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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 October 25, 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](mailto:laine@ncfrpc.org) by October 22nd 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)

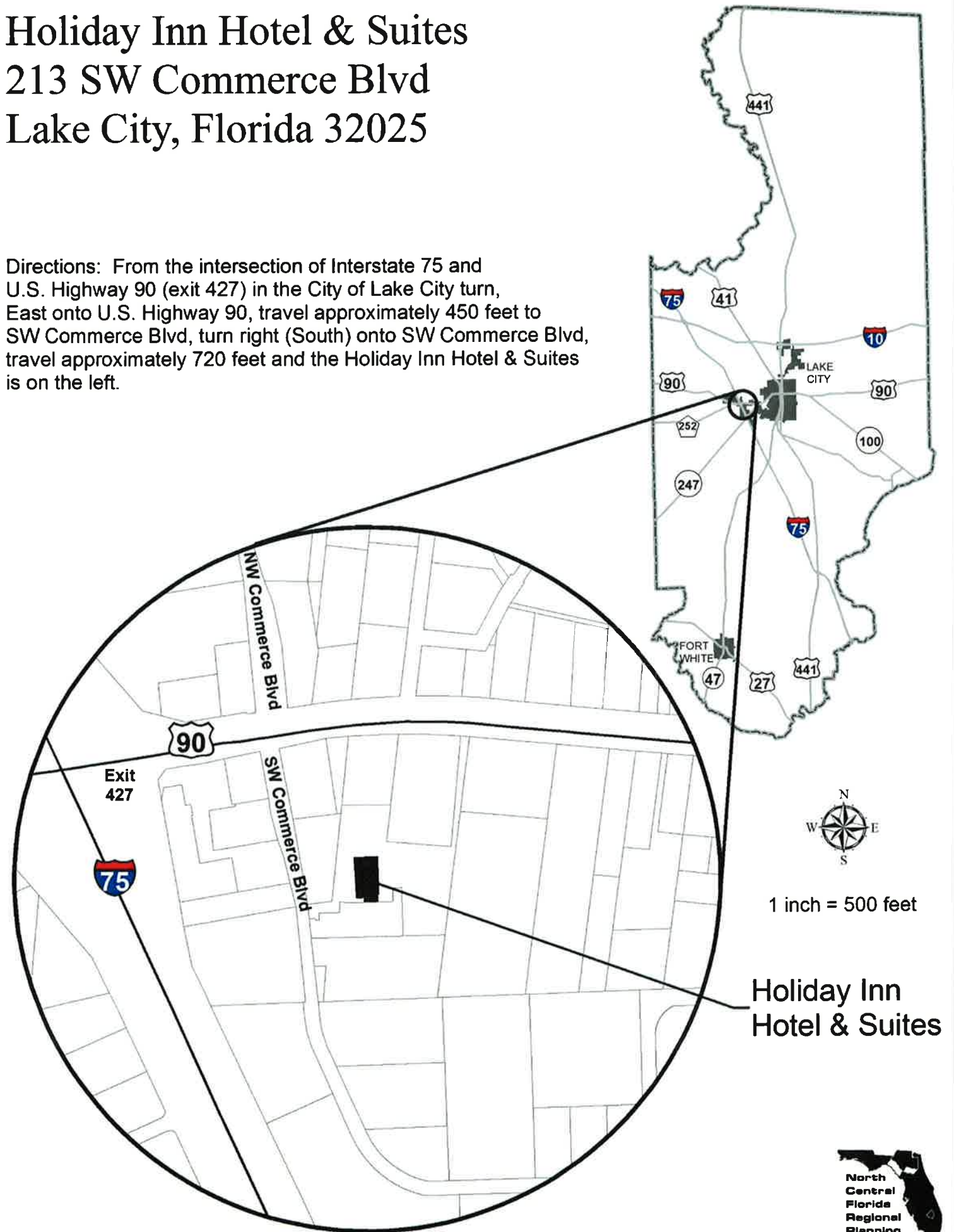
*Please be advised that the Council meeting packet is posted on the Council website at <http://ncfrpc.org> (click on Upcoming Meetings and Meeting Packets, then click on North Central Florida Regional Planning Council Full Packet.)*

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.

# 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

October 25, 2012  
7:30 p.m.

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- I. INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND INTRODUCTIONS
- \* II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - September 27, 2012 5
- III. CONSENT AGENDA - None
- IV. CHAIR'S REPORT - Introduction of New Members
- V. PRESENTATION ON THE NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA ECONOMIC AND DISASTER RESILIENCY STUDY
- VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS
  - A. Executive Committee
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\* See Attachments

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NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL  
MINUTES

Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites  
Lake City, Florida

September 27, 2012  
7:30 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

**Stephen Bailey, Columbia County**  
LaBarfield Bryant, City of Jasper  
Jim Catron, City of Madison  
*Thomas Collett, Alachua County*  
Rusty DePratter, Columbia County  
**Alphonso Dowdell, City of Perry**  
**Roy Ellis, Madison County**  
**Donnie Hamlin, Lafayette County**  
**Thomas Hawkins, City of Gainesville**  
*Charles Maulsby, Taylor County*  
*James Montgomery, Columbia County*  
**Ronny Morgan, Hamilton County**  
**Garth Nobles, Jr., City of Live Oak**  
Frank Ogborn, City of Archer  
Eleanor Randall, City of Hawthorne  
Daniel Riddick, Bradford County  
**Carolyn Spooner, City of Starke**  
**Kenrick Thomas, Gilchrist County**  
*Lorene Thomas, Dixie County*  
Randy Wells, City of Gainesville  
*Charles Williams, Hamilton County*  
*Mike Williams, Madison County*  
Stephen Witt, City of Lake City

