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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 **February 27, 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/870970221>

DIAL IN NUMBER: **Toll Free: 1.877.309.2073**

ACCESS CODE: **870-970-221**

MEETING STARTS AT 7:00 P.M.

*Please call the Council at 352.955.2200 or email koons@ncfrpc.org by February 26, 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.***

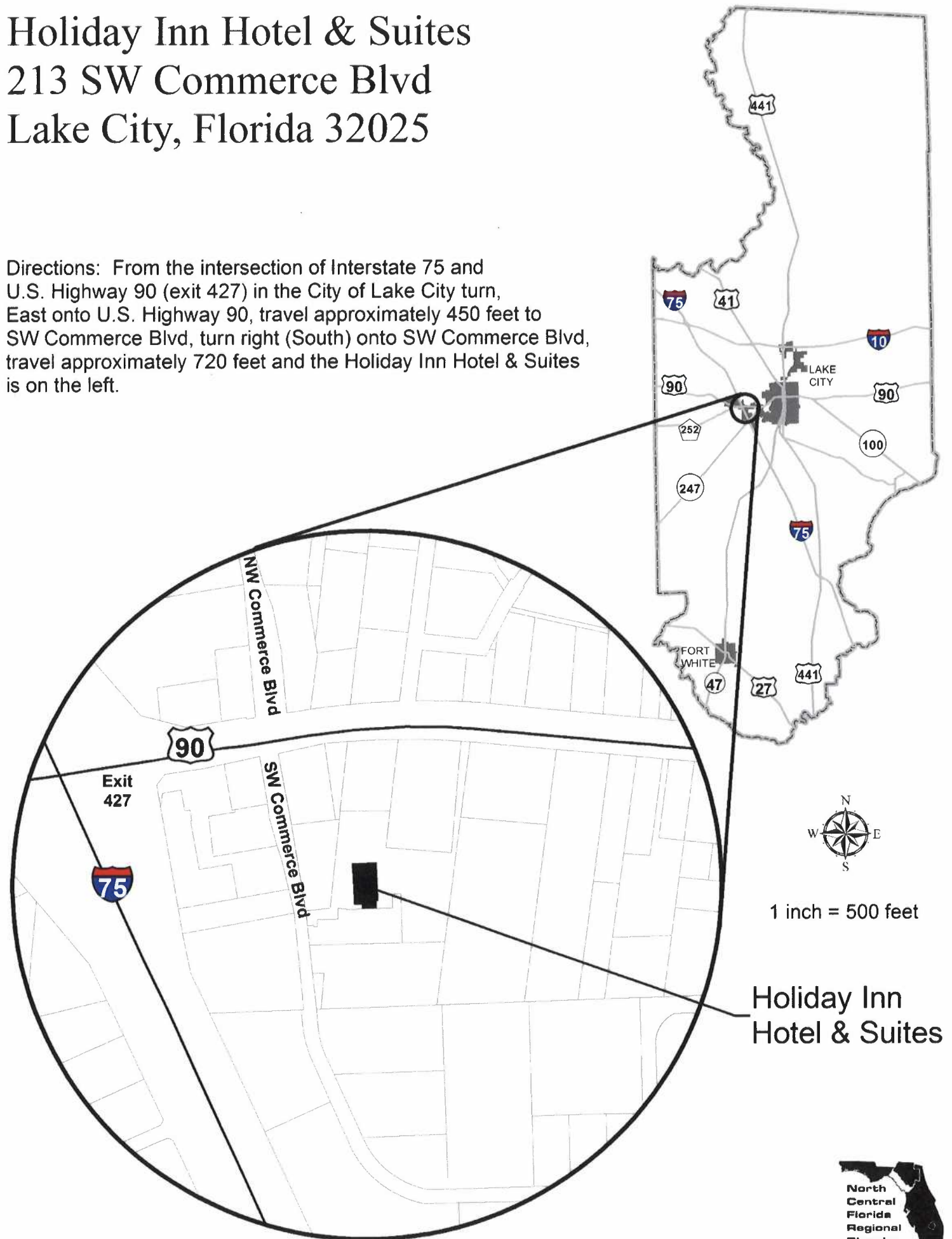
Please be advised that the Council meeting packet is posted on the Council website at <http://ncfrpc.org> (click on Upcoming Meetings and Meeting Packets, then click on North Central Florida Regional Planning Council Full Packet.)

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.

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

February 27, 2025
7:00 p.m.

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2. #60 - Alachua County Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (FC No. 25-1ESR)
3. #61 - Northeast Florida Strategic Regional Policy Plan Evaluation and Appraisal
4. #62 - Town of White Springs Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (FC No. 25-1ER)

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.

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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 - March 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

January 23, 2025
7:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT
IN PERSON

Anthony Adams, Lafayette County
Mary Alford, Alachua County
James Carter, City of Lake City
Ken Cornell, Alachua County
Louie Davis, City of Waldo
Rick Davis, Madison County
Jhelecia Hawkins, City of Jasper
Fletcher Hope Jr., City of Archer
James Howell, Hamilton County
Melissa McNeal, Union County
Janice Mortimer, City of Starke
Kevin Parnell, Columbia County
Maurice Perkins, Suwannee County
Jody Stephenson, Dixie County
Lorene Thomas, Dixie County

MEMBERS PRESENT
VIA COMMUNICATIONS
MEDIA TECHNOLOGY
(FOR QUORUM)

Ed Book, City of Gainesville
Patricia Bouie Hutchinson, City of Hawthorne
Charles Chestnut IV, Alachua County
Frank Davis, City of Live Oak
Shirley Hampton, City of Perry
James Ingle, City of Gainesville

MEMBERS PRESENT
VIA COMMUNICATIONS
MEDIA TECHNOLOGY
(NOT FOR QUORUM)

Thomas Demps, Taylor County

MEDIA TECHNOLOGY
VIA COMMUNICATIONS
NON-VOTING DELEGATE ABSENT

Kristyn Adkins, City of High Springs

MEMBERS ABSENT

Desmon Duncan-Walker, City of Gainesville
Tony Mazon, City of Newberry
Desiree Mills, Levy County
Byron Poore, City of Madison
Edward Potts, City of Alachua
Daniel Riddick, Bradford County
Joe Stephenson, City of Lake Butler
Kenrick Thomas, Gilchrist County

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS PRESENT

Austin Burgess, Florida Fish and Wildlife
Conservation Commission- Virtual
Kathryn Craver, Florida Department of
Environmental Protection - In-Person
David Tyler, Florida Department of
Transportation - In-Person

COUNCIL ATTORNEY PRESENT

Jonathan Wershow

OTHERS PRESENT

Diana Davis - In-Person
Ben Glass, In-Person
Jonathan Jenkins, In-Person
Stew Lilker - In-Person
Paul Martin - 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 7:02 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 Jonathan Jenkins, County Manager, Dixie County; Diana Davis, Executive Director, Alachua County League of Cities and wife of Council Member Louie Davis; Paul Martin, Citizen, Dixie County; and Stew Lilker, Columbia County Observer.

IV. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Chair Hope asked that the consent agenda be approved.

ACTION: Commissioner Alford made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Perkins, to approve the consent agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

A. Minutes - October 24, 2024

B. Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board Appointment

V. APPROVAL OF REGULAR AGENDA

Chair Hope asked that the regular agenda be approved.

