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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 **January 23, 2025**. The meeting will be held as a hybrid meeting in-person at the **Holiday Inn Hotel and Suites, Suwannee Room, 213 Southwest Commerce Boulevard, Lake City, Florida**, and via Communications Media Technology at **7:00 p.m.**

To join the meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone:

**<https://meet.goto.com/472792277>**

**DIAL IN NUMBER: Toll Free: 1.866.899.4679**

**ACCESS CODE: 472-792-277**

### MEETING STARTS AT 7:00 P.M.

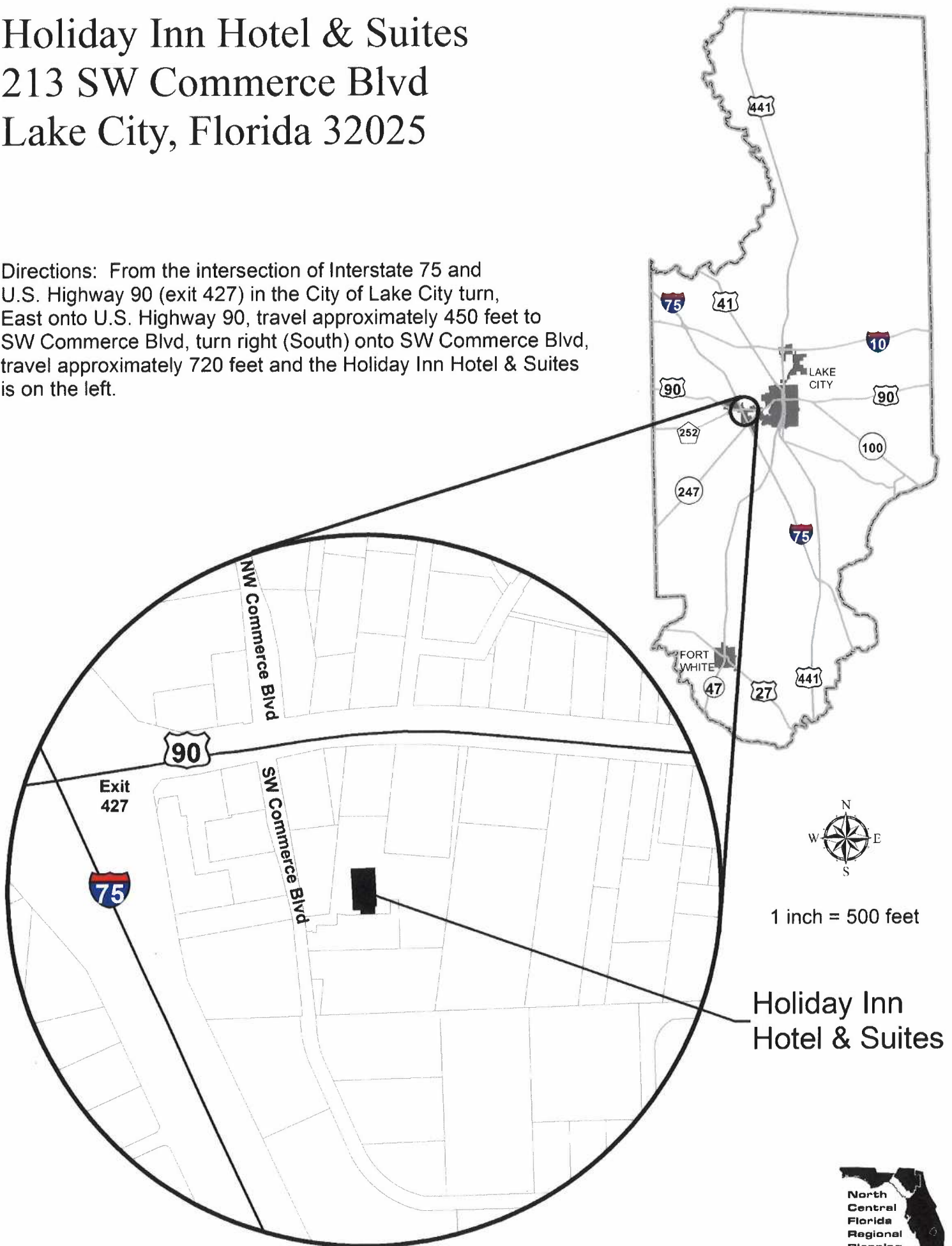
*Please call the Council at 352.955.2200 or email [koons@ncfrpc.org](mailto:koons@ncfrpc.org) by January 22, 2025 to let us know if you will be attending the meeting either **in-person or via communications media technology** at least 24 hours prior to the meeting. **THANK YOU.***

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

# Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites

213 SW Commerce Blvd  
Lake City, Florida 32025

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





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## AGENDA

### NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

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

January 23, 2025  
7:00 p.m.

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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.

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**Committee Level Comprehensive Plan Review Items**

1. #56 - City of Alachua Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment (FC No. 24-1ESR)
2. #58 - Taylor County Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (FC No. 25-1ESR)

**IX. EX-OFFICIO MEMBER REPORTS****X. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

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

**XI. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT**

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**XII. COUNCIL MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS**

This agenda item provides an opportunity for Council members to make announcements concerning community events and local government projects.

**XIII. NEXT MEETING - February 27, 2025**

\* See Attachment



NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL  
MINUTES

**IV.A.**

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

December 12, 2024  
7:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT  
IN PERSON

Anthony Adams, Lafayette County  
Patricia Bouie Hutchinson, City of Hawthorne  
James Carter, City of Lake City  
Louie Davis, City of Waldo  
Thomas Demps, Taylor County  
Jhelecia Hawkins, City of Jasper  
**Fletcher Hope Jr., City of Archer**  
Melissa McNeal, Union County  
**Janice Mortmer, City of Starke**  
Maurice Perkins, Suwannee County  
Daniel Riddick, Bradford County

MEMBERS PRESENT  
VIA COMMUNICATIONS  
MEDIA TECHNOLOGY  
(FOR QUORUM)

Ed Book, City of Gainesville  
Charles Chestnut IV, Alachua County  
Frank Davis, City of Live Oak  
Desmon Duncan-Walker, City of Gainesville  
Tony Mazon, City of Newberry  
Joe Stephenson, City of Lake Butler  
Casey Willits, City of Gainesville

MEMBERS PRESENT  
VIA COMMUNICATIONS  
MEDIA TECHNOLOGY  
(NOT FOR QUORUM)

None

MEDIA TECHNOLOGY  
VIA COMMUNICATIONS  
NON-VOTING DELEGATE ABSENT

Kristyn Adkins, City of High Springs

MEMBERS ABSENT

**Mary Alford, Alachua County**  
Rick Davis, Madison County  
Rocky Ford, Columbia County  
Shirlie Hampton, City of Perry  
Byron Poore, City of Madison  
Edward Potts, City of Alachua  
Anna Prizzia, Alachua County  
Jody Stephenson, Dixie County  
Kenrick Thomas, Gilchrist County  
*Lorene Thomas, Dixie County*

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS PRESENT

Austin Burgess, Florida Fish and Wildlife  
Conservation Commission- Virtual  
Amy Roberson, Florida Department of  
Transportation - In-Person  
Tyler Winburn, Suwannee River  
Water Management District- In-Person

COUNCIL ATTORNEY ABSENT

Jonathan Wershow

OTHERS PRESENT

Diana Davis - In-Person  
Stew Lilker - In-Person

STAFF PRESENT

Scott Koons - In-Person  
Lauren Yeatter - In-Person

**Executive Committee Members names are bold**  
*Gubernatorial Members names are italic*

I. INVOCATION

Chair Fletcher Hope noting a quorum being present called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.  
Chair Hope gave the invocation.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Council and guests pledged allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.

III. INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Hope welcomed Diana Davis, Executive Director, Alachua County League of Cities and wife of Council Member Louie Davis; and Stew Lilker, Columbia County Observer.

IV. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Chair Hope asked that the consent agenda be approved.

**ACTION: Commissioner Bouie Hutchinson made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Adams, to approve the consent agenda. The motion carried unanimously.**

A. Minutes - October 24, 2024

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

C. Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board Appointment

V. APPROVAL OF REGULAR AGENDA

Chair Hope asked that the regular agenda be approved.

**ACTION: Commissioner Demps made the motion, with a second by Mayor Louie Davis, to approve the regular agenda. The motion carried unanimously.**

VI. PRESENTATION - Regional Mitigation Assessment and Planning

Scott Koons, Executive Director, introduced Lauren Yeatter, Senior Planner. Ms. Yeatter made a presentation concerning the Regional Mitigation Assessment and Planning project being conducted by the Council in conjunction with five other regional planning councils in Florida. Chair Hope thanked Ms. Yeatter for her presentation.

VII. CHAIR REPORT

A. Resolutions of Appreciation

1. Robert Brown, Hamilton County
2. John Meeks, Levy County
3. Byran Williams, City of High Springs
4. Stephen Witt, City of Lake City

**ACTION:** Commissioner Demps made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Perkins, to approve Resolutions of Appreciation for former Council members Robert Brown, Hamilton County; John Meeks, Levy County; Byran Williams, City of High Springs; and Stephen Witt, City of Lake City. The motion carried unanimously.

B. Transportation Disadvantaged Program Resolution of Appreciation

1. Mason Byrd

**ACTION:** Mayor Louie Davis made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Adams to authorize the Chair to sign a Transportation Disadvantaged Program Resolution of Appreciation for former Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board member Mason Byrd, Chair, Lafayette County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board. The motion carried unanimously.

Chair Hope welcomed the following new members to the Council.

