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# MEETING NOTICE

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

There will be a meeting of the Executive Committee of the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council on **January 28, 2021**. Due to the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency, the meeting will be held virtually via communications media technology at **6:00 p.m.**

**DIAL IN NUMBER:**                      **Toll Free 1.888.585.9008**

**CONFERENCE CODE:**                **568 124 316**





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Regional  
Planning  
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## **AGENDA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Virtual Public Meeting  
Via Communications Media Technology  
Gainesville, Florida

January 28, 2021  
6:00 p.m.

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* I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - October 22, 2020 and December 10, 2020	<b>5</b>
* II. CONTRACTS AND APPLICATIONS - Interagency Agreement with Central Florida Regional Planning Council to Assist with Local Government Comprehensive Plan Study	<b>9</b>
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* B. Resolution No. 2021-01 Recognizing 100th Anniversary of Dixie County	<b>19</b>
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* D. Resolution No. 2021-03 Supporting Access to Affordable, Reliable High-Speed Internet Throughout Florida	<b>27</b>
* E. Resolution No. 2021-04 Opposing Senate Bill 62 Concerning Regional Planning Councils	<b>31</b>
V. OTHER BUSINESS - None	
VI. CITIZEN COMMENTS	

This agenda item provides an opportunity for citizens to address the Committee on any matter not included on the agenda. The comment period is limited to three minutes for each individual.

\* See Attachments

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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
MINUTES

Virtual Meeting  
Via Communications Media Technology

October 22, 2020  
6:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Charles Chestnut IV, Chair  
Anthony Adams, Secretary-Treasurer  
Thomas Demps, Vice-Chair  
Janice Mortimer, Member  
Robert Wilford, Immediate Past Chair

STAFF PRESENT

Scott Koons

OTHERS PRESENT

Stew Lilker,  
Columbia County Observer

Chair Chestnut called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - September 24, 2020

Chair Chestnut asked that the minutes for the September 24, 2020 Executive Committee meeting be approved as written.

**ACTION: Vice-Mayor Wilford made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Mortimer to approve the minutes for September 24, 2020 meeting as written. The motion carried unanimously.**

II. CONTRACTS AND APPLICATIONS - None

III. PROGRAM REPORT -

A. Florida Transpiration Disadvantaged Program  
Community Transportation Coordinator Selections  
for Dixie, Gilchrist and Union Counties

**ACTION: Commissioner Demps made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Mortimer to recommend that the Council authorize the use of competitive request for proposals processes to recommend to the Florida Commission on the Transportation Disadvantaged Community Transportation Coordinators for Dixie, Gilchrist and Union Counties, authorize the Executive Director to appoint a Selection Committee of at least three Council employees who have experience and knowledge of Florida’s Transportation Disadvantaged Program, and authorize the Selection Committee to establish selection criteria, review proposals and make recommendations to the Council concerning the designation of the Community Transportation Coordinators for Dixie, Gilchrist and Union Counties. The motion carried unanimously.**

- B. Appointment of North Central Florida  
Areawide Development Co., Inc. Members

**ACTION:** Vice-Mayor Wilford made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Demps to recommend that the Council appoint Anthony Adams, Lafayette County; David Arreola, Alachua County; Robert Brown, Hamilton County; LaBarfield Bryant, Hamilton County; Jim Catron, Madison County; Charles Chestnut, IV, Alachua County; Ken Cornell, Alachua County; Frank Davis, Suwannee County; Louie Davis, Alachua County; Rick Davis, Madison County; Thomas Demps, Taylor County; Don Hale, Suwannee County; Patricia Bouie Hutchinson, Alachua County; John Meeks, Levy County; Janice Mortimer, Bradford County; David Pieklik, Levy County; Daniel Riddick, Bradford County; Reina Saco, Alachua County; Kevin Sheilley, Marion County; Gigi Simmons, Alachua County; James Tallman, Union County; Kenrick Thomas, Gilchrist County; Lorene Thomas, Dixie County; Robert Wilford, Alachua County; and Stephen Witt, Columbia County as members to two-year terms to the North Central Florida Areawide Development Co., Inc. The motion carried unanimously.

