional Policy Plans to address natural resources, housing, emergency management, transportation, and economic development.
- ◆ The services and programs of regional planning councils (see pages 18-19) are focused on addressing regional concerns and meet the needs of their member local governments.

"Regional planning councils are multi-purpose entities that coordinate intergovernmental solutions."

- ◆ Regional planning councils each have a Board of Directors that sets its work program and budget. These governing boards range in size from 19 to 48 and are typically made up of two local elected officials and one gubernatorial appointee from each of its member counties.
- ◆ Each Board of Directors includes at least four ex-officio, non-voting members from the following entities: Florida Department of Economic Opportunity, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Florida Department of Transportation, and the appropriate water management district(s).



- ◆ Funding for regional planning councils generally comes from three sources: local government membership dues and contracts, and federal and state funding.
- ◆ Regional planning councils are an extension of the local governments they serve.

STATEWIDE IMPACT

Regional planning councils are Florida's only multipurpose regional entities that plan for and coordinate intergovernmental solutions on multijurisdictional issues, support regional economic development, and provide assistance to local governments.

- ◆ Through regional planning councils, from January 2003 to August 2010, the U.S. Economic Development Administration **invested \$66 million in 60 projects in Florida to create/retain 13,700 jobs** and leverage \$1 billion in private capital investment.
- ◆ Through a revolving loan fund portfolio composed of federal and state funds, regional planning councils have **loaned \$38.6 million over the past ten years, resulting in the creation of over 1,800 jobs** by growing small businesses.
- ◆ For every dollar invested by the State of Florida through an appropriation for regional planning councils in Fiscal Year 2010-11, **regional planning councils leveraged 11 dollars in local, federal, and private direct investment** to meet regional needs.
- ◆ Over the past ten years, regional planning councils have **trained more than 50,000 first responders** and other emergency management personnel.



- ◆ Over the past ten years, regional planning councils have **conducted 420 regional economic impact analyses and studies**, often in support of local economic development organizations, helping them compete nationally and globally for investment and skilled jobs.

"Regional planning councils support regional economic development and provide assistance to local governments."



- ◆ Regional planning councils in Florida were **the first in the nation to complete a Statewide Regional Evacuation Study**, which won state/national awards from the National Association of Development Organizations, National Association of Regional Councils, American Planning Association, and Florida Planning and Zoning Association.

REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL DIRECTORY



| REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL | COUNTIES | | EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS |
|-----------------------------|---|---|---|
| Apalachee | Calhoun Franklin Gadsden Gulf Jackson | Jefferson Leon Liberty Wakulla | Charles D. Blume <u>Main Office</u> 20776 Central Avenue East, Suite 1 Blountstown, FL 32424 PH: 850.674.4571 FAX: 850.674.4574 <u>Tallahassee Office</u> PH: 850.488.6211 FAX: 850.488.1616 Email: cblume@fairpoint.net Website: www.thearpc.com |
| Central Florida | DeSoto Hardee Highlands | Okeechobee Polk | Patricia M. Steed 555 East Church Street Bartow, FL 33830 PH: 863.534.7130, x130 FAX: 863.534.7138 Email: psteed@cfrpc.org Website: http://www.cfrpc.org |
| East Central Florida | Brevard Lake Orange | Osceola Seminole Volusia | Hugh W. Harling, Jr. (Interim) 309 Cranes Roost Boulevard, Suite 2000 Altamonte Springs, FL 32701 PH: 407.262.7772, x303 Fax: 407.262.7788 Email: hharling@ecfrpc.org Website: http://www.ecfrpc.org |



2011-12 Annual Report & Directory

| REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL | COUNTIES | | EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS |
|------------------------------|---|---|---|
| North Central Florida | Alachua Bradford Columbia Dixie Gilchrist Hamilton | Lafayette Madison Suwannee Taylor Union | Scott R. Koons 2009 Northwest 67th Place Gainesville, FL 32653 PH: 352.955.2200, x101 FAX: 352.955.2209 Email: koons@ncfrpc.org Web Site: http://www.ncfrpc.org |
| Northeast Florida | Baker Clay Duval Flagler | Nassau Putnam St. Johns | Brian D. Teeple 6850 Belfort Oaks Place Jacksonville, FL 32216 PH: 904.279.0880, x103 FAX: 904.279.0881 Email: bteeple@nefrpc.org Web Site: http://www.nefrpc.org |
| South Florida | Broward Miami-Dade Monroe | | James F. Murley 3440 Hollywood Boulevard, Suite 140 Hollywood, FL 33021 PH: 954.985.4416, x220 FAX: 954.985.4417 Email: jmurley@sfrpc.com Website: http://www.sfrpc.com |
| Southwest Florida | Charlotte Collier Glades | Hendry Lee Sarasota | Margaret A. Wuerstle 1926 Victoria Avenue Ft. Myers, FL 33901 PH: 239.338.2550, x222 FAX: 239.338.2560 Email: mwuerstle@swfrpc.org Website: http://www.swfrpc.org |
| Tampa Bay | Hillsborough Manatee | Pasco Pinellas | Manny L. Pumariega 4000 Gateway Centre Boulevard, Suite 100 Pinellas Park, FL 33782 PH: 727.570.5151, x17 FAX: 727.570.5118 Email: manny@tbrpc.org Website: http://www.tbrpc.org |
| Treasure Coast | Indian River Martin | Palm Beach St. Lucie | Michael J. Busha 421 Southwest Camden Avenue Stuart, FL 34994 PH: 772.221.4060, x15 FAX: 772.221.4067 Email: mbusha@tcrpc.org Website: http://www.tcrpc.org |
| West Florida | Bay Escambia Holmes Okaloosa | Santa Rosa Walton Washington | Terry A. Joseph 4081 East Olive Road, Suite A Pensacola, FL 32514 PH: 850.332.7976, x201 FAX: 850.637.1923 Email: terry.joseph@wfrpc.org Website: www.wfrpc.org |
| Withlacoochee | Citrus Hernando Levy | Marion Sumter | Michael R. Moehlman 1241 Southwest 10th Street Ocala, FL 34471 PH: 352.732.1315, x218 FAX: 352.732.1319 Email: moehlman@wrpc.cc Website: http://www.wrpc.cc |

VOTING MEMBER GOVERNMENTS

| REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL | COUNTY | MUNICIPALITY | GUBERNATORIAL APPOINTEES | BOARD MEETING DATE/TIME |
|----------------------------------|--|--|--|--|
| Apalachee | Calhoun Franklin Gadsden Gulf Jackson Jefferson Leon Liberty Wakulla | Altha Carrabelle Quincy Wewahitchka Malone Monticello Tallahassee Bristol St. Marks | Calhoun Franklin Gadsden Gulf Jackson Jefferson Leon Liberty Wakulla | Every other month: Fourth Thursday 10:30 a.m. |
| Central Florida | DeSoto Hardee Highlands Okeechobee Polk | Arcadia Wauchula Sebring Okeechobee Lakeland, Winter Haven, Ridge League of Cities | DeSoto Hardee Highlands Okeechobee Polk | Monthly: Second Wednesday 9:30 a.m. |
| East Central Florida | Brevard Lake Orange Osceola Seminole Volusia | Space Coast League of Cities Lake County League of Cities Orlando, Tri-County League of Cities Tri-County League of Cities Tri-County League of Cities Volusia County League of Cities | Brevard Lake Orange Osceola Seminole Volusia | Monthly: Third Wednesday 10:00 a.m. |
| North Central Florida | Alachua Bradford Columbia Dixie Gilchrist Hamilton Lafayette Madison Suwannee Taylor Union | Alachua, Archer, Gainesville, Hawthorne, High Springs, Newberry, and Waldo Starke Lake City No Voting Municipal Member No Voting Municipal Member Jasper No Voting Municipal Member Madison Like Oak Perry No Voting Municipal Member | Alachua Bradford Columbia Dixie Gilchrist Hamilton Lafayette Madison Suwannee Taylor Union | Monthly: Fourth Thursday 7:30 p.m. |
| Northeast Florida | Baker Clay Duval Flagler Nassau Putnam St. Johns | Macclenny Orange Park Baldwin Bunnell Callahan Palatka St. Augustine | Baker Clay Duval Flagler Nassau Putnam St. Johns | Monthly: First Thursday 10:00 a.m. |