1. James Carter, City of Lake City
2. Melissa McNeal, Union County

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORT

A. Executive Committee -

1. Removal of Surplus Property from List of Capital Assets

Mr. Koons reported that the items listed on the schedule, which is attached herein and made a part of these minutes, are telephone and computer hardware of outdated technology. He stated that the Executive Committee recommends that this hardware be declared as surplus property and that approval be given to dispose of this equipment in accordance with Council policy, which will result in transporting it to the Leveda Brown Hazardous Waste Collection Center in Alachua County or donating the equipment to a nonprofit organization or local government, or recycling the equipment.

Mr. Koons reported that the Council website and email server was not available at this time. He stated that the website and email server was currently be repaired by an information technology service company.

**ACTION:** Commissioner Perkins made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Adams, to 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.

B. Clearinghouse Committee - Committee Level Comprehensive Plan Review Items

Commissioner Bouie Hutchinson, Chair of the Clearinghouse Committee, reported that the Clearinghouse Committee met in person and virtually via communications media technology earlier in the evening and reviewed the following local government comprehensive plan amendments which were included on the Council agenda for consideration.

#53 - Alachua County Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (FC No. 24-1ESR)

#54 - City of Newberry Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (FC No. 24-2ESR)

Commissioner Bouie Hutchinson stated with regards to these items, the Committee found that the local government comprehensive plans, as amended, were not anticipated to result in significant adverse impacts to regional facilities, Natural Resources of Regional Significance or adjacent local governments. She stated that the Committee recommends forwarding these findings to the respective local governments and FloridaCommerce.

**ACTION: Commissioner Bouie Hutchinson made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Demps, to approve the Clearinghouse Committee recommendations concerning Item #53 - Alachua County Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (FC No. 24-1ESR; and Item #54 - City of Newberry Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (FC No. 24-2ESR. The motion carried unanimously.**

C. Nominating Committee - Election of Vice-Chair, Treasurer and Secretary

Vice-Mayor Mortimer, Council Immediate Past Chair and Nominating Committee Chair, gave the Nominating Committee report. She stated that the Nominating Committee met virtually via communications media technology on December 4, 2024 to prepare, for the Council's consideration, recommendations concerning officers for vacant positions on the Executive Committee for the remainder of Program Year 2024-25.

Vice-Mayor Mortimer stated that the Nominating Committee recommendations for Vice-Chair, Treasurer and Secretary for the remainder of Program Year 2024-25 are, as follows:

Vice-Chair - Mary Alford, Alachua County  
Treasurer - Maurice Perkins, Suwannee County  
Secretary - Jhelecia Hawkins, City of Jasper

Chair Hope asked for any nominations from the floor. Hearing no nominations from the floor, he closed the nominations.

**ACTION: Vice-Mayor Mortimer made the motion, with a second by Mayor Louie Davie, to elect Mary Alford, Alachua County, Vice-Chair; Maurice Perkins, Suwannee County, Treasurer; and Jhelecia Hawkins, City of Jasper, Secretary; for the remainder of Program Year 2024-25 as recommended by the Nominating Committee. The motion carried unanimously.**

IX. EX-OFFICIO MEMBER REPORTS

Amy Roberson, Planning Supervisor, Planning and Environmental Management Office, Florida Department of Transportation District 2, reported that the deadline for local governments to submit Shared Use Non-Motorized SUNTrail grant applications for bicycle and pedestrian projects to the Department is December 19, 2024. She stated that the deadline for local governments to submit Transportation Alternatives grant applications for bicycle and pedestrian projects to the Department is January 23, 2025. Ms. Roberson also reported that Small County Road Assistance Program grant applications, Small County Outreach Program grant applications, Transportation Regional Incentive Program grant applications and County Incentive Grant Program grant applications will be due to the Department on January 23, 2025.

Ms. Roberson stated that the Department conducted a public hearing concerning the Department's Tentative Five-Year Work Program for Fiscal Year 2026 to Fiscal Year 2030 at the District Urban Office in Jacksonville on November 19, 2024. She noted that public comments concerning the Tentative Work Program are due to the Department by December 17, 2024.

Austin Burgess, Senior Biologist, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, reported that the Commission is currently reviewing the Florida Gateway Fairgrounds expansion project in Columbia County for wildlife impacts.

Tyler Winburn, Legislative and Government Affairs Coordinator, reported that the District will be issuing its Hydrological Rainfall Data Report on December 13, 2024.

X. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Stew Lilker, Columbia County Observer, discussed the Council website and email system; distracted driving and highway safety; and major employer closures.

XI. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

A. Florida Regional Councils Association Monthly Activity Report

Mr. Koons reported that the Florida Regional Councils Association is the statewide organization of the ten regional planning councils. He stated that 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. Mr. Koons also stated that the Association strives to accomplish these goals by carrying out the activities listed in the October 2024 activity report included in the Council meeting packet. He reviewed the activities listed in the October 2024 report.

B. Florida Chamber Foundation Scorecard™

Mr. Koons reported that the Florida Chamber Foundation has developed the Florida Scorecard™ to provide Florida leaders the metrics needed to secure Florida's future. He stated that 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. Mr. Koons noted that the Scorecard reports metrics for each of the following Six Pillars: Talent and Supply Education, Innovation and Economic Development, Infrastructure and Growth Leadership, Business Climate and Competitiveness, Civic and Governance Systems, and Quality of Life and Quality Places. He reviewed the December 2024 Scorecard™ that was included in the Council meeting packet.



C. Legislative Report

Mr. Koons stated the 2025 Legislature Session will convene on March 4, 2025 and is scheduled to adjourn on May 2, 2025. Mr. Koons reported that the legislative interim Committee schedule is, as follows:

- Week of December 2-6, 2024 (House)
- Week of December 9-13, 2024 (Senate)
- Week of January 13-17, 2025 (House/Senate)
- Week of January 21-24, 2025 (House/Senate)
- Week of February 3-7, 2025 (House/Senate)
- Week of February 10-14, 2025 (House/Senate)
- Week of February 17-21, 2025 (House/Senate)

XII. COUNCIL MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS -

Vice-Mayor Mortimer announced that the Starke Christmas Parade will be held on December 14, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. in Starke.

Commissioner Perkins announced that Suwannee Lights occurs from November 29, 2024 to December 30, 2024 from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. at Spirit of the Suwannee Music Park and Campground in Live Oak.

Mayor Louie Davis announced that Waldo Christmas at the Square will be held on December 13, 2024 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at City Square in Waldo.

Councilman James Carter announced that Christmas in Columbia Holiday Market will be held on December 14, 2024 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. in Olustee Park to Wilson Park in Lake City with the Lake City Christmas Parade being held at 6:00 p.m. in Lake City

XIII. NEXT MEETING

Chair Hope stated that the next Council meeting is scheduled to be held on January 23, 2025.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:46 p.m.

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Fletcher J. Hope Jr., Chair

1/23/25  
Date

# Resolution


## OF APPRECIATION

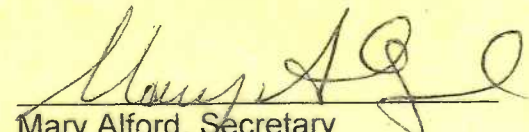
WHEREAS, Robert Brown has been representing Hamilton County on the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council since January 2018;

WHEREAS, Robert Brown has ably discharged the duties of a representative on the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the membership and staff of the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council do hereby express their appreciation to Robert Brown for dedicated service rendered to the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council and concern for the future growth and development of the region and the State of Florida; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That this expression of appreciation be spread upon the minutes of the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council for all citizens of the region to view and recognize the accomplishments and service of Robert Brown.

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

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mary Alford, Secretary

ATTEST:

ADOPTED BY THE NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL AT THEIR MEETING  
OF DECEMBER 12, 2024.





# Resolution

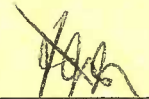
## OF APPRECIATION

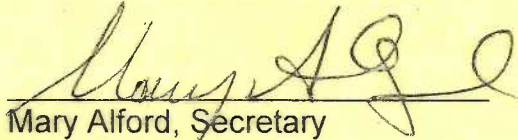
WHEREAS, John Meeks has been representing Levy County on the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council since August 2016;

WHEREAS, John Meeks has ably discharged the duties of a representative on the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the membership and staff of the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council do hereby express their appreciation to John Meeks for dedicated service rendered to the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council and concern for the future growth and development of the region and the State of Florida; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That this expression of appreciation be spread upon the minutes of the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council for all citizens of the region to view and recognize the accomplishments and service of John Meeks.

  
Fletcher J. Hope Jr., Chair

  
Mary Alford, Secretary

ATTEST:

ADOPTED BY THE NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL AT THEIR MEETING  
OF DECEMBER 12, 2024.



# Resolution

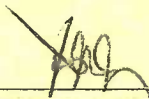
## OF APPRECIATION

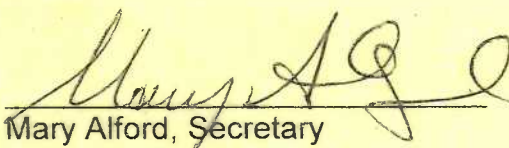
WHEREAS, Byran Williams has been representing the City of High Springs on the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council since November 2022;

WHEREAS, Byran Williams has ably discharged the duties of a representative on the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the membership and staff of the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council do hereby express their appreciation to Byran Williams for dedicated service rendered to the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council and concern for the future growth and development of the region and the State of Florida; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That this expression of appreciation be spread upon the minutes of the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council for all citizens of the region to view and recognize the accomplishments and service of Byran Williams.

  
Fletcher J. Hope Jr., Chair

  
Mary Alford, Secretary

ATTEST:

ADOPTED BY THE NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL AT THEIR MEETING  
OF DECEMBER 12, 2024.