ACTION: Commissioner Alford made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Adams, to approve the regular agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

VI. GUEST SPEAKER - Ben Glass, Administration Chief
Suwannee River Water Management District

Scott Koons, Executive Director, introduced Ben Glass, Administration Chief, Suwannee River Water Management District. Mr. Glass made a presentation concerning District agricultural cost-share programs. Chair Hope thanked Mr. Glass for his presentation.

VII. CHAIR REPORT

A. New Members

Chair Hope welcomed the following new members to the Council.

1. Ken Cornell, Alachua County
2. Rick Davis, Madison County
3. James Howell, Hamilton County
4. James Ingle, City of Gainesville
5. Desiree Mills, Levy County

B. Resolutions of Appreciation

1. Donna Jackson, Union County
2. Anna Prizzia, Alachua County
3. Donnie Wladrep, Madison County
4. Casey Willits, City of Gainesville

ACTION: Mayor Louie Davis made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Cornell, to approve Resolutions of Appreciation for former Council members Donna Jackson, Union County; Anna Prizzia, Alachua County; Donnie Waldrep, Madison County; and Casey Willits, City of Gainesville. The motion carried unanimously.

C. Transportation Disadvantaged Program Resolution of Appreciation

1. Donna Jackson

ACTION: Commissioner Perkins made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Alford, to authorize the Chair to sign a Transportation Disadvantaged Program Resolution of Appreciation for former Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board member Donna Jackson, Chair, Union County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board. The motion carried unanimously.

D. Middle and Lower Suwannee River and Withlacoochee River Task Force Appointment

ACTION: Commissioner Adams made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Perkins, to ratify the appointment by the Chair of Commissioner Rick Davis, Madison County, to the Middle and Lower Suwannee River and Withlacoochee River Task Force and to appoint Commissioner Rick Davis to serve as Chair of the River Task Force. The motion carried unanimously.

E. Committee Appointments

ACTION: Commissioner Alford made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Perkins, to ratify the appointment by the Chair of Commissioner Daniel Riddick as Vice-Chair of the Clearinghouse Committee; Councilman James Carter, Commissioner Ken Cornell, Councilwoman Shirly 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. The motion carried unanimously.

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORT

A. Executive Committee -

1. Proclamation Proclaiming February 24, 2025 - March 2, 2025
Hazardous Materials Awareness Week

Chair Hope stated that the Executive Committee recommends that the Council proclaim the week of February 24, 2025 thru March 2, 2025 as Hazardous Materials Awareness Week in the north central Florida region.

ACTION: Councilwoman Hawkins made the motion, with a second by Mayor Louie Davis, to adopt a proclamation proclaiming February 24, 2025 - March 2, 2025 Hazardous Materials Awareness Week in the north central Florida region. The motion carried unanimously.

2. Resolution No. 2025-01 Recognizing Service of H. Philip Paradise Jr., Regional Director
U.S. Economic Development Administration, Southeast Region

Chair Hope stated that the Executive Committee recommends that the Council approve the attached Resolution No. 2025-01 recognizing the service of H. Philip Paradise Jr., Regional Director, U.S. Economic Development Administration, Southeast Region.

ACTION: Commissioner Alford made the motion, with a second by Councilwoman Hawkins, to adopt Resolution No. 2025-01 recognizing the Service of H. Philip Paradise Jr., Regional Director, U.S. Economic Development Administration, Southeast Region. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Resolution No. 2025-02 Supporting Florida Joining Southern Rail Commission

Chair Hope stated that the Executive Committee recommends that the Council approve the attached Resolution No. 2025-02 supporting Florida joining the Southern Rail Commission.

ACTION: Commissioner Cornell made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Alford, to adopt Resolution No. 2025-02 supporting Florida joining the Southern Rail Commission. The motion carried unanimously.

B. Clearinghouse Committee - Committee Level Comprehensive Plan Review Items

Lauren Yeatter, Senior Planner, 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.

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

Ms. Yeatter 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: Vice-Mayor Mortimer made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Rick Davis, to approve the Clearinghouse Committee recommendations concerning Item #56 - City of Alachua Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment (FC No. 24-1ESR; and Item #58 - Taylor County Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (FC No. 25-1ESR. The motion carried unanimously.

IX. EX-OFFICIO MEMBER REPORTS

Kathryn Craver, Outreach/Communications Director, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Northeast District, reported that the Governor has appointed Alexis Lambert as the Secretary of the Department. She also stated that the Northeast District will conduct Navigating the Permitting and Compliance Process Workshop concerning environmental resource permits on February 19, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. at the Northeast District Office in Jacksonville.

David Tyler, Rural Transportation Planning Manager, Florida Department of Transportation District 2, reported that the deadline for local governments to submit Safe Routes to School grant applications for bicycle and pedestrian projects to the Department is January 23, 2025. He also stated that the Department has rescheduled the North Florida Transportation Summit for April 29, 2025 to be held at the Suwannee County Fairgrounds in Live Oak.

Austin Burgess, Senior Biologist, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, reported that the University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences will hold the 2025 Flatwoods Fire and Nature Festival on February 1, 2025 from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the University of Florida Austin Cary Forest Campus in Alachua County. He also stated a recent confirmed case of benign convulsions with mild gastroenteritis in a deer occurred in Lanier County in Southern Georgia.

X. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Stew Lilker, Columbia County Observer, discussed distracted driving and highway safety.

XI. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

A. Florida Regional Councils Association Monthly Activity Reports

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 November 2024 and December 2024 activity reports included in the Council meeting packet. He reviewed the activities listed in the November 2024 and December 2024 reports.

B. Florida Regional Councils Association Policy Board Meeting Report

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

Mr. Koons stated 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. He noted that the Policy Board also heard a legislative report and adopted legislative priorities. Mr. Koons reported that the Policy Board adopted a new set of bylaws conforming to its recently filed articles of incorporation. In conclusion, he stated that the Policy Board authorized filing an application with the Internal Revenue Service for 501 (c)(4) tax exempt status.

C. 2023-24 Florida Regional Council Association Annual Report

Mr. Koons presented the 2023-24 Annual Report of the Florida Regional Councils Association that was included in the Council meeting packet. He stated the Florida Regional Councils Association is the statewide association of all ten regional councils in Florida. Mr. Koons noted it is governed by a Policy Board made up of three representatives (county, municipal, gubernatorial) from each Council who are in turn advised by the Executive Directors Advisory Committee comprised of all ten executive directors. He stated 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; and Lorene Thomas, Former Chair. In conclusion, Mr. Koons stated the activities of the Council are featured on pages 2, 4, 7 and 15 of the annual report.

D. 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 January 2025 Scorecard™ that was included in the Council meeting packet.

E. 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)

ACTION: **Commissioner Cornell made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Alford, to request Council staff contact local governments in the north central Florida region concerning their legislative priorities, and to compile the priorities and transmit them to the north central Florida Legislative Delegation. The motion carried unanimously**

XII. COUNCIL MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS - None

XIII. NEXT MEETING

Chair Hope stated that the next Council meeting is scheduled to be held on February 27, 2025.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:37 p.m.

Fletcher J. Hope Jr., Chair

2/27/25
Date

Resolution

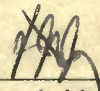
OF APPRECIATION

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

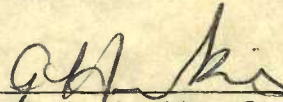
WHEREAS, Donna Jackson has ably discharged the duties of a representative on the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council;

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



Jhelecia Hawkins, Secretary

ATTEST:

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



Resolution


OF APPRECIATION

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

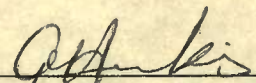
WHEREAS, Anna Prizzia has ably discharged the duties of a representative on the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council;

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.