VOTING MEMBER GOVERNMENTS

| REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL | COUNTY | MUNICIPALITY | GUBERNATORIAL APPOINTEES | BOARD MEETING DATE/TIME |
|---------------------------|---|--|---|--|
| South Florida | Broward Miami-Dade Monroe | Lauderhill, Sunrise North Miami and Sweetwater Key West | Broward Miami-Dade Monroe | Monthly: First Monday 10:30 a.m. |
| Southwest Florida | Charlotte Collier Glades Hendry Lee Sarasota | Punta Gorda Marco Island and Naples Moore Haven Clewiston and Labelle Bonita Springs, Cape Coral, Ft. Myers, Ft. Myers Beach, and Sanibel North Port and Venice | Charlotte Collier Glades Hendry Lee Sarasota | Monthly: Third Thursday 9:00 a.m. |
| Tampa Bay | Hillsborough Manatee Pasco Pinellas | Plant City, Tampa, and Temple Terrace Bradenton and Palmetto Dade City and New Port Richey Clearwater, Dunedin, Gulfport, Largo, Oldsmar, Pinellas Park, Safety Harbor, St. Petersburg, St. Pete Beach, Seminole, South Pasadena, Tarpon Springs, and Treasure Island | Hillsborough Manatee Pasco Pinellas | Monthly: Second Monday 10:00 a.m. |
| Treasure Coast | Indian River Martin Palm Beach St. Lucie | Indian River Shores and Vero Beach Stuart Greenacres, Jupiter, Palm Springs, Riviera Beach and Royal Palm Beach Fort Pierce and Port St. Lucie | Indian River Martin Palm Beach St. Lucie | Eight Times/ Year: Third Friday 9:30 a.m. |
| West Florida | Bay Escambia Holmes Okaloosa Santa Rosa Walton Washington | Callaway, Lynn Haven, and Panama City Pensacola No Voting Municipal Member Crestview, Destin, and Fort Walton Beach, Milton DeFuniak Springs No Voting Municipal Member | Bay Escambia Holmes Okaloosa Santa Rosa Walton Washington | Monthly: Third Monday 4:00 p.m. |
| Withlacoochee | Citrus Hernando Levy Marion Sumter | Inverness Brooksville Vacant Bellview Wildwood | Citrus Hernando Levy Marion Sumter | Eight Times/ Year: Third Thursday 7:00 p.m. |



PROGRAMS AND FUNCTIONS

ECONOMIC GROWTH THROUGH REGIONAL APPROACHES

The economic development programs of the regional planning councils strive to promote sustainable, long-term economic prosperity throughout Florida by conducting comprehensive economic development planning and assisting the State, local governments, and economic development organizations with the activities described below.

A Five-Year Statewide Strategic Plan for Economic Development

The Florida Department of Economic Opportunity's Division of Strategic Business Development, as provided for in Section 20.60, Florida Statutes, is required to create a Five-Year Statewide Strategic Plan designed to help guide the future of Florida's economy. Through the in-kind donation of staff time and resources, and at no cost to the State, regional planning councils collaborated with the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity to host ten Five-Year Statewide Strategic Plan regional forums, reaching out to over 1,000 Floridians representing local and state elected officials, economic development organizations, chambers of commerce, workforce boards, members of the business community, educational institutions, as well as other federal, state, regional, and local entities.

The purpose of the regional forums was to gather strategies and recommendations for the Plan, which are currently being compiled and analyzed by the Department's staff. Using the Six Pillars of Florida's Future Economy™ as the Plan's organizing foundation, regional planning councils and other stakeholders are continuing to collaborate with the Department and other state agencies to develop the Plan.



Brownfields Revitalization

Several regional planning councils receive funding from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to administer brownfield revolving loan funds and undertake brownfield revitalization projects. Brownfields are defined as abandoned or under utilized industrial and commercial facilities and sites where redevelopment is complicated by real or perceived environmental contamination, and may include abandoned factories, commercial buildings, dry cleaning establishments, gas stations, and agricultural and mining facilities. The funds are used to conduct environmental assessments and reuse planning to put economically obsolete properties back into productive use. Brownfields often prevent communities, developers, and investors from restoring these properties to productive uses and revitalizing impacted neighborhoods. Over the past ten years, regional planning council brownfields revolving loan funds in the amount of \$5.8 million led to the clean-up and redevelopment of nine brownfield sites.



PROGRAMS AND FUNCTIONS

Economic Development Districts

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies

Regional planning councils are designated by the U.S. Economic Development Administration as Florida's Economic Development Districts. Each Economic Development District is required to develop a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy, which is an economic development plan designed to bring public and private sectors together to create an economic road map to diversify and strengthen the regional economy.

It serves as a guide for establishing regional goals and objectives, developing and implementing a regional plan of action, and identifying investment priorities and funding sources. Projects advanced by the Strategy function broadly to promote higher wage/higher skill job creation, diversify the regional economy, increase exports, and



build regional competitive advantages. Once a project is listed in the Strategy, it becomes eligible to seek funding from the U.S. Economic Development Administration's Public Works and Economic Adjustment Programs.

These awards can fund up to one-half of the qualifying infrastructure costs of a project. From January 2003 to August 2010, the U.S. Economic Development Administration invested \$66 million in 60 projects in

SIX PILLARS OF FLORIDA'S FUTURE ECONOMY



Florida to create or retain 13,700 jobs and leverage \$1 billion in private capital.

Currently, regional planning councils are undergoing a concurrent update of their respective Strategies using the Florida Chamber Foundation's Six-Pillars of Florida's Future Economy™ as the organizing foundation. This will result in the alignment of the Strategies with the Five-Year Statewide Strategic Plan, providing a framework for improving regional development partnerships and encouraging a stable and diverse economy.

Economic Development Technical Assistance

Promoting regional economic development in conjunction with local economic development organizations is a priority for regional planning councils. In furtherance of that priority, regional planning councils serve on economic development organization boards, councils, or stakeholder groups. In addition, regional planning councils prepare grant applications for federal and state economic development infrastructure funds for economic development projects at the request of local economic development organizations and local governments.

Finally, some regional planning councils administer a revolving loan fund portfolio composed of federal and state funds to help grow small businesses and create jobs. Over the past ten years, a

**"Regional planning councils
are federally designated
economic development districts."**

PROGRAMS AND FUNCTIONS

total of 150 loans in the amount of \$38.6 million have been made, resulting in the creation of over 1,800 jobs.

Intergovernmental Coordination and Review (Federal Clearinghouse)

Presidential Executive Order 12372 and Governor's Executive Order 95-359 established the current Intergovernmental Coordination and Review Process. The purpose of this process is to evaluate and review federal, and federally assisted, programs and projects to ensure they are consistent with local, regional, and state plans. The Florida State Clearinghouse, within the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, administers the Intergovernmental Coordination and Review process for projects in Florida.