# Resolution


## OF APPRECIATION

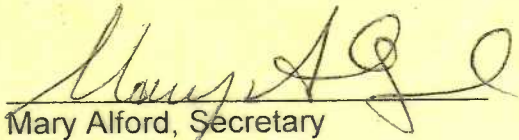
WHEREAS, Stephen Witt has been representing the City of Lake City on the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council since January 2006;

WHEREAS, Stephen Witt has ably discharged the duties of a representative on the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the membership and staff of the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council do hereby express their appreciation to Stephen Witt for dedicated service rendered to the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council and concern for the future growth and development of the region and the State of Florida; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That this expression of appreciation be spread upon the minutes of the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council for all citizens of the region to view and recognize the accomplishments and service of Stephen Witt.

  
Fletcher J. Hope Jr., Chair

  
Mary Alford, Secretary

ATTEST:

ADOPTED BY THE NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL AT THEIR MEETING  
OF DECEMBER 12, 2024.





## RESOLUTION

*WHEREAS, Mason Byrd has served as Chair of the Lafayette County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board since January 2023; and*

*WHEREAS, Mason Byrd ably discharged the duties as Chair of the Lafayette County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board;*

*NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the members and staff of the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council do hereby express their appreciation to Mason Byrd for dedicated service rendered to the Lafayette County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board and concern for the transportation disadvantaged needs of Lafayette County and the State of Florida; and*

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That this expression of appreciation be spread upon the minutes of the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council for all citizens of the community to view and recognize the accomplishments and service of Mason Byrd.*

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

**ADOPTED BY THE NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL**

December 12, 2024

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.

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

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: Fletcher J. Hope Jr., Chair  
SUBJECT: Resolution of Appreciation - Donna Jackson

RECOMMENDATION:

**Approve the attached resolution of appreciation for Donna Jackson.**

BACKGROUND:

As a token of appreciation for service on the Council since January 2024 and in recognition of commitment and concern for the growth and development of the north central Florida area, the attached resolution of appreciation is recommended for approval by the Council.

Attachment

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# Resolution

## OF APPRECIATION

WHEREAS, Donna Jackson has been representing Union County on the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council since January 2024;

WHEREAS, Donna Jackson has ably discharged the duties of a representative on the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the membership and staff of the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council do hereby express their appreciation to Donna Jackson for dedicated service rendered to the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council and concern for the future growth and development of the region and the State of Florida; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That this expression of appreciation be spread upon the minutes of the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council for all citizens of the region to view and recognize the accomplishments and service of Donna Jackson.

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

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jhelecia Hawkins, Secretary

ADOPTED BY THE NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL AT THEIR MEETING  
OF JANUARY 23, 2025.







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

January 16, 2025

TO: Council Members  
FROM: Fletcher J. Hope Jr., Chair  
SUBJECT: Resolution of Appreciation - Anna Prizzia

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**Approve the attached resolution of appreciation for Anna Prizzia.**

**BACKGROUND:**

As a token of appreciation for service on the Council since December 2023 and in recognition of commitment and concern for the growth and development of the north central Florida area, the attached resolution of appreciation is recommended for approval by the Council.

Attachment

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# Resolution

## OF APPRECIATION

WHEREAS, Anna Prizzia has been representing Alachua County on the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council since December 2023;

WHEREAS, Anna Prizzia has ably discharged the duties of a representative on the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the membership and staff of the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council do hereby express their appreciation to Anna Prizzia for dedicated service rendered to the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council and concern for the future growth and development of the region and the State of Florida; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That this expression of appreciation be spread upon the minutes of the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council for all citizens of the region to view and recognize the accomplishments and service of Anna Prizzia.

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

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jhelecia Hawkins, Secretary

ADOPTED BY THE NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL AT THEIR MEETING  
OF JANUARY 23, 2025.







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January 16, 2025

TO: Council Members  
FROM: Fletcher J. Hope Jr., Chair  
SUBJECT: Resolution of Appreciation - Donnie Waldrep

RECOMMENDATION:

**Approve the attached resolution of appreciation for Donnie Waldrep.**

BACKGROUND:

As a token of appreciation for service on the Council since January 2021 and in recognition of commitment and concern for the growth and development of the north central Florida area, the attached resolution of appreciation is recommended for approval by the Council.

Attachment

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# Resolution

## OF APPRECIATION

WHEREAS, Donnie Waldrep has been representing Madison County on the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council since January 2021;

WHEREAS, Donnie Waldrep has ably discharged the duties of a representative on the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the membership and staff of the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council do hereby express their appreciation to Donnie Waldrep for dedicated service rendered to the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council and concern for the future growth and development of the region and the State of Florida; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That this expression of appreciation be spread upon the minutes of the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council for all citizens of the region to view and recognize the accomplishments and service of Donnie Waldrep.

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

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jhelecia Hawkins, Secretary

ADOPTED BY THE NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL AT THEIR MEETING  
OF JANUARY 23, 2025.







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January 16, 2025

TO: Council Members  
FROM: Fletcher J. Hope Jr., Chair  
SUBJECT: Resolution of Appreciation - Casey Willits

RECOMMENDATION:

**Approve the attached resolution of appreciation for Casey Willits.**

BACKGROUND:

As a token of appreciation for service on the Council since January 2023 and in recognition of commitment and concern for the growth and development of the north central Florida area, the attached resolution of appreciation is recommended for approval by the Council.

Attachment

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# Resolution

## OF APPRECIATION

WHEREAS, Casey Willits has been representing the City of Gainesville on the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council since January 2023;

WHEREAS, Casey Willits has ably discharged the duties of a representative on the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the membership and staff of the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council do hereby express their appreciation to Casey Willits for dedicated service rendered to the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council and concern for the future growth and development of the region and the State of Florida; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That this expression of appreciation be spread upon the minutes of the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council for all citizens of the region to view and recognize the accomplishments and service of Casey Willits.

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

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jhelecia Hawkins, Secretary

ADOPTED BY THE NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL AT THEIR MEETING  
OF JANUARY 23, 2025.







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January 16, 2025

TO: Council Members

FROM: Scott R. Koons, AICP, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Transportation Disadvantaged Program Resolution of Appreciation

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**Approve the attached resolution of appreciation for Commissioner Donna Jackson.**

**BACKGROUND:**

The attached resolution of appreciation is regarding Florida's Transportation Disadvantaged Program established by Chapter 427, Florida Statutes. Commissioner Donna Jackson served as Chair of the Union County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board.

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

Attachment

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## RESOLUTION

*WHEREAS, Commissioner Donna Jackson has served as Chair of the Union County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board since March 2024; and*

*WHEREAS, Commissioner Donna Jackson ably discharged the duties as Chair of the Union County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board;*

*NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the members and staff of the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council do hereby express their appreciation to Commissioner Donna Jackson for dedicated service rendered to the Union County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board and concern for the transportation disadvantaged needs of Union County and the State of Florida; and*

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That this expression of appreciation be spread upon the minutes of the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council for all citizens of the community to view and recognize the accomplishments and service of Commissioner Donna Jackson.*

---

*Fletcher J. Hope Jr., Chair*

*ADOPTED BY THE NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL*

*January 23, 2025*

*Date*







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January 16, 2025

TO: Council Members

FROM: Scott R. Koons, AICP, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Middle and Lower Suwannee River and Withlacoochee River Appointment

RECOMMENDATION:

**Ratify the appointment by the Chair of Madison County Commissioner Rick Davis to the Middle and Lower Suwannee River and Withlacoochee River Task Force and the appointment of Commissioner Davis to serve as Chair of the Task Force.**

BACKGROUND:

Pursuant to a request by the Madison County Board of County Commissioners, the Council authorized the Executive Director to convene and facilitate a meeting with representatives from Dixie, Gilchrist, Hamilton, Lafayette, Levy, Madison and Suwannee Counties to develop a plan to promote our area and help restore the reputation of the Middle and Lower Suwannee River and Withlacoochee River as a result of raw sewage spills from the City of Valdosta, Georgia. On September 19, 2018, Council staff convened and facilitated a meeting of county commissioners, and county administrators, coordinators and managers at the Madison County Agricultural Extension office in Madison. Representatives from Columbia, Dixie, Hamilton, Lafayette, Levy and Madison Counties were in attendance at the meeting.

By consensus, the county commissioners present requested the Council to establish a task force comprised of a county commissioner from each of the following counties, Alachua, Bradford, Columbia, Dixie, Gilchrist, Hamilton, Lafayette, Levy, Madison, Suwannee and Union Counties, in the Suwannee River Basin, including the Santa Fe River Basin, to address the issues of raw sewage spills by the City of Valdosta, Georgia. The county commissioners present also requested that the Council authorize its Executive Director to provide administrative support to the Task Force and to develop, in conjunction with county administrators, coordinators and managers, a strategic action plan to address the issue of raw sewage spills by the City of Valdosta, Georgia.

Pursuant to the request, at the Council meeting on September 27, 2018, the Council established the Middle Lower Suwannee River and Withlacoochee River Task Force to be comprised of Alachua, Bradford, Columbia, Dixie, Gilchrist, Hamilton, Lafayette, Levy, Madison, Suwannee, Taylor and Union Counties.

The Madison County Board of County Commissioners has nominated County Commissioner Rick Davis to serve on the Middle and Lower Suwannee River and Withlacoochee River Task Force replacing former County Commissioner Brian Williams.