STAFF PRESENT

Steve Dopp  
Scott Koons  
Carol Laine  
Marlie Sanderson  
Jean Strong

COUNCIL ATTORNEY PRESENT

Jon Wershow

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

MEMBERS ABSENT

Susan Baird, Alachua County  
Bob Barnas, City of High Springs  
Mike Byerly, Alachua County  
Todd Chase, City of Gainesville  
**Louie Davis, City of Waldo**  
Paula DeLaney, Alachua County  
**Sandra Haas, Suwannee County**  
Yvonne Hinson-Rawls, City of Gainesville  
Jason Holifield, Dixie County  
Jordan Marlowe, City of Newberry  
Lee Pinkoson, Alachua County  
Lauren Poe, City of Gainesville  
James Tallman, Union County  
Wesley Wainwright, Suwannee County  
Mark Wiggins, Taylor County  
Robert Wilford, City of Alachua

OTHERS PRESENT

Patricia Ellis  
Al Grieshaber Jr., City of Archer  
Bill Henderson, Florida Dept. of Transportation  
Keith Hintson  
Susan Ramsey, Hamilton County  
Development Authority  
Joe Riddick  
Bob Romig, Florida Dept. of Transportation  
Shannon Ventry, Live Oak  
Community Redevelopment Agency  
Susan Williams

I. INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND INTRODUCTIONS

Chair 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. She stated that there was a quorum of the Council.

Chair Thomas asked Mayor Sonny Nobles to introduce Shannon Ventry, Community Redevelopment Agency Director from the City of Live Oak. She then asked Mayor Frank Ogborn to introduce Al Grieshaber Jr., City Manager from the City of Archer.

Chair Thomas welcomed and introduced Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Committee Chair Susan Ramsey, Executive Director of the Hamilton County Development Authority and Ms. Ramsey's guest Keith Hinton. She also introduced and welcomed Joe Riddick, who previously served as Council Chair during 1995-96, Patricia Ellis, wife of Council member Roy Ellis and Susan Williams, wife of Council member Mike Williams.

Chair Thomas asked members and staff present to please stand and introduce themselves.

Chair Thomas asked that Item V.E. - Transportation Disadvantaged Program Resolution of Appreciation, Item VI.B.4. #90 - City of Archer Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment and Item VI.B.5. #91 - Madison County Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment be added to the agenda.

**ACTION: Commissioner Hawkins made the motion, with a second by Mr. Mike Williams to add Item V.E. - Transportation Disadvantaged Program Resolution of Appreciation, Item VI.B.4. #90 - City of Archer Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment and Item VI.B.5. #91 - Madison County Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment to the agenda. The motion carried unanimously.**

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - August 30, 2012

Chair Thomas asked that the minutes of the August 30, 2012 meeting be approved as written.

**ACTION: Vice-Mayor Spooner made the motion, with a second by Councilman Bryant, to approve the minutes of the August 30, 2012 meeting as written. The motion carried unanimously.**

III. GUEST SPEAKER - Bob Romig, State Transportation Development Administrator,  
Florida Department of Transportation

Mr. Koons introduced and welcomed Bob Romig, State Transportation Development Administrator, Florida Department of Transportation. Mr. Romig discussed Florida's Future Transportation Corridors and identified the initial study areas, one of which is the Tampa Bay to Northeast Florida Study Area. He stated that the future corridors policy framework focuses on connecting economic activities and moving people and freight; maximizes the use of existing facilities; considers alternatives to highways; adds capacity to existing facilities to support growth in demand and relieve congestion; and considers new facilities when needed to fill major connectivity gaps. Chair Thomas thanked Mr. Romig for his presentation.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Community Development Block Grant Fiscal Year 2011  
Administrative Services Agreement - Suwannee County
- B. Purchase Order with Northeast Florida Regional Council  
to Assist with Interoperable Communications Exercise Support
- C. Chambers of Commerce and Florida Chamber Foundation Membership
- D. Engagement Letter for Fiscal Year 2011-12 Audit

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

**ACTION: Commissioner Ellis made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Bailey, to approve the items on the Consent Agenda. The motion carried unanimously.**

V. CHAIR'S REPORT

- A. Introduction of New Members

Chair Thomas reported that there were no new members present to introduce.

- B. Employee Certificate of Service - Marlie Sanderson

Mr. Scott Koons, Executive Director, introduced Marlie Sanderson, who joined the Council staff on August 8, 1977. Mr. Sanderson currently serves as the Assistant Executive Director and also as the Director for Transportation Planning. Chair Thomas presented a 35-year Certificate of Service and a 35-year service pin to Mr. Sanderson. Mr. Koons and Chair Thomas thanked him for his years of dedicated service to the Council.

- C. Resolution of Appreciation - Roy Ellis

Chair Thomas asked that a Resolution of Appreciation for past services to the Council be approved for Commissioner Ellis for representing Madison County since January 2001.

**ACTION: Commissioner Spooner made the motion, with a second by Councilman Bryant, to approve the Resolution of Appreciation for Commissioner Ellis. The motion carried unanimously.**

Mr. Koons then presented a 11-year Certificate of Service to Commissioner Ellis for his 11 years of dedicated service to the Council representing Madison County. Mr. Koons stated that his service included serving two terms as Chair, one term as Vice-Chair and two terms as Secretary-Treasurer.

D. Executive Director Re-elected Chairman of Florida Regional Councils Association  
Executive Directors Advisory Committee

Chair Thomas reported that the executive directors of the 11 regional planning councils in Florida recently re-elected our executive director, Scott Koons, for a fourth term as Chairman of the Florida Regional Councils Association Executive Directors Advisory Committee. She stated that Mr. Koons would serve another one-year term in this position. Chair Thomas stated that the executive directors meet on a regular basis throughout the year to coordinate statewide initiatives, exchange information on best practices for regional planning councils, meet with senior officials of state agencies and develop recommendations for consideration by the Policy Board of the Association.

E. Florida Transportation Disadvantaged Resolution of Appreciation (added to agenda)

Chair Thomas introduced Commissioner Donnie Hamlin, Council member from Lafayette County, who asked that a Resolution of Appreciation for past services be approved for W. C. McCray, who served as the Veterans Representative on the Lafayette County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board from June 1999 to October 2004 and who also served as the Elderly Representative on the Coordinating Board from October 2004 to September 2012. Commissioner Hamlin stated that he would personally present the Resolution to Mr. McCray.