Regional planning councils act as a regional clearinghouse for the State. The role of regional planning councils is to review and comment on grants and permits from various government agencies on a regional level as well as certain proposed plans and projects of statewide and regional

Regional Economic Impact Analysis Modeling

Regional planning councils use economic impact analysis modeling to measure the economic and fiscal impacts of project development or policy initiatives in their communities. These modeling tools, designed specifically for the region, account for business cycles and allow the



user flexibility in analyzing the timing of economic impacts. This service provides economic development practitioners and local governments with a method to assess the economic and demographic impacts of proposed projects and policy initiatives. The information provided in these assessments is utilized by local governments and economic development organizations to make decisions on possible incentive packages for new or expanding economic development projects, and provides background data to support various federal and state economic development grants for local economic development initiatives. Over the past ten years, regional planning councils conducted 420 regional economic impact analyses.

Rural Economic Development Initiative

Section 288.0656, Florida Statutes, establishes the Rural Economic Development Initiative to better serve rural communities by providing a more focused and coordinated effort among state and regional agencies that provide programs and services for rural areas. Regional planning councils are represented on the Rural Economic



significance. Over the past ten years, regional planning councils have provided required Federal Consistency Review to 14,800 projects, ensuring access to hundreds of millions of federal infrastructure and economic development investment dollars annually.

PROGRAMS AND FUNCTIONS



Development Initiative by the Florida Regional Councils Association. Among its statutory responsibilities, the Rural Economic Development Initiative recommends to the Governor the designation of Rural Areas of Critical Economic Concern, which are defined as rural communities, or a region composed of rural communities, that have been adversely affected by extraordinary economic events or natural disasters. The designation establishes each region as a priority assignment for Rural Economic Development Initiative agencies and allows the Governor to waive criteria of economic development incentives.

The Governor has designated the following three Rural Areas of Critical Economic Concern:

- ◆ Northwest: Calhoun, Franklin, Gadsden, Gulf, Holmes, Jackson, Liberty, and Washington Counties
- ◆ North Central: Baker, Bradford, Columbia, Dixie, Gilchrist, Hamilton, Jefferson, Lafayette, Levy, Madison, Putnam, Suwannee, Taylor, and Union Counties
- ◆ South Central: Desoto, Glades, Hardee, Hendry, Highlands, and Okeechobee Counties

Within each of these areas is at least one "Catalyst" project, undertaken to help bring a skilled workforce and higher paying jobs to these regions. Regional planning councils work closely with the Florida Heartland Rural

Economic Development Initiative, Opportunity Florida, and the North Florida Economic Development Partnership, which are the three economic development organizations responsible for coordinating the activities of these areas, to promote collaboration, carry out economic development programs, and further the goals of the Catalyst projects.

ASSISTING LOCAL COMMUNITIES

Regional planning councils are an extension of the local governments they serve. Being an association of local governments with strong ties to federal and state agencies, regional planning councils are uniquely positioned to coordinate development and implementation strategies designed to address the problems and opportunities created by growth. As such, they provide technical assistance to their local governments that do not have staff or expertise for certain activities, and in many cases, serve as the planning staff for their local governments. A wide range of services and tasks are provided by regional planning councils.



Comprehensive Planning

Comprehensive plans help Florida's citizens address the future by identifying existing conditions of each local jurisdiction in the state, projecting where areas will grow and what they will need to accommodate the expected growth, and analyze the known alternatives and select the

PROGRAMS AND FUNCTIONS

best alternative that will provide a rational path to meet community needs and lead local jurisdictions to a desired end, including economic prosperity and protection of the environment.

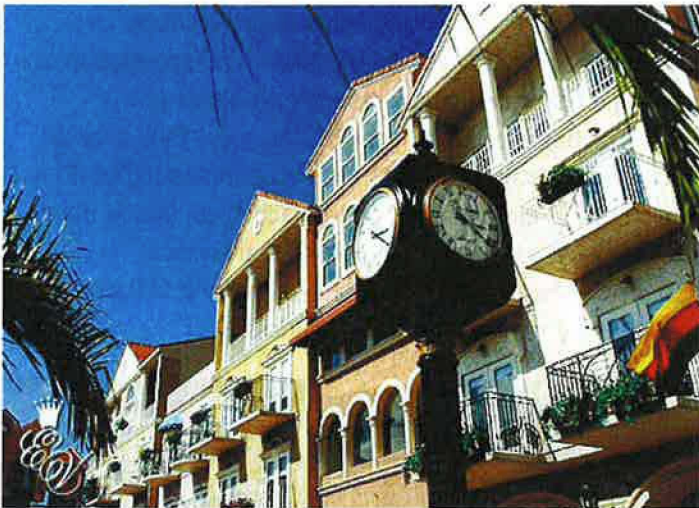
Chapter 163, Part II, Florida Statutes, governs comprehensive planning in Florida. While there have been many changes to the law over the past few years,

**"Regional planning councils
are an extension
of the local governments
they serve."**

Developments of Regional Impact

A Development of Regional Impact is defined by Section 380.06(1), Florida Statutes, as a development which, because of its character, magnitude, or

location, would have a substantial effect upon the health, safety, or welfare of citizens of more than one county. Regional planning councils coordinate the required multi-agency review activities and evaluate the application for consistency with adopted state and regional plans. The councils hold a public hearing to adopt recommendations regarding the development, which are forwarded to the local government. The local government then adopts the Development Order for the development. If the conditions in the Development Order are not consistent with a regional planning council's recommendations report, the regional planning council may recommend to the State that the Development Order be appealed.



regardless of whether a local government chooses to submit its comprehensive plan to the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity using the Expedited State Review or State Coordinated Review process, regional planning councils continue to play a significant role.

Local government comprehensive plan amendments are reviewed by regional planning councils for consistency with the applicable Strategic Regional Policy Plan. Under the Expedited State Review process, regional planning councils send their comments directly to the local government and the State Land Planning Agency, whereas under the State Coordinated Review process, regional planning councils are only required to send their comments to the State Land Planning Agency.



The Legislature adopted Senate Bill 360 in 2009, which exempted Development of Regional Impact reviews in areas with more than 1,000 residents per square mile and declared these areas Dense Urban Land Areas. This legislation, combined with changes made by the 2011 Legislature, along with the downturn in the economy, has greatly reduced the number of Developments of Regional

PROGRAMS AND FUNCTIONS

Impact reviewed by regional planning councils in recent years.

Dispute Resolution

As part of its State-mandated mediation obligations, regional planning councils are required to have a dispute resolution process to address intergovernmental disputes. The intent of this Regional Dispute Resolution Process is



to provide a flexible process to reconcile differences on planning and growth management issues; clearly identify and resolve problems as early as possible; utilize the procedures in a low-to-high cost sequence; allow flexibility in the order in which the procedures are used; provide for the appropriate involvement of affected and responsible parties; and provide as much process certainty as possible. The Regional Dispute Resolution Process may also be used to resolve disputes involving extrajurisdictional impacts as provided for in the intergovernmental coordination elements of local comprehensive plans and any other matters covered by statutes which reference the Regional Dispute Resolution Process.

Geographic Information Systems Mapping

Regional planning councils provide Geographic Information System mapping services to local governments and other agencies. The purpose of these services is to produce various types of maps, including

local government map series and regional map series; delineation of community redevelopment areas; utility service areas; natural resource and environmentally sensitive areas; hurricane surge zones; and, soils classifications and floodplain areas. Regional planning councils also use Geographic Information Systems to conduct analyses, such as those pertaining to corridors, the environment, or health impact assessments, as well as custom special analyses. Some regional planning councils also offer Geographic Information System mapping, training, and technical assistance.

