



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

MEETING NOTICE

NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

There will be a meeting of the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council on **April 24, 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/114572845>

DIAL IN NUMBER: Toll Free: 1.877.309.2073

ACCESS CODE: 114-572-845

MEETING STARTS AT 7:00 P.M.

*Please email koons@ncfrpc.org by April 23, 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.***

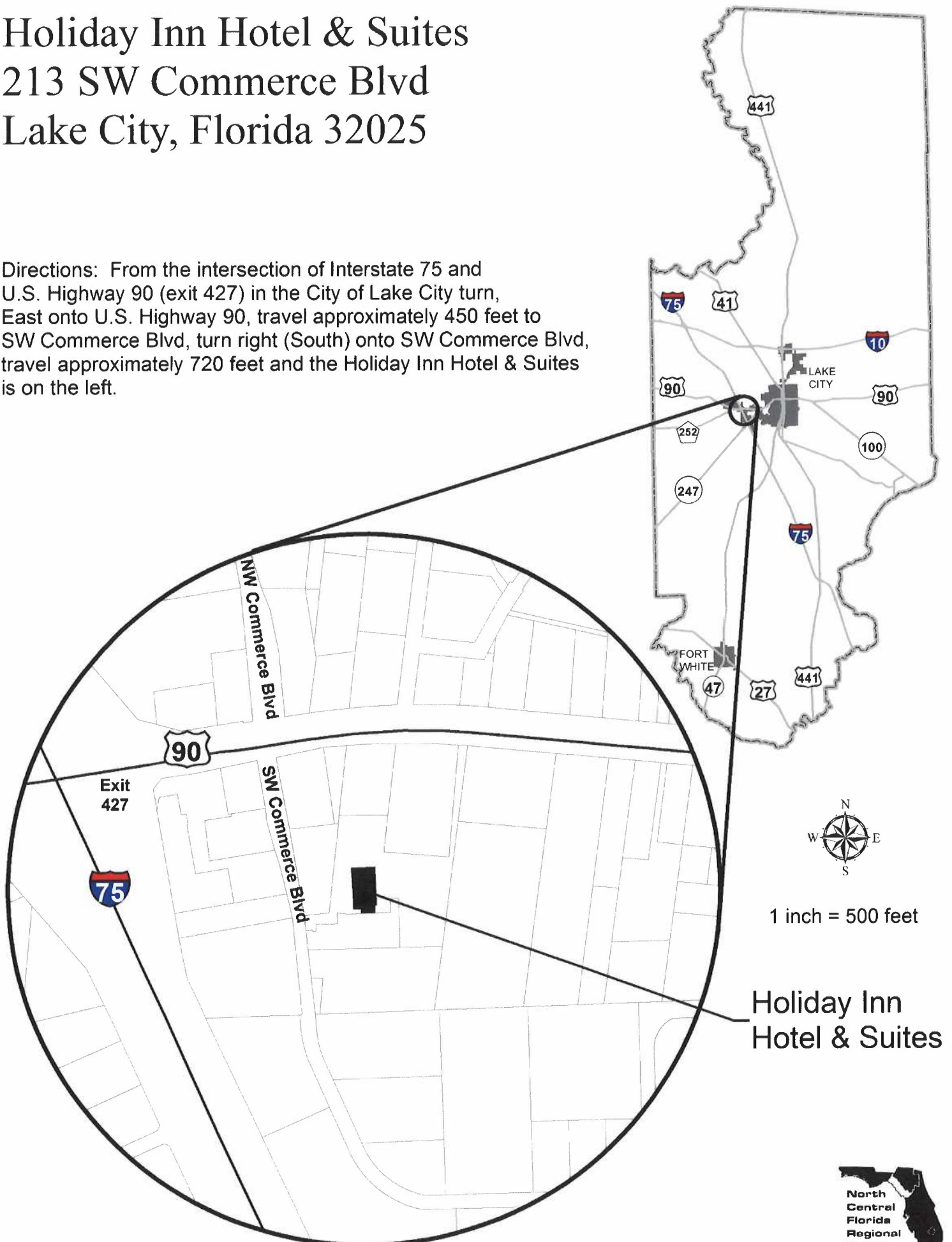
Please be advised that the Council meeting packet is posted on the Council website at <http://ncfrpc.org> (click on Upcoming Meetings and Meeting Packets, then click on North Central Florida Regional Planning Council Full Packet.)

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.



Holiday Inn
Hotel & Suites





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

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

April 24, 2025
7:00 p.m.