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: Fletcher J. Hope Jr., Chair

SUBJECT: Committee Appointments

RECOMMENDATION:

**Ratify the appointment of Commissioner Daniel Riddick as Vice-Chair of the Clearinghouse Committee; Councilman James Carter, Commissioner Ken Cornell, Councilwoman Shirlie Hampton, Commissioner James Howell, Commissioner Melissa McNeal and Commissioner Edward Potts to the Clearinghouse Committee; Commissioner Maurice Perkins as Chair of the Finance Committee; Commissioner Mary Alford as Chair of the Program Committee; Commissioner Edward Potts as Vice-Chair of the Program Committee; Councilman James Carter and Commissioner Desiree Mills to the Program Committee; and Councilman James Carter, Commissioner Ken Cornell and Commissioner Melissa McNeal to the Regional Planning Committee.**

BACKGROUND:

Due to vacancies on the Clearinghouse Committee, Finance Committee, Program Committee and Regional Planning Committee, appointments to these committees need to be made at this time.

I am recommending the appointment of Commissioner Daniel Riddick as Vice-Chair of the Clearinghouse Committee; Councilman James Carter, Commissioner Ken Cornell, Councilwoman Shirlie Hampton, Commissioner James Howell, Commissioner Melissa McNeal and Commissioner Edward Potts to the Clearinghouse Committee; Commissioner Maurice Perkins as Chair of the Finance Committee; Commissioner Mary Alford as Chair of the Program Committee; Commissioner Edward Potts as Vice-Chair of the Program Committee; Councilman James Carter and Commissioner Desiree Mills to the Program Committee; and Councilman James Carter, Commissioner Ken Cornell and Commissioner Melissa McNeal to the Regional Planning Committee.

Jurisdictional balance and geographic balance were considered in making these appointments.





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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





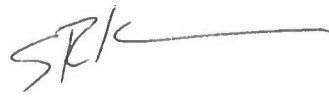


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January 16, 2025

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

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





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January 16, 2025

TO: Council Members

FROM: Patricia Bouie Hutchinson, Chair  
Clearinghouse Committee

RE: Chair's Report

**I. COMMITTEE-LEVEL REVIEW ITEMS**

The next regularly-scheduled meeting of the Clearinghouse Committee is 6:00 p.m., December 12, 2024. The meeting will be a hybrid meeting conducted both in-person and via communications media technology. At its meeting, the Committee will review the following Committee-level items which require Council action. I will present an oral report on the Committee's actions and recommendations at the Council meeting held later that evening.

Local Government Comprehensive Plan Amendments

#56–City of Alachua Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment (FC No. 24-1ESR)

#58–Taylor County Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (FC No. 25-1ESR)

***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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January 16, 2025

TO: Council Members

FROM: Scott R. Koons, AICP, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Florida Regional Councils Association Monthly Activity Reports

The Florida Regional Councils Association is the statewide organization of the ten 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 November 2024 and December 2024 Monthly Activity Reports highlighting the activities of the Association.

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

Attachment

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## **MONTHLY ACTIVITY REPORT: November 2024**

### **ASSOCIATION MANAGEMENT**

- Hosted the November FRCA EDAC monthly meeting.
- Hosted RPC Finance Work Group meeting and participated in the RPC Communications Work Group and the Resilience Collaborative Coalition meetings.
- Met with member of FRCA Lobbyist team, Rana Brown
- Signed Contract for FRCA's Winter Policy Board meeting, prepared draft Agenda and identified potential speaker for the meeting.
- Worked with FRCA's new Bookkeeper to facilitate transition and draft new Monthly Finance Report
- Researched and applied for FRCA's Employee Identification Number and received quotes from two Banks for FRCA's new account
- Reviewed FRCA Bylaws and Researched Nonprofit designation for FRCA's application in January 2025
- Received Letter of Engagement from Auditor and policy templates for internal controls and nonprofit best practices; began drafting new policies for Association
- Met with Densie Imbler to review FRCA's website, newsletter and Annual Report
- Reviewed all RPC websites, signed up for Newsletters if available, reviewed all FRCA branding materials, and identified opportunities for FRCA's communications and outreach efforts

### **RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT/CAPACITY BUILDING and OUTREACH**

- Met with EDA representative to discuss RPC Listening Sessions and Recovery Workshops for Hurricanes Debbie, Helene and Milton
- Attended RPC Community Challenge Grant meeting
- Contacted FRCA Partners to provide update on new Association Director
- Began working with RPC staff on Newsletter submissions, Quarterly Data Reports, and Workgroups.
- Began looking for opportunities to increase FRCA's capacity and outreach to support Florida's RPCs





## **MONTHLY ACTIVITY REPORT: December 2024**

### **ASSOCIATION MANAGEMENT**

- Prepared the agendas and hosted the December FRCA EDAC Executive Committee meeting and the EDAC December meeting.
- Prepared agenda and finalized logistics for hosting FRCA's Winter Policy Board meeting.
- Conducted a full review of FRCA's budget and met with EDAC current and past Treasurer to review new accrual based accounting system.
- Received quotes from two banks and established FRCA's new bank account.
- Reviewed FRCA By-laws and created a list of action items for FRCA's Policy Board, EDAC and the Association Director.
- Monthly meeting with FRCA's Bookkeeper and EDAC Treasurer
- Created a new FRCA Forward Newsletter template and began work to update FRCA's website and social media presence.

### **RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT/CAPACITY BUILDING and OUTREACH**

- Met with EDA representative to discuss RPC Listening Sessions and Recovery Workshops for Hurricanes Debbie, Helene and Milton
- Worked with EDA representative and RPC Directors to schedule individual meetings with the EDA and ERSF Team.
- Met with representatives from Florida Department of Transportation Freight and Rail Office
- Attended Florida Regional Resilience Collaborative Coordinators Forum
- Contacted FRCA Partners to provide update on new Association Director
- Worked with Central Florida RPC to create FRCA's FY23/24 Annual Report
- Continued discussions to identify opportunities to increase FRCA's capacity and outreach to support Florida's RPCs







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January 16, 2025

TO: Council Members

FROM: Scott R. Koons, AICP, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Florida Regional Councils Association Policy Board Meeting Report

Immediate Chair Janice Mortimer, Former Chair Charles Chestnut IV and Former Chair Lorene Thomas and I attended the semi-annual meeting of the Florida Regional Councils Association Policy Board held on January 10, 2025 in Tallahassee.

The Policy Board heard reports on various projects of regional planning councils throughout the state and received the 2023-24 Florida Regional Councils Association Annual Report. The Policy Board also heard a legislative report and adopted legislative priorities. In addition, the Policy Board adopted a new set of bylaws conforming to its recently filed articles of incorporation. Finally, the Policy Board authorized filing an application with the Internal Revenue Service for 501 (c)(4) tax exempt status.

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January 16, 2025

TO: Council Members

FROM: Scott R. Koons, AICP, Executive Director

SUBJECT: 2023-24 Florida Regional Councils Association Annual Report

The 2023-24 Annual Report for the Florida Regional Councils Association is attached for your information. The Florida Regional Councils Association is the statewide association of all ten regional councils in Florida. It is governed by a Policy Board made up of three representatives from each Council who are in turn advised by the Executive Directors Advisory Committee comprised of all ten executive directors.

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

Charles Chestnut IV, Former Chair  
Janice Mortimer, Immediate Past Chair  
Lorene Thomas, Former Chair

Activities of the Council are featured on pages 2, 4, 7 and 15. However, you are encouraged to review the document in its entirety to gain an understanding of the activities that are occurring on a statewide basis.

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

Attachment

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# Annual Report

2023 - 2024



LOCAL  
**KNOWLEDGE**

REGIONAL  
**SOLUTIONS**

STATEWIDE  
**IMPACT**





# *Our Mission*

Leveraging partnerships to build a strong economy and improve the lives of all Floridians



# President's Message



Florida's regional planning councils continue to lead the way in supporting communities through economic recovery, disaster preparedness, and building resilience for the future. FRCA is uniquely positioned to shape Florida's future by empowering our regional councils to drive transformational initiatives. Together, we can build vibrant, resilient communities that reflect the values and aspirations of Floridians.

Through partnerships with organizations such as the Florida Association of Counties, Florida League of Cities, Small County Coalition, Florida Chapter of the American Planning Association, and others, FRCA has strengthened connections and advanced innovative solutions to shared challenges. These collaborations are essential to ensuring that Florida's regional planning councils remain leaders in innovation and cooperation across all 67 counties.

It has been my privilege to serve as President of FRCA and to work alongside Policy Board Members from across the state. Regional planning councils bring unparalleled local knowledge and technical expertise to address shared challenges and build opportunities for Florida's communities. This Annual Report reflects the diverse and impactful work of Florida's regional planning councils over the past year, and I invite you to explore the accomplishments within its pages.

*Tray Hawkins*

Commissioner Tray Hawkins, President  
Emerald Coast RC | FRCA



**1<sup>st</sup> VICE PRESIDENT**  
Councilman Jeff Hmara  
Treasure Coast RPC



**2<sup>nd</sup> VICE PRESIDENT**  
Mr. Darryl Register  
Northeast Florida RC



**PAST PRESIDENT**  
Mr. John Lesman  
East Central Florida RPC

## *A Message from the Association Director*

As I step into the role of Executive Director for the Florida Regional Councils Association, I do so with profound gratitude and excitement. This new chapter represents an opportunity to build upon the strong foundation laid by my predecessor, Denise Imbler, who dedicated almost a decade to advancing the mission of FRCA. We wish her all the best in her well-deserved retirement and extend our deepest thanks for her remarkable service.

My journey to this role has been shaped by a lifelong dedication to Florida's growth and prosperity. Growing up in Tallahassee, I developed an early appreciation for the diversity and potential of our great state. As a Leon County Commissioner for 12 years, and during my tenure as FRCA's Policy Board President, I worked to champion collaboration, public trust, and inclusive processes that reflect the voices of our communities. My career has been driven by a belief that thoughtful planning, engaged leadership, and innovative solutions are the keys to tackling challenges and seizing opportunities.