Local Government Technical Assistance

Regional planning councils provide technical assistance to its local jurisdictions through numerous services and special tasks. By offering technical assistance programs to its local governments, economies of scale can be achieved in promoting vibrant economies while reducing unproductive competition among local communities. Regional planning council technical assistance may include preparation of small- and large-scale comprehensive plan map and text amendments; rezoning applications; variances and ordinances; development proposals; evaluation and appraisal assessments; land development



regulations; water supply plans; and, special permits and exceptions, and may also include assistance with site plan review, records management, and policy consultation.

Continued on page 20



PROGRAM MATRIX

| PROGRAM | ARPC | CFRPC | ECFRPC | NCFRPC | NEFRC | SFRPC | SWFRPC | TBRPC | TCRPC | WFRPC | WRPC |
|---|------|-------|--------|--------|-------|-------|--------|-------|-------|-------|------|
| Regional Planning | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Broadband Planning | | X | | | | | X | X | | | |
| Energy Initiatives | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| Federal Clearinghouse | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| Health Initiatives | | X | X | | X | X | | | | | |
| Military Base Compatibility | | X | X | X | X | X | | X | | X | X |
| Power Plan Siting Review | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| Strategic Regional Policy Plan | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| U.S. Housing & Urban Development Sustainable Communities Initiative | | X | X | | | X | | | X | | |
| Visioning Initiatives | | X | X | | X | X | X | X | X | X | |
| Economic Development | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Brownfields Assessments | | X | | | | | X | | X | X | |
| Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| Eco/Cultural/Heritage Tourism Development | X | | X | X | X | | | X | X | | |
| Economic Development District | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| Economic Development Organization Collaboration | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| Economic Impact Analyses Modeling | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| Revolving Loan Fund (Business and/or Brownfields) | X | X | | | | X | | | X | X | |
| Rural Area of Critical Economic Concern | X | X | | X | X | | X | | | X | X |
| Community Development | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Affordable Housing Initiatives | | X | X | X | X | X | | X | X | X | |
| Areas of Critical State Concern | X | X | X | | | X | X | X | | | |
| Coastal Zone Planning | X | | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| Developments of Regional Impact | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| Dispute Resolution | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| Downtown Redevelopment and Urban Design | | X | X | X | | | | | X | | X |
| Geographic Information Systems Mapping/Data | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| Grant Writing and Administration | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | |
| Local Government Comprehensive Plan Review | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| Local Government Planning Services | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |



PROGRAM MATRIX

| PROGRAM | ARPC | CFRPC | ECFRPC | NCFRPC | NEFRC | SFRPC | SWFRPC | TBRPC | TCRPC | WFRPC | WRPC |
|--|------|-------|--------|--------|-------|-------|--------|-------|-------|-------|------|
| Community Development (Continued) | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Newsletter | | | X | | X | | X | X | | X | |
| Regional Leadership Training | | | X | | X | | | | X | | |
| U.S. Census State Data Center Affiliate | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| Emergency Preparedness | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan Support | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| Emergency Management Training and Exercises | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| Hazardous First Responder Training | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| Hurricane Evacuation and Shelter Planning | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| Local Emergency Planning Committee | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| Local Hazard Mitigation Strategies | X | | X | | X | | X | X | X | | X |
| Post Disaster Redevelopment Planning | X | X | X | | X | X | | X | X | | X |
| Regional Domestic Security Task Force Training and Exercises | X | X | X | X | X | X | | X | X | X | X |
| Sea Level Rise/Climate Change Studies | | | X | | X | X | X | X | X | | |
| Small Quantity Hazardous Waste Generator Monitoring | X | X | | X | X | | X | | X | X | X |
| Statewide Regional Evacuation Study | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| Transportation Planning | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning | | X | X | X | | | X | | X | X | |
| Local Government Transportation Technical Assistance | | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | | X |
| Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization | | | | X | | | | | | X | |
| Modal Planning Initiatives | | X | X | | | X | | | X | | |
| Rural Transportation Planning Services | X | X | | | | | | | | X | |
| Safe Routes to School Initiatives | | X | X | | | | X | | | | |
| Transportation Disadvantaged Program | X | X | | X | X | | X | | | X | X |
| Environmental & Natural Resource Planning | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Clean Cities Initiatives | | | | | | X | | | | | |
| Estuary/River/Bay/Ecosystem Initiatives | X | | X | | | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| Natural Resources of Regional Significance | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| Springs Protection Initiatives | X | | X | | | | | | | | X |
| Wildlife Habitat Initiatives | | X | X | | | | X | | X | | X |

PROGRAMS AND FUNCTIONS

Regional planning councils also provide technical assistance to local governments on transportation related issues or specific study needs, such as traffic studies, mobility plans, or concurrency. Finally, several regional planning councils serve as the county or city planner for their local governments that are unable to afford a full-time planning staff.

Strategic Regional Policy Plans

Pursuant to Section 186.507, Florida Statutes, each regional planning council adopted a Strategic Regional Policy Plan to serve as a long-range guide for the physical, economic, and social development of the region. The Strategic Regional Policy Plan is a direction-setting tool and is not a regulatory document. The Strategic Regional Policy Plan is not merely a plan for the regional planning council, but a plan for all cities and counties within each region. The statutorily-mandated elements of the Strategic Regional Policy Plan are as follows: Natural Resources, Economic Development, Regional Transportation, Affordable Housing, and Emergency Preparedness.



its Strategic Regional Policy Plan once every five years to evaluate its successes and shortcomings as well as identify potential amendments, revisions, or updates. Currently, several regional planning councils are assessing their Strategic Regional Policy Plans in conjunction with



their regional visioning initiatives with the goal of implementing aspects of the regional visions through their Strategic Regional Policy Plans.

Transportation Disadvantaged Program

The Transportation Disadvantaged coordinated system for Florida is governed by the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged whose mission is to ensure the availability of safe, efficient, cost-effective, and quality transportation services for individuals who, because of physical or mental disability, income status or age, are unable to transport themselves or purchase transportation. The Commission also designates an Official Planning Agency in each county, which is responsible for Transportation Disadvantaged Program planning. In most rural areas, regional planning councils are the designated Official Planning Agency and help ensure access to employment, health care, education, and other life-sustaining resources for residents in the region who are elderly, disabled, or low-income.