**ACTION: Commissioner Ellis made the motion, with a second by Mr. Maultsby, to approve the Resolution of Appreciation for W. C. McCray. The motion carried unanimously.**

VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Executive Committee

I. Resolution Recognizing Service of Philip T. Trader as Florida Economic Development Representative, U.S. Economic Development Administration

Chair Thomas stated that Philip T. Trader, Florida Economic Development Representative of the Atlanta Region of the U. S. Economic Development Administration is retiring after 11 years of service. She stated that Mr. Trader has been a long-time advocate for the U. S. Economic Development Administration mission in support of the region's economically distressed communities and the work the Council performs as a U.S. Economic Development Administration designated economic development district. From Fiscal Year 2000 to date, the U.S. Economic Development Administration has invested \$125,874,580 in 213 projects in the State of Florida to help create/retain an estimated 25,507 jobs and generate an estimated \$2,128,513,120 in private investment. She stated that the Executive Committee recommended that the Council approve a resolution, which is attached hereto and made a part of these minutes, recognizing the service of Mr. Trader.



**ACTION:** Commissioner Ellis made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Wells, to approve a resolution, which is attached hereto and made a part of these minutes, recognizing the service of Philip T. Trader as Florida Economic Development Representative of the Atlanta Region of the U. S. Economic Development Administration. The motion carried unanimously.

2. Proclamation Declaring October 2012 as Community Planning Month

Chair Thomas stated that the month of October 2012 has been chosen to celebrate National Community Planning Month. She added that the American Planning Association and its professional institute, the American Institute of Certified Planners, endorse National Community Planning Month as an opportunity to highlight the contributions sound planning and plan implementation make to the quality of life in communities and the environment. Chair Thomas stated that the Executive Committee recommended that a Proclamation proclaiming October 2012 as Community Planning Month be adopted, which has been attached hereto and made a part of these minutes.

**ACTION:** Commissioner Wells made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Bailey, to adopt a Proclamation proclaiming October 2012 as Community Planning Month, which has been attached hereto and made a part of these minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Regional Visioning Process

Mr. Koons stated that 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. The 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.

Mr. Koons added that at the July 19, 2012 Council meeting, the Council authorized 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. He reported that the Department has authorized the use of one of its general planning assistance consultants, Cambridge Systematics, Inc., to assist with this effort. Cambridge Systematics, Inc. 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.

Mr. Koons stated that 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.* He then

reviewed a scope, schedule and funding mechanism for a regional visioning process in north central Florida. He stated that the Executive Committee recommended that the Council authorize staff to convene and coordinate a regional visioning process for north central Florida.

**ACTION: Commissioner Wells made the motion, with a second by Vice-Mayor Spooner to authorize staff to convene and coordinate a regional visioning process for north central Florida. The motion carried unanimously.**

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 five local government comprehensive plan amendments.

Commissioner Hawkins further stated that subsequent to the distribution of the Council meeting packets, Council staff received two 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.

- #87 - City of Waldo Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment
- #88 - City of Gainesville Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendments
- #89 - Suwannee County Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment
- #91 - Madison County Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (added to agenda)

Commissioner Hawkins stated that the Clearinghouse Committee found that the comprehensive plans, as amended, for the City of Waldo, the City of Gainesville, Suwannee County and Madison County do not create significant adverse impacts to Natural Resources of Regional Significance, regional facilities or adjacent local governments.

- #90 - City of Archer Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (added to agenda)

Commissioner Hawkins stated that, regarding Item #90 - City of Archer Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment, the Clearinghouse Committee found that the City of Archer Comprehensive Plan, as amended, may result in significant adverse impacts to portions of the Regional Road Network as well as potential adverse impacts to road segments located in unincorporated Alachua County. The Committee recommended that the City include Transportation Best Practices contained in the regional plan as goals and policies in the local government comprehensive plan to mitigate the potential adverse impacts. Commissioner Hawkins stated that the Clearinghouse Committee recommended forwarding these findings to the respective local governments and the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity as regional comment.

**ACTION: Commissioner Hawkins made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Ellis, to approve the Clearinghouse Committee recommendations concerning Item #87, City of Waldo Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment, Item #88,**

**City of Gainesville Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendments, Item #89, Suwannee County Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment, Item #90 - City of Archer Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (added to agenda) and Item #91, Madison County Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (added to agenda). The motion carried unanimously.**

- C. Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Committee -  
Adoption of Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Report, 2013-2017

Susan Ramsey, Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Committee Chair, reported that the Committee has been working the past several months with staff to complete the required five-year update of the Strategy. The Committee has reviewed existing strategies and has recommended new strategies. She stated that the Committee completed a draft of the Strategy at its July 17, 2012 meeting. She reported that the Council approved the draft Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy 2013-2017 and authorized that the draft Strategy be noticed for a 30-day public comment period at their meeting on July 26, 2012. She further reported that no comments were received. Ms. Ramsey stated that the Committee recommended that the Council approve the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Report 2013-17 and authorize that it be submitted to the U. S. Economic Development Administration and counties in the region.

**ACTION: Commissioner Ellis made the motion, with a second by Mr. Montgomery to approve the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy 2013-2017 and authorize that it be submitted to the U. S. Economic Development Administration and counties in the region. The motion carried unanimously.**

- D. Finance Committee - Fiscal Year 2011-12 Amended Budget

Secretary-Treasurer Kenrick Thomas, serving as Chair of the Finance Committee, reported that the Finance Committee met on September 17, 2012 and agreed upon a budget amendment for Fiscal Year 2011-12. He stated that this budget amendment takes into account action taken by the Council during the past year to accept work under contracts and additional grants which were not anticipated when the original budget was prepared as well as reductions in anticipated revenues. He reviewed the proposed budget amendment and noted that it contained an overall net increase of \$10,500, which represents a 0.6 percent increase. Secretary-Treasurer Thomas stated that the Finance Committee recommended that the Council approve the proposed amended Fiscal Year 2011-12 budget.