Resolution


OF APPRECIATION

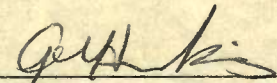
WHEREAS, Donnie Waldrep has been representing Madison County on the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council since January 2021;

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

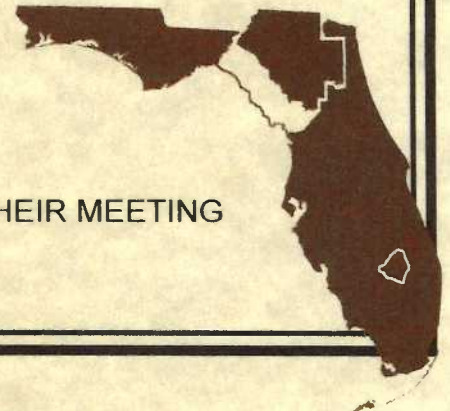
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That this expression of appreciation be spread upon the minutes of the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council for all citizens of the region to view and recognize the accomplishments and service of Donnie Waldrep.


Fletcher J. Hope Jr., Chair


Jhelecia Hawkins, Secretary

ATTEST:

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



Resolution


OF APPRECIATION

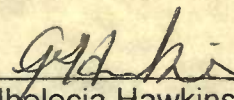
WHEREAS, Casey Willits has been representing the City of Gainesville on the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council since January 2023;

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


Jhelecia Hawkins, Secretary

ATTEST:

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



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



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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jhelecia Hawkins", written over a horizontal line.

Jhelecia Hawkins, Secretary

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Fletcher J. Hope Jr.", written over a horizontal line.

Fletcher J. Hope Jr., Chair

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

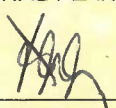
NOW, THEREFORE, the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council hereby congratulates Mr. Paradise upon the occasion of his retirement, thanks him for his many contributions to the U.S. Economic Development Administration and regional economic development districts, and wishes him well in his retirement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

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

Attest:


Scott R. Koons, Executive Director

NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA
REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL


Fletcher J. Hope Jr., Chair

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

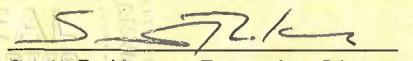
WHEREAS, the Southern Rail Commission advocates for the reactivation of the Gulf Coast Passenger Rail line to provide passenger rail service to the Gulf Coast, including the Florida Panhandle and North Florida, which would enhance economic development opportunities in the north central Florida region;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


Scott R. Koons, Executive Director

NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA
REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL


Fletcher J. Hope Jr., Chair



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

February 20, 2025

TO: Council Members

FROM: Scott R. Koons, AICP, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Transportation Disadvantaged Program
Planning Grant Resolutions
Fiscal Year 2025-26

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve the attached resolutions authorizing the Executive Director to sign the Fiscal Year 2025-26 Planning Grant Applications for Alachua; Bradford; Columbia, Hamilton and Suwannee; Dixie; Gilchrist; Lafayette; Levy; Madison; and Union Counties and authorizing the Chair to execute the Fiscal Year 2025-26 Transportation Disadvantaged Program Planning Grant Agreements for Alachua; Bradford; Columbia, Hamilton and Suwannee; Dixie; Gilchrist; Lafayette; Levy; Madison; and Union Counties.

BACKGROUND:

The North Central Florida Regional Planning Council performs the functions of the designated official planning agency for the Transportation Disadvantaged Program for Alachua County and is the designated official planning agency for the Transportation Disadvantaged Program for Bradford, Columbia, Dixie, Gilchrist, Hamilton, Lafayette, Levy, Madison, Suwannee, and Union Counties. As the designated official planning agency, the Council is responsible for Transportation Disadvantaged Program planning and providing the local transportation disadvantaged coordinating boards with sufficient staff support and resources to enable the boards to fulfill their responsibilities.

The attached resolutions authorize the Executive Director to sign the Fiscal Year 2025-26 Transportation Disadvantaged Trust Fund Planning Grant Applications and authorize the Chair to sign the Fiscal Year 2025-26 Transportation Disadvantaged Trust Fund Planning Grant Agreements with the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged. The Planning Grant Agreements provide the funding needed to provide staff services to the local coordinating boards.

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

Attachments

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RESOLUTION NO. 2025-03

A RESOLUTION OF THE NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF THE FISCAL YEAR 2025-26 ALACHUA COUNTY TRANSPORTATION DISADVANTAGED PLANNING GRANT AGREEMENT WITH THE FLORIDA COMMISSION FOR THE TRANSPORTATION DISADVANTAGED

WHEREAS, the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council performs the functions of the designated official planning agency in order to undertake a transportation disadvantaged service project in Alachua County, Florida, as authorized by Section 427.0159, Florida Statutes and Rule 41-2, Florida Administrative Code;

WHEREAS, the designated official planning agency is responsible for Transportation Disadvantaged Program planning and providing the local transportation disadvantaged coordinating board with sufficient staff support and resources to enable the board to fulfill its responsibilities; and

WHEREAS, the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council has the authority to enter into the Fiscal Year 2025-26 Alachua County Transportation Disadvantaged Planning Grant agreement and to undertake a transportation disadvantaged service project as authorized by Section 427.0159, Florida Statutes, and Rule 41-2, Florida Administrative Code.

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

1. The North Central Florida Regional Planning Council has the authority to enter into the above referenced grant agreement;
2. The North Central Florida Regional Planning Council authorizes the Chair to execute the Transportation Disadvantaged Trust Fund Grant agreement on behalf of the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council with the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged;
3. The North Central Florida Regional Planning Council authorizes the Executive Director to act in connection with the agreement and to provide such additional information as may be required by the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged;
4. The North Central Florida Regional Planning Council authorizes the Chair to sign any and all assurances, agreements or contracts which are required in connection with the Transportation Disadvantaged Trust Fund Grant Program;
5. The North Central Florida Regional Planning Council authorizes its Executive Director to sign the planning grant application form, any and all reimbursement invoices, warranties, certifications and other documents which may be required in connection with the agreement or subsequent agreements; and
6. This resolution shall be effective upon adoption.

APPROVED AND DULY ADOPTED by the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council, this 27th day of February 2025.

ATTEST:

NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA
REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

Scott R. Koons, Executive Director

Fletcher J. Hope Jr., Chair

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-04

A RESOLUTION OF THE NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF THE FISCAL YEAR 2025-26 BRADFORD COUNTY TRANSPORTATION DISADVANTAGED PLANNING GRANT AGREEMENT WITH THE FLORIDA COMMISSION FOR THE TRANSPORTATION DISADVANTAGED

WHEREAS, in areas not covered by a metropolitan planning organization, regional planning councils are eligible for selection as designated official planning agencies in accordance with Rule 41-2.009, Florida Administrative Code;

WHEREAS, the designated official planning agency is responsible for Transportation Disadvantaged Program planning and providing the local transportation disadvantaged coordinating board with sufficient staff support and resources to enable the board to fulfill its responsibilities; and

WHEREAS, the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council has the authority to enter into the Fiscal Year 2025-26 Bradford County Transportation Disadvantaged Planning Grant agreement and to undertake a transportation disadvantaged service project as authorized by Section 427.0159, Florida Statutes, and Rule 41-2, Florida Administrative Code.