I look forward to connecting with each of you, learning from your experiences, and amplifying the incredible work of our councils across the state. Let us continue this vital work together, inspired by the remarkable progress we've achieved and energized by the possibilities ahead.

Sincerely,

*Kristin Dozier*

Kristin Dozier, Association Director  
Florida Regional Councils Association





2023-2024

# Policy Board

## APALACHEE REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

Lisa Miller, Gubernatorial Appointee  
Honorable Rick Minor, Leon County  
Honorable Jack Porter, City of Tallahassee

## CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

Honorable Nathaniel Birdsong, City of Winter Haven  
Honorable Keith Keene, City of Arcadia  
Honorable Kelly Owens, Okeechobee County

## EAST CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

Honorable Julian Green, City of Wildwood  
John Lesman, Gubernatorial Appointee, Past President  
Honorable Sean Parks, Commissioner, Lake County

## EMERALD COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL

Kasey Cuchens, Gubernatorial Appointee  
Honorable Tray Hawkins, Washington County, President  
J.D. Smith, Gubernatorial Appointee

## NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

Honorable Charles Chestnut IV, Alachua County  
Honorable Janice Mortimer, City of Starke  
Lorene Thomas, Gubernatorial Appointee

## NORTHEAST FLORIDA REGIONAL COUNCIL

Honorable David Alfin, City of Palm Coast  
Darryl Register, Gubernatorial Appointee, 2nd Vice President  
Honorable Chrisitan Whitehurst, St. Johns County

## SOUTH FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

Mario Bailey, Gubernatorial Appointee  
Honorable Frank Caplan, Village of Key Biscayne  
Honorable Michael Udine, Broward County

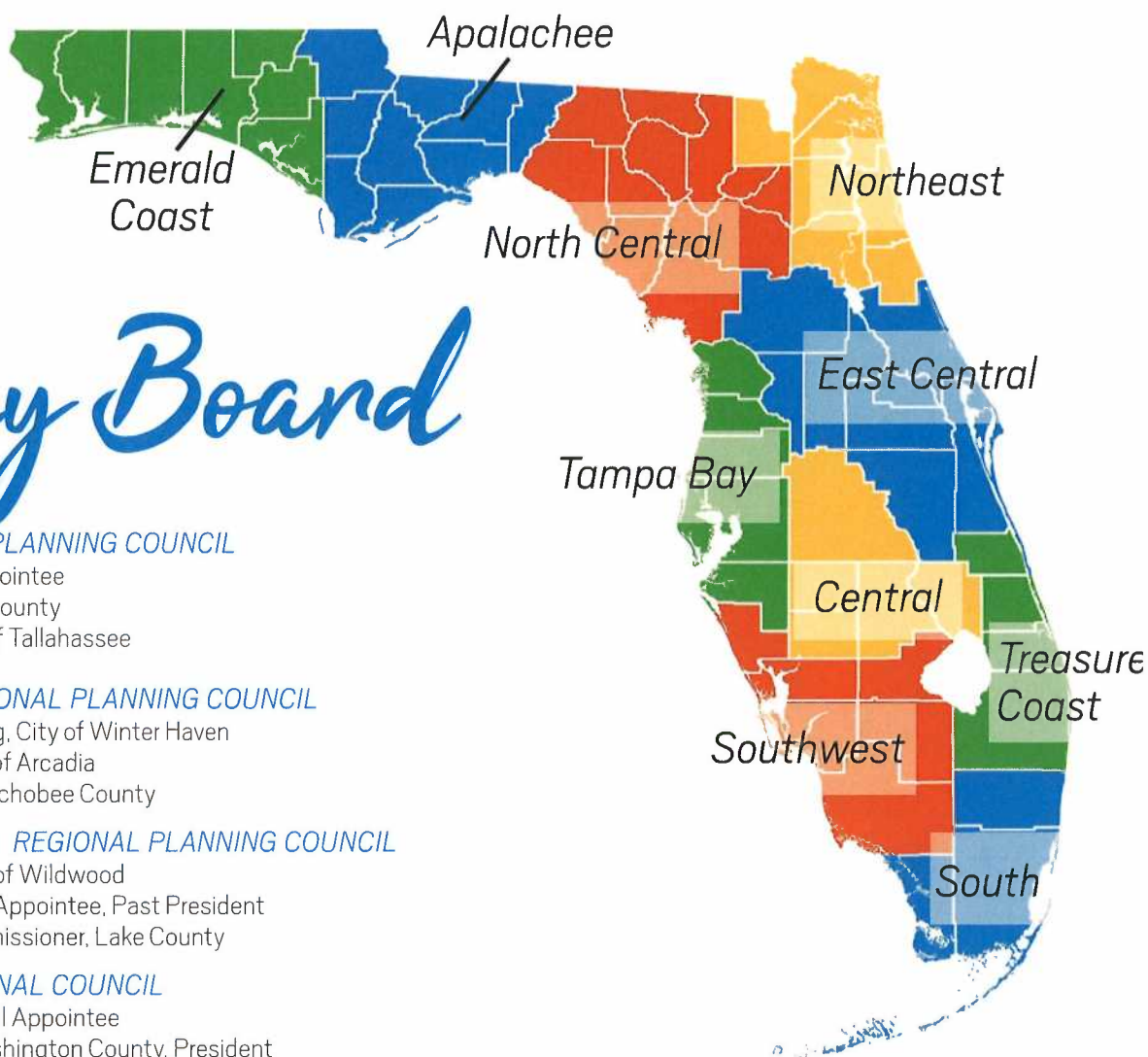
## SOUTHWEST FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

## TAMPA BAY REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

Honorable Brandi Gabbard, City of St. Petersburg  
Honorable Jack Mariano, Pasco County  
Barbara Sheen Todd, Gubernatorial Appointee

## TREASURE COAST REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

Honorable Jeff Hmara, Village of Royal Palm Beach, 1st Vice President  
Reece Parrish, Gubernatorial Appointee  
Honorable Doug Smith, Martin County



## EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Chair, Beth Payne, Northeast Florida RC  
Vice Chair, Tom Lanahan, Treasure Coast RPC  
Treasurer, Tara McCue, East Central Florida RPC

## STAFF

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2023-2024

# By the Numbers

▶ 5

METROPOLITAN/  
TRANSPORTATION PLANNING  
ORGANIZATIONS STAFFED

▶ 37

ECONOMIC ANALYSES  
COMPLETED (REMI)

▶ 110

GRANTS AWARDED TO COUNCILS  
AND COMMUNITIES

▶ 687

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS  
INSPECTIONS OF SMALL  
QUANTITY GENERATORS  
(SQG)

▶ 2,010

FIRST RESPONDERS TRAINED  
WITH LEPC/HMEP FUNDING

▶ 1,069,178

TRANSPORTATION DISADVANTAGED  
TRIPS PLANNED

The Florida Regional Councils Association (FRCA)  
unites Florida's **Regional Planning Councils (RPCs)** to

*foster collaboration,  
innovation, and impactful solutions*

RPCs serve as consensus builders and problem solvers.  
They are **regional conveners**, helping to resolve complex, multi-jurisdictional issues while

*delivering programs and services*

Together, FRCA and the RPCs are shaping a future where local  
knowledge drives regional solutions and creates

*statewide impact.*



# Regional Councils

bring local governments together to solve problems at the regional level and help communities grow.

		Date Established	2024 Regional Population <sup>1</sup>	Governing Board Size	Staff Size (FTE) <sup>2</sup>	Square Miles <sup>3</sup>	Budget (in millions)
	<b>Apalachee</b> Calhoun, Franklin, Gadsden, Gulf, Jackson, Jefferson, Leon, Liberty, Wakulla	Aug. 23, 1977	501,359	27	17	6,757	\$7.6
	<b>Central Florida</b> DeSoto, Hardee, Highlands, Okeechobee, Polk	July 1, 1974	1,033,799	18	22	5,287	\$5.4
	<b>East Central Florida</b> Brevard, Lake, Marion, Orange, Osceola, Seminole, Sumter, Volusia	Feb. 22, 1962	4,714,011	35	18	9,244	\$3.5
	<b>Emerald Coast</b> Bay, Escambia, Holmes, Okaloosa, Santa Rosa, Walton, Washington	Oct. 1, 1964	1,096,614	28	28	6,509	\$10.2
	<b>North Central Florida</b> Alachua, Bradford, Columbia, Dixie, Gilchrist, Hamilton, Lafayette, Levy, Madison, Suwannee, Taylor, Union	May 7, 1969	604,508	45	7	8,660	\$1.5
	<b>Northeast Florida</b> Baker, Clay, Duval, Flagler, Nassau, Putnam, St. Johns	Feb. 14, 1977	1,975,774	35	18	5,097	\$2.7
	<b>South Florida</b> Broward, Miami-Dade, Monroe	July 1, 1974	4,840,876	19	13	7,492	\$3.3
	<b>Southwest Florida</b> Charlotte, Collier, Glades, Hendry, Lee, Sarasota	Nov. 8, 1973	1,983,297	36	3	7,278	\$1.0
	<b>Tampa Bay</b> Citrus, Hernando, Hillsborough, Manatee, Pasco, Pinellas	Feb. 16, 1962	3,996,780	44	12	4,998	\$3.1
	<b>Treasure Coast</b> Indian River, Martin, Palm Beach, St. Lucie	Aug. 19, 1976	2,267,533	28	10	4,441	\$2.6

<sup>1</sup>Source: Bureau of Economic and Business Research (2024 Estimates)

<sup>2</sup>FTE means Full-Time Equivalent.