**ACTION: Commissioner Thomas made the motion, with a second by Mr. Maultsby, to approve the amendment to the Fiscal Year 2011-12 budget as recommended by the Finance Committee. The motion carried unanimously.**

## VII. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

### A. Florida Regional Councils Association Monthly Report

Mr. Koons reported that the Florida Regional Councils Association is the statewide organization of the 11 regional planning councils. The Association strengthens Florida's regional planning councils, partners with government and the business community to enhance regional economic prosperity and improves the consistency and quality of regional planning councils programs to ensure they add value to state, regional and local initiatives. He stated that the accomplishments of the Association's Director of Intergovernmental Affairs, Sheri Coven, are reported each month at the Council meeting. He added that the August 2012 report included in the Council meeting packet addresses outreach, resource development/ capacity building, legislative and administrative activities. He also highlighted several of the accomplishments listed in the report.

### B. Florida Regional Councils Association Policy Board Meeting Report

Mr. Koons reported that he, Chair Thomas and Vice-Chair Nobles attended the semi-annual meeting of the Florida Regional Councils Association Policy Board held in Hollywood, Florida on August 25, 2012. He reported that Howard Glassman, Executive Director, Metropolitan Planning Organization Advisory Council, reported on the Metropolitan Planning Organization Advisory Council Revenue Study. Barbara Foster, Coordinator for Planning, Program Evaluation and Partnerships, Florida Department of Economic Opportunity, addressed the Policy Board and gave an update on the State Strategic Economic Development Plan. David Armstrong, President of Broward College and Chair of the Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance, addressed the Policy Board and discussed the economic development initiatives of the Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance.

Mr. Koons further reported that Deborah Cox, Director of Government Relations and Legislative Affairs of the National Association of Development Organizations reported on legislative affairs at the national level and Jose Gonzalez, Vice-President of Flagler addressed the Policy Board concerning the Florida East Coast Railway "All Aboard Florida" project. He stated that the Policy Board also received a report from Ron Book, Executive Director and Sheri Coven, Director of Intergovernmental Affairs, reviewed a financial report of the Association, approved the Fiscal Year 2012-13 budget and elected officers for Fiscal Year 2012-13.

### C. Florida Chamber Foundation Scorecard™

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

Scorecard™ is presented each month at the Council meeting. He reviewed the September 2012 Scorecard™ that was included in the Council meeting packet.

D. Quarterly Financial Report - Quarter Ending June 30, 2012

Mr. Koons reviewed the Financial Report for the period ending June 30, 2012. He noted that the financial condition of the Council is sound and that the expenditure pattern for the past nine months indicates that 75.7 percent of budgeted funds have been expended by June 30, 2012.

E. Florida Transportation Commission Governance Workshop

Mr. Koons stated that the Florida Transportation Commission was created in 1987, under Section 20.23, Florida Statutes, to serve as an oversight board for the Florida Department of Transportation. He stated that the mission of the Florida Transportation Commission is to provide leadership in meeting Florida's transportation needs through policy guidance on issues of statewide importance and by maintaining oversight and public accountability for the Department and other statutorily specified transportation authorities

Mr. Koons reported that at its meeting held on July 12, 2012, the Commission invited the Florida Regional Councils Association to make a presentation concerning the transportation planning roles and responsibilities of regional planning councils at its workshop to be held in Tallahassee on September 19, 2012.

Mr. Koons stated that he, serving as Chair of the Florida Regional Councils Association Executive Directors Advisory Committee, Brian Teeple, Chief Executive Officer, Northeast Florida Regional Council, serving as Vice-Chair of the Florida Regional Councils Association Executive Directors Advisory Committee, Patricia Steed, Executive Director, Central Florida Regional Planning Council, serving as Immediate Past Chair of the Florida Regional Councils Association Executive Directors Advisory Committee and Sheri Coven, Director of Intergovernmental Affairs for the Florida Regional Councils Association, attended the Workshop and made a presentation to the Commission concerning the transportation planning roles and responsibilities of regional planning councils. Mr. Koons further stated that he spoke about the organizational structure of regional planning councils and the staffing and planning services provided by regional planning councils to metropolitan planning organizations; Mr. Teeple spoke about linking regional transportation with economic systems; and Ms. Steed spoke about regional transportation governance systems.

F. Florida Leaders Organized for Water

Mr. Koons reported that on September 10, 2012, the seventh meeting of the Florida Leaders Organized for Water was held in Lake City. He stated that the Board of Directors heard reports from the Science, Legislative, Legal and Public Information working groups. He added that the Board of Directors agreed to develop a legislative proposal, in conjunction with the Florida Association of Counties and the Florida League of Cities, to address water issues. 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.

G. City of Live Oak Post-Disaster Redevelopment Plan

Mr. Koons stated that the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity and the Florida Division of Emergency Management are meeting with local officials and community representatives in Live Oak and Suwannee County to develop a post-disaster redevelopment to address the impacts of Tropical Storm Debby. He stated that on July 24, 2012, Hunting Deutsch, Executive Director of the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity and several staff from the Department and the Florida Division of Emergency Management toured the flood damage in downtown Live Oak and surrounding residential neighborhoods, and met with local officials and community representatives.

Mr. Koons reported that on August 20, 2012, Department staff held a second meeting in Live Oak to continue discussions to identify stakeholders and develop a year-long plan redevelopment process. He stated that at the August 20, 2012 meeting, the Council was identified as a stakeholder participant for the preparation of the post-disaster redevelopment plan. Mr. Koons further stated that on September 11, 2012, Department staff held the first stakeholder meeting with Council staff in attendance in Live Oak to identify issues to be addressed in a post-disaster redevelopment plan.