U.S. Census Data Center Affiliates

To help local governments and businesses obtain the maximum benefit of a complete count under the decennial census, regional planning councils play an important role

Strategic Regional Policy Plans document Natural Resources of Regional Significance and identify Significant Regional Facilities. In addition, local government comprehensive plan amendments are reviewed by regional planning councils for consistency with the Strategic Regional Policy Plan. Section 186.511, Florida Statutes, requires each regional planning council to assess

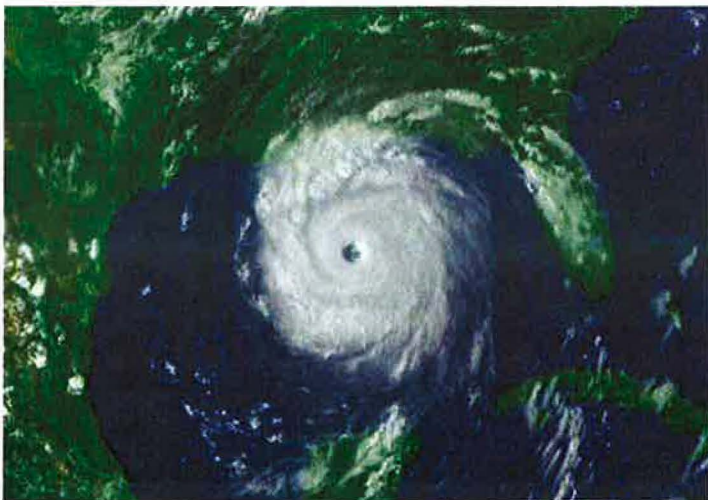
PROGRAMS AND FUNCTIONS

as U.S. Census affiliates in supporting the activities of the U.S. Census Bureau. Regional planning councils help local governments ensure as accurate a count as possible within their areas of jurisdiction. In this capacity, regional planning councils coordinate with the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity, which acts as the U.S. Census Bureau's designated Florida State Data Center, helping provide official guidance to local government stakeholders statewide. Working with the Florida State Data Center, regional planning councils help distribute information to facilitate maximum participation in the decennial census.

In addition, regional planning councils are a resource for economic, demographic, social, and development data. Regional planning councils maintain extensive libraries and databases providing access to data, research, and publications, and have the ability to provide data in a format tailored to a specific request. This information is used by local government planners, agencies in need of information to complete grant applications, as well as private consultants, businesses, economic development organizations, and the general public for a variety of purposes.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Emergency preparedness is the phase of emergency management that addresses planning and arranging for readiness to address an emergency or disaster.



Regional planning councils work closely with the Florida Division of Emergency Management and local emergency management agencies throughout their regions on issues relating to emergency preparedness as well as hazardous materials, homeland security, mitigation strategies, and disaster planning.

"Regional planning councils are a source of low-cost, high-quality emergency management and preparedness planning and training experts."

Emergency Management

Training, Exercises, and Technical Assistance

Regional planning councils are a source of low-cost, high-quality planning and training experts, whose vast expertise in emergency management and preparedness is available to member local governments and other stakeholders in the form of technical assistance. This assistance includes exercise and training activities designed in conjunction with county emergency management staff. Regional planning councils provide training to first responders, both public and private, in the areas of hazardous materials, hazardous waste, incident command, disaster response, pre- and post-disaster planning and post-disaster redevelopment, continuity of operations and governance, and interoperability emergency communications. For instance, table top hurricane exercises are designed to exercise current plans and continue to better prepare for disasters. Regional domestic security exercises include scenario design, planning, coordination, and material support and development. Over the past ten years, regional planning councils have trained more than 50,000 first responders and other emergency management personnel.

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Hazards Analyses and Response Planning

Regional planning councils play a significant role in the hazards analyses planning process in Florida. The Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act requires that all facilities possessing extremely hazardous substances with an amount equal to or greater than certain thresholds, submit a report to the State Emergency Response Commission. The process of completing a report on each of the facilities that identifies these chemicals, their quantities, the potential threat of a release, and critical facilities and special locations (i.e., schools, hospitals and nursing homes) is known as a hazards analysis.



In addition to the analyses information, a map is produced showing the threat zone for each chemical stored on site. The threat zone, or vulnerability zone, indicates the population and identifies special locations that would need to be evacuated in a worst-case scenario in the event of a leak. Annually, the State provides a list to all 67 counties, noting the facilities that are due to be analyzed. Many counties use regional planning councils to complete the hazards analyses.

Local Emergency Planning Committees

Regional planning councils are the coordinators for Local Emergency Planning Committees, which are charged with facilitating regional hazardous materials emergency

response and compliance with hazardous materials reporting laws under the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act. The State Emergency Response Commission appoints the Committee members, which are from diverse backgrounds and occupations, representing the various groups of first responders (i.e., law enforcement, fire, and emergency medical services), while others represent corporate partners.



The goal of the Committees is twofold: First, to establish working relationships among agencies that respond to incidents by training alongside other responders; and second, to educate the public and professional responders on how to react to incidents in an "all hazards" environment. The Committees accomplish this by serving as a public information repository for inventory reports; assisting in planning for chemical spill mitigation; supporting and providing training events; designing, conducting, and evaluating emergency exercises; and, educating the public on how to react to a hazardous materials release.

Local Mitigation Strategies

The federal Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 significantly expanded the mitigation planning requirements imposed on both state and local jurisdictions to maintain eligibility for federal mitigation funds.

Regional planning councils provide planning and technical services to assist their local governments in developing

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Local Mitigation Strategies, which must be in place to receive Federal Emergency Management Agency Hazard Mitigation Grant Program funds or other federal mitigation assistance program funds, resulting from presidential disaster declarations. The purpose of the Local Mitigation Strategy is to reduce or eliminate the impact of hazards within a community and diminish the loss of life and property damage. Local Mitigation Strategies serve as a bridge between a local government's comprehensive growth and emergency management plans, land development regulations, building codes, ordinances, and related policies. With these plans in place, communities are able to receive federal funding for priority mitigation projects to help reduce or eliminate hazards in the future.

Regional Domestic Security Task Forces

The seven Regional Domestic Security Task Forces in Florida are staffed by regional planning councils. The mission of the Task Forces is to ensure a safe and secure future with an overall mission to strengthen domestic security prevention, preparedness, protection, response, and recovery capabilities through interdisciplinary and interagency consensus; and, commitment to build and rely on a strong regional mutual aid response capability.



Under the leadership of the Regional Domestic Security Task Forces, regional planning councils continue to embrace the responsibility for coordinating statewide Regional Domestic Security Task Force exercises to encourage and facilitate multijurisdictional and multidisciplinary participation at all levels of government.

Small Quantity Generators of Hazardous Waste

Regional planning councils assist the Florida Department of Environmental Protection in implementing the State-mandated Small Quantity Generators inspection program. Small Quantity Generators are individual businesses that generate or accumulate dangerous wastes, between 100



to 1,000 kilograms a month. The goal of the program is environmental protection by providing business assistance through the identification, notification, and on-site verification of businesses that are considered active or potential generators of hazardous waste. Regional planning councils identify and monitor facilities that produce some form of hazardous waste, either as a product or a by-product of their day-to-day activities. This may include automotive repair facilities, dry cleaners, medical facilities that use x-ray machines, and many manufacturing businesses. Regional planning councils also conduct educational workshops for Small Quantity Generators to assist them understand the program and facilitate compliance.

Statewide Regional Evacuation Study

Working together in a coordinated manner, regional planning councils in Florida completed a multi-year Regional Evacuation Study, which represents an unprecedented undertaking to concurrently update regional evacuation studies for each region. The Statewide Regional Evacuation Study Program is the first

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comprehensive attempt to develop a fully integrated evacuation plan to serve the needs of the entire state.

This plan, while targeted toward hurricane evacuation, can be used to manage and coordinate evacuations for any natural or man-made disaster. The Study provides planning tools that promote fully integrated, seamless planning across counties and regions to manage the movement of large numbers of citizens safely out of areas in danger. Emergency management offices across the state have begun implementing parts of the Study in their operational plans and procedures. Growth management and transportation planners are relying on the tools developed as part of the Study in their planning efforts.



In 2011, the Statewide Regional Evacuation Study received a National Association of Development Organization Innovation Award and its TRAILBLAZER award, which was selected from among the Innovation Award winners. The TRAILBLAZER award was only one of four selected nationally. In addition, the Study also received the 2011 Florida Planning and Zoning Association Outstanding Public Study Award; and a National Association of Regional Councils 2011 Achievement Award. In 2012, the Statewide Regional Evacuation Study was also recognized by the American Planning Association with a Best Practices Award in Hazard Mitigation and Disaster Planning.