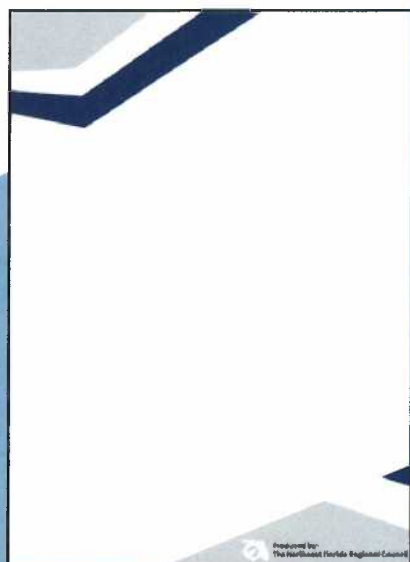
<sup>3</sup>Total land and water area.

# Quality of Life

## Celebrating Five Years of Progress: Tampa Bay RPC Advances Regional Resiliency

The **Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council** (TBRPC) celebrated five years of progress at its 4th Annual Regional Resiliency Summit. Over 350 attendees gathered to discuss policies, technologies, and strategies to address climate change and sea level rise. The Summit emphasized cross-sector collaboration to support regional resilience and attendees and sponsors heard success stories from member governments throughout the region. The event featured local and national speakers, interactive breakout sessions and spotlighted policy updates, emerging technologies, and strategies to address climate change and sea level rise. Attendees, including government officials, community leaders, and industry experts, engaged in discussions to identify practical solutions that support regional resilience.

By convening experts and decision-makers, TBRPC empowers local governments with the tools and knowledge to make informed decisions about community resilience and climate adaptation.



## Planning for Safer, More Efficient Correctional Systems

The **Northeast Florida Regional Council** (NEFRC) partnered with Jacksonville's City Council to develop a plan for modernized correctional facilities. After over 30 committee meetings, NEFRC's Final Report outlines a strategy to create a safer, more humane correctional system.

The recommendations focus on streamlining intake processes, enhancing inmate support, and upgrading facilities to improve operational efficiency and security. These upgrades aim to deliver a correctional system that meets modern standards for safety, dignity, and cost-effectiveness. The Final Report provides detailed recommendations to guide the City of Jacksonville in enhancing its correctional infrastructure, ensuring it meets contemporary standards and effectively serves the community's needs.



## Modernizing Zoning Maps

Apalachee RPC's new Zone Lookup App provides fast, user-friendly access to zoning information, promoting smarter development and planning decisions.

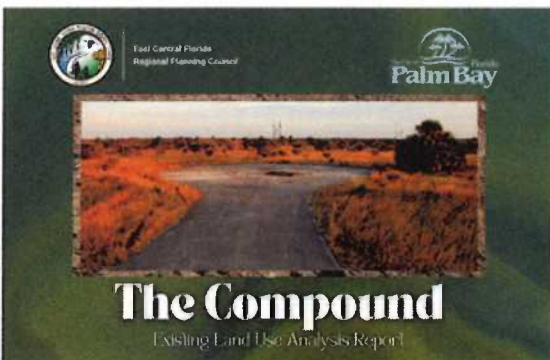
The **Apalachee Regional Planning Council** (ARPC) has modernized Franklin County's zoning maps, replacing outdated paper versions with an interactive, user-friendly online system. The new Zone Lookup App allows residents, developers, and planners to view and search zoning information from any device.

The app's intuitive interface highlights zoning details like building height limits, lot sizes, and permitted land uses. The modernization enables faster zoning updates and more efficient development planning. Apalachee RPC's innovative approach is now being replicated in Carrabelle, showcasing the council's commitment to improving access to planning resources.



## Addressing Challenges of Unfinished Housing Developments

The **East Central Florida Regional Planning Council** (ECFRPC) led the revitalization planning for "The Compound," a 12-square mile undeveloped pre-platted community in Palm Bay. With over 5,000 fragmented parcels and outdated zoning, redevelopment poses significant challenges. The ECFRPC developed a revitalization plan, identifying a multi-prong approach that includes infrastructure investments, public-private partnerships, and modifying land use designations to include industrial, recreation, and open space protections. Through the ECFRPC Brownfields grant, an EPA Technical Assistance project, community engagement, and strategic partnerships, the ECFRPC and the City continue to work to implement the strategic and conceptual plan to address infrastructure, land use, and environmental needs to transform The Compound into a vibrant, sustainable hub for recreation, business, and residential growth.



# Emergency Preparedness

## Supporting Hurricane Idalia Recovery

*Empowering Communities to Rebuild Stronger and Smarter*

In response to Hurricane Idalia's impact in August 2023, the **North Central Florida Regional Planning Council (NCFRPC)** played a key role in supporting recovery efforts across affected communities. The Category 3 storm caused widespread damage, prompting a coordinated effort with federal, state, and local partners.

NCFRPC co-hosted a "listening session" at Big Bend Technical College in Perry with the U.S. Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration (EDA). Local officials, community groups, and economic development organizations shared the storm's impact with federal representatives, who also outlined available recovery resources.



NCFRPC's partnership with federal and state agencies support recovery from Hurricane Idalia, providing technical assistance and strategic guidance to local governments and economic development organizations.

Following the session, NCFRPC and federal and state representatives visited eight of the hardest-hit counties. These one-on-one meetings with local officials helped identify unmet recovery needs and outline long-term resiliency strategies.

The initiative strengthened NCFRPC's connections with local governments and economic development groups. The Council showcased its role in supporting economic recovery through technical assistance, econometric modeling, and regional strategy development, driving long-term stability for communities impacted by Hurricane Idalia.







*When emergencies strike,  
preparation  
and  
coordination  
saves lives*

## Enhancing Medical Emergency Response

*Strengthening Regional Readiness for Complex Medical Emergencies*

The **Apalachee Regional Planning Council (ARPC)** led the Big Bend Healthcare Coalition's annual Medical Response and Surge Exercise to strengthen emergency preparedness. Coordinated with the Florida Division of Emergency Management, the exercise tested the region's ability to handle large-scale medical incidents.

Over 120 participants, including Healthcare Coalition members, responded to a simulated attack resulting in 170 patients. The exercise required real-time coordination, decontamination efforts, and resource allocation among agency representatives.

The event reinforced relationships among response partners and highlighted the need for improved fentanyl-related medical response protocols. Insights from the exercise will shape the Coalition's focus for the coming year.



# Regional Convening

## Tampa Bay RPC Launches Regional Government Liaison Program

The **Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council** (TBRPC) launched the Government Liaison Program (GLP) to strengthen connections with member and non-member governments. The initiative is a first of its kind for the TBRPC and provides local elected officials and their staff with tailored support, streamlined services without the procurement process, and access to state of the art technical assistance provided by TBRPC staff.

The TBRPC's Government Liaison Program builds partnerships creating a "hive of information" for local government policy makers and their staff.



Collaboration is *not just a goal,*  
it's *a strategy* for regional success

## Building Stronger Partnerships Through Intergovernmental Cooperation

The **Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council** (TCRPC) facilitated intergovernmental meetings in Indian River County, fostering collaboration between the county and each of its municipalities. By providing a neutral space for dialogue, TCRPC encouraged joint problem-solving on shared issues. Building partnership in a neutral and collaborative setting prepares communities for working together to solve current and future challenges.







*The South Florida and Treasure Coast Regional Planning Councils jointly host regional events to advance shared goals and promote shared solutions that benefit the entire region including an Annual Regional Conference.*

## United for Progress: South Florida and Treasure Coast RPCs Address Regional Challenges



The **South Florida and Treasure Coast Regional Planning Councils** held a joint meeting that resulted in new strategies to tackle key issues impacting the seven-county region. Co-chaired by Broward County Commissioner Steve Geller and Martin County Commissioner Doug Smith, the session brought together public officials, private sector leaders, and community members to strengthen regional collaboration and develop action-oriented solutions.

By the end of the session, participants had identified pathways to address three critical challenges: Florida's property insurance crisis, regional transportation congestion, and the health of Florida's coral reef. Key outcomes included strategies to stabilize rising insurance costs, support for ongoing transportation improvements, and renewed efforts to protect and restore the state's coral reef system.

The meeting provided a platform for in-depth discussions on Florida's property insurance crisis, which has been driving up costs for residents and businesses. Officials explored potential policy changes and market stabilization strategies to make insurance more affordable and reduce financial strain on Southeast Florida communities. The session emphasized the value of ongoing cross-council collaboration. By fostering open communication between the South Florida and Treasure Coast RPCs, the councils aim to streamline regional planning, reduce duplication of efforts, and promote shared solutions that benefit the entire region.

As Southeast Florida continues to face economic, environmental, and infrastructure challenges, the RPCs remain committed to advancing shared goals. By supporting joint initiatives, strengthening partnerships, and advocating for critical funding, the councils are driving progress on issues that affect residents, businesses, and communities across the region.

Leaders from seven member counties of the **South Florida RPC & Treasure Coast RPC** gathered to identify and develop action-oriented solutions for the critical challenges faced by the region.



# Economic Development

## FloridaCommerce Tours Region with Central Florida RPC

*Showcasing Local Projects that Drive Economic Growth and Community Development*

In April 2024, Florida Commerce Secretary Alex Kelly and Senator Erin Grall toured the Heartland Region to spotlight initiatives driving economic growth and strengthening communities. Led by the **Central Florida Regional Planning Council** (CFRPC), the two-day tour showcased pivotal sites that exemplify regional progress and the power of collaboration.

Over 35 regional partners joined the tour, highlighting local projects that fuel progress, foster partnerships, and drive economic growth across the Heartland Region.