Chair Thomas informed the Council that the next Council meeting will be held on October 25, 2012 at the Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites in Lake City. The meeting was adjourned at 9:03 p.m.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Lorene J. Thomas, Chair

10/25/12

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

# PROCLAMATION

## DECLARING OCTOBER 2012 AS COMMUNITY PLANNING MONTH

WHEREAS, change is constant and affects all cities, towns, suburbs, counties, rural areas, regions, and other places; and

WHEREAS, community planning and plans can help manage this change in a way that provides better choices for how people work and live; and

WHEREAS, community planning provides an opportunity for all residents to be meaningfully involved in making choices that determine the future of their community; and

WHEREAS, the full benefits of planning requires public officials and citizens who understand, support, and demand excellence in planning and plan implementation; and

WHEREAS, the month of October 2012 is designated as National Community Planning Month throughout the United States of America and its territories; and

WHEREAS, the celebration of National Community Planning Month provides an opportunity to publicly recognize the participation and dedication of the members of planning and zoning boards and other citizen planners who have contributed their time and expertise to the improvement of the north central Florida region; and

WHEREAS, the celebration of National Community Planning Month provides an opportunity to publicly recognize the many valuable contributions made by professional community and regional planners in the north central Florida region and extend our heartfelt thanks for the continued commitment to public service by these professionals.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council that the month of October 2012 is hereby proclaimed as *Community Planning Month* throughout the north central Florida region in conjunction with the celebration of National Community Planning Month.

DULY ADOPTED AND PROCLAIMED this 27th day of September 2012.

ATTEST:

SEAL

  
Kenrick Thomas, Secretary-Treasurer

  
Lorene J. Thomas, Chair





**RESOLUTION NO. 2012-05**

**RECOGNIZING SERVICE OF  
PHILIP T. TRADER  
AS  
FLORIDA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REPRESENTATIVE,  
ATLANTA REGION,  
U.S. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION**

WHEREAS, Philip T. Trader has recently completed a 35-year career in the public and private sector, including serving as an Economic Development Specialist for the Southeast Georgia Area Planning and Development Commission;

WHEREAS, Philip T. Trader has provided 11 years of distinguished service as an employee of the Atlanta Region, U.S. Economic Development Administration;

WHEREAS, Philip T. Trader also served as Florida Economic Development Representative, Atlanta Region, U.S. Economic Development Administration;

WHEREAS, Philip T. Trader is a graduate of the University of London with a Bachelor's Degree in Economics; and

WHEREAS, Philip T. Trader retired as the Florida Economic Development Representative of the Atlanta Region of the U.S. Economic Development Administration on August 31, 2012.

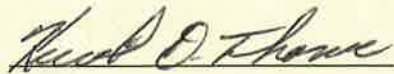
NOW, THEREFORE, the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council hereby recognizes the outstanding contributions made to the communities and citizens of north central Florida by Philip T. Trader as a dedicated public servant.

DULY ADOPTED AND PROCLAIMED this 27th day of September 2012.

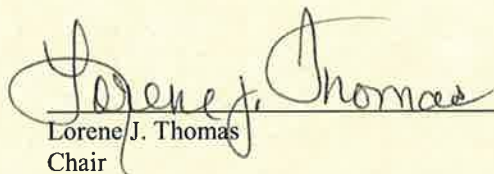
Attest:

NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA  
REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

SEAL



Kenrick Thomas.  
Secretary-Treasurer



Lorene J. Thomas  
Chair





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2009 NW 67th Place, Gainesville, FL 32653-1603 • 352.955.2200

October 18, 2012

TO: Council Members

FROM: Scott R. Koons, AICP, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Resolution Recognizing Service of  
 Matthew Chase as Executive Director,  
 National Association of Development Organizations

RECOMMENDATION:

**Approve the attached resolution recognizing the service of Matthew Chase as Executive Director, National Association of Development Organizations.**

BACKGROUND:

In recognition of the service of Matthew Chase as Executive Director, National Association of Development Organizations from 2003 to 2012, the attached resolution is recommended for approval by the Council.

Under his leadership, the National Association of Development Organizations grew to become a prominent advocate for the nation's regional development organizations and for the critical role they play in providing regional approaches and solutions to local challenges.

Also under his leadership, the National Association of Development Organizations has had a significant impact on federal legislation concerning programs and services that regional development organizations offer on a nationwide basis. He has fought tirelessly over the years to retain the U.S. Economic Development Administration in the federal budget by sharing the successes, lessons learned and noteworthy practices for economic development districts across the nation. He has also helped to create strategic alliances with other national and regional groups that support rural development.

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

Attachment

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**RESOLUTION NO. 2012-06**

**RECOGNIZING SERVICE OF  
MATTHEW CHASE**

**AS  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,  
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATIONS**

WHEREAS, the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council, a regional development organization, is a Platinum Member of the National Association of Development Organizations;

WHEREAS, Matthew Chase held positions in the National Association of Development Organizations as Legislative Director from 1997 to 2000, as Deputy Executive Director from 2000 to 2003 and as Executive Director from 2003 to 2012;

WHEREAS, under the leadership of Matthew Chase, the National Association of Development Organizations grew to become a prominent advocate for the regional development organizations throughout the nation and for the critical role they play in providing regional approaches and solutions to local challenges;

WHEREAS, Matthew Chase has fought tirelessly over the years to retain the U.S. Economic Development Administration in the federal budget by sharing the successes, lessons learned and noteworthy practices of economic development districts across the nation;

WHEREAS, the foresight of Mathew Chase has led to National Association of Development Organizations partnerships with the National Association of Counties, the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials and the Federal Highway Administration; and

WHEREAS, Matthew Chase resigned as Executive Director of the National Association of Development Organizations on September 14, 2012 and accepted a position as Executive Director of the National Association of Counties.

NOW, THEREFORE, the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council hereby recognizes the outstanding contributions of Matthew Chase to the advancement of regional development organizations in Florida and throughout the nation.

DULY ADOPTED AND PROCLAIMED this 25th day of October 2012.

Attest:

NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA  
REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

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Secretary-Treasurer

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Chair





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2009 NW 67th Place, Gainesville, FL 32653-1603 • 352.955.2200

October 18, 2012

TO: Council Members

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

SUBJECT: Appointment of Areawide Development Co., Inc. Members

RECOMMENDATION:

**Appoint members for two-year terms to the North Central Florida Areawide Development Co., Inc.**

BACKGROUND:

The Articles of Incorporation of the small business loan company, the North Central Florida Areawide Development Co., Inc., (ADCO) require that the Council make appointments of its members. These appointments are to be made on even numbered years for two-year terms.