Page

I.	INVOCATION	
II.	PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE	
III.	INTRODUCTIONS	
IV.	APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA	
*	A. Minutes - March 27, 2025	5
*	B. Interagency Agreement with East Central Florida Regional Planning Council to Participate in Regional Joint Mitigation Resiliency Project Amendment 3	19
*	C. Transportation Disadvantaged Program Community Transportation Coordinator Designation for Levy County	21
*	D. Transportation Disadvantaged Program Local Coordinating Board Appointments	27
*	E. Transportation Disadvantaged Program Local Coordinating Board Chair Appointment Columbia Hamilton Suwannee Counties	29
V.	APPROVAL OF REGULAR AGENDA	
VI.	PRESENTATION - North Central Florida Economic Development Strategies	
VII.	CHAIR REPORT -	
*	A. Resolution of Appreciation	
	1. Edward Potts, City of Alachua	31

Page

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Executive Committee -

- | | | |
|---|---|-----------|
| * | 1. Proclamation Proclaiming May 4-10, 2025 Travel and Tourism Week | 35 |
| * | 2. Proclamation Proclaiming May 11-17, 2025 Economic Development Week | 39 |

- | | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|-----------|
| * | B. Clearinghouse Committee | 43 |
|---|-----------------------------------|-----------|

Committee Level Comprehensive Plan Review Items

1. #67 - City of Newberry Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment (FC No. 24-2ESR)

IX. EX-OFFICIO MEMBER REPORTS

X. PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

XI. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

- | | | |
|---|---|-----------|
| * | A. Florida Regional Councils Association Monthly Activity Report | 45 |
| * | B. Florida Chamber Foundation Scorecard | 49 |
| * | C. Legislative Report | 59 |

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 - May 22, 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

March 27, 2025
7:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT
IN PERSON

Anthony Adams, Lafayette County
Mary Alford, Alachua County
Patricia Bouie Hutchinson, City of Hawthorne
James Carter Jr., City of Lake City
Rick Davis, Madison County
Thomas Demps, Taylor County
Jhelecia Hawkins, City of Jasper
Fletcher Hope Jr., City of Archer
James Howell, Hamilton County
Melissa McNeal, Union County
Maurice Perkins, Suwannee County
Daniel Riddick, Bradford County
Jody Stephenson, Dixie County
Kenrick Thomas, Gilchrist County
Judy Townsend, City of Madison

MEMBERS PRESENT
VIA COMMUNICATIONS
MEDIA TECHNOLOGY
(FOR QUORUM)

Edward Book, City of Gainesville
Charles Chestnut IV, Alachua County
Frank Davis, City of Live Oak
Tony Mazon, City of Newberry
Desiree Mills, Levy County
Janice Mortimer, City of Starke
Kevin Parnell, Columbia County
Edward Potts, City of Alachua
Joseph Stephenson, City of Lake Butler

MEMBERS PRESENT
VIA COMMUNICATIONS
MEDIA TECHNOLOGY
(NOT FOR QUORUM)

None

MEDIA TECHNOLOGY
VIA COMMUNICATIONS
NON-VOTING DELEGATE PRESENT

Kristyn Adkins, City of High Springs

MEMBERS ABSENT

Wayne Bloodsworth Jr., City of High Springs
Ken Cornell, Alachua County
Louie Davis, City of Waldo
Desmon Duncan-Walker, City of Gainesville
Shirlie Hampton, City of Perry
James Ingle, City of Gainesville
Lorene Thomas, Dixie County

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS PRESENT

Austin Burgess, Florida Fish and Wildlife
Conservation Commission- In-Person
Kathryn Craver, Florida Department of
Environmental Protection - Virtual
Ben Glass, Suwannee River
Water Management District - Virtual
David Tyler, Florida Department of
Transportation - Virtual

COUNCIL ATTORNEY PRESENT

Jonathan Wershow - Virtual

OTHERS PRESENT

Pamela Gruver - In-Person
Jonathan Jenkins, In-Person
Stew Lilker - In-Person
Paul Martin - In-Person
Sheridan Morby - Virtual

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; 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 - February 27, 2025

B. Amendment to Memorandum of Agreement with Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council
Concerning Regional Economic Modeling, Inc.

C. Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board Membership Certifications

V. APPROVAL OF REGULAR AGENDA

Chair Hope asked that the regular agenda be approved.

ACTION: Vice-Mayor Bouie Hutchinson made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Adams, to approve the regular agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

VI. GUEST SPEAKER - Sheridan Morby, Senior Research Economist
Florida Chamber Foundation

Scott Koons, Executive Director, introduced Sheridan Morby, Senior Research Economist, Florida Chamber Foundation. Ms. Morby made a presentation concerning the Florida Chamber Foundation, and economic trends in Florida and the north central Florida region. Chair Hope thanked Ms. Morby for her presentation.

VII. CHAIR REPORT

A. New Member

Chair Hope welcomed the following new member to the Council.

1. Judy Townsend, City of Madison

B. Resolution of Appreciation

1. Byron Poore, City of Madison

ACTION: Commissioner Demps made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Alford, to approve a Resolution of Appreciation for former Council member, Byron Poore, City of Madison. The motion carried unanimously.

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

ACTION: Commissioner Alford made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Rick Davis, to ratify the appointment by the Chair of Commissioner Melissa McNeal, Union County to the Middle and Lower Suwannee River and Withlacoochee River Task Force. The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Rick Davis, Chair, Middle and Lower Suwannee River and Withlacoochee River Task Force provided an update concerning Task Force activities. He reported that he and Scott Koons, Executive Director, will be meeting with City of Valdosta officials to receive an update concerning wastewater system improvements by the City.

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORT

A. Executive Committee -

1. Proclamation Proclaiming April 2025 County Government Month

Chair Hope stated that the Executive Committee recommends that the Council adopt a proclamation proclaiming April 2025 as County Government Month in the north central Florida region. He further stated that County Government Month is celebrated each April by counties across the country to raise public awareness and understanding about the roles and responsibilities of county government.