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

1. The North Central Florida Regional Planning Council has the authority to enter into the above referenced grant agreement;
2. The North Central Florida Regional Planning Council authorizes the Chair to execute the Transportation Disadvantaged Trust Fund Grant agreement on behalf of the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council with the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged;
3. The North Central Florida Regional Planning Council authorizes the Executive Director to act in connection with the agreement and to provide such additional information as may be required by the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged;
4. The North Central Florida Regional Planning Council authorizes the Chair to sign any and all assurances, agreements or contracts which are required in connection with the Transportation Disadvantaged Trust Fund Grant Program;
5. The North Central Florida Regional Planning Council authorizes its Executive Director to sign the planning grant application form, any and all reimbursement invoices, warranties, certifications and other documents which may be required in connection with the agreement or subsequent agreements; and
6. This resolution shall be effective upon adoption.

APPROVED AND DULY ADOPTED by the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council, this 27th day of February 2025.

ATTEST:

NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA
REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

Scott R. Koons, Executive Director

Fletcher J. Hope Jr., Chair

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-05

A RESOLUTION OF THE NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF THE FISCAL YEAR 2025-26 COLUMBIA, HAMILTON AND SUWANNEE TRANSPORTATION DISADVANTAGED PLANNING GRANT AGREEMENT WITH THE FLORIDA COMMISSION FOR THE TRANSPORTATION DISADVANTAGED

WHEREAS, in areas not covered by a metropolitan planning organization, regional planning councils are eligible for selection as designated official planning agencies in accordance with Rule 41-2.009, Florida Administrative Code;

WHEREAS, the designated official planning agency is responsible for Transportation Disadvantaged Program planning and providing the local transportation disadvantaged coordinating board with sufficient staff support and resources to enable the board to fulfill its responsibilities; and

WHEREAS, the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council has the authority to enter into the Fiscal Year 2025-26 Columbia, Hamilton and Suwannee Transportation Disadvantaged Planning Grant agreement and to undertake a transportation disadvantaged service project as authorized by Section 427.0159, Florida Statutes, and Rule 41-2, Florida Administrative Code.

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

1. The North Central Florida Regional Planning Council has the authority to enter into the above referenced grant agreement;
2. The North Central Florida Regional Planning Council authorizes the Chair to execute the Transportation Disadvantaged Trust Fund Grant agreement on behalf of the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council with the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged;
3. The North Central Florida Regional Planning Council authorizes the Executive Director to act in connection with the agreement and to provide such additional information as may be required by the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged;
4. The North Central Florida Regional Planning Council authorizes the Chair to sign any and all assurances, agreements or contracts which are required in connection with the Transportation Disadvantaged Trust Fund Grant Program;
5. The North Central Florida Regional Planning Council authorizes its Executive Director to sign the planning grant application form, any and all reimbursement invoices, warranties, certifications and other documents which may be required in connection with the agreement or subsequent agreements; and
6. This resolution shall be effective upon adoption.

APPROVED AND DULY ADOPTED by the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council, this 27th day of February 2025.

ATTEST:

NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA
REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

Scott R. Koons, Executive Director

Fletcher J. Hope Jr., Chair

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-06

A RESOLUTION OF THE NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF THE FISCAL YEAR 2025-26 DIXIE COUNTY TRANSPORTATION DISADVANTAGED PLANNING GRANT AGREEMENT WITH THE FLORIDA COMMISSION FOR THE TRANSPORTATION DISADVANTAGED

WHEREAS, in areas not covered by a metropolitan planning organization, regional planning councils are eligible for selection as designated official planning agencies in accordance with Rule 41-2.009, Florida Administrative Code;

WHEREAS, the designated official planning agency is responsible for Transportation Disadvantaged Program planning and providing the local transportation disadvantaged coordinating board with sufficient staff support and resources to enable the board to fulfill its responsibilities; and

WHEREAS, the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council has the authority to enter into the Fiscal Year 2025-26 Dixie County Transportation Disadvantaged Planning Grant agreement and to undertake a transportation disadvantaged service project as authorized by Section 427.0159, Florida Statutes, and Rule 41-2, Florida Administrative Code.

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

1. The North Central Florida Regional Planning Council has the authority to enter into the above referenced grant agreement;
2. The North Central Florida Regional Planning Council authorizes the Chair to execute the Transportation Disadvantaged Trust Fund Grant agreement on behalf of the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council with the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged;
3. The North Central Florida Regional Planning Council authorizes the Executive Director to act in connection with the agreement and to provide such additional information as may be required by the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged;
4. The North Central Florida Regional Planning Council authorizes the Chair to sign any and all assurances, agreements or contracts which are required in connection with the Transportation Disadvantaged Trust Fund Grant Program;
5. The North Central Florida Regional Planning Council authorizes its Executive Director to sign the planning grant application form, any and all reimbursement invoices, warranties, certifications and other documents which may be required in connection with the agreement or subsequent agreements; and
6. This resolution shall be effective upon adoption.

APPROVED AND DULY ADOPTED by the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council, this 27th day of February 2025.

ATTEST:

NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA
REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

Scott R. Koons, Executive Director

Fletcher J. Hope Jr., Chair

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-07

A RESOLUTION OF THE NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF THE FISCAL YEAR 2025-26 GILCHRIST COUNTY TRANSPORTATION DISADVANTAGED PLANNING GRANT AGREEMENT WITH THE FLORIDA COMMISSION FOR THE TRANSPORTATION DISADVANTAGED

WHEREAS, in areas not covered by a metropolitan planning organization, regional planning councils are eligible for selection as designated official planning agencies in accordance with Rule 41-2.009, Florida Administrative Code;

WHEREAS, the designated official planning agency is responsible for Transportation Disadvantaged Program planning and providing the local transportation disadvantaged coordinating board with sufficient staff support and resources to enable the board to fulfill its responsibilities; and

WHEREAS, the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council has the authority to enter into the Fiscal Year 2025-26 Gilchrist County Transportation Disadvantaged Planning Grant agreement and to undertake a transportation disadvantaged service project as authorized by Section 427.0159, Florida Statutes, and Rule 41-2, Florida Administrative Code.

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

1. The North Central Florida Regional Planning Council has the authority to enter into the above referenced grant agreement;
2. The North Central Florida Regional Planning Council authorizes the Chair to execute the Transportation Disadvantaged Trust Fund Grant agreement on behalf of the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council with the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged;
3. The North Central Florida Regional Planning Council authorizes the Executive Director to act in connection with the agreement and to provide such additional information as may be required by the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged;
4. The North Central Florida Regional Planning Council authorizes the Chair to sign any and all assurances, agreements or contracts which are required in connection with the Transportation Disadvantaged Trust Fund Grant Program;
5. The North Central Florida Regional Planning Council authorizes its Executive Director to sign the planning grant application form, any and all reimbursement invoices, warranties, certifications and other documents which may be required in connection with the agreement or subsequent agreements; and
6. This resolution shall be effective upon adoption.

APPROVED AND DULY ADOPTED by the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council, this 27th day of February 2025.

ATTEST:

NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA
REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

Scott R. Koons, Executive Director

Fletcher J. Hope Jr., Chair

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-08

A RESOLUTION OF THE NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF THE FISCAL YEAR 2025-26 LAFAYETTE COUNTY TRANSPORTATION DISADVANTAGED PLANNING GRANT AGREEMENT WITH THE FLORIDA COMMISSION FOR THE TRANSPORTATION DISADVANTAGED

WHEREAS, in areas not covered by a metropolitan planning organization, regional planning councils are eligible for selection as designated official planning agencies in accordance with Rule 41-2.009, Florida Administrative Code;

WHEREAS, the designated official planning agency is responsible for Transportation Disadvantaged Program planning and providing the local transportation disadvantaged coordinating board with sufficient staff support and resources to enable the board to fulfill its responsibilities; and

WHEREAS, the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council has the authority to enter into the Fiscal Year 2025-26 Lafayette County Transportation Disadvantaged Planning Grant agreement and to undertake a transportation disadvantaged service project as authorized by Section 427.0159, Florida Statutes, and Rule 41-2, Florida Administrative Code.