IV. GENERAL ADMINISTRATION - None

V. OTHER BUSINESS - Florida Regional Councils Association Policy Board Meeting  
Tallahassee - January 8, 2021

Scott Koons, Executive Director, stated that the semi-annual Florida Regional Councils Association Policy Board Meeting is scheduled to be held on January 8, 2021 in Tallahassee.

VI. CITIZEN COMMENT - None

The meeting adjourned at 6:06 p.m.

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Charles S. Chestnut IV, Chair

1/28/21  
Date

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
MINUTES

Virtual Meeting  
Via Communications Media Technology

December 10, 2020  
6:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Charles Chestnut IV, Chair  
Anthony Adams, Secretary-Treasurer  
Thomas Demps, Vice-Chair  
Janice Mortimer, Member  
Robert Wilford, Immediate Past Chair

STAFF PRESENT

Lynn Franson-Godfrey  
Scott Koons

OTHERS PRESENT

Stew Lilker,  
Columbia County Observer

Chair Chestnut called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - October 22, 2020

By consensus, the Committee agreed that the minutes for the October 22, 2020 Executive Committee meeting be rescheduled for approval at the January 28, 2021 Executive Committee meeting.

II. CONTRACTS AND APPLICATIONS -

- A. Amendment to Purchase Order with Northeast Florida Regional Council to Assist with Update of Statewide Regional Evacuation Study

**ACTION: Commissioner Demps made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Mortimer to recommend that the Council amend the purchase order with Northeast Florida Regional Council to assist with the update of the Statewide Regional Evacuation Study for an amended fixed fee amount of \$105,100. The motion carried unanimously.**

III. PROGRAM REPORT -

- A. Resolution Recognizing 125th Anniversary of the City of Newberry

**ACTION: Commissioner Demps made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Mortimer to recommend that the Council approve Resolution No. 2020-12 recognizing the 125th Anniversary of the City of Newberry. The motion carried unanimously.**

- B. Transportation Disadvantaged Program Community Transportation Coordinator Selection for Columbia, Hamilton and Suwannee Counties

**ACTION: Commissioner Mortimer made the motion, with a second by Vice-Mayor Wilford to recommend that the Council authorize the use of the non-competitive selection process to designate the Transportation Disadvantaged Program Community Transportation Coordinator for the Columbia, Hamilton and Suwannee multi-county service area.**

Following discussion by the public and the Executive Committee, Commissioner Mortimer and Vice-Mayor Wilford withdrew their motion and second respectively.

**ACTION: Vice-Mayor Wilford made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Mortimer to recommend that the Council remove the authorization for the use of the non-competitive selection process to designate the Transportation Disadvantaged Program Community Transportation Coordinator for the Columbia, Hamilton and Suwannee multi-county service area agenda item from the December 10, 2020 Council meeting Consent Agenda and defer action concerning the agenda item until the January 28, 2021 Council meeting. The motion carried unanimously.**

IV. GENERAL ADMINISTRATION - None

V. OTHER BUSINESS

Scott Koons, Executive Director, reported that the Florida Regional Councils Association Policy Board forum scheduled for January 8, 2021 will be held virtually via communications media technology.

VI. CITIZEN COMMENTS - None

The meeting adjourned at 6:22 p.m.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Charles S. Chestnut IV, Chair

1/28/21  
Date



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January 21, 2021

TO: Council Members

FROM: Scott R. Koons, AICP, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Interagency Agreement with Central Florida Regional Planning Council to Assist with Local Government Comprehensive Plan Study

RECOMMENDATION:

**Authorize the Chair to execute an Interagency Agreement with the Central Florida Regional Planning Council to Assist with Local Government Comprehensive Plan Study for a fixed fee amount of \$97,500.**

BACKGROUND:

The Florida Department of Transportation has entered into an agreement with the Central Florida Regional Planning Council to complete the Local Government Comprehensive Plan Study of the comprehensive plans for local governments located within the Suncoast, Northern Turnpike Extension and the South Central Florida Multi-use Corridors of Regional Economic Significance.

The Central Florida Regional Planning Council is entering into interagency agreements with the regional planning councils that have counties located within the Suncoast, Northern Turnpike and the South Central Florida Multi-use Corridors of Regional Economic Significance. The counties in the Suncoast and Northern Turnpike Corridors include Dixie, Gilchrist, Lafayette, Levy, Madison and Taylor Counties.