ACTION: Vice-Mayor Bouie Hutchinson made the motion, with a second by Councilwoman Hawkins, to adopt the proclamation proclaiming April 2025 as County Government Month, which has been attached hereto and made a part of these minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

2. Proclamation Proclaiming April 2025 Springs Protection Awareness Month

Chair Hope stated that the Executive Committee recommends that the Council adopt a proclamation proclaiming April 2025 as Springs Protection Awareness Month in the north central Florida region. He further stated that Springs Protection Awareness Month is a month-long outreach initiative by water management districts to bring attention and awareness to one of Florida's most critical ecosystems and what is being done to protect them.

ACTION: Commissioner Perkins made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Alford, to adopt the proclamation proclaiming April 2025 as Springs Protection Awareness Month, which has been attached hereto and made a part of these minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Proclamation Proclaiming April 2025 Water Conservation Month

Chair Hope stated that the Executive Committee recommends that the Council adopt a proclamation proclaiming April 2025 as Water Conservation Month in the north central Florida region. He further stated that, during Water Conservation Month each April, water management districts join with local governments to raise awareness about the importance of water conservation and the ways we can reduce our water use all year long.

ACTION: Commissioner Demps made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Perkins, to adopt the proclamation proclaiming April 2025 as Water Conservation Month, which has been attached hereto and made a part of these minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

4. Proclamation Proclaiming April 21-25, 2025 Community Development Week

Chair Hope stated that the Executive Committee recommends that the Council adopt a proclamation proclaiming April 21-25, 2025 as Community Development Week in the north central Florida region. He further stated that Community Development Week is to bring attention to the Community Development Block Grant Program and the HOME Investment Partnerships Program.

ACTION: Commissioner Perkins made the motion, with a second by Vice-Mayor Bouie Hutchinson, to adopt the proclamation proclaiming April 21-25, 2025 as Community Development Week, which has been attached hereto and made a part of these minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

5. Resolution No. 2025-13 Concerning Senate Bill 1264 and House Bill 1125

Chair Hope stated that the Executive Committee recommends that the Council adopt Resolution No. 2025-13 Concerning Senate Bill 1264 and House Bill 1125.

ACTION: Commissioner Perkins made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Demps, to adopt Resolution No. 2025-13 Concerning Senate Bill 1264 and House Bill 1125. The motion carried unanimously.

B. Clearinghouse Committee - Committee Level Comprehensive Plan Review Items

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

#63 - City of Gainesville Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment (FC No. 24-2ESR)

#64 - Taylor County Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment (FC No. 25-1ESR)

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

ACTION: Vice-Mayor Bouie Hutchinson made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Demps, to approve the Clearinghouse Committee recommendations concerning Item #63 - City of Gainesville Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment (FC No. 24-2ESR; and Item #64 - Taylor County Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (FC No. 25-1ESR. The motion carried unanimously.

C. Program Committee - 2025-26 Overall Program Design

Commissioner Alford, Vice-Chair of the Council and Program Committee Chair, gave the Program Committee Report. She reported that the Program Committee met in person and virtually via communications media technology earlier in the evening to review a draft of the Overall Program Design for the coming year. Commissioner Alford stated that this document is to be used as a basis for the development of a budget and is also to give instruction to staff as to the work which is to be done during the next year. She noted that there are no changes proposed in the Overall Program Design which include new programs not previously discussed and/or approved by the Council. Finally, Commissioner Alford stated the Committee anticipates recommending the Overall Program Design to the Council for adoption at the May 22, 2025 Council meeting.

IX. EX-OFFICIO MEMBER REPORTS

Kathryn Craver, Outreach/Communications Director, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Northeast District, reported that the Northeast District will conduct Navigating the Permitting and Compliance Process Workshop concerning environmental resource permits on April 30, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. at the Northeast District Office in Jacksonville.

Pamela Gruver, Land Use Planning Supervisor, Office of Conservation Planning Services, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, discussed the Commission's landowner assistance program and land use planning program that address wildlife habitat protection and species conservation.

Ben Glass, Administration Office Chief, Suwannee River Water Management District, thanked the Council for adopting proclamations proclaiming April 2025 as Springs Protection Awareness Month and April 2025 Water Conservation Month.

X. PUBLIC COMMENTS - None

XI. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

A. Florida Regional Councils Association Monthly Activity Report

Mr. Koons reported that the Florida Regional Councils Association is the statewide organization of the ten regional planning councils. He stated that the Association strengthens Florida's regional planning councils, partners with government and the business community to enhance regional economic prosperity and improves the consistency and quality of regional planning councils programs to ensure they add value to state, regional and local initiatives. Mr. Koons also stated that the Association strives to accomplish these goals by carrying out the activities listed in the February 2025 activity report included in the Council meeting packet. He reviewed the activities listed in the February 2025 report.

B. Florida Chamber Foundation Scorecard™

Mr. Koons reported that the Florida Chamber Foundation has developed the Florida Scorecard™ to provide Florida leaders the metrics needed to secure Florida's future. He stated that the Florida Chamber Foundation's objective to developing a 20-year, statewide strategic plan requires a commitment to measuring our current status and progress toward the stated goals of the Six Pillars 20-year Strategic Plan. Mr. Koons noted that the Scorecard reports metrics for each of the following Six Pillars: Talent and Supply Education, Innovation and Economic Development, Infrastructure and Growth Leadership, Business Climate and Competitiveness, Civic and Governance Systems, and Quality of Life and Quality Places. He reviewed the March 2025 Scorecard™ that was included in the Council meeting packet.

