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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 23, 2025**. The meeting will be held as a hybrid meeting in-person at the **Holiday Inn Hotel and Suites, Santa Fe Room, 213 Southwest Commerce Boulevard, Lake City, Florida**, and via Communications Media Technology at **6:00 p.m.**

**DIAL IN NUMBER: Toll Free 1.888.585.9008**

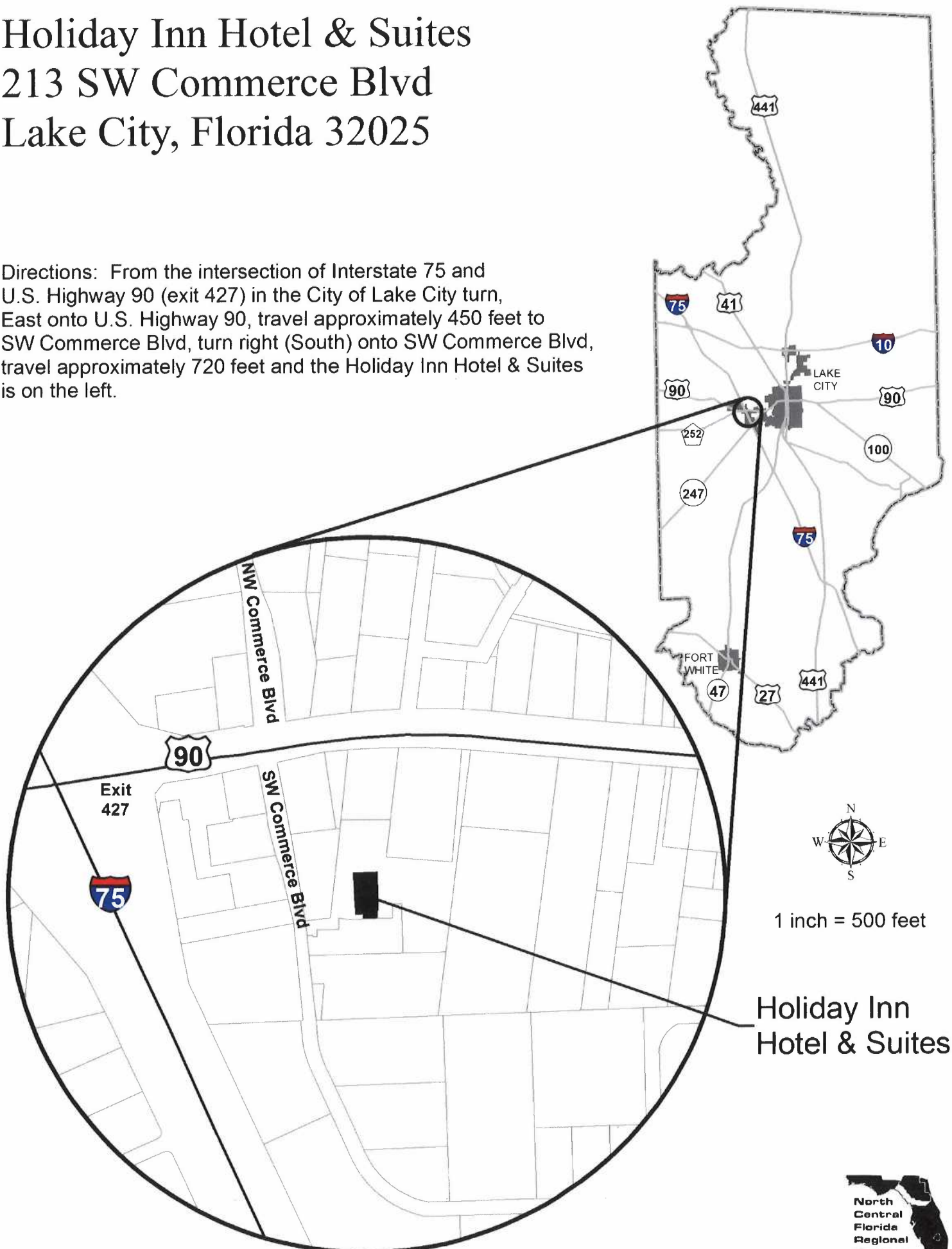
**CONFERENCE CODE: 568 124 316**

# 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

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Hybrid Public Meeting  
Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites  
213 Southwest Commerce Boulevard  
Lake City, Florida and  
Via Communications Media Technology

January 23, 2025  
6:00 p.m.

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| * | I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - December 12, 2024   | 5  |
|   | II. CONTRACTS AND APPLICATIONS - None  |    |
|   | III. PROGRAM REPORT -  |    |
| * | A. Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board Appointment   | 9  |
|   | IV. GENERAL ADMINISTRATION -   |    |
| * | A. Proclamation February 24-March 2, 2025 Hazardous Materials Awareness Week   | 11 |
| * | B. Resolution No. 2025-01 Recognizing Service of H. Philip Paradise Jr.<br>Regional Director, U.S. Economic Development Administration | 15 |
| * | C. Resolution No. 2025-02 Supporting Florida Joining Southern Rail Commission  | 19 |
|   | V. OTHER BUSINESS - None   |    |
|   | VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS  |    |

The Committee welcomes you to this meeting. This time is set aside for our citizens and general public to address the Committee. If you would like to address the Committee, please complete a form, come forward when you are called, and state your name for the record. Please also limit your comments to not more than three minutes. Your participation is welcomed.