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

1. The North Central Florida Regional Planning Council has the authority to enter into the above referenced grant agreement;
2. The North Central Florida Regional Planning Council authorizes the Chair to execute the Transportation Disadvantaged Trust Fund Grant agreement on behalf of the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council with the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged;
3. The North Central Florida Regional Planning Council authorizes the Executive Director to act in connection with the agreement and to provide such additional information as may be required by the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged;
4. The North Central Florida Regional Planning Council authorizes the Chair to sign any and all assurances, agreements or contracts which are required in connection with the Transportation Disadvantaged Trust Fund Grant Program;
5. The North Central Florida Regional Planning Council authorizes its Executive Director to sign the planning grant application form, any and all reimbursement invoices, warranties, certifications and other documents which may be required in connection with the agreement or subsequent agreements; and
6. This resolution shall be effective upon adoption.

APPROVED AND DULY ADOPTED by the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council, this 27th day of February 2025.

ATTEST:

NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA
REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

Scott R. Koons, Executive Director

Fletcher J. Hope Jr., Chair

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-09

A RESOLUTION OF THE NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF THE FISCAL YEAR 2025-26 LEVY COUNTY TRANSPORTATION DISADVANTAGED PLANNING GRANT AGREEMENT WITH THE FLORIDA COMMISSION FOR THE TRANSPORTATION DISADVANTAGED

WHEREAS, in areas not covered by a metropolitan planning organization, regional planning councils are eligible for selection as designated official planning agencies in accordance with Rule 41-2.009, Florida Administrative Code;

WHEREAS, the designated official planning agency is responsible for Transportation Disadvantaged Program planning and providing the local transportation disadvantaged coordinating board with sufficient staff support and resources to enable the board to fulfill its responsibilities; and

WHEREAS, the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council has the authority to enter into the Fiscal Year 2025-26 Levy County Transportation Disadvantaged Planning Grant agreement and to undertake a transportation disadvantaged service project as authorized by Section 427.0159, Florida Statutes, and Rule 41-2, Florida Administrative Code.

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

1. The North Central Florida Regional Planning Council has the authority to enter into the above referenced grant agreement;
2. The North Central Florida Regional Planning Council authorizes the Chair to execute the Transportation Disadvantaged Trust Fund Grant agreement on behalf of the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council with the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged;
3. The North Central Florida Regional Planning Council authorizes the Executive Director to act in connection with the agreement and to provide such additional information as may be required by the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged;
4. The North Central Florida Regional Planning Council authorizes the Chair to sign any and all assurances, agreements or contracts which are required in connection with the Transportation Disadvantaged Trust Fund Grant Program;
5. The North Central Florida Regional Planning Council authorizes its Executive Director to sign the planning grant application form, any and all reimbursement invoices, warranties, certifications and other documents which may be required in connection with the agreement or subsequent agreements; and
6. This resolution shall be effective upon adoption.

APPROVED AND DULY ADOPTED by the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council, this 27th day of February 2025.

ATTEST:

NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA
REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

Scott R. Koons, Executive Director

Fletcher J. Hope Jr., Chair

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-10

A RESOLUTION OF THE NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF THE FISCAL YEAR 2025-26 MADISON COUNTY TRANSPORTATION DISADVANTAGED PLANNING GRANT AGREEMENT WITH THE FLORIDA COMMISSION FOR THE TRANSPORTATION DISADVANTAGED

WHEREAS, in areas not covered by a metropolitan planning organization, regional planning councils are eligible for selection as designated official planning agencies in accordance with Rule 41-2.009, Florida Administrative Code;

WHEREAS, the designated official planning agency is responsible for Transportation Disadvantaged Program planning and providing the local transportation disadvantaged coordinating board with sufficient staff support and resources to enable the board to fulfill its responsibilities; and

WHEREAS, the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council has the authority to enter into the Fiscal Year 2025-26 Madison County Transportation Disadvantaged Planning Grant agreement and to undertake a transportation disadvantaged service project as authorized by Section 427.0159, Florida Statutes, and Rule 41-2, Florida Administrative Code.

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

1. The North Central Florida Regional Planning Council has the authority to enter into the above referenced grant agreement;
2. The North Central Florida Regional Planning Council authorizes the Chair to execute the Transportation Disadvantaged Trust Fund Grant agreement on behalf of the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council with the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged;
3. The North Central Florida Regional Planning Council authorizes the Executive Director to act in connection with the agreement and to provide such additional information as may be required by the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged;
4. The North Central Florida Regional Planning Council authorizes the Chair to sign any and all assurances, agreements or contracts which are required in connection with the Transportation Disadvantaged Trust Fund Grant Program;
5. The North Central Florida Regional Planning Council authorizes its Executive Director to sign the planning grant application form, any and all reimbursement invoices, warranties, certifications and other documents which may be required in connection with the agreement or subsequent agreements; and
6. This resolution shall be effective upon adoption.

APPROVED AND DULY ADOPTED by the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council, this 27th day of February 2025.

ATTEST:

NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA
REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

Scott R. Koons, Executive Director

Fletcher J. Hope Jr., Chair

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-11

A RESOLUTION OF THE NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF THE FISCAL YEAR 2025-26 UNION COUNTY TRANSPORTATION DISADVANTAGED PLANNING GRANT AGREEMENT WITH THE FLORIDA COMMISSION FOR THE TRANSPORTATION DISADVANTAGED

WHEREAS, in areas not covered by a metropolitan planning organization, regional planning councils are eligible for selection as designated official planning agencies in accordance with Rule 41-2.009, Florida Administrative Code;

WHEREAS, the designated official planning agency is responsible for Transportation Disadvantaged Program planning and providing the local transportation disadvantaged coordinating board with sufficient staff support and resources to enable the board to fulfill its responsibilities; and

WHEREAS, the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council has the authority to enter into the Fiscal Year 2025-26 Union County Transportation Disadvantaged Planning Grant agreement and to undertake a transportation disadvantaged service project as authorized by Section 427.0159, Florida Statutes, and Rule 41-2, Florida Administrative Code.

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

1. The North Central Florida Regional Planning Council has the authority to enter into the above referenced grant agreement;
2. The North Central Florida Regional Planning Council authorizes the Chair to execute the Transportation Disadvantaged Trust Fund Grant agreement on behalf of the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council with the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged;
3. The North Central Florida Regional Planning Council authorizes the Executive Director to act in connection with the agreement and to provide such additional information as may be required by the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged;
4. The North Central Florida Regional Planning Council authorizes the Chair to sign any and all assurances, agreements or contracts which are required in connection with the Transportation Disadvantaged Trust Fund Grant Program;
5. The North Central Florida Regional Planning Council authorizes its Executive Director to sign the planning grant application form, any and all reimbursement invoices, warranties, certifications and other documents which may be required in connection with the agreement or subsequent agreements; and
6. This resolution shall be effective upon adoption.

APPROVED AND DULY ADOPTED by the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council, this 27th day of February 2025.