Notable stops included the Sebring Airport and Logistics Center—a critical hub for statewide goods movement—the Avon Park Air Force Range, a vital military training site, and the Okeechobee Airport Commerce Park, which supports job growth and industrial development, and SunTrax in Polk County. These locations illustrate how targeted investments in infrastructure and industry can catalyze regional economic benefits.





## East Central Florida RPC Makes Progress in Brownfields Redevelopment

Since 2021, the **East Central Florida Regional Planning Council (ECFRPC)** has spearheaded a transformative brownfields redevelopment initiative, through the support of the EPA. The program has identified over 100 potential brownfield sites, conducted 21 Phase 1 environmental assessments, and completed nine Phase 2 site evaluations, unlocking development potential in distressed areas.

The program's expansion from its initial focus on U.S. Highway 441 and Orange Blossom Trail to an eight-county region exemplifies the council's strategic vision. Community engagement through 20+ outreach events has strengthened public support for redevelopment efforts. As a result, previously underutilized properties are now poised for new development, driving economic revitalization.



## Southwest Florida Fresh!

*Empowering Local Producers, Strengthening Regional Economies*

The **Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council (SWFRPC)** partnered to support the branding efforts of SWFL Fresh, a brand designed to encourage residents and visitors in Southwest Florida to choose food and beverages sourced from the region's six counties—Charlotte, Collier, Glades, Hendry, Lee, and Sarasota. This initiative reflects the SWFRPC's commitment to fostering regional economic growth, supporting sustainable agriculture, and enhancing community well-being.

Central to the brand's success is its recognizable logo, which serves as a trusted symbol for consumers. By helping shoppers and diners identify local products at grocery stores, farmers' markets, and restaurants, the logo enables informed choices that directly support local farmers and food producers while promoting fresh, high-quality products. The program has established a powerful platform to increase visibility and access to locally produced foods. This collaborative approach strengthens regional connections and delivers benefits for consumers, producers, and communities alike.



# Transportation

## Slicing Into Safety: ECRC's 7-Layer Cake Initiative

*Innovative Multi-Layered Approach to Achieving Vision Zero*

The **Emerald Coast Regional Council** (ECRC) is revolutionizing transportation safety in Northwest Florida with its 7-Layer Cake initiative. This multi-layered strategy aims to achieve Vision Zero—eliminating roadway fatalities—by implementing a series of interconnected projects that strengthen the region's infrastructure.

The initiative starts with identifying high-crash areas and developing targeted safety strategies through Safe Streets 4 All. Next, the Smart Regions plan maps out essential technology upgrades, while the Data Analytics plan introduces real-time data collection for informed decision-making. The Carbon Reduction plan reduces congestion and emissions, supporting cleaner, more efficient travel. The Plan Implementation phase activates these strategies by installing smart technologies and infrastructure. Broadband and fiber expansions ensure a reliable digital backbone for these systems.

At the foundation of this initiative is the Transportation Management Center (TMC), the most advanced traffic management hub in Northwest Florida. Construction of the facility will begin in 2025 and will be supported by a separate \$10 million U.S. Department of Transportation grant to demonstrate the life safety technology while also enabling real-time traffic monitoring, data analysis, and emergency coordination. This command center will oversee all traffic operations including the critical corridors identified as a High Injury Network. By layering these seven components, ECRC's 7-Layer Cake initiative builds a cohesive system for safer, smarter, and more efficient roadways. This innovative approach earned ECRC the 2024 Excellence in Regional Transportation Award from the National Association of Development Organizations and the 2024 Achievement Award from the National Association of Regional Councils.





Safer,  
smarter,  
and  
more  
connected  
than ever before.



## Driving Economic Growth Through Trails and Ecotourism: NEFRC's Regional Strategy

*Fostering Economic Development through Regional Trail and Ecotourism Initiatives*

The **Northeast Florida Regional Council** (NEFRC) is driving growth in trails and ecotourism to support regional economic development. In 2023, NEFRC launched a Trails and Ecotourism Steering Committee to guide the effort and strengthen collaboration among its seven member counties.

NEFRC created an inventory of existing trail data, identified key gaps, and mapped out funding opportunities from state and federal programs. This groundwork led to the development of trail projects, many of which were submitted to the National Park Service's Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) program for technical support. NEFRC also hosted RTCA staff for site visits, fostering project development and capacity-building opportunities.

Looking ahead, NEFRC will continue to support trail branding, assist with ecotourism projects, and help communities achieve Trail Town designation from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. By encouraging strategic investment and fostering regional partnerships, NEFRC aims to make Northeast Florida a leading trails and ecotourism destination.





# Awards

## NADO Impact Awards

### Apalachee Regional Planning Council

- Emergency Planning Platform for Healthcare Facilities
- Franklin County Zoning Map Lookup App

### Central Florida Regional Planning Council

- 2024 DeSoto County Economic Development Strategy
- Lake Wales 2024 Economic Development Strategy

### East Central Florida Regional Planning Council

- Regional Risk & Vulnerability Assessment
- The East Central Florida Regional Resilience Collaborative (R2C): Risk, Vulnerability and Insurance
- Voting Power: Regional Cyber-Security Tabletop Exercise

### North Central Florida Regional Planning Council

- Annual Transit Ridership Monitoring Report

### Northeast Florida Regional Council

- Northeast Florida Regional Resiliency Action Plan
- Special Committee Report to Review JSO Primary Facilities

### South Florida Regional Planning Council

- Clean Cities and Communities
- Brownfields Revolving Loan Fund
- South Florida Military Installation Resilience Review

## American Planning Association

### Central Florida Regional Planning Council

- Florida Chapter: Award of Excellence – Lake Wales Envisioned
- Heart of Florida Chapter: "Jan Johnson Public Participation Award" Polk County Wahneta Main Street Commercial Overlay: "Plan It Award" – 2024 Lake Wales Economic Development Strategy

## National Association of Regional Councils (NARC)

**Emerald Coast Regional Council:** Achievement Awards: 7-Layer Cake Model to Achieve Vision Zero

## NADO/RPO Excellence in Regional Transportation Awards

**Emerald Coast Regional Council:** 7-Layer Cake Model to Achieve Vision Zero

## Other Recognitions

**Central Florida RPC:** LEPC's Contributions to Officers' Development (Polk County Fire Rescue)

**Emerald Coast RC:** Excellence in Community Service (Pace Area Chamber of Commerce)

**South Florida RPC:** Greatest Energy Use Impact for Compressed Natural Gas (Department of Energy, Clean Cities Program)

**Tampa Bay RPC:** Special Achievement in GIS Award for the TBRIC Project (Presented by ESRI)



# Partners

## State Agencies and Entities

Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services  
Florida Department of Commerce  
Florida Department of Environmental Protection  
Florida Department of Health  
Florida Department of Transportation  
Florida Division of Emergency Management  
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission  
Florida House of Representatives  
Florida Senate  
Office of Economic and Demographic Research  
Office of Governor  
Workforce Florida, Inc.

## Water Management Districts

Northwest Florida Water Management District  
South Florida Water Management District  
Southwest Florida Water Management District  
Johns River Water Management District  
Suwannee River Water Management District

## State and Regional Initiatives

Cooperative Conservation Blueprint  
Developing Florida's 5-Year Strategic Plan  
Florida Chamber Foundation's Six Pillars  
Florida Defense Alliance  
Florida Heartland Economic Region of Opportunity  
Florida Transportation Plan  
North Florida Economic Development Partnership  
Opportunity Florida  
Peninsular Florida Landscape Conservation Cooperative  
Rural Economic Development Initiative  
Statewide Regional Evacuation Study  
State Emergency Response Commission for Hazardous Materials

## National Partners and Organizations

National Association of Counties  
National Association of Development Organizations  
National Association of Regional Councils  
National League of Cities  
SouthEast Regional Directors Institute  
U.S. Conference of Mayors

## State Partners and Organizations

1000 Friends of Florida  
American Planning Association, Florida Chapter  
Association of Florida Community Developers  
Audubon of Florida  
Florida Association of Counties  
Florida Chamber Foundation  
Florida Chamber of Commerce  
Florida City and County Management Association  
Florida Conflict Resolution Consortium Consensus Center  
Florida Economic Development Council  
Florida Home Builders Association  
Florida Housing Coalition  
Florida Land Council  
Florida League of Cities  
Florida Local Government Coalition  
Florida Planning and Zoning Association  
Florida Ports Council  
Florida Redevelopment Association  
Florida School Board Association  
Florida Trails Association  
Florida Wildlife Federation  
Floridians for Better Transportation  
Metropolitan Planning Organizations Advisory Council  
Sadowski Housing Coalition  
Safe Mobility for Life Coalition  
Sierra Club of Florida  
Small County Coalition  
The Nature Conservancy  
The Trust for Public Land

## Federal Agencies

U.S. Department of Commerce  
U.S. Department of Energy  
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
U.S. Economic Development Administration  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency





2507 Callaway Road, Suite 100  
Tallahassee, FL 32303  
850-488-6211 | flregionalcouncils.org

**APALACHEE  
REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL**

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Tallahassee, FL 32303  
850.488.6211 | arpc.org

**CENTRAL FLORIDA  
REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL**

Executive Director: Jennifer Codo-Salisbury  
555 East Church Street  
Bartow, FL 33830  
863.534.7130 | cfrpc.org

**EAST CENTRAL FLORIDA  
REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL**

Executive Director: Tara McCue  
LYNX Building, 4th Floor,  
455 North Garland Ave., Orlando, FL 32801  
407.245.0300 | ecfRPC.org

**EMERALD COAST  
REGIONAL COUNCIL**

Executive Director: Kandase Lee  
418 E Gregory Suite 100  
Pensacola, FL 32502  
850.332.7976 | ecrc.org

**NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA  
REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL**

Executive Director: Scott R. Koons  
2009 Northwest 67th Place  
Gainesville, FL 32653  
352.955.2200 | ncfrpc.org

**NORTHEAST FLORIDA  
REGIONAL COUNCIL**

Chief Executive Officer: Elizabeth Payne  
100 Festival Park Avenue  
Jacksonville, FL 32202  
904.279.0880 | nefrc.org

**SOUTH FLORIDA  
REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL**

Executive Director: Isabel Cosio Carballo  
1 Oakwood Blvd, Suite 250  
Hollywood, FL 33020  
954.924.3653 | sfregionalcouncil.org

**SOUTHWEST FLORIDA  
REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL**

Executive Director: Margaret A. Wuerstle  
1406 SW 8th Place  
Cape Coral, FL 33991  
844.988.8244 | swfrpc.org

**TAMPA BAY  
REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL**

Executive Director: Wren G. Krah  
4000 Gateway Centre Blvd., Suite 100  
Pinellas Park, FL 33782  
727.570.5151 | tbrpc.org

**TREASURE COAST  
REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL**

Executive Director: Thomas J. Lanahan  
421 Southwest Camden Avenue  
Stuart, FL 34994  
772.221.4060 | tcrpc.org





Serving Alachua  
Bradford • Columbia  
Dixie • Gilchrist • Hamilton  
Lafayette • Levy • Madison  
Suwannee • Taylor • Union Counties

---

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

January 16, 2025

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 of 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 following Six Pillars.

- Talent and Supply 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 January 2025 Scorecard.

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

Attachment

o:\council.mtg\cnc\mtgmemos\flchamberscorecard jan 2025.docx

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.



# THE FLORIDA SCORECARD

## METRICS TO HELP SECURE FLORIDA'S FUTURE

View County Data...



TALENT SUPPLY  
& EDUCATION



INNOVATION &  
ECON. DEVELOP.



INFRASTRUCTURE &  
GROWTH LEADERSHIP



BUSINESS CLIMATE &  
COMPETITIVENESS



CIVICS &  
GOVERNANCE



QUALITY  
OF LIFE

## State of Florida Metrics

Click any metric to get more information! (what is this?)

Florida FutureCast

FLORIDA POPULATION 01/15/2025

**23,426,634**



### JOB CHANGE

Jobs Year Over Year Change

**163,900**  
(Gain)

Growth Rate

**1.7%**  
(Positive)

View Statewide Heat Map

Net New Jobs Needed by  
2030

**1.44M**



### CHILDREN IN POVERTY

**16.9%**  
(Decreasing)

**<10%**  
2030 Goal

**714,768**  
(Decreasing)



### 3RD GRADE READING SCORES

**55%**  
(Improving)

**97,413**  
# Not Reading at Grade Level  
(Decreasing)

View Statewide Heat Map

**100%**  
2030 Goal

Florida Gap Map



### OPEN JOBS

**399,072**  
(Increasing)

**376,000**  
Unemployed Persons  
(Increasing)

**95**

Unemployed People per 100  
Jobs



### UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

**3.4%**  
(Increasing)

View Statewide Heat Map

Jobs Year Over Year Change

**163,900**

View Statewide Heat Map



### STATE OF FLORIDA VISITORS

**\$131.0**  
Billion Visitor Spending

**140.6**  
Million Visitors



### STATE HOUSING STARTS & SALES

**9,687**  
Starts (Declining)

**17,095**  
Sales (Declining)



### POVERTY RATE

**12.6%**  
(Better)

View Statewide Heat Map



### CONSUMER SENTIMENT

**86.4**  
(Improving)



### HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE

**89.7%**  
(Improving)

View Statewide Heat Map



### SALES TAX REVENUE

**\$3.528**  
Billion per Month (Declining)



### VOTER PARTICIPATION

**79%**  
(Improving)



### RIGHT / WRONG DIRECTION

**53%/39%**



### LAND IN CONSERVATION

**31%**



### STATE HOUSING STARTS & SALES

**\$410,700**  
Median Price (Decreasing)

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Partnership Council





## State of Florida Metrics (What is this?)

State of Florida FutureCast

### Talent Supply & Education

Click any metric to get more information!





## State of Florida Metrics

### Innovation & Economic Development

Click any metric to get more information!

State of Florida FutureCast





# THE FLORIDA SCORECARD

## METRICS TO HELP SECURE FLORIDA'S FUTURE

View County Data...



TALENT SUPPLY  
& EDUCATION



INNOVATION &  
ECON. DEVELOP.



INFRASTRUCTURE &  
GROWTH LEADERSHIP



BUSINESS CLIMATE &  
COMPETITIVENESS



CIVICS &  
GOVERNANCE



QUALITY  
OF LIFE

## State of Florida Metrics (What is this?)

State of Florida FutureCast

### Infrastructure & Growth Leadership

Click any metric to get more information!



LAND IN  
CONSERVATION

31%



VEHICLE MILES  
TRAVELED

227.75

Billion (Improving)



STATE HOUSING  
STARTS & SALES

9,687

Starts (Declining)

17,095

Sales (Declining)

\$410,700

Median Price (Decreasing)



ENERGY  
RANKING

#50

Expenditures (Unchanged)

#45

Consumption (Decreasing)



POPULATION  
ESTIMATE 2030

25.57M

[View Statewide Heat Map](#)



SEAPORTS CARGO

\$72.6

Billion (Declining)



CONTAINERS  
(TEUS)

4.31

Million (Unchanged)



TRUCK  
CROSSINGS

15.3

Million (Improving)



HIGH SPEED  
COMMUNICATIONS

96.3%

(Unchanged)

[View Statewide Heat Map](#)

100%

2030 Goal



MEDIAN RENT

\$1,543

(First Data)

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CIVICS &  
GOVERNANCE



QUALITY  
OF LIFE

## State of Florida Metrics (What is this?)

State of Florida FutureCast

### Business Climate & Competitiveness

Click any metric to get more information!



INFLATION RATE

**2.7%**

National (Increasing)

**2.7%**

Southern Region (Increasing)



CONSUMER  
SENTIMENT

**86.4**

(Improving)



CEO RANK

**2nd**

(Unchanged)



STATE LEGAL  
CLIMATE RANKING

**46th**

(Unchanged)

**Top 12**

2030 Goal



SALES TAX  
REVENUE

**\$3.528**

Billion per Month (Declining)



BUSINESS TAX  
CLIMATE

**4th**

**#1**

2030 Goal



OPEN JOBS

**399,072**

(Increasing)

**376,000**

Unemployed Persons  
(Increasing)

**95**

Unemployed People per 100  
Jobs



STATE RANKING  
FOR AUTOMOBILE  
INSURANCE  
AFFORDABILITY

**#49**



HOMEOWNERS'  
INSURANCE  
AFFORDABILITY

Homeowners' Insurance  
Affordability data is available  
at the county level.

[View Statewide Heat Map](#)



ASSIGNMENT OF  
BENEFITS SUITS

**34,289**

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# THE FLORIDA SCORECARD

## METRICS TO HELP SECURE FLORIDA'S FUTURE

View County Data...



TALENT SUPPLY  
& EDUCATION



INNOVATION &  
ECON. DEVELOP.



INFRASTRUCTURE &  
GROWTH LEADERSHIP



BUSINESS CLIMATE &  
COMPETITIVENESS



CIVICS &  
GOVERNANCE



QUALITY  
OF LIFE

## State of Florida Metrics (What is this?)

State of Florida FutureCast

### Civic & Governance Systems

Click any metric to get more information!



VOTER  
PARTICIPATION

**79%**  
(Improving)



RIGHT / WRONG  
DIRECTION

**53%/39%**



INMATE  
POPULATION

**112,659**



DEPENDENCY  
RATIO

2015

**56.5%**

2030 Estimate

**70%**



GOVERNMENT  
EMPLOYMENT

**237.3**  
Thousand (State)

**704.8**  
Thousand (Local)



VOLUNTEERISM

**22.8%**  
of Floridians Volunteer

**50th**  
Florida's Rank

**Top 3**  
2030 Goal



STATE DEBT  
OUTSTANDING

**\$16.3**  
Billion



CITIZENS  
INSURANCE  
EXPOSURE POLICIES

**\$411.0**  
Billion Exposure

**988,051**  
Policies



UNDERFUNDED  
STATE PENSION

**\$1120.0**  
Million (Increasing)

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**Community Development  
Partnership Council**

## State of Florida Metrics (What is this?)

State of Florida FutureCast

### Quality of Life and Quality Places

Click any metric to get more information!







Serving Alachua  
Bradford • Columbia  
Dixie • Gilchrist • Hamilton  
Lafayette • Levy • Madison  
Suwannee • Taylor • Union Counties

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

January 16, 2025

TO: Council Members

FROM: Scott R. Koons, AICP, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Legislative Report

The 2025 regular Legislature Session will convene on March 4, 2025 and is scheduled to adjourn on May 2, 2025. The legislative interim Committee schedule is, as follows:

- Week of December 2-6, 2024 (House)
- Week of December 9-13, 2024 (Senate)
- Week of January 13-17, 2025 (House/Senate)
- Week of January 21-24, 2025 (House/Senate)
- Week of February 3-7, 2025 (House/Senate)
- Week of February 10-14, 2025 (House/Senate)
- Week of February 17-21, 2025 (House/Senate)

The Governor has called a Special Legislative Session to begin on January 27, 2025. The Special Session is scheduled to address illegal immigration, condominium reform, hurricane recovery and constitutional ballot petition initiative reform.

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