REGIONAL PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATION

As Florida's only multipurpose regional entities that plan for and coordinate intergovernmental solutions on multijurisdictional issues, and being an association of local governments with strong ties to federal and state agencies, regional planning councils are well positioned to coordinate the development and implementation of strategies and projects that uniquely meet the needs of their regions. Below are examples of regional partnerships and collaboration from the past fiscal year.

Avon Park Joint Land Use Study

The Avon Park Air Force Range is the largest bombing and gunnery range east of the Mississippi River. It is the second largest military installation in Florida. Located in Highlands and Polk Counties, the Range's 106,000 acres provide an important training facility for active and reserve military units from all services and civilian public safety organizations. With a grant from the U.S. Department of Defense, the Central Florida Regional Planning Council conducted a Joint Land Use Study in collaboration with the Avon Park Air Force Range, the



Counties of Highlands, Okeechobee, Osceola, and Polk, and the Cities of Avon Park, Frostproof, and Sebring, which are affected by the military training activities on the Range. The Joint Land Use Study examined the land uses in the areas that surround the Range, and the military

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training needs of the armed forces to determine their compatibility.

The Central Florida Regional Planning Council received a second grant from the U.S. Department of Defense to assist these counties and cities and the Avon Park Air



Force Range in implementing the Joint Land Use Study recommendations and incorporating them into the participating jurisdictions' comprehensive plans, land development regulations, zoning ordinances, subdivision regulations, and building codes as well as developing disclosure procedures for potential property owners. In addition, the Council will coordinate communications among the parties, draft a communications and community relations plan, and take any other actions as required to implement the Study's recommendations.

Florida East Coast Railroad/Amtrak Regional Consortium

The Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council, in conjunction with the Northeast Florida, East Central Florida, and South Florida Regional Planning Councils, developed a regional, multidisciplinary consortium along Florida's east coast to help advance the restoration of passenger rail service on the nearly 350-mile Florida East Coast Rail Corridor between Jacksonville and Miami. The Consortium includes participation from local governments, metropolitan planning organizations, chambers of commerce, economic development organizations, business

development boards, realtors' and builders' organizations, tourist development councils, environmental advocacy groups, and other public and private-sector groups and individuals. The restoration of passenger rail service is anticipated to yield more than \$2 billion in land development value along the corridor and provide enhanced mobility for tourists, business-class travelers, students, and residents.

Working in conjunction with the Florida Department of Transportation, the regional planning councils and the Consortium advanced station planning at eight new passenger rail stations in Cocoa, Daytona Beach, Fort Pierce, Melbourne, St. Augustine, Stuart, Titusville, and Vero Beach. The regional planning councils and the Consortium helped identify necessary changes to comprehensive plans and land development regulations, and reached out to the business community around each station area. Individual station-area workshops have been conducted as well as corridor meetings throughout the process, providing opportunities for input at the local level. Through the work of the Consortium, the project



advanced into the Florida Department of Transportation's five-year work program and is nearing shovel-ready phase for construction.

Florida Local/Regional Broadband Planning Project

The Florida Local/Regional Broadband Planning Project is a two-year collaborative effort among the Tampa Bay,

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Central Florida, and Southwest Florida Regional Planning Councils and the Florida Department of Management Services. Funding for this project was provided by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration's Broadband Technology Opportunities Program. Broadband is vital for economic growth, both by fostering new industries and expanding opportunities for existing businesses. The Florida Local/Regional Broadband Planning Project addresses the need to develop broadband planning capabilities by developing a structured, comprehensive process for creating local and regional broadband plans. A planning toolkit and training materials are being developed to provide guidance in the process of developing a comprehensive broadband plan. The planning toolkit and training materials will be tested by developing a regional broadband plan for each of two pilot areas in Florida. By using the tools, training, and process framework created by this project, other



Regional Council engaged a team of national consultants to help facilitate the strategy. The effort resulted in the following four in-depth reports:

- ◆ Competitive Analysis – providing a detailed evaluation of the Northeast Florida region's competitive strengths and areas for improvement;
- ◆ Target Sub-Cluster Definition Report – containing detailed profiles of each target cluster and sub-cluster;
- ◆ Education Infrastructure Assessment – containing an evaluation of all educational programs in the seven-county region, and a comparison of those programs with the talent needs of the target clusters; and
- ◆ Target Implementation Plans – recommending specific community development, workforce development, business development and marketing actions for each target audience, including a timeline, budget and metrics.



communities and regions can replicate and expedite the process of improving broadband capabilities as resources and funding become available.

Innovate Northeast Florida

The JAXUSA Partnership, formerly known as the Cornerstone Regional Development Partnership, and the Northeast Florida Regional Council took the lead role in the Innovate Northeast Florida strategic planning process. The JAXUSA Partnership and the Northeast Florida

Northwest Florida Green Infrastructure Design

The West Florida Regional Planning Council, through an agreement with the Florida Department of Agricultural and Consumer Services and Florida Division of Forestry, promoted and developed a comprehensive Green Infrastructure Plan for a ten-county area within northwest Florida. The Plan defines and explains the concepts, principles, and benefits of green infrastructure. It was designed to help educate local officials, the general public, and other groups and organizations involved in the

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management of urban and urbanizing areas on the value of green infrastructure and how to incorporate it into their planning and development processes.

In addition, the principles of green infrastructure design were incorporated into the West Florida Regional Planning Council's Strategic Regional Policy Plan during the update of the document earlier this year. With the development of a plan for outreach and education tailored to the needs of the urban and forest communities, the general public, and public officials as well as the establishment of an awards program recognizing those individuals, businesses,



or governments that embrace and practice green infrastructure design, the tools have been established to ensure green infrastructure design in Northwest Florida.

One Bay Livable Communities Working Group

The ONE BAY Livable Communities Working Group is the consolidation of the Tampa Bay Regional Transportation Authority Land Use Working Group, the ONE BAY Technical Team, and the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council's Regional Planning Advisory Committee. These three groups meet to discuss the Tampa Bay region's land use planning issues, specifically relating to existing land use patterns, long-range land use plans, growth projections, and local community goals. Technical experts from various land use planning agencies, environmental groups, the development community, transportation agencies, and others, regularly participate.

The Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council provides

staffing for the combined committee activities, working in coordination with the other ONE BAY partner organizations. The group serves as an open forum to discuss strategies for improving the built environment, natural environment, and mobility in the Tampa Bay region. Through its participants, the ONE BAY Livable Communities Working Group acts as catalyst for building new partnerships throughout the region.

Original Florida Tourism Task Force

In many of the rural communities in the north central Florida region, tourism is a primary source of economic development. *The Original Florida Tourism Task Force* markets the ten-county "Natural North Florida" region by promoting the development of nature-, culture-, and heritage-based tourism. The Task Force is comprised of representatives from each of the participating counties in the region to support and direct the regional tourism development effort. The North Central Florida Regional Planning Council provides staffing to the Task Force, to maintain VisitNaturalNorthFlorida.com website; organize regional press familiarization trips; coordinate consumer



travel show participation; create proactive publicity campaigns; and produce collateral materials to meet the goals of the Task Force's marketing plan.

The Task Force uses funds from a Rural Regional Development Grant from the Florida Department of

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"Regional planning councils convene business, government, non-profit, and community leaders to develop regional visions."