The scope of work includes evaluating local government comprehensive plans with respect to their alignment within the Multi-Use Corridors of Regional Economic Significance study areas including high level needs, guiding principles and instructions for project development and beyond. The scope of work also includes assessing relevant reports and project alignments, and any area around interchanges as they compare to the current local government comprehensive plans.

The Council will be paid a fixed fee amount of \$97,500 by the Central Florida Regional Planning Council for these services.

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

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January 21, 2021

TO: Council Members  
FROM: Scott R. Koons, AICP, Executive Director   
SUBJECT: Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board Appointments

RECOMMENDATION:

- **Appoint Commissioner Robert Brown as the Local Elected Official for Hamilton County on the Columbia, Hamilton and Suwannee Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board.**
- **Appoint Selvin Cray as the alternate Regional Workforce Board Representative on the Columbia, Hamilton and Suwannee Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board and the voting representative on the Dixie, Gilchrist and Union County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Boards.**
- **Appoint Commissioner Travis Land as the Local Elected Official for Suwannee County on the Columbia, Hamilton and Suwannee Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board.**
- **Appoint Commissioner Ryan Perez as Chair of the Union County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board.**
- **Appoint Sheryl Dick-Stanford as the voting Florida Agency for Persons with Disabilities Representative on the Bradford, Columbia, Hamilton and Suwannee, Dixie, Gilchrist, Lafayette, Levy, Madison and Union County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Boards.**
- **Appoint Commissioner Toby Witt as the Local Elected Official for Columbia County on the Columbia, Hamilton and Suwannee Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board.**

BACKGROUND:

According to Rule 41-2.012 of the Florida Administrative Code, the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council, serving as the Designated Official Planning Agency, is responsible for appointing members to the local Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Boards. It is recommended that Commissioner Robert Brown be appointed the Local Elected Official for Hamilton County on the Columbia, Hamilton and Suwannee Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board. It is recommended that Selvin Cray be appointed the alternate Workforce Development Board Representative on the Columbia, Hamilton and Suwannee Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board and the voting representative on the Dixie, Gilchrist and Union County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Boards. It is recommended that Commissioner Travis Land be appointed the Local Elected Official for Suwannee County on the Columbia, Hamilton and Suwannee Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board. It is recommended Commissioner Ryan Perez be appointed as Chair of the Union County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board. It is recommended Sheryl Dick-Stanford be appointed the voting Florida Agency for Persons with Disabilities Representative on the Bradford, Columbia, Hamilton and Suwannee, Dixie, Gilchrist, Lafayette, Levy, Madison and Union County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Boards. It is recommended that Commissioner Toby Witt be appointed the Local Elected Official for Columbia County on the Columbia, Hamilton and Suwannee Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board.

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

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January 21, 2021

TO: Council Members  
 FROM: Scott R. Koons, AICP, Executive Director  
 SUBJECT: American Flood Coalition Agreement

BACKGROUND:

The American Flood Coalition is a nonpartisan group of political, military, business and local leaders that have come together to drive adaptation to the reality of higher seas, stronger storms and more frequent flooding. The Coalition seeks to advance solutions that support flood-affected communities and protect residents, the economy and military installations.

The mission of the Coalition is to protect communities that are vulnerable to flooding and sea level rise. The need to address these issues is vitally important to the well-being of citizens, economic strength and security. Proactive planning and smart policy can enable flood-affected communities to adapt and thrive. Investing in adaptation planning and projects that reduce risk can protect home values and the highways, ports, and other essential infrastructure that drive our economy, creating jobs and economic opportunities.

The Coalition focuses on the following four solution pillars.

- Economy - Invest in infrastructure and natural solutions that boost the economy and protect property values.
- Communities - Use smart planning to keep communities safe and save taxpayer dollars.
- Rebuilding - Build back stronger to protect communities from future flooding.
- Military - Ensure our military installations are ready to deploy 365 days a year.

The Coalition is offering the Council a grant of \$15,000 to support the development of a regional resilience collaborative. Such resilience collaborative would be among the local governments in the north central Florida region similar to the recent collaborative formed by the East Central Florida Regional Planning Council and the coalition formed by the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council.