Since ADCO no longer makes small business loans, its membership is made up entirely of Council members. In order to ensure that a quorum is present for the required meeting of ADCO following your October 25, 2012 meeting, a list of individuals to be considered for appointments will be provided next week at the Council meeting.

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

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October 18, 2012

TO: Council Members

FROM: Scott R. Koons, AICP, Executive Director 

SUBJECT: Proclamation Declaring November 2012 as Florida Jobs Month

RECOMMENDATION:

**Proclaim November 1012 as Florida Jobs Month by adopting the attached proclamation.**

BACKGROUND:

The month of November 2012 is being designated by Governor Scott as Florida Jobs Month.

It is recommended that the Council designate November 2012 as Florida Jobs Month (see attached Proclamation).

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

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# PROCLAMATION

## DECLARING NOVEMBER 2012 AS FLORIDA JOBS MONTH

WHEREAS, the economic climate in Florida is one that encourages job creation and economic development; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity has recently completed the Five-Year Florida Strategic Plan for Economic Development, July 2012 to June 2017, in cooperation with regional planning councils, economic development organizations and the private sector, establishing goals, objectives and strategies to advance the vision of making Florida the nation's top performing economy and being recognized as the world's best place to live, learn, work and do business; and

WHEREAS, the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council, designated an economic development district by the U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration, is responsible for developing and updating a comprehensive economic development strategy; and

WHEREAS, the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council, on September 27, 2012, adopted the five-year update of the North Central Florida Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy 2013-2017, establishing goals, objectives and strategies to enhance and diversify the economy of north central Florida; and

WHEREAS, Governor Rick Scott is designating the month of November 2012 as Florida Jobs Month throughout the State of Florida.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council that the month of November 2012 is hereby proclaimed as *Florida Jobs Month* throughout the north central Florida region.

DULY ADOPTED AND PROCLAIMED this 25th day of October 2012.

ATTEST:

SEAL

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Kenrick Thomas, Secretary-Treasurer

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Lorene J. Thomas, Chair





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October 18, 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., October 25, 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

#1 - City of Live Oak Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment (DEO No. 12-ESR1)

***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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October 18, 2012

TO: Council Members

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

SUBJECT: Florida Regional Councils Association Monthly Report

The Florida Regional Councils Association is the statewide organization of the 11 regional planning councils. The Association strengthens Florida's regional planning councils, partners with government and the business community to enhance regional economic prosperity and improves the consistency and quality of regional planning councils programs to ensure they add value to state, regional and local initiatives.

The Association strives to accomplish these goals by carrying-out the following objectives.

- Ensure regional planning councils are effective service organizations to the State of Florida, its local governments, and the citizens they serve;
- Ensure regional planning councils are consensus builders and problem solvers, and serve as conveners of the region by helping to articulate those multijurisdictional issues that need resolution;
- Encourage and promote opportunities for regional planning councils to become partners in state programs and initiatives, while promoting the unique themes of each region within the state and legislative environments;
- Monitor substantive state and federal legislative issues for the benefit of its members, and promote mutually supportive policy positions among the regional planning councils;
- Represent regional planning councils in national organizations, such as the National Association of Regional Councils, National Association of Development Organizations, and SouthEast Regional Directors Institute; and
- Foster relationships and partnerships and coordinate with state, regional, 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 programs.

Please find attached the September 2012 Monthly Accomplishments Report highlighting the accomplishments of the Association's Director of Intergovernmental Affairs, Sheri Coven. The report addresses outreach, resource development/capacity building, legislative and administrative activities.

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

**Attachment**

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## MONTHLY ACCOMPLISHMENTS: Sept, 2012

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### OUTREACH

- Met with Doug Darling, Florida Association of Counties, to discuss the Association's role in implementation of the RESTORE Act and to gain a better understanding of the Act's impact on the State of Florida.
- Participated in the quarterly Enterprise Florida, Inc., Board Meeting, Stakeholders Meeting, and Community Competitiveness Task Force meeting in St. Petersburg.
- Along with Scott Koons (NCFRPC), Chair, Brian Teeple (NEFRC), Vice-Chair, and Pat Steed, met with Michelle Dennard, Barbara Foster, and Stephanie Gibbons with the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity to identify opportunities for the regional planning councils to assist with implementation of the Five-Year Strategic Plan for Economic Opportunity.
- Along with Scott Koons (NCFRPC), Chair, Brian Teeple (NEFRC), Vice-Chair, and Pat Steed, attended the Florida Transportation Commission Workshop on September 19.
- Organized and participated in a conference call related to future funding opportunities in the area of energy planning with Fred Abousleman (National Association of Regional Councils), Avera Wynne (TBRPC), Manny Pumariega (TBRPC) and Scott Koons (NCFRPC), Chair.

### RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT/CAPACITY BUILDING

- Provided updates to the Florida League of Cities *2012-13 Financial and Technical Assistance for Florida Municipalities Report*, which will be included as an insert to the report and posted on the League's website.
- Organized and participated in a conference call with the RPC Executive Directors affected by the RESTORE Act to share with them information pertaining to the Act and the activities of the Florida Association of Counties.
- Although unable to participate in the September Rural Economic Development Initiative meeting, provided materials pertaining to the RPCs' role in economic development to Bruce Ballister (ARPC), who attended the meeting on FRCA's behalf.
- Participated in a meeting of the state agency Economic Development Liaisons, hosted by the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity, to review and discuss the roll-out of the Five-Year State Strategic Plan for Economic Development as well as agency alignment with the plan; and provided a written briefing to the Executive Directors.
- Reviewed the Florida Greenways and Trails Plan; had no comments.

- Participated in the monthly Enterprise Florida, Inc., conference call, which provided a recap of the recent Board and Stakeholders meetings and addressed release of a targeted industry study commissioned by Enterprise Florida, Inc.