Economic Opportunity to help implement the Task Force's marketing plans to build capacity in the rural communities in the region. For instance, "Farm to Table" tours highlighted locally grown produce and local restaurants and markets that use and provide that food to the public. The journalists who attended published articles about Natural North Florida in magazines, newspapers, and internet blogs for many months following the tours. The Task Force also created a retro-styled restaurant placemat displaying a map of the region and colorful icons featuring various activities for visitors to enjoy while in the region.

Regional Visioning Initiatives

Regional planning councils convene leaders from businesses, governments, non-profits, and the community to develop regional visions that link economic development, infrastructure, environment, land use, and transportation into long-term investment plans. Regional planning councils are actively engaged in the following regional visioning initiatives in partnership with the business community:

- ♦ **2050 How Shall We Grow Regional Vision:** Developed by the East Central Florida Regional Planning Council and myregion.org/Central Florida Partnership, the vision stands for conserving the most critical resources of the region; promoting future growth and development in compact urban centers; connecting centers with multi-modal, mixed-use corridors; and, taking pressure off the countryside by increasing the density and intensity of urban centers.
- ♦ **Heartland 2060:** The Central Florida Regional Planning Council, along with the leadership of private, public, civic, and environmental organizations, initiated Heartland 2060 to create a vision for the future of seven counties that enables growth, ensures a vibrant economic and social life, and supports healthy communities, while preserving natural areas, and protecting wildlife and agricultural value.



- ♦ **One Bay: Livable Communities:** One Bay is a diverse partnership of private and public leaders aligned to facilitate a regional visioning process to achieve a sustainable, high quality Tampa Bay region, in which the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council is a partner, along with six other regional partners including the Tampa Bay Partnership and the Urban Land Institute.
- ♦ **Reality Check First Coast/First Coast Vision:** The Regional Community Institute, a private, non-profit organization affiliated with the Northeast Florida



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Regional Council, built on the work of Reality Check First Coast, a partnership between the Northeast Florida Regional Council and the Urban Land Institute, and other entities, to create a First Coast Vision, which is a vision for growth in the northeast Florida region for the next 50 years. The First Coast Vision is being considered by the Council in the update of its Strategic Regional Policy Plan.

- ◆ **Seven 50 Initiative/Southeast Florida Regional Partnership:** This joint effort of the South Florida and Treasure Coast Regional Planning Councils and over 200 public, private, and nonprofit/civic organizations within a seven-county area will result in a Regional Prosperity Plan. Work is currently being conducted to establish five- and 50-year vision plans and identify critical projects and infrastructure to improve sustainability. These work products will be used as a guide to prioritize and focus future local, state, and federal investment and policies. The overarching purpose of the resulting regional plan is to help communities become economically strong and environmentally sustainable.
- ◆ **Sustainable Emerald Coast:** The Committee for a Sustainable Emerald Coast developed recommendations to enable sustainable growth and development in a four-county region in the following four areas: Economic Diversity and Prosperity; Environmental Stewardship; Access to Education, Health Care and Culture; and, Sustainable Growth and

Development. Subsequent to completion of the final plan, these areas were incorporated into the West Florida Strategic Regional Policy Plan and the Committee now exists as an Advisory Committee to the West Florida Regional Planning Council to monitor and ensure implementation of the recommendations.

RiverWay South Apalachicola-Choctawhatchee Regional Tourism Project

The RiverWay South organization in Florida began as a U.S. Department of Agriculture funded project out of Columbus, Georgia to promote regional tourism along the Apalachicola, Chattahoochee and Flint Rivers.



Recognizing that the rivers were the original avenues of commerce and shared a common bond as a watershed, representatives of the three States of Alabama, Florida and Georgia regularly met to develop regional rural tourism efforts based on shared culture, history, and the linked ecosystem. With assistance from the Apalachee Regional Planning Council, Florida's counties along the Apalachicola River organized its own regional entity, RiverWay South – Apalachicola, within the larger organization and formed a not-for-profit corporation. Since its inception, Apalachee Regional Planning Council staff has served on the Board of Directors providing input and advice. The first project of RiverWay South – Apalachicola was to seek funding from VisitFlorida to inventory regional resources and a produce a tourism



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development planning document. Deliverables from the first VisitFlorida grant have been completed and a second application to further that mission is in development. All monies from the State of Florida are matched by local contributions.

Small Town Regional Redevelopment Meetings

Through a grant from the Florida Redevelopment Association, the Withlacoochee Regional Planning Council coordinated quarterly meetings of the community



redevelopment agencies within the region. These meetings provided training to local planners, Community Redevelopment Agency board members, and elected officials with regard to downtown revitalization and marketing, and provided networking opportunities. As a result of these quarterly meetings, officials in the region recognized redevelopment as critically important to community and economic development.

Sustainable Communities Initiatives

By encouraging cooperative collaboration across jurisdictional boundaries to better integrate decisions about housing, land use, economic development, community development, water, environmental protection, transportation, energy, and social equity, Regional Plans for Sustainable Development can be created, and more importantly, implemented. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the U.S. Department of

Transportation awarded the following three Sustainable Communities Planning Grants to Florida regions out of a total 74 nationwide:

- ◆ **Heartland 2060 Consortium/Regional Plan for Sustainable Development:** The Heartland 2060 Regional Plan will create a vision based upon an economically sustainable future for existing and new communities that preserves natural areas, protects wildlife and agriculture, supports healthy communities, provides multi-modal transportation, and ensures opportunities for all ages. A \$1.4 million grant was awarded to the Heartland 2060 Consortium, which includes DeSoto, Glades, Hardee, Hendry, Highlands, and Okeechobee Counties; Archbold Biological Station; Florida's Heartland Regional Economic Development Initiative; Heartland Workforce; Sebring Airport Authority; the Shimberg Center for Housing Studies at the University of Florida; and, Central Florida Regional Planning Council. The Plan will include alternative future scenario modeling; an affordable housing model and inventory; an energy baseline inventory and analysis; an economic development strategy for alternative



fuels; an environmental and natural resources database; and, a five-year strategic action plan.

- ◆ **Southeast Florida Regional Partnership/Seven 50 Regional Prosperity Plan:** The South Florida

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Regional Planning Council, Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council, and more than 200 public, private, and civic organizations are collaborating to create a comprehensive regional vision for enhancing the economic vitality of Southeast Florida, one of the largest and most diverse regions in the nation. The



region includes seven counties: Broward, Indian River, Martin, Miami-Dade, Monroe, Palm Beach, and St. Lucie. The Partnership is working to leverage resources and coordinate strategic planning and investments to enhance economic prosperity and job creation; increase access to affordable housing; expand transportation choices; enhance the environment; and, ensure vibrant and resilient communities. The Partnership secured a \$4.3 million grant to create a Regional Prosperity Plan. The Plan will provide for a regional resource library and data warehouse, regional leadership and capacity building, scenario planning, and extensive community engagement.

- ◆ **East Central Florida Consortium/Transit as an Economic Catalyst:** The East Central Florida Consortium was awarded a \$2.4 million implementation grant. The Consortium includes: East Central Florida Regional Planning Council, six counties, seven cities, four metropolitan planning organizations, Central Florida Regional Transportation

Authority, Creative Village Development LLC, Florida Department of Transportation, Health Council of East Central Florida, myregion.org/Central Florida Partnership, the Nonprofit Housing Roundtable of Central Florida, Orlando Health, Shimborg Center for Housing Studies at the University of Florida, and the Urban Land Institute. The Consortium will use the grant to develop and implement sustainable and inclusive development plans around the future station locations for East Central Florida's SunRail commuter rail system. With capital investment estimated at \$357 million in federal, state, and local funding for its first phase, SunRail will catalyze a "Corridor of Commerce" to transform communities and encourage sustainable growth, particularly in minority and/or low-income neighborhoods adjacent to several of the stations.