C. Legislative Report

Mr. Koons stated the 2025 Legislature Session convened on March 4, 2025 and is scheduled to adjourn on May 2, 2025. Mr. Koons reported on the status of House Bill 1125 concerning regional planning councils and Senate Bill 1264 concerning regional planning councils.

D. North Central Florida Local Emergency Planning Committee
Full Scale Hazardous Materials Exercise

Mr. Koons reported that the North Central Florida Local Emergency Planning Committee will be conducting a Full Scale Hazardous Materials Exercise on May 8, 2025 in Suwannee County. He noted that the exercise will consist of a simulated railroad tanker car derailment.

XII. COUNCIL MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS -

Commissioner Alford reported that Alachua County is hosting the World Masters Athletics Championships 2025 from March 23, 2025 to March 30, 2025 at the Alachua County Sports and Event Center, and the West End Community Park in Gainesville.

Chair Hope reported that the Florida Department of Environmental Protection has awarded the City of Archer a \$13 million grant for construction of the City Wastewater System Phase 1.

XIII. NEXT MEETING

Chair Hope stated that the next Council meeting is scheduled to be held on April 24, 2025.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

Fletcher J. Hope Jr., Chair

4/24/25
Date

Resolution


OF APPRECIATION

WHEREAS, Byron Poore has been representing the City of Madison on the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council since January 2024;

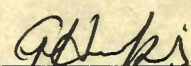
WHEREAS, Byron Poore has ably discharged the duties of a representative on the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the membership and staff of the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council do hereby express their appreciation to Byron Poore 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 Byron Poore.



Fletcher J. Hope Jr., Chair



Jhelecia Hawkins, Secretary

ATTEST:

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





PROCLAMATION

PROCLAIMING THE MONTH OF APRIL 2025 AS COUNTY GOVERNMENT MONTH

WHEREAS, the nation's 3,069 counties serving more than 300 million Americans provide essential services to create healthy, safe, vibrant and economically resilient communities; and

WHEREAS, counties move America forward by building infrastructure, maintaining roads and bridges, providing health care, administering justice, keeping communities safe, running election, managing solid waste, keeping records and much more; and

WHEREAS, counties take pride in their responsibility to protect and enhance the health, welfare and safety of its residents in effective and cost-effective ways; and

WHEREAS, in order to remain healthy, vibrant, safe and economically competitive, America's counties provide transportation and infrastructure services that play a key role in everything from daily commutes to shipping goods around the world; and

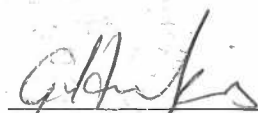
WHEREAS, the National Association of Counties has designated April as County Government Month and encouraged counties across the country to actively promote their programs and services to the public they serve.

NOW, THEREFORE, the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council, hereby proclaims April 2025 as County Government Month throughout the north central Florida region.


DULY ADOPTED AND PROCLAIMED this 27th day of March 2025.

ATTEST:

SEAL



Jhelecia Hawkins, Secretary



Fletcher J. Hope Jr., Chair



PROCLAMATION

PROCLAIMING APRIL 2025 AS SPRINGS PROTECTION AWARENESS MONTH

WHEREAS, Florida's springs are essential to the environment, economy, and citizens of, and visitors to, this state;

WHEREAS, Florida has one of the most productive aquifers in the world, which supports more than 1,000 natural springs, giving this state the world's highest concentration of springs;

WHEREAS, north central Florida region has the highest concentration of springs in the United States;

WHEREAS, Florida's springs discharge more than eight billion gallons of water each day, which is essential for sustaining spring runs and associated receiving water bodies;

WHEREAS, the north central Florida region has the highest concentration of first magnitude springs in Florida;

WHEREAS, the north central Florida region has 14 Outstanding Florida Springs;

WHEREAS, groundwater in the north central Florida region is the primary source for public, agricultural, business and industrial use and vital to Florida's economy;

WHEREAS, springs are a natural resource that must be protected, as they reflect groundwater conditions and provide an important habitat for wildlife and listed species; and

WHEREAS, springs provide important recreational resources and opportunities that are enjoyed by citizens and visitors alike.

NOW, THEREFORE, the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council hereby proclaims the month of April 2025 as ***Springs Protection Awareness Month*** throughout the north central Florida region.

DULY ADOPTED AND PROCLAIMED this 27th day of March 2025.

Attest:

NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA
REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

SEAL

Jhelecia Hawkins, Secretary

Fletcher J. Hope Jr., Chair



PROCLAMATION

PROCLAIMING APRIL 2025 AS WATER CONSERVATION MONTH

WHEREAS, clean, safe and sustainable water resources are vital to north central Florida region residents, visitors, economy and environment;

WHEREAS, droughts, development and population growth serve as reminders that Florida's ground and surface water resources such as rivers, lakes and springs are finite and fragile;

WHEREAS, permanent, year-round water conservation measures are in effect throughout the north central Florida region;

WHEREAS, water conservation is a strategic priority;

WHEREAS, water conservation is encouraged and supported through public awareness efforts;

WHEREAS, water conservation will continue to play an important role in the future protection and preservation of ground and surface water resources;

WHEREAS, every business, industry, school, resident and visitor can help by conserving water and thus promote a healthy economy and community; and

WHEREAS, north central Florida local governments are essential in assisting in promoting water conservation awareness and implementing water conservation measures.