See Attachments

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



NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
MINUTES

Hybrid Meeting  
Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites  
Lake City, Florida and  
Via Communications Media Technology

December 12, 2024  
6:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT  
IN PERSON

Fletcher Hope, Chair  
Janice Mortimer, Immediate Past Chair

VIA COMMUNICATIONS  
MEDIA TECHNOLOGY  
(FOR QUORUM)

None

MEMBERS PRESENT  
VIA COMMUNICATIONS  
MEDIA TECHNOLOGY  
(NOT FOR QUORUM)

None

MEMBERS ABSENT

Mary Alford, Secretary

STAFF PRESENT

Scott Koons - In Person

OTHERS PRESENT

Stew Lilker, Columbia County Observer - In Person

Noting a quorum being present, Chair Hope called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - OCTOBER 24, 2024

**ACTION:** By consensus, the Committee approved the minutes for the October 24, 2024 Executive Committee meeting as written and circulated. The motion carried unanimously.

II. CONTRACTS AND APPLICATIONS -

A. U.S. Economic Development Administration  
Disaster Recovery Coordination Grant Application 2025-2029

**ACTION:** By consensus, the Committee recommended that the Council ratify the submission of an Application for Federal Assistance for a Five-Year Disaster Recovery Program grant to the U.S. Economic Development Administration in the amount of \$500,000 by the Executive Director and authorize the Executive Director to accept the grant award if the application is approved. The motion carried unanimously.

III. PROGRAM REPORT -

A. Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board Appointment

**ACTION:** By consensus, the Committee recommended that the Council appoint Andrew Branch as Chair of the Lafayette County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board. The motion carried unanimously.

IV. GENERAL ADMINISTRATION -

A. Removal of Surplus Property from the Fixed Asset List

**ACTION:** By consensus, the Committee recommended that the Council declare the items listed on the schedule, which is attached herein and made a part of these minutes, as surplus property and to approve the disposal of this equipment in accordance with Council policy. The motion carried unanimously.

V. OTHER BUSINESS - None

VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS - None

The meeting adjourned at 6:13 p.m.

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Fletcher J. Hope Jr., Chair

1/23/25  
Date



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December 5, 2024

TO: Fixed Asset File

FROM: Scott R. Koons, AICP, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Surplus Inventory

Number	Original Cost	Description	Serial Number	Purchased
3046	\$23,641.00	Axxcessory Talk 4.1 Telephone System w/Voice Mail	OUS1N701012	03/17/97
3145	\$5,419.00	Dell Server Dual Core Xeon Processor 5130	6G6QQC1	04/04/07
3161	\$2,395.72	Dell Power Edge 840 Server	4TZKMH1	10/21/08
	\$31,455.72	Sum * All fully depreciated		

The above item is either broken or of such outdated technology that it is no longer being used.

We need to have it taken off the inventory list so it can be disposed of in accordance with Council policy.

z:\word2000\inventoryremoval2024dec.docx

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January 16, 2025

TO: Council Members

FROM: Scott R. Koons, AICP, Executive Director 

SUBJECT: Transportation Disadvantaged Program Local Coordinating Board Appointment

RECOMMENDATION:

**Appoint Commissioner Melissa McNeal as Chair of the Union County 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 Commissioner Melissa McNeal be appointed Chair of the Union County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board.

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

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January 16, 2025

TO: Council Members

FROM: Scott R. Koons, AICP, Executive Director 

SUBJECT: Proclamation Proclaiming February 24, 2025 - March 2, 2025  
Hazardous Materials Awareness Week

RECOMMENDATION:

**Approve the attached proclamation proclaiming the week of February 24, 2025 - March 2, 2025 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 24, 2025 - March 2, 2025 as Hazardous Materials Awareness Week. It is recommended that the Council join in this public outreach effort by proclaiming the week of February 24, 2025 - March 2, 2025 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

## PROCLAIMING FEBRUARY 24, 2025 - MARCH 2, 2025 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 24, 2025 - March 2, 2025 as *Hazardous Materials Awareness Week* throughout the north central Florida region.

DULY ADOPTED AND PROCLAIMED this 23rd day of January 2025.

ATTEST:

SEAL

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Jhelecia Hawkins, Secretary

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Fletcher J. Hope Jr., Chair






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January 16, 2025

TO: Council Members

FROM: Scott R. Koons, AICP, Executive Director 

SUBJECT: Resolution Recognizing Service of  
H. Philip Paradise Jr., Regional Director  
U.S. Economic Development Administration

RECOMMENDATION:

**Approve attached Resolution No. 2025-01 recognizing the service of H. Philip Paradise Jr. as Regional Director of the U.S. Economic Development Administration for the Southeast Region.**

BACKGROUND:

In recognition of the service of H. Philip Paradise Jr. as Regional Director of the U.S. Economic Development Administration for the eight-state Southeast Region, the attached resolution is recommended for approval by the Council. Mr. Paradise retired as Regional Director effective December 31, 2024.