Tampa Bay Regional Collaboration Committee

The mission of the Regional Collaboration Committee is to develop a process for assessing opportunities to collaborate on regional endeavors within the Tampa Bay area. Members of the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council serve on the Committee. The goal of the Committee is to improve the quality of life and services for the citizens of Tampa Bay by creating a more competitive region through improved regional collaboration. Roundtable meetings focus on the following topics: Seaports, Airports, Area Branding/Cultural Venues, Transportation and Mobility, Sports, and Health Insurance.



LOCAL GOVERNMENT MEMBERSHIP DUES

| REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL | COUNTY | MUNICIPALITY |
|---------------------------|--|---|
| Apalachee | \$5,000/County | N/A |
| Central Florida | \$0.25/capita | N/A |
| East Central Florida | \$0.16/capita | N/A |
| North Central Florida | \$0.30/capita | \$750 minimum \$0.30/capita ¹ |
| Northeast Florida | \$0.41/capita | N/A |
| South Florida | \$0.175/capita | N/A |
| Southwest Florida | \$0.30/capita | \$0.30/capita ¹ |
| Tampa Bay | \$2,000 base fee plus \$0.295/capita | \$2,000 base fee only |
| Treasure Coast | \$0.43/capita | N/A |
| West Florida | \$1,000 base fee plus \$0.0325/capita | \$500 base fee plus \$0.0325/capita |
| Withlacoochee | \$0.35/capita | N/A |

¹Optional dues paid by municipalities are subtracted from the share paid by the County.

N/A Not applicable, no membership dues assessed.

FACTS AND FIGURES

| REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL | DATE ESTABLISHED | 2011 REGIONAL POPULATION ¹ | GOVERNING BOARD SIZE | STAFF SIZE (FTE) ² | SQUARE MILES | 2011-12 BUDGET | DRI ³ FEES (Est. % OF BUDGET) |
|----------------------------------|---------------------|---|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|--|
| Apalachee | Sept. 4, 1979 | 470,356 | 27 | 10 | 5,855 | \$1,681,378 | 1.5% |
| Central Florida | July 1, 1974 | 805,735 | 18 | 20 | 5,287 | \$4,505,783 | 5.5% |
| East Central Florida | Feb. 22, 1962 | 3,194,645 | 32 | 14 | 6,502 | \$1,835,601 | 4.1% |
| North Central Florida | May 7, 1969 | 500,877 | 48 | 16 | 6,813 | \$1,894,300 | 3.2% |
| Northeast Florida | April 14, 1977 | 1,519,500 | 35 | 17 | 5,096 | \$4,449,817 | 1.2% |
| South Florida | July 1, 1974 | 4,342,347 | 19 | 19 | 4,091 | \$3,700,900 | 0.5% |
| Southwest Florida | Nov. 8, 1973 | 1,542,597 | 36 | 14 | 6,023 | \$2,480,999 | 7.6% |
| Tampa Bay | Feb. 16, 1962 | 2,949,885 | 40 | 15 | 2,817 | \$3,796,606 | 1.9% |
| Treasure Coast | Aug. 19, 1976 | 1,890,837 | 28 | 13 | 4,445 | \$2,846,341 | 3.0% |
| West Florida | Oct. 1, 1964 | 905,108 | 22 | 27 | 6,026 | \$3,308,552 | 0.1% |
| Withlacoochee | July 3, 1973 | 783,161 | 30 | 7 | 4,305 | \$657,844 | 0.5% |

¹Source: Florida Estimates of Population, 2011, Table 1, Bureau of Economic and Business Research, University of Florida, 2012.

²FTE means Full-Time Equivalent.

³DRI means Development of Regional Impact.

STATUTORY REFERENCES AND MANDATES

- ♦ **Chapter 163, F.S.**, including regional planning councils' roles and responsibilities pertaining to comprehensive planning, and specifically under the Expedited State Review Process and State Coordinating Review Process, the role of regional planning councils in reviewing local government comprehensive plan amendments.
- ♦ **Chapter 186, F.S.**, including the following: providing technical assistance to local governments; engaging in regional planning; administering federal and state grants; developing solutions for problems that are of greater-than-local concern; providing input into state policy development; assisting local governments with activities designed to promote and facilitate economic development; cooperating with federal and state agencies in planning for emergency management; establishing and conducting a cross-acceptance negotiation process with local governments; coordinating land development and transportation policies that foster region-wide transportation systems; preparing and adopting a Strategic Regional Policy Plan to address regional resources and facilities; establishing by rule a dispute resolution process; and, providing an annual joint report of activities.
- ♦ **Section 253.7828, F.S.**, to recognize the special character of the lands and waters designated by the state as the Cross Florida Greenways State Recreation and Conservation Area and not take any action that would impair its use.
- ♦ **Sections 260.0142 and 260.018, F.S.**, to serve on the Florida Greenways and Trails Council, to recognize the special character of publicly owned lands and waters designated by the state as greenways and trails and not take any action that would impair their use, and to identify these lands and waterways in each regional planning council's Strategic Regional Policy Plan.
- ♦ **Sections 288.0656 and 288.975, F.S.**, to serve on the Rural Economic Development Initiative and to participate in developing and reviewing Military Base Reuse Plans.
- ♦ **Section 335.188, F.S.**, to provide input into the development of the Florida Department of Transportation's access control classification system.
- ♦ **Section 339.155(5)(b), F.S.**, directing regional planning councils to develop transportation goals and policies as part of the Strategic Regional Policy Plan consistent with the goals and policies of the Metropolitan Planning Organization and the Florida Transportation Plan; and, review urbanized area transportation plans and other planning products and provide the Department of Transportation and respective Metropolitan Planning Organization with written recommendations.
- ♦ **Section 378.205(2), F.S.**, to provide comments upon request regarding phosphate mine reclamation.
- ♦ **Chapter 380, F.S.**, including regional planning councils' roles and responsibilities pertaining to the Development of Regional Impact Program (e.g., conducting pre-application conferences, review of an application to determine sufficiency, and review notices of proposed change) as well as serving on Resource Planning and Management Committees as designated by the Governor prior to an area being designated an Area of Critical State Concern, and conducting pre-application conferences for Developments of Regional Impact.
- ♦ **Chapter 403, F.S.**, including the following: serving on Ecosystem Management Advisory Teams; addressing the impact on the public of a proposed electrical power plant and the degree to which the electrical power plant is consistent with the applicable Strategic Regional Policy Plan; participating in land use and certification hearings regarding a proposed facility; providing a report on the impact of a proposed transmission line or corridor; coordinating the Local Hazardous Waste Management Assessments for counties within a regional planning council's jurisdiction and assisting the Department of Environmental Protection to coordinate the development of these assessments; designating one or more sites within the region at which a regional hazardous waste storage or treatment facility could be located; and participating in the Expedited Permitting Process.
- ♦ **Section 419.001(6), F.S.**, to provide dispute resolution, if requested, for conflicts arising over site selection of community residential homes.
- ♦ **Section 420.609, F.S.**, to serve on the Affordable Housing Study Commission.
- ♦ **Section 985.682(8), F.S.**, to provide dispute resolution services to reconcile differences on the siting of correctional facilities between the Department of Juvenile Justice, local governments, and private citizens.



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