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

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January 21, 2021

TO: Council Members

FROM: Scott R. Koons, AICP, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Proclamation Declaring February 22, 2021 - February 28, 2021 as Hazardous Materials Awareness Week

RECOMMENDATION:

**Approve the attached proclamation declaring the week of February 22, 2021 - February 28, 2021 as Hazardous Materials Awareness Week in the north central Florida region.**

BACKGROUND:

The North Central Florida Local Emergency Planning Committee has the job of increasing the safety of our communities from chemical releases. Public outreach and education are important to increasing chemical safety in our communities. The North Central Florida Local Emergency Planning Committee has designated the week of February 22, 2021 - February 28, 2021 as Hazardous Materials Awareness Week. It is recommended that the Council join in this public outreach effort by proclaiming the week of February 22, 2021 - February 28, 2021 as Hazardous Materials Awareness Week (see attached Proclamation).

One goal of Hazardous Materials Awareness Week is to let the public know that facilities, first responders and emergency management are working together to ensure that our communities are as prepared as possible for both accidental and deliberate releases of hazardous materials. A second goal is to encourage local governments to take advantage of free hazardous materials training classes offered by the Local Emergency Planning Committee.

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

Attachment

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# PROCLAMATION

## DECLARING FEBRUARY 22, 2021 - FEBRUARY 28, 2021 AS HAZARDOUS MATERIALS AWARENESS WEEK

WHEREAS, the safe use of hazardous materials is essential to citizens, business, industry and local governments to maintain economic stability and the public health; and

WHEREAS, the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council recognizes the importance of protecting our communities from both accidental and deliberate releases of hazardous materials and joins the North Central Florida Local Emergency Planning Committee, and numerous municipalities, counties and school boards, in publicly promoting community hazardous materials safety; and

WHEREAS, it is essential for local governments, regional planning councils and local emergency planning committees to work together to increase community safety by encouraging emergency responders to attend free training on how to safely respond to releases of hazardous materials; and

WHEREAS, citizens need to know that local governments, businesses, emergency responders and emergency planners are working together to ensure that our communities are as prepared as possible for both accidental and deliberate releases of hazardous materials.

NOW, THEREFORE, the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council hereby proclaims the week of February 22, 2021 - February 28, 2021 as *Hazardous Materials Awareness Week* throughout the north central Florida region.

DULY ADOPTED AND PROCLAIMED this 28th day of January 2021.

ATTEST:

SEAL

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Anthony Adams, Secretary-Treasurer

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Charles S. Chestnut IV, Chair





**IV. B.**

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January 21, 2021

TO: Council Members  
FROM: Scott R. Koons, AICP, Executive Director *SRK*  
SUBJECT: 100th Anniversary of Dixie County Resolution

RECOMMENDATION:

**Adopt attached Resolution No. 2021-01 Recognizing the 100th Anniversary of Dixie County.**

BACKGROUND:

Dixie County was formed on April 25, 1921 from southern Lafayette County. The Suwannee River forms the southeasterly boundary, the Gulf of Mexico forms the southwesterly boundary and the Steinhatchee River forms the northwesterly boundary of the County.

Dixie County contains the Old Spanish Trail which crosses the county from east to west. The County, located along Florida's Nature Coast, is home to an eco-tourism industry highlighted by fishing, diving, swimming, canoeing, kayaking, hiking, biking and bird-watching. Dixie County industries also include agriculture, forestry and clam farming

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

Attachment

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RESOLUTION NO. 2021-02

A RESOLUTION OF THE NORTH CENTRAL  
FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL  
RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF  
DIXIE COUNTY

WHEREAS, Dixie County, was formed on April 25, 1921 from southern Lafayette County; and

WHEREAS, the Suwannee River forms the southeasterly boundary, the Gulf of Mexico forms the southwesterly boundary and the Steinhatchee River forms the northwesterly boundary of Dixie County; and

WHEREAS, Dixie County, contains the Old Spanish Trail which crosses the county from east to west; and

WHEREAS, Dixie County, located along Florida's Nature Coast, is home to an eco-tourism industry highlighted by fishing, diving, swimming, canoeing, kayaking, hiking, biking and bird-watching; and

WHEREAS, Dixie County industries also include agriculture, forestry and clam farming; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council congratulates Dixie County on its 100th Anniversary.