ATTEST:

NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA
REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

Scott R. Koons, Executive Director

Fletcher J. Hope Jr., Chair



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February 20, 2025

TO: Council Members

FROM: Scott R. Koons, AICP, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Transportation Disadvantaged Program Local Coordinating Board Appointment

RECOMMENDATION:

Appoint Commissioner Leo Mobley the Local Elected Official Representative for Suwannee County on the Columbia, Hamilton and Suwannee Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board.

BACKGROUND:

According to Rule 41-2.012 of the Florida Administrative Code, the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council, serving as the Designated Official Planning Agency, is responsible for appointing members to the local Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Boards. It is recommended Commissioner Leo Mobley be appointed the Suwannee County Local Elected Official on the Columbia, Hamilton and Suwannee Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board.

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

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February 20, 2025

TO: Council Members

FROM: Fletcher J. Hope Jr., Chair

SUBJECT: Resolution of Appreciation - Rocky Ford

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve the attached resolution of appreciation for Rocky Ford.

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, Rocky Ford has been representing Columbia County on the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council since January 2023;

WHEREAS, Rocky Ford 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 Rocky Ford 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 Rocky Ford.

Fletcher J. Hope Jr., Chair

ATTEST:

Jhelecia Hawkins, Secretary

ADOPTED BY THE NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL AT THEIR MEETING
OF FEBRUARY 27, 2025.



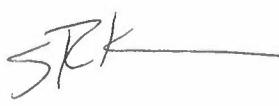


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February 20, 2025

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 Travis Land.

BACKGROUND:

The attached resolution of appreciation is regarding Florida's Transportation Disadvantaged Program established by Chapter 427, Florida Statutes. Commissioner Travis Land served as the Suwannee County Local Elected Official on the Columbia, Hamilton and Suwannee 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 Travis Land has served as the Suwannee County Local Elected Official on the Columbia, Hamilton and Suwannee Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board since January 2021; and

WHEREAS, Commissioner Travis Land ably discharged the duties as the Suwannee County Local Elected Official Columbia, Hamilton and Suwannee 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 Travis Land for dedicated service rendered to the Columbia, Hamilton and Suwannee Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board and concern for the transportation disadvantaged needs of Columbia, Hamilton and Suwannee 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 Travis Land.

Fletcher J. Hope Jr., Chair

ADOPTED BY THE NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

February 27, 2025

Date



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February 20, 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 Columbia County Commissioner Rocky Ford and Levy County Commissioner Desiree Mills to the Middle and Lower Suwannee River and Withlacoochee River 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 Columbia County Board of County Commissioners has nominated County Commissioner Rocky Ford replacing former County Commissioner Ronald Williams and the Levy County Board of County Commissioners has nominated County Commissioner Desiree Mills replacing former County Commissioner John Meeks to serve on the Middle and Lower Suwannee River and Withlacoochee River Task Force.

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

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February 20, 2025

TO: Council Members

FROM: Scott R. Koons, AICP, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Resolution No. 2025-12 Recognizing 100th Anniversary of Gilchrist County

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt the attached resolution recognizing the 100th Anniversary of Gilchrist County.

BACKGROUND:

Gilchrist County, Florida's newest county, was originally part Alachua County and was formed on December 4, 1925. In recognition of the 100th Anniversary of the establishment of Gilchrist County, the attached resolution is recommended for approval by the Council.

The County was named for Governor Albert W. Gilchrist who served from 1909 to 1913. During its development, the economic base of the County was farming and the timber industry and the economic base continues to be based on agriculture and silviculture.

In 1838, during the Second Seminole War, Fort Fanning was established on the east bank of the Suwannee River and served as an important river crossing and supply depot. Today, the County is a tourist destination featuring natural resources of the Santa Fe River and the Suwannee River, and fresh water springs where the County is the "Springs Capital of the World."

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

Attachment

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RESOLUTION NO. 2025-12

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

WHEREAS, Gilchrist County, Florida's newest county, was formed on December 4, 1925 and was originally part of Alachua County; and

WHEREAS, Gilchrist County, was named for Governor Albert W. Gilchrist who served as Florida's governor from 1909 to 1913; and

WHEREAS, during its development, the economic base of the County was farming and the timber industry and the economic base continues to be based on agriculture and silviculture; and

WHEREAS, in 1838, during the Second Seminole War, Fort Fanning was established on the east bank of the Suwannee River and served as an important river crossing and supply depot; and

WHEREAS, today, Gilchrist County is a tourist destination that features the natural resources of the Suwannee River and Santa Fe River, and freshwater springs where the County is the "Springs Capital of the World."

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

DULY ADOPTED by the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council this 27th day of February 2025.

NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA
REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

Attest:

Scott R. Koons, Executive Director

Fletcher J. Hope Jr., Chair



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February 20, 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., February 27, 2025. 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

- #59–Alachua County Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment (FC No. 24-1ESR)
- #60–Alachua County Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (FC No. 25-1ESR)
- #61–Northeast Florida Strategic Regional Policy Plan Evaluation and Appraisal
- #62–Town of White Springs Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (FC No. 25-1ER)

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).

v:\chouse\meeting\chair reports\2025\chairreport.270225.docx



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February 20, 2025

TO: Council Members

FROM: Scott R. Koons, AICP, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Florida Regional Councils Association Monthly Activity Report

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 January 2025 Monthly Activity Report 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: January 2025

ASSOCIATION MANAGEMENT

- Prepared the Agenda for the January EDAC meeting and Winter Policy Board meeting. Created the PowerPoint presentation for the Policy Board meeting and integrated slides prepared by RPC staff that highlighted recent programs and projects.
- Hosted the January EDAC meeting in Tallahassee at the Apalachee Regional Planning Council.
- Managed logistics and hosted FRCA's Winter Policy Board meeting at the AC Marriot in Tallahassee.
- Finalized the accounting transition – on behalf of the EDAC and Policy Board, I would like to thank ARPC Executive Director Chirs Rietow and his staff for supporting FRCA and managing our bookkeeping for many years!
- Monthly meeting with FRCA's Bookkeeper and EDAC Treasurer.
- Received unanimous support from the Policy Board for FRCA's new Bylaws, aligned with our Articles of Incorporation, and recommendation for nonprofit designation.
- Submitted application to the IRS to designate FRCA as a 501c4 nonprofit Association.
- Built a new website for FRCA and Newsletter template, that will be unveiled in early February.
- Attended NARC meeting and hosted a special EDAC meeting to discuss federal funding.

RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT/CAPACITY BUILDING and OUTREACH

- Hosted individual meetings with the EDA/ERSF Team and eight of our RPCs that were impacted by Hurricanes Debbie, Helene and Milton.
- Attended Florida Regional Resilience Collaborative Coordinators Forum
- Continued to contact FRCA Partners to provide update on FRCA's new Executive Director and organizational structure.
- Worked with Central Florida RPC to finalize 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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February 20, 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 February 2025 Scorecard.