The mission of the U.S. Economic Development Administration is to lead the federal economic development agenda by promoting innovation and competitiveness, preparing American regions for growth and success in the worldwide economy. The North Central Florida Regional Planning Council is an economic development district designated by the U.S. Economic Development Administration that promotes regional strategies, partnerships and solutions to strengthen the economic competitiveness and quality of life of 12 counties and 40 incorporated municipalities in north central Florida.

Mr. Paradise has served as the Regional Director of the U.S. Economic Development Administration for the Southeast Region for 18 years. He has served and contributed to the U.S. Economic Development Agency and regional economic development districts with distinction and honor.

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

Attachment

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RESOLUTION NO. 2025-01

A RESOLUTION OF THE  
NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL  
RECOGNIZING SERVICE OF H. PHILIP PARADICE JR.  
REGIONAL DIRECTOR  
U.S. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION

WHEREAS, the mission of the U.S. Economic Development Administration is to lead the federal economic development agenda by promoting innovation and competitiveness, preparing American regions for growth and success in the worldwide economy; and

WHEREAS, the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council is an economic development district designated by the U.S. Economic Development Administration that promotes regional strategies, partnerships and solutions to strengthen the economic competitiveness and quality of life of 12 counties and 40 incorporated municipalities in north central Florida.; and

WHEREAS, H. Philip Paradise Jr. has served as Regional Director of the U.S. Economic Development Administration for the eight-state Southeast Region for 18 years since 2007; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Paradise is a recipient of the U.S. Department of Commerce Secretary's Performance Excellence Award; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Paradise has served and contributed to the U.S. Economic Development Administration and regional economic development districts with distinction and honor; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Paradise retired as Regional Director of the U.S. Economic Development Administration for the eight-state Southeast Region effective December 31, 2024; and

NOW, THEREFORE, the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council hereby congratulates Mr. Paradise upon the occasion of his retirement, thanks him for his many contributions to the U.S. Economic Development Administration and regional economic development districts, and wishes him well in his retirement and future endeavors.

DULY ADOPTED by the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council this 23rd day of January 2025.

Attest:

NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA  
REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Fletcher J. Hope Jr., Chair





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January 16, 2025

TO: Council Members

FROM: Scott R. Koons, AICP, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Resolution Supporting the State of Florida  
Joining the Southern Rail Commission

RECOMMENDATION:

**Approve attached Resolution No. 2025-02 supporting the State of Florida joining the Southern Rail Commission and authorize the Chair to send a copy of the resolution to the Governor, President of the Florida Senate, Speaker of the Florida House of Representatives, and the north central Florida Legislative Delegation.**

BACKGROUND:

The mission of the Southern Rail Commission is to engage and inform public and private rail interests to support and influence Southeast rail initiatives. The Southern Rail Commission promotes the safe, reliable and efficient movement of people and goods to enhance economic development along rail corridors, provide transportation choices and facilitate emergency evacuation routes; and

The North Central Florida Regional Planning Council is an economic development district designated by the U.S. Economic Development Administration, that promotes regional strategies, partnerships and solutions to strengthen the economic competitiveness and quality of life of 12 counties and 40 incorporated municipalities in north central Florida.; and

The Southern Rail Commission advocates for the reactivation of the Gulf Coast Passenger Rail line to provide passenger rail service to the Gulf Coast, including the Florida Panhandle and North Florida which would enhance economic development opportunities in the north central Florida region. The Southern Rail Commission is currently comprised of the States of Alabama, Louisiana and Mississippi.

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

Attachment

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RESOLUTION NO. 2025-02

A RESOLUTION OF THE  
NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL  
SUPPORTING THE STATE OF FLORIDA  
JOINING THE SOUTHERN RAIL COMMISSION

WHEREAS, the mission of the Southern Rail Commission is to engage and inform public and private rail interests to support and influence Southeast rail initiatives; and

WHEREAS, the Southern Rail Commission promotes the safe, reliable and efficient movement of people and goods to enhance economic development along rail corridors, provide transportation choices and facilitate emergency evacuation routes; and

WHEREAS, the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council is an economic development district designated by the U.S. Economic Development Administration that promotes regional strategies, partnerships and solutions to strengthen the economic competitiveness and quality of life of 12 counties and 40 incorporated municipalities in north central Florida.; and

WHEREAS, the Southern Rail Commission advocates for the reactivation of the Gulf Coast Passenger Rail line to provide passenger rail service to the Gulf Coast, including the Florida Panhandle and North Florida, which would enhance economic development opportunities in the north central Florida region; and

WHEREAS, the Southern Rail Commission is currently comprised of the States of Alabama, Louisiana and Mississippi.

NOW, THEREFORE, the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council hereby expresses its support for the State of Florida to join the Southern Rail Commission.

DULY ADOPTED by the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council this 23rd day of January 2025.

Attest:

NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA  
REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

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

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Fletcher J. Hope Jr., Chair