DULY ADOPTED by the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council this 28th day of January 2021.

NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA  
REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

Attest:

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Charles S. Chestnut IV, Chair





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January 21, 2021

TO: Council Members  
FROM: Scott R. Koons, AICP, Executive Director   
SUBJECT: 100th Anniversary of Union County Resolution

RECOMMENDATION:

**Adopt attached Resolution No. 2021-02 Recognizing the 100th Anniversary of Union County.**

BACKGROUND:

Union County was formed on October 1, 1921 and became the 61st county of the state of Florida. The County was formerly part of western Bradford County.

The New River forms the eastern boundary and the Santa Fe River forms the southern boundary of Union County. The Palatka-Lake Butler State Trail traverses the eastern part of the County. Union County industries include agriculture, timber, trucking and state corrections

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

Attachment

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RESOLUTION NO. 2021-03

A RESOLUTION OF THE NORTH CENTRAL  
FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL  
RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF  
UNION COUNTY

WHEREAS, Union County, was formed on October 1, 1921 and became the 61st county of the state of Florida; and

WHEREAS, Union County, was formerly part of western Bradford County;  
and

WHEREAS, the New River forms the eastern boundary and the Santa Fe River forms the southern boundary of Union County; and

WHEREAS, the Palatka-Lake Butler State Trail traverses the eastern part of Union County; and

WHEREAS, Union County industries include agriculture, timber, trucking and state corrections; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council congratulates Union County on its 100th Anniversary.

DULY ADOPTED by the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council this 28th day of January 2021.

NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA  
REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

Attest:

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Charles S. Chestnut IV, Chair





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January 21, 2021

TO: Council Members

FROM: Scott R. Koons, AICP, Executive Director 

SUBJECT: Resolution No. 2021-03 Supporting Access to Affordable, Reliable High-Speed Internet throughout Florida

RECOMMENDATION:

**Adopt attached Resolution No. 2021-03 Supporting Access to Affordable, Reliable High-Speed Internet throughout Florida.**

BACKGROUND:

The Small County Coalition of Florida has established the Florida Broadband Initiative - A Call to Action. The initiative focuses on the need for a comprehensive strategic plan aimed at providing affordable, reliable high-speed internet services in every community of Florida. According to Levy County Commissioner and Coalition Chair John Meeks, "Every household and business should have affordable, reliable high-speed internet services."

In addition, the Florida Association of Counties has established ACCESS 67 Counties Connecting Communities, an initiative to implement a comprehensive approach to empowering counties to develop solutions to address the impacts of the lack of access to critical telecommunication and information technology resources in Florida communities. The Association recognizes that the lack of internet access impacts small, medium and large counties, as well as, Florida's rural and urban communities.

The Coalition and Association are requesting boards of county commissioners and other organizations to adopt a resolution expressing support for the implementation of a broad-based effort to close the internet gap that exists throughout the state. The absence of access to affordable, reliable high-speed internet service prevents communities from achieving their full potential in the areas of virtual learning, remote working, telemedicine, public safety communications and economic development efforts.

These initiatives are based on House Bill 969 passed by the Florida Legislature, during the 2020 Legislative Session, creating the Florida Office of Broadband within the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity. The Florida Office of Broadband is required to create a strategic plan that has goals and strategies for increasing the use of broadband internet service in the state. The Florida Office of Broadband is also to address the need to define accurate and up-to-date mapping quantifying the internet needs of the public and private sector. These efforts are complemented by the National Association of Counties effort to develop a national broadband strategy and utilize their mapping app - *Testit*.

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

Attachment

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RESOLUTION NO. 2021-03

A RESOLUTION OF THE NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA  
REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL SUPPORTING ACCESS  
TO AFFORDABLE, RELIABLE HIGH-SPEED INTERNET  
THROUGHOUT FLORIDA

WHEREAS, affordable, reliable high-speed internet access is essential for Floridians to be prosperous and meet the challenges of today; and

WHEREAS, the absence of access to affordable, reliable high-speed internet service prevents communities from achieving the high quality of life that is considered a fundamental component for educational and economic success; and