NOW, THEREFORE, the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council hereby proclaims the month of April 2025 as ***Water Conservation Month*** throughout the north central Florida region.

DULY ADOPTED AND PROCLAIMED this 27th day of March 2025.

Attest:

NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA
REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

SEAL

Thelecia Hawkins, Secretary

Fletcher J. Hope Jr., Chair



PROCLAMATION

PROCLAIMING APRIL 21-25, 2025 AS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT WEEK

WHEREAS, the week of April 21-25, 2025 has been designated as National Community Development Week to recognize and celebrate the Community Development Block Grant Program and the HOME Investment Partnerships Program; and

WHEREAS, since 1975, the Community Development Block Grant Program has provided funding and flexibility to local communities to provide affordable housing, a suitable living environment and economic opportunities; and

WHEREAS, since, 1992, the HOME Investment Partnership Program has created and preserved affordable housing for low-income families; and

WHEREAS, communities across the north central Florida region have made contributions to the viability of the housing stock, infrastructure, public services and economic vitality of their communities using federal funding from these two programs.

NOW, THEREFORE, the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council hereby proclaims April 21-25, 2025 as National Community Development Week in the north central Florida region.

DULY ADOPTED AND PROCLAIMED this 27th day of March 2025.

ATTEST:

SEAL

Thelecia Hawkins, Secretary

Fletcher J. Hope Jr., Chair

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-13

A RESOLUTION OF THE NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA
REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL; OPPOSING
ELIMINATION OF STATUTORY REFERENCES TO
REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCILS IN FLORIDA AS
PROPOSED IN SENATE BILL 1264 AND HOUSE BILL 1125
OR SIMILAR PROPOSED LEGISLATION

WHEREAS, the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council's 12-county geographical area is comprised of Alachua, Bradford, Columbia, Dixie, Gilchrist, Hamilton, Lafayette, Levy, Madison, Suwannee, Taylor and Union Counties and 40 municipalities with over 604,000 residents; and

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

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

WHEREAS, the 67 counties in the state are divided into ten regional planning councils which perform functions in Economic Development, Transportation, Emergency Preparedness and Local Government Services to the extent and as directed by their member counties, cities, and gubernatorial appointees; and

WHEREAS, regional planning councils bring to Florida federal funds for economic development that would otherwise go to other states; and

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

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

WHEREAS, regional planning councils serve a critical role in hazardous materials response coordination and training through the local emergency planning committees operated by each Council; and

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

WHEREAS, regional planning councils partner with local governments and various agencies to secure grant funding, staff specialized projects, and provide technical support expertise; and

WHEREAS, proposed Senate Bill 1264 and House Bill 1125 would remove all references to regional planning councils from Florida Statutes.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council that:

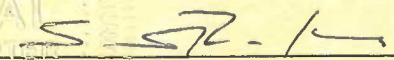
Section 1. The Legislature is urged to remove all references to regional planning councils from Senate Bill 1264 and House Bill 1125 or any similar proposed legislation; and

Section 2. This resolution shall take effect upon adoption.


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

NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA
REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

Attest:



Scott R. Koons, Executive Director



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

April 17, 2025

TO: Council Members
FROM: Scott R. Koons, AICP, Executive Director
SUBJECT: Interagency Agreement with East Central Florida Regional Planning Council
to Participate in Regional Joint Mitigation Resiliency Project Amendment 3

RECOMMENDATION:

Authorize the Chair to execute Interagency Agreement Amendment 3 with East Central Florida Regional Planning Council for the Regional Joint Mitigation Resiliency Project.

BACKGROUND:

The Florida Department of Economic Opportunity has awarded a \$1.499 million Rebuild Florida Community Development Block Grant General Planning Support Program grant to the East Central Florida Regional Planning Council to complete a Regional Joint Mitigation Resiliency Project.

The East Central Florida Regional Planning Council has entered into interagency agreements with the regional planning councils that have counties that were declared federal disaster areas as a result of Hurricane Irma to assist in completing the project. These regional planning councils include Central Florida Regional Planning Council, Northeast Florida Regional Council, North Central Florida Regional Planning Council, Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council and the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council.

The regional planning councils are engaging in cross collaboration to provide a seamless network of community partners setting forth a single consistent methodology for vulnerability, risk analysis and assessments with reduced focus on county boundaries in order to identify potential multi-jurisdictional or multi-county solutions. The project fills an identified gap in resilience efforts by focusing on the impacts of flooding hazards to the inland counties in Florida.

The scope of work includes the following activities.

- Future Extreme Rainfall Modeling;
- Mitigation Needs Assessment, Template and Mitigation Priority Areas and Project List;
- Small Area Mitigation Plans;
- Regional Resilience Exposure Tool;
- Interactive Best Practice Application; and
- Stakeholder Engagement.

The Council is being paid a total fixed fee amount of \$237,111.25 over a three-year period by the East Central Florida Regional Planning Council for these services.