### **LEGISLATIVE**

- Developed talking points for the meeting with Chris Finkbeiner (Governor's Office).
- With approval from Ron Book (FRCA), sent an email to each RPC Executive Director encouraging them to remind their local government representatives, as they engage in their respective organizations (Small County Coalition, Florida League of Cities, and Florida Association of Counties), to promote the following:
  - (a) Support full funding of regional planning councils to support state mandates and enhanced economic development activities; and,
  - (b) Oppose any legislation restricting the ability of regional planning councils to provide fee-based planning and technical services to their local governments.
- Renewed the FRCA Lobbytools Account effective October 1, 2012.
- Monitored Lobbytools emails and distributed information as needed.
- Provided pertinent information to Ron Book (FRCA), pertaining to the development of the Five-Year State Strategic Plan for Economic Development.
- Prepared a PowerPoint presentation for the President of FRCA, Commissioner Scott Black, to use in a presentation that he will be giving in October to the Florida League of Cities Growth Management Policy Committee, in support of full funding for RPCs.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE**

- Updated the FRCA website to post presentations from the FRCA Policy Board Meetings, appropriate agendas and meeting summaries, and an announcement on the home page regarding FRCA's newly released annual report.
- Worked with staff from the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity to provide links to each RPC's regional directories, where such links existed.
- Mailed the FRCA Annual Report and January – June 2012 Major Accomplishments Report to Policy Board members who missed the August meeting.

### **OTHER**

- Assisted the South Florida and North Central Florida RPCs with their gubernatorial appointments.
- At his request, provided Jim Youngquist (SouthEast Regional Directors Institute) with examples of how FRCA builds relationships with state agencies to help prepare him for a work session with the Tennessee District Directors and a number of key agency heads who are new to state government in Tennessee.



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October 18, 2012

TO: Council Members

FROM: Scott R. Koons, AICP, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Florida Chamber Foundation Scorecard™

The Florida Chamber Foundation has developed the Florida Scorecard™ to provide Florida leaders the metrics needed to secure Florida's future. The Florida Chamber Foundation's objective to developing a 20-year, statewide strategic plan requires a commitment to measuring our current status and progress toward the stated goals of the Six Pillars 20-year Strategic Plan.

The Scorecard reports metrics for each of the Six Pillars benchmarked to the other 49 states. The Six Pillars are Talent Supply and Education, Innovation and Economic Development, Infrastructure and Growth Leadership, Business Climate and Competitiveness, Civic and Governance Systems and Quality of Life and Quality Places. Please find attached the October 2012 Scorecard.

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

**Attachment**

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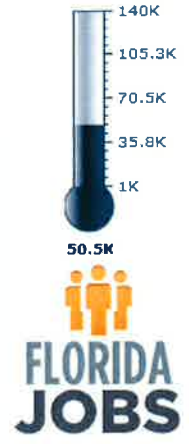
- Current News
- 2030 Metrics
- Exclusive Business Data
- County Data
- Interactive Chart
- My Metrics

## Economic Freedom: What Can Florida Learn from Singapore?

Economic freedom is best defined as the ability for a state's residents to create wealth, keep the fruits of their labor, and exchange goods/services in voluntary markets. The protection of this ability from forces of coercion, theft, and violence is an integral component of a people's economic freedom. You may ask, "Why does economic freedom matter for economic development?" The incentive for workers, business owners, and entrepreneurs to engage in productive activity ultimately depends on the degree of freedom to keep and enjoy the profits, rents, and wages from enterprise. It is no accident that countries with more economic freedom tend to produce wealth at a faster rate, have higher standards of living, and enjoy a better quality of life when compared to nations with less economic freedom.



### Florida Net Job Creation in 2012



Singapore is one of the most economically free nations in terms of the size of government, the amount of taxation, and labor market freedom. The country's residents produce about \$56,522 of value in goods and services per person in one year. In contrast, Florida's GDP per capita weighs in at around \$35,000. Singapore enjoys a 2.1% unemployment rate, about 6.7 percentage points lower than Florida's unemployment rate in the month of August 2012 (8.8%). Similar to Florida's geography, Singapore is a major trading hub located at the southern end of the Malaysian peninsula. Yet, the success of economic freedom as a model can be seen in many other countries. Hong Kong, Singapore, Australia, New Zealand, and Switzerland are currently the top five countries in terms of economic freedom (as ranked by the Heritage Foundation). Four out of the five nations have a higher GDP per capita when compared to the sunshine state. In addition, all five countries enjoy a lower unemployment rate and a higher rate of economic growth. Florida's Economic Freedom Index, a new measure on The Florida Scorecard, can guide policymakers to promote an institutional framework conducive to the creation of wealth for Florida residents.

**SCORECARD NEWSLETTER**

Provide your email address to receive monthly Scorecard updates

**SUBSCRIBE**

## Ranking Florida



### Key Indicators

**Home Foreclosures**  
Number of New Foreclosure Filings (Bank Reposs, Default Notices, Bank Auctions)...

**Consumer Confidence**  
Florida consumer confidence indices measure perceptions of personal finances now compared to a year ago and perceptions of U.S....

**Population**  
Florida has the 4th largest population in the U.S., estimated at 18.8 million in 2010...

**Unemployment Rate**  
Florida has a labor force of over 9 million, ready to meet the workforce needs of businesses...





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October 18, 2012

TO: Council Members

FROM: Scott R. Koons, AICP, Executive Director

SUBJECT: National Association of Development Organization Innovation Awards

The National Association of Development Organizations is a Washington, D.C.-based association that promotes programs and policies that strengthen local governments, communities and economies through regional cooperation, program delivery and comprehensive strategies. The association's Innovation Awards program recognizes regional development organizations and partnering organizations for improving the economic and community competitiveness of our nation's regions and local communities.

The association recently awarded the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council two 2012 Innovation Awards. The first award was for the North Central Florida Economic and Disaster Resiliency Study and the second award was for the North Central Florida Strategic Regional Policy Plan. The 2012 slate of awardees includes 64 projects representing 52 National Association of Development Organizations members from 22 states.