WHEREAS, the absence and/or lack of affordable, reliable high-speed internet hinders the ability for all schoolchildren to have access to educational opportunities; hinders access to telemedicine to improve health outcomes for its residents, and to provide access without demanding travel and transportation; hinders the ability for rapid communication between the public and law enforcement agencies; hinders the ability for communities to maintain and expand business opportunities, stimulate job growth; and hinders the ability to engage in innovative technologies that are required for a vibrant economy; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Legislature recently passed House Bill 969 (Chapter 2020-21, Laws of Florida) creating the Florida Office of Broadband within the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity and requiring the creation of a strategic plan that has goals and strategies for increasing the use of broadband internet service in the state; and

WHEREAS, it is imperative that the strategic plan be based on accurate and up-to-date mapping and the internet access needs of the public and private sector; and

WHEREAS, the National Association of Counties has developed - *TestIT*, an easy to use mapping tool that can be used to assess availability of internet; and

WHEREAS, in order to meet the goal of universal access to affordable, reliable high-speed internet, it will be necessary to determine what the private providers need to provide affordable and reliable connectivity in sparsely located areas, and the support necessary to address issues of sparse populations and to provide expanded internet services, and engage governmental entities at the federal, state and local level in order to be successful.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council supports the State of Florida and the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity in the effort to achieve access to affordable, reliable high-speed internet access to every household and business throughout the State of Florida.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council will assist the Florida Office of Broadband by participating as needed in meeting the obligations of House Bill 969 (Chapter 2020-26, Laws of Florida) including providing information, assistance in mapping efforts and supporting other such efforts that will lead to enhanced access to affordable, reliable high-speed internet services throughout the north central Florida region and the State of Florida.

DULY ADOPTED by the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council this 28th day of January 2021.

NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA  
REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

Attest:

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Charles S. Chestnut IV, Chair



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January 21, 2021

TO: Council Members

FROM: Scott R. Koons, AICP, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Resolution No. 2021-04 Opposing Senate Bill 62 Concerning  
Regional Planning Councils

RECOMMENDATION:

**Adopt attached Resolution No. 2021-04 Opposing Senate Bill 62 or Similar Legislation Concerning Regional Planning Councils.**

BACKGROUND:

Senator Bradley has filed Senate Bill 62 concerning regional planning councils. The bill repeals the regional planning section of the State and Regional Planning Act. This section of the Act provides for the establishment of regional planning councils; specifies boundaries for regional planning councils; specifies duties and responsibilities for regional planning councils; provides for gubernatorial appointees to regional planning councils; and provides for preparation and maintenance of strategic regional policy plans by regional planning councils. The bill also removes regional planning councils from all other state statutes.

The attached resolution opposes Senate Bill 62 and any similar legislative bills. Also, please find attached a fact sheet concerning regional planning councils prepared by the Florida Regional Councils Association.

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

Attachments

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RESOLUTION NO. 2021-04

A RESOLUTION OF THE NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL OPPOSING SENATE BILL 62 OR SIMILAR LEGISLATION CONCERNING REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCILS; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE

WHEREAS, the 12-county geographical area of the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council is comprised of Alachua, Bradford, Columbia, Dixie, Gilchrist, Hamilton, Lafayette, Levy, Madison, Suwannee, Taylor and Union Counties and 40 municipalities contained therein, with over 500,000 residents; and

WHEREAS, the Council is a multi-purpose regional governmental entity with policy responsibilities in the areas of affordable housing, economic development, emergency preparedness, natural resources and regional transportation; and

WHEREAS, for more than five decades regional planning councils have served the public as Florida's only multi-purpose regional entities that coordinate intergovernmental solutions to multijurisdictional issues identified by their member local governments; and

WHEREAS, the 67 counties in the state are divided into ten regional planning councils which perform functions in economic development, transportation, emergency preparedness, regional convening, and resilience to the extent and as directed by their member counties, cities and gubernatorial appointees; and

WHEREAS, the regional planning councils compete for and bring to Florida millions of dollars in federal funds for economic development, transportation, emergency preparedness, and resiliency initiatives that would otherwise go to other states; and

WHEREAS, the regional planning councils receive no regular general appropriation for operations from the State and, instead, are supported by Federal grant funds, local government dues, local government contracts, and State contracts for specific programs implemented on behalf of the State; and

WHEREAS, regional planning councils do not have any regulatory authority; and

WHEREAS, regional planning councils serve a critical role in hazardous materials response coordination and training through staffing local emergency planning committees; and

WHEREAS, regional planning councils regularly assist state agencies in implementing their statutory duties and legislative directives, along with coordinating these duties and directives with local input, at no cost to the State; and

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 62 would remove all references to regional planning councils from Florida Statutes and deprive the citizens of the State the benefit of the important work regional planning councils perform and the federal funds they bring into Florida.