April 17, 2025

Page 2

Amendment 3 to the Interagency Agreement extends deliverable dates. In particular, the deliverable dates for the following deliverables are extended as follows:

- Deliverable 1.1 - Project Coordination to August 1, 2026;
- Deliverable 3, Task 3 - Comprehensive Regional Mitigation Assessment to March 31, 2026;
- Deliverable 4, Task 3 - Regional Flood Mitigation Project List to February 1, 2026;
- Deliverable 5, Task 1 - Small Area Conceptual Mitigation Plans to August 30, 2025;
- Deliverable 8, Task 3 - Regional Trainings to August 1, 2026; and
- Deliverable 8, Task 4 - Statewide Webinar to August 1, 2026.

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



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

April 17, 2025

TO: Council Members

FROM: Scott R. Koons, AICP, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Florida Transportation Disadvantaged Program
Community Transportation Coordinator Designation for
Levy County

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve Resolution No. 2025-14 recommending the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged designate the Board of County Commissioners of Levy County, Florida as the Community Transportation Coordinator for Levy County.

BACKGROUND:

The Council is the Designated Official Planning Agency for the Transportation Disadvantaged Program in Levy County. The Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged requires that the designated official planning agencies conduct the selection process and recommend a Community Transportation Coordinator at the end of each contract period.

The Board of County Commissioners of Levy County, Florida is the designated Community Transportation Coordinator for Levy County. The Board of County Commissioners of Levy County, Florida's Memorandum of Agreement will expire June 30, 2025.

Section 287.057(3) (e) 12, Florida Statutes, allows for contractual services or commodities provided by governmental entities to not be subject to competitive solicitation requirements. Rule 41-2.010 (2) of the Florida Administrative Code allows the selection of Community Transportation Coordinators without competitive acquisition upon the recommendation of the Designated Official Planning Agency. Therefore, the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged may designate a governmental entity, such as the Board of County Commissioners of Levy County, Florida as the Community Transportation Coordinator without using a competitive selection process.

The Board of County Commissioners of Levy County, Florida is willing to continue serving as the Community Transportation Coordinator for Levy County. Please find attached a resolution adopted by the Board of County Commissioners of Levy County, Florida concerning designation as the Community Transportation Coordinator.

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

Attachments

t:\ynn\rfp\levy\2025\rpcreccmemo04242025.docx

Deputy Clerk Katie

**RESOLUTION
NUMBER 2025-7**

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF LEVY COUNTY, FLORIDA, REQUESTING THE FLORIDA COMMISSION FOR THE TRANSPORTATION DISADVANTAGED DESIGNATE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, AS THE COMMUNITY TRANSPORTATION COORDINATOR UNDER FLORIDA'S TRANSPORTATION DISADVANTAGED PROGRAM; PROVIDING FOR APPROVAL OF A RELATED AGREEMENT; AUTHORIZING THE CHAIR OR VICE-CHAIR TO EXECUTE THE AGREEMENT; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners of Levy County, Florida (the "Board") is currently designated by the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged as the Community Transportation Coordinator ("CTC") for Florida's Transportation Disadvantaged Program for Levy County, which designation expires on June 30, 2025;

WHEREAS, the Board is authorized to be designated as the CTC for Levy County in accordance with Rule 41-2.010(2), Florida Administrative Code;

WHEREAS, as a governmental entity, the Board may provide CTC services and be designated the CTC for Levy County without a competitive acquisition process if the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council (as the Designated Official Planning Agency) determines that approach is in the best interest of the transportation disadvantaged;

WHEREAS, in 2002, the Board created Levy County Transit for the purpose of operating a public transportation system for Levy County residents;

WHEREAS, the Board has the ability to provide the organizational structure needed to administer and operate public transportation;

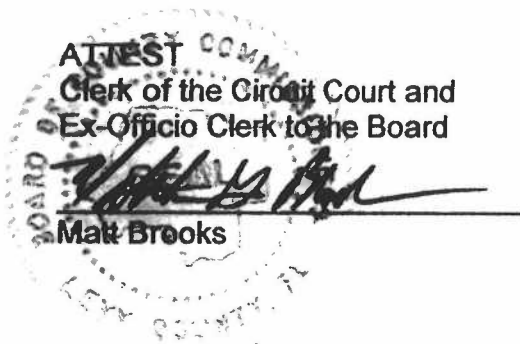
WHEREAS, the Board is willing to continue to act as the CTC for Levy County for a five year period beginning July 1, 2025, in order to provide transportation services to the transportation disadvantaged population in Levy County.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Levy County, Florida that:

1. In accordance with Chapter 427, F.S. and Rule 41-2.010(2), F.A.C., the Board requests that the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged designate the Board as the CTC for Levy County for a five-year period effective July 1, 2025.

2 The Board hereby approves the Memorandum of Agreement with the Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged and authorizes its Chair, or Vice-Chair in the absence or inability of the Chair, to execute the Memorandum of Agreement on behalf of the Board.

DULY ADOPTED on February 18, 2025.