"For more than 25 years, NADO's Innovation Award has provided regional development organizations throughout the nation a unique opportunity to showcase their important work and their critical role in promoting economic development for rural and small metropolitan communities. The creativity and significant, long-term impact of regional programs and projects like the North Central Florida Economic and Disaster Resiliency Study and the North Central Florida Strategic Regional Policy Plan are key to advancing the economic growth and sustainability of our nation's regions and communities," said NADO President Russell Cowley, Executive Director of the Six County Association of Governments in Richfield, Utah.

#### North Central Florida Economic and Disaster Resiliency Study

In August 2008, seven of the region's 11 counties, Alachua, Bradford, Dixie, Hamilton, Suwannee, Taylor and Union, sustained significant property damage caused by Tropical Storm Fay and were declared eligible for federal disaster relief funding. In order to prepare the north central Florida region to rebound economically from future natural disasters and to aid in a more rapid recovery effort, the Council requested and received funding from the U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration to conduct an economic and disaster resiliency study. The study documents existing conditions in the 11 counties in the north central Florida region and reviews the potential impacts of a catastrophic event with respect to the regional economy.

The Economic and Disaster Resiliency Study was designed to assist local governments, businesses and emergency management personnel to better prepare to mitigate and recover from the impacts of a catastrophic hurricane. The study provided the following valuable planning tools:

- Regional Hazards Analysis for hurricanes and coastal storms, freshwater flooding, wildfires and urban interface;
- Regional Vulnerability Analysis for north central Florida by county;
- Regional Economic Analysis; and
- Economic Resiliency.

Given that the region's economic activity is dependent upon the number of occupied commercial and industrial parcels, the study's regional vulnerability analysis of the study identifies which commercial and industrial parcels are at high risk from flooding and/or coastal storm surge, providing for advanced preparations that can save millions of dollars in economic activity.

The study is a model that can be readily replicated by any region with the resources to conduct severe weather and econometric analysis. The methodologies used in the project are clearly presented in the study. The study promotes efficiency by identifying areas most vulnerable to severe weather, which in turn can be used to enhance decision making in land use and public safety resource allocation.

#### North Central Florida Strategic Regional Policy Plan

The Council has two major policy documents; the North Central Florida Strategic Regional Policy Plan and the North Central Florida Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy. While the Strategy focuses on economic development strategies, the Regional Plan is more comprehensive in scope. However, the Regional Plan also includes a chapter addressing economic development goals and objectives.

The project is the integration of economic development strategies from the North Central Florida Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy into the North Central Florida Strategic Regional Policy Plan. In 1978, the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council was designated by the U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration, as an Economic Development District. As a District, the Council has been responsible for preparing and updating every five years a comprehensive economic development strategy to promote economic development in the region. In 1979, the Council adopted its first regional plan which included an economic development chapter.

Since that time, the Council has had two separate and distinct policy documents concerning economic growth and development of the region. In October 2011 as part of the most recent five-year update of the North Central Florida Strategic Regional Policy Plan, the Council integrated the analysis of the regional economy and the economic development strategies from the North Central Florida Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy into the North Central Florida Strategic Regional Policy Plan as the economic development chapter of the Regional Plan.

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






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October 18, 2012

TO: Council Members

FROM: Scott R. Koons, AICP, Executive Director 

SUBJECT: North Florida Regional Water Supply Partnership

In September 2011, the St. Johns River Water Management District, the Suwannee River Water Management District and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection entered into an agreement that formalizes the coordination of water resource management in north Florida. Ensuring sustainable water supplies and protecting north Florida's waterways and natural systems is a collaborative effort among the water management districts, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, local elected officials and area stakeholders.

The Stakeholder Advisory Committee, which was formed in May 2012, serves as an advisory body to offer viewpoints from stakeholder groups to the St. Johns River and Suwannee River water management districts and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection to help address the region's water supply issues. The Stakeholder Committee is structured such that a wide range of public interests are included, while keeping the Committee small enough to be effective and productive. Stakeholder Committee representatives closely coordinate with the constituencies they represent, as well as being responsive to the interested public. Committee meetings are open to the public so stakeholders beyond the Committee membership can attend and participate.

The Committee met on September 24, 2012 at the Florida Gateway College, in Lake City. At that meeting, the Committee heard updates on groundwater modeling and minimum flow and level prevention and recovery strategies and reviewed the work plan for the regional water supply plan. The Committee also received a briefing on north Florida hydrogeology.

The next meeting of the Stakeholder Committee will be on October 29, 2012 at a location to be determined.

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

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October 18, 2012

TO: Council Members

FROM: Scott R. Koons, AICP, Executive Director

*SRK*

SUBJECT: Florida Leaders Organized for Water

As previously reported, the Columbia County Board of County Commissioners hosted a tri-county public meeting and forum in Lake City with the Suwannee County Board of County Commissioners and the Hamilton County Board of County Commissioners to discuss north Florida water issues on November 29, 2011. The Columbia County Board of County Commissioners took action to establish a multi-county work group to engage a hydrologist and discuss what steps need to be taken and what studies need to be conducted to potentially challenge the consumptive water use permit issued to Jacksonville Electric Authority by St. Johns River Water Management District in May 2011. The Columbia County Board of County Commissioners also took action to appropriate \$250,000 to fund the work group and pay for environmental monitoring services and other needed services. The Columbia County Board of County Commissioners also asked other counties and local governments in the region to join in the effort.

On October 8, 2012, the eighth meeting of the Florida Leaders Organized for Water was held in the Columbia County School Board Auditorium in Lake City. The Board of Directors for Florida Leaders Organized for Water heard a presentation by Dr. Helen Miller, Mayor of White Springs, concerning proposed water resources legislation. The Florida Leaders Organized for Water approved the legislative proposal.

The current local government members of the Florida Leaders Organized for Water are: Alachua County, Bradford County, Clay County, Columbia County, Dixie County, Gilchrist County, Hamilton County, Lafayette County, Levy County, Suwannee County, Taylor County, Town of Branford, City of Keystone Heights, City of Lake City, Town of Lee, City of MacClenny and Town of White Springs. 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.

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

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