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

Section 1. The North Central Florida Regional Planning Council opposes Senate Bill 62 and respectfully requests the Florida Legislature to not pass Senate Bill 62.

Section 2. This resolution shall take effect upon adoption.

DULY ADOPTED by the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council this 28th day of January 2021.

Attest:

NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA  
REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Charles S. Chestnut IV, Chair



Apalachee • Central Florida  
East Central Florida • Emerald Coast  
North Central Florida • Northeast Florida • South Florida  
Southwest Florida • Tampa Bay • Treasure Coast

## Florida Regional Planning Councils - SB 62 Fact Sheet

We oppose Senate Bill 62 because it removes authorization and all references to the 10 Regional Planning Councils (RPCs) from Florida Statutes. Senate Bill 62 will result in:

- **The loss of a regional convener** to guide community leaders in collaborative efforts to develop regional visions linking business development, job creation, infrastructure, environment, land use, and transportation.
- **The loss of a neutral platform and qualified technical staff** to address issues of regional impact that frequently involve multiple cities and counties, as well as the public and private sector on diverse challenges such as broadband, resiliency, rural mobility, and disaster recovery.
- **The loss of technical support and grant administration** for Florida's communities will decrease access to state and federal grant opportunities for smaller cities and counties.

As Florida's only multipurpose regional entities, RPCs have served the regions and citizens of the state of Florida for over five decades. Whether coastal or inland, urban or rural, north, central, or south each region has unique needs, and each RPC is attuned and positioned to serve these needs. Governed by local boards with comprehensive representation from member governments, RPCs are nimble and able to respond to emerging local and regional concerns and opportunities.

**Some of the recent projects by Regional Planning Councils that are benefiting Florida and its communities include:**

- All 10 RPCs have joined together, led by the Northeast Florida RC, to conduct **Statewide Regional Evacuation planning**.
- Tampa Bay RPC researchers have been working to **eliminate racial equity gaps**, an effort which "could add up to 375,000 new jobs and \$50 billion to the regional economy."
- The Apalachee RPC is exploring hemp cultivation to **boost the regional agriculture sector diversification**.
- The Central Florida RPC manages a fleet of vehicles and administers over \$3 million annually in rural transit funds and provides **mobility coordination for six rural counties**.
- Governor Ron DeSantis recently awarded \$2 million in grants to three RPCs as part of an effort "to develop or enhance state, regional, or local plans which will enable the state of Florida to **withstand future disasters**."

### 2020-21 Financial Impact supporting Florida and its communities in the following areas:

#### **Economic Development - \$4,767,840**

RPCs are designated as federal **Economic Development Districts** providing access to federal economic development funding, and technical assistance to local governments and private businesses for creation and expansion of infrastructure and jobs. Between 2016-2020 the E.D.A. invested **\$138,000,000** in Florida, funding more than **55 projects** in coordination with RPCs.

#### **COVID-19 Impacted Business Revolving Loan Fund - \$7,480,000**

The South Florida and Apalachee RPCs secured a **\$5.9 million and a \$1.58 million** respectively in revolving loan funds from E.D.A. to provide **capital to businesses impacted by COVID-19**.

#### **Resilience - \$6,354,570**

RPCs are partners in resilience efforts coordinating **regional resilience coalitions** and compacts bringing together regional and local governments with the private sector to address the **impacts of sea level rise** and climate change.

#### **Transportation - \$6,358,615**

RPCs provide planning for **Transportation Disadvantaged Programs** in half the counties in Florida; staff **Metropolitan or Transportation Planning Organizations**; administer **rural transit programs**; and coordinate **commuter services for employers**.

#### **Emergency Preparedness - \$3,618,806**

RPCs staff **Local Emergency Planning Committees**; support **training and site visits** related to hazardous waste sites; and prepare the award-winning **Statewide Regional Evacuation Study**,