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
LEVY COUNTY, FLORIDA

Desiree Mills, Chair

Approved as to form and legal sufficiency

Nicolle M. Shalley, County Attorney

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-14

A RESOLUTION OF THE NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL
RECOMMENDING THE DESIGNATION OF THE COMMUNITY TRANSPORTATION
COORDINATOR FOR LEVY COUNTY; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE

WHEREAS, the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council, serving as the Designated Official Planning Agency for the Transportation Disadvantaged Program in Levy County, has the authority to recommend the designation of the Community Transportation Coordinator, as authorized by Section 427.015(2), Florida Statutes and Rule 41-2.010(6), Florida Administrative Code;

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

1. That the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council has the authority to recommend the Board of County Commissioners of Levy County, Florida to be designated the Community Transportation Coordinator for Levy County;
2. That the Board of County Commissioners of Levy County, Florida is willing to provide the services necessary to serve the transportation disadvantaged populations;
3. That the Board of County Commissioners of Levy County, Florida has the appropriate personnel, financial capacity, vehicle and equipment resources, experience and qualifications to serve the transportation disadvantaged populations;
4. That the Board of County Commissioners of Levy County, Florida has demonstrated the ability to coordinate a multitude of funding sources and service provisions;
5. That the Board of County Commissioners of Levy County, Florida has identified specific means by which it will comply with the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act and applicable local regulations governing handicapped accessibility requirements;
6. That the Board of County Commissioners of Levy County, Florida has demonstrated plans to provide the most cost effective and quality transportation services;
7. That the Board of County Commissioners of Levy County, Florida has demonstrated plans to coordinate with the public school system, private sector operators and other governmental agencies to maximize the effectiveness of the coordinated transportation system;
8. That the Board of County Commissioners of Levy County, Florida has demonstrated its plans to comply with federal, state and local safety requirements as specified in Section 341.0161, Florida Statutes; and
9. That the Board of County Commissioners of Levy County, Florida has demonstrated plans to comply with state, federal and local laws relating to substance abuse testing.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED by the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council, this
24th day of April 2025.

ATTEST

NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA
REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

SEAL

Scott R. Koons, Executive Director

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

April 17, 2025

TO: Council Members

FROM: Scott R. Koons, AICP, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Transportation Disadvantaged Program Local Coordinating Board Appointments

RECOMMENDATION:

- **Appoint Michael Cohen the alternate Public Education Representative on the Columbia Hamilton Suwannee Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board;**
- **Appoint Commissioner James Howell the Hamilton County Local Elected Official on the Columbia Hamilton Suwannee Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board; and**
- **Appoint Phyllis Marty the voting Regional Workforce Board Representative on the Dixie County, Gilchrist County, and Union County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Boards and the alternate Regional Workforce Board Representative on the Columbia Hamilton 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 Michael Cohen the alternate Public Education Representative on the Columbia Hamilton Suwannee Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board. It is recommended Commissioner James Howell be appointed the Hamilton County Local Elected Official on the Columbia Hamilton Suwannee Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board. It is recommended Phyllis Marty be appointed the voting Regional Workforce Board Representative on the Dixie County, Gilchrist County, and Union County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Boards and the alternate Regional Workforce Board Representative on the Columbia Hamilton Suwannee Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board.

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

t:\lynn\appt2025\rpcappt04242025.docx



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

April 17, 2025

TO: Council Members

FROM: Scott R. Koons, AICP, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board Chair Appointment
Columbia, Hamilton and Suwannee Counties

RECOMMENDATION:

Appoint Commissioner Leo Mobley, Suwannee County Local Elected Official, Chair of the Columbia Hamilton Suwannee Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board for the remainder of a one-year term ending June 30, 2025.

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 the Chair of the Columbia Hamilton Suwannee Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board.

Chapter I. F. (1) of the Columbia Hamilton Suwannee Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board Bylaws provides for the Board to annually recommend to the Council a local elected official to serve as Chair of the Board. At its March 26, 2025 meeting, the Board recommended the Council appoint Commissioner Leo Mobley, Suwannee County Local Elected Official, as Chair of the Board for the remainder of a one-year term ending June 30, 2025.

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

t:\lynn\appt2025\rpcapptchschair04242025.docx



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

April 17, 2025

TO: Council Members

FROM: Fletcher J. Hope Jr., Chair

SUBJECT: Resolution of Appreciation - Edward Potts

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve the attached resolution of appreciation for Edward Potts.

BACKGROUND:

As a token of appreciation for service on the Council since May 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

o:\council.mtg\cnc\mtgmemos\potts res.docx

Resolution

OF APPRECIATION

WHEREAS, Edward Potts has been representing the City of Alachua on the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council since May 2023;

WHEREAS, Edward Potts 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 Edward Potts 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 Edward Potts.

Fletcher J. Hope Jr., Chair

ATTEST:

Jhelecia Hawkins, Secretary

ADOPTED BY THE NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL AT THEIR MEETING
OF APRIL 24, 2025.





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

April 17, 2025

TO: Council Members

FROM: Scott R. Koons, AICP, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Proclamation Proclaiming May 4-10, 2025 as Travel and Tourism Week

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt the attached proclamation proclaiming the week of May 4-10, 2025 as Travel and Tourism Week in the north central Florida region.