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

Attachment

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State of Florida Metrics

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

Florida FutureCast

FLORIDA POPULATION 02/18/2025

23,465,094



JOB CHANGE

Jobs Year Over Year Change

147,900

(Gain)

Growth Rate

1.5%

(Positive)

View Statewide Heat Map

Net New Jobs Needed by 2030

1.45M



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

393,841

(Increasing)

377,000

Unemployed Persons (Increasing)

96

Unemployed People per 100 Jobs



UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

3.4%

(Unchanged)

View Statewide Heat Map

Jobs Year Over Year Change

147,900

View Statewide Heat Map



STATE OF FLORIDA VISITORS

\$131.0

Billion Visitor Spending

142.9

Million Visitors



STATE HOUSING STARTS & SALES

8,786

Starts (Declining)

20,784

Sales (Improving)



POVERTY RATE

12.6%

(Better)

View Statewide Heat Map



CONSUMER SENTIMENT

86.9

(Improving)



HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE

89.7%

(Improving)

View Statewide Heat Map



SALES TAX REVENUE

\$3.490

Billion per Month (Declining)



VOTER PARTICIPATION

79%

(Improving)



RIGHT / WRONG DIRECTION

53%/39%



LAND IN CONSERVATION

31%



STATE HOUSING STARTS & SALES

\$415,000

Median Price (Increasing)



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!



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

8,786

Starts (Declining)

20,784

Sales (Improving)

\$415,000

Median Price (Increasing)



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

\$1,524

(Increasing)

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Community Development
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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

Business Climate & Competitiveness

Click any metric to get more information!



INFLATION RATE

3.0%

National (Increasing)

2.8%

Southern Region (Unchanged)



CONSUMER
SENTIMENT

86.9

(Improving)



CEO RANK

2nd

(Unchanged)



STATE LEGAL
CLIMATE RANKING

46th

(Unchanged)

Top 12

2030 Goal



SALES TAX
REVENUE

\$3.490

Billion per Month (Declining)



BUSINESS TAX
CLIMATE

4th

#1

2030 Goal



OPEN JOBS

393,841

(Increasing)

377,000

Unemployed Persons
(Increasing)

96

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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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

100,001



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

\$385.8
Billion Exposure

936,182
Policies



UNDERFUNDED
STATE PENSION

\$1120.0
Million (Increasing)

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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!





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February 20, 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 called a Special Legislative Session that began on January 27, 2025. The Special Session was scheduled to address illegal immigration, condominium reform, hurricane recovery and constitutional ballot petition initiative reform. The Senate President and the House of Representatives Speaker called a Special Legislative Session that also began on January 27, 2025 and addressed illegal immigration. The Senate President and the House of Representatives Speaker called another Special Legislative Session that began on February 11, 2025 that also addressed illegal immigration.

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



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February 20, 2025

TO: Council Members
FROM: Scott Koons, AICP, Executive Director
SUBJECT: North Central Florida Legislative Priorities

Please find attached the legislative priorities and appropriations project requests of local governments in the north central Florida region. The legislative priorities and appropriations project requests are listed alphabetically by county along with the respective municipalities located within each of the counties.

The north central Florida legislative priorities will be submitted the north central Florida Legislative Delegation for consideration during the 2025 Legislative Session.

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

Attachment

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North Central Florida Local Government Legislative Priorities 2025

February 27, 2025





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North Central Florida Local Government Legislative Priorities 2025

North Central Florida Regional Planning Council
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352.955.2200

February 27, 2025



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Introduction.

The North Central Florida Regional Planning Council is an association of local governments. The Council, in partnership with economic development organizations and local governments, 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.

The Council administers a variety of state and federal programs for north central Florida, including Alachua, Bradford, Columbia, Dixie, Gilchrist, Hamilton, Lafayette, Levy, Madison, Suwannee, Taylor and Union Counties. Programs include development of a strategic regional policy plan; technical assistance to local governments in development of comprehensive plans, land development regulations and grant management; and administration of hazardous materials programs and economic development programs. In addition, the Council staffs the North Central Florida Local Emergency Planning Committee, the North Central Florida Regional Hazardous Materials Response Team and The Original Florida Tourism Task Force. The Council's offices are located in Gainesville. More information about the Council can be found at ncfrpc.org.

The Council has complied the legislative priorities and appropriations project requests of local governments in the north central Florida region. The legislative priorities and appropriations project requests are listed on the following pages alphabetically by county along with the respective municipalities located within each of the counties.



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Section 1: Alachua County.

Alachua County

Appropriations Project Requests

1. Newnans Lake Restoration, Phase Two.....\$1,500,000
2. State Road 24/Archer Road Project Development Environment Study, Phase Two...2,600,000
3. County Jail Improvements -Capital Efficiency Analysis, Phase One.....225,000

City of Gainesville

Advocacy Issues

1. Oppose efforts to preempt municipalities' ability to adopt policies to benefit their citizenry.
2. Support the full funding of the Sadowski Housing Trust Fund programs.
3. Continue recurring state Homeless Staffing Grant and Challenge Grant program.
4. Support funding for grant/cost sharing programs for infrastructure.
5. Support funding for grant/cost sharing programs to improve cybersecurity.
6. Increase resources for mental health, social and support services.
7. Support legislation that facilitates municipal annexation of unincorporated enclaves.
8. Support efforts to create the Florida Historic Tax Credit.
9. Encourage efforts to improve food security.
10. Include cities to receive state programmatic funding based on population.

Appropriations Project Requests

1. State Road 24 Corridor Economic Redevelopment (NE 8th Avenue/Waldo Road).....\$350,000
2. Regional Workforce Corridor Extension (Southwest 47th Avenue).....700,000
3. Southwest Public Safety Services Center.....1,170,500
4. Law Enforcement Property and Evidence Building.....985,000
5. Gainesville Technology Entrepreneurship Center and Community Center.....1,025,000

City of Archer

Appropriations Project Requests

1. Wastewater System Improvements.....\$5,000,000



City of Hawthorne

Appropriations Project Requests

1. Sewer Lift Station Rehabilitation.....\$1,700,000

City of Newberry

Appropriations Project Requests

1. Electric Distribution Downtown Underground Circuit Resiliency\$600,000
2. Emergency Responder Training Facility.....500,000



Bradford County

Appropriations Project Requests

1. Courthouse Americans with Disabilities Act Renovations\$2,000,000
2. Fire Engine620,000
3. Fire Tanker635,000
4. Keystone Heights Airport Authority - State Road 100 & Access Connector Road4,600,000
5. Concerned Citizens - Robinson Jenkins Ellerson Center Renovation (Phase II)900,119

Town of Brooker

Appropriations Project Requests

1. Fire Station, Vehicles and Equipment (Phase II)\$1,850,000

City of Starke

Appropriations Project Requests

1. Water/Wastewater Utilities to Alternate U.S. 301 & State Road 16 Interchange....\$2,000,000



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Section 3: Columbia County.

Columbia County

Advocacy Issues

1. Increase Fiscally Constrained County Threshold and Make Rural County Definitions Consistent.
2. Enact Lake Shore Hospital Authority Dissolution Special Act.

Appropriations Project Requests

1. Suwannee Valley Communications Tower\$2,300,000
2. Columbia County School Board - 26 Class B Bi-Directional Amplifiers in Schools3,500,000
3. North Florida Water Utilities Authority-I-75 & U.S. 41/441 Interchange Water/Wastewater...1,900,000

City of Lake City

Appropriations Project Requests

1. City Hall Complex.....\$13,400,000
2. Frontline Fire Engine.....900,000



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Section 4: Dixie County.

Dixie County

Appropriations Project Requests

1. Sheriff's Office Evidence Building\$1,300,000
2. Tax Collector's Office Addition400,000

Town of Cross City

Appropriations Project Requests

1. Public Safety Building (Planning and Design).....\$450,000
2. Wastewater Treatment Plant (Planning and Design).....350,000



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Section 5: Gilchrist County.