BACKGROUND:

The Original Florida Tourism Task Force was created as a task force of the Council 32 years ago. It is a 13-county independent tourism marketing interlocal agreement organization. The mission of the Original Florida Tourism Task Force is to "Promote the natural, historic, and cultural attractions of the north central Florida region to increase the number of visitors and extend their stay." The goal is to enhance the area's economy, image, and quality of life through expanded revenues and employment opportunities. At the same time, the region will encourage the preservation of the resources which bring focus to the area.

The week of May 4-10, 2025 is National Travel and Tourism Week as declared by the Travel Industry Association. Activities are planned throughout the United States and Florida to support and celebrate the tourism industry.

It is recommended that the Council adopt the attached proclamation proclaiming the week of May 4-10, 2025 as Travel and Tourism Week in north central Florida.

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

Attachment

o:\council.mtg\cnc\mtgmemos\tourism week 2025.docx



PROCLAMATION

PROCLAIMING MAY 4-10, 2025 AS TRAVEL AND TOURISM WEEK

WHEREAS, tourism brings over 142 million visitors annually to the State of Florida, generates an estimated 131 billion dollars in economic activity, an estimated 36 billion dollars in annual tax revenue and employs over two million persons;

WHEREAS, the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council recognizes the importance of tourism to the north central Florida regional economy and quality of life;

WHEREAS, local governments, tourist development councils and the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council support tourism opportunities in north central Florida; and

WHEREAS, local governments, businesses, chambers of commerce, visitors bureaus, tourist development councils and the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council are working together to support this vital part of north central Florida's economy and all who play a role in tourism to ensure that north central Florida continues to be a place where traditions will be created and continued for years to come.

NOW, THEREFORE, the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council hereby proclaims the week of May 4-10, 2025 as *Travel and Tourism Week* throughout the north central Florida region.

DULY ADOPTED AND PROCLAIMED this 24th day of April 2025.

ATTEST:

SEAL

Jhelecia Hawkins, Secretary

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

April 17, 2025

TO: Council Members

FROM: Scott R. Koons, AICP, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Proclamation Proclaiming May 11-17, 2025 as Economic Development Week

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve the attached proclamation proclaiming May 11-17, 2025 as Economic Development Week in the north central Florida region.

BACKGROUND:

The International Economic Development Council has designated May 11-17, 2025 as Economic Development Week. The Council assists local governments and economic development organizations in promoting economic well-being and quality of life for communities create, retain and expand jobs that facilitate growth, enhance wealth and provide a stable tax base.

The International Economic Development Council is encouraging local governments and other organizations to recognize Economic Development Week.

It is recommended that the Council adopt the attached proclamation proclaiming May 11-17, 2025 as Economic Development Week in the north central Florida region.

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

Attachment

o:\council.mtg\cnc\mtgmemos\eco dev week 2025.docx



PROCLAMATION

PROCLAIMING MAY 11-17, 2025 AS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT WEEK

WHEREAS, the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council is an economic development district designated by the United States Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration; and

WHEREAS, economic developers promote economic well-being and quality of life for their communities by creating, retaining, and expanding jobs that facilitate growth, enhance wealth, and provide a stable tax base; and

WHEREAS, economic developers stimulate and incubate entrepreneurship in order to help establish the next generation of new businesses which is the hallmark of the American economy; and

WHEREAS, economic developers are engaged in a wide variety of settings including rural and urban, local, state, provincial and federal governments, public-private partnerships, chambers of commerce, universities and a variety of other institutions; and

WHEREAS, economic developers attract and retain high-quality jobs, develop vibrant communities, and improve the quality of life in their regions; and

WHEREAS, economic developers working in the north central Florida region support the expansion of career opportunities and quality of life.

NOW, THEREFORE, the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council hereby proclaims the week of May 11-17, 2025 as ***Economic Development Week*** throughout the north central Florida region.

DULY ADOPTED AND PROCLAIMED this 24th day of April 2025.

ATTEST:

NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA
REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

SEAL

Jhelecia Hawkins, Secretary

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

April 17, 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., April 24, 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 item which requires Council action. I will present an oral report on the Committee's actions and recommendations at the Council meeting held later that evening.

Local Government Comprehensive Plan Amendments

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

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.240425.docx



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

April 17, 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 March 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

o:\council.mtg\cnc\mtgmemos\fracamonthlyreport apr 25.docx

MONTHLY ACTIVITY REPORT: March 2025

ASSOCIATION MANAGEMENT

- Prepared agenda and hosted the March EDAC Meeting
- Monthly meeting with FRCA's Bookkeeper and EDAC Treasurer
- Received Legislative Updates from FRCAs Legislative Consultants and provide weekly updates to the EDAC as needed
- **Coordinated response to Senate Bill 1264 and House Bill 1125 with EDAC and FRCA's lobbyist Ron Book and Rana Brown**, which included coordinating multiple meetings with EDAC, drafting FRCA's Fact Sheet, analyzing SB 1264 and HB 1125, coordinating RPC speakers and advocates for Senate Commerce Committee on March 31st, and other activities necessary to advocate on behalf of Florida's RPCs.

RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT/CAPACITY BUILDING and OUTREACH

- Completed and published FRCA's new website – FLRegionalCouncils.org
- Attended **2025 Rural Counties Days** reception and capitol day on March 19th-20th. FRCA was proud to join other sponsors to support Florida's Rural Counties.
- Attended the **Florida Economic Development Councils Board and Partners Roundtable** at the invitation of