Gilchrist County

Appropriations Project Requests

1. Agriculture Extension Office/Complex Phase 2..... \$1,700,000
2. Solid Waste Facility..... 4,221,652
3. Fire Pumper Truck.....975,000
4. Fire Mini Pumper Truck.....400,000

City of Trenton

Appropriations Project Requests

1. Fire Department Building Renovation.....\$905,000



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Section 6: Hamilton County.

Hamilton County

Appropriations Project Requests

1. Potable Water Supply Filtration System at I-75 and State Road 6 Interchange.....\$500,000
2. Emergency Operations Center.....6,400,000
3. Gibson Park Improvements.....987,235
4. Crossroads Fire Station.....1,869,160

City of Jasper

Appropriations Project Requests

1. Public Safety Building\$1,000,000



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Section 7: Lafayette County.

Lafayette County

Appropriations Project Requests

1. County Multi-Purpose Building (Location, Design and Site Preparation)\$1,500,000
2. Roosevelt Circle Area Flooding Relief1,385,000
3. County Jail Renovation900,000



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Section 8: Levy County.

Levy County

Advocacy Issues

1. Access to rural healthcare, including emergency medical care.
2. Property insurance relief in rural communities impacted by hurricanes.
3. Municipal water and sewer infrastructure.

Appropriations Project Request

1. County Government Complex Generator\$500,000

Town of Bronson

Appropriations Project Request

1. Septic to Sewer Phase One Project (Phase 3).....\$1,300,000



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Section 9: Madison County.

Madison County

Advocacy Issues

1. Continuation of fiscally constrained counties with a review of the distribution formula.
2. Increase funding for Small County Road Programs.
3. Revenue for electric vehicles registered in fiscally constrained counties.
4. Increase Emergency Management Preparedness Agreement funding.
5. Recurring funding to support law enforcement , including detention deputies, in fiscally constrained counties.
6. Make storm debris pick-up and removal a standard state practice for fiscally constrained counties.

Appropriations Project Requests

- | | |
|---|-------------|
| 1. Emergency Operations Center and/or Land Acquisition..... | \$2,000,000 |
| 2. Two Ambulance Units..... | 675,000 |
| 3. Courthouse Battery Back-up Power | \$75,000 |
| 4. Courthouse Window Replacement | 175,000 |



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Section 10: Suwannee County.

Suwannee County

Appropriations Project Requests

1. Regional Emergency Shelter Utility Extension Planning and Design.....\$1,000,000
2. County Catalyst Industrial Park Potable Water Improvements - Main Loop No.1.....1,000,000
3. Regional Emergency Shelter Master Planning and Design.....5,000,000
4. North Florida Water Utilities Authority-County Catalyst Industrial Park Water/Stormwater...1,900,000

City of Live Oak

Appropriations Project Requests

1. Fire Truck.....\$1,000,000
2. Water Well.....2,500,000



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Section 11: Taylor County.

Taylor County

Appropriations Project Requests

1.	Public Safety Complex	\$7,500,000
2.	Keaton Beach Fire Station.....	2,000,000
3.	Courthouse Air Handlers	1,500,000
4.	Agricultural and Exposition Center	1,000,000
5.	Forest Capital Museum State Park Improvements.....	550,000
6.	Shady Grove Fire Station	1,000,000
7.	Animal Control Shelter	500,000
8.	Fire Station No. 1	2,000,000

City of Perry

Appropriations Project Requests

1.	Fire Station (Planning and Design)	\$300,000
2.	Two Garbage Trucks	810,000
3.	Duval Street Repaving (Small County Outreach Program)	163,892
4.	Willow Street Repaving (Small County Outreach Program)	170,075
5.	Bishop Boulevard Repaving (Small County Outreach Program)	242,663
6.	Goodman Lift Station Replacement	1,263,263
7.	Water and Gas Automated Meter Reading Device Replacement	2,600,000
8.	Railroad Depot Roof Replacement	797,055



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Section 12: Union County.

Union County

Appropriations Project Requests

1. Courthouse Renovation.....\$1,400,000



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North Central Florida Regional Planning Council

North Central Florida Local Government Legislative Priorities and Appropriations Project Request Team

* Scott R. Koons, AICP, Executive Director

** Lauren Yeatter, AICP, Senior Planner

* Primary Responsibility
** Secondary Responsibility

North Central Florida
Regional Planning Council

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February 20, 2025

TO: Council Members

FROM: Scott Koons, AICP, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Federal Disaster Economic Recovery Support Function

The United States Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration has a long history of successfully supporting disaster recovery and resiliency efforts. The role of the Administration in disaster recovery is to facilitate the timely and effective delivery of federal economic development assistance to support long-term community economic recovery planning and project implementation, redevelopment and resilience. The Administration is uniquely positioned to coordinate federal support for regional disaster recovery efforts in partnership with economic development districts, such as the Council, and other stakeholders in designated impact areas.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency has established the National Disaster Recovery Framework to facilitate coordinated interagency capacities across all disaster-related mission areas: Prevention, Protection, Mitigation, Response, and Recovery. The Administration serves as the coordinating agency for the Economic Recovery Support Function. In this capacity, the Administration provides leadership, coordination and oversight for primary and support agencies, all of which share a role in the provision of grants, loans, training and other forms of assistance to support economic recovery efforts in disaster-impacted communities and regions.

On February 10, 2025, the Council co-hosted a north central Florida regional listening session, along with the United States Economic Development Administration at Big Bend Technical College in Perry. Federal representatives from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, United States Department of Health and Human Services, United States Department of Housing and Urban Development, United States Department of Interior, United States Small Business Administration, United States Army Corps of Engineers, and FloridaCommerce were present to hear first-hand from local government officials and economic development organizations about the impacts from Hurricane Helene and Hurricane Milton.

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

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February 20, 2025

TO: Council Members
FROM: Scott Koons, AICP, Executive Director
SUBJECT: Rural Infrastructure Fund Grant Awards

On January 10, 2025, \$20 million through the Rural Infrastructure Fund program was awarded to 17 rural communities to strengthen public infrastructure and expand job opportunities for employers and families in rural communities.

Administered by the FloridaCommerce, the Rural Infrastructure Fund program facilitates the planning, preparing and financing of infrastructure projects in rural communities. Funded projects encourage job creation, capital investment and the strengthening and diversification of rural economies.

Strategic investments in small and rural communities through programs like the Rural Infrastructure Fund and the Florida Job Growth Grant Fund provide regional benefits that are critical to strengthening communities for generations to come.

A total of \$6,475,684 in funding was awarded to the following local government in the north central Florida region through the Rural Infrastructure Fund program.

- **Dixie County (\$300,000)** to develop a master plan to improve the Cross City Airport primary access road.
- **Cedar Key Water and Sewer District (\$2,500,000)** to continue rehabilitating 17 lift stations following Hurricane Idalia, which caused significant flooding and operational failures..
- **Town of Cross City (\$620,000)** to evaluate and improve the three potable wells, potentially adding a fourth, to maintain and support the water plant.
- **Town of Lee (\$1,100,000)** to complete construction and construction engineering inspection for upgrades to the waterline that will service the Madison County Industrial Park. This project is expected to create 40-50 new jobs.
- **City of Live Oak (\$559,365)** to rehabilitate an existing lift station with new equipment and infrastructure to increase capacity, improve reliability and support growth.
- **City of Perry (\$1,396,319)** to demolish and rebuild a new lift station to help prevent sanitary sewer overflows and mitigate risks from the use of obsolete equipment.
- If you have any questions concerning this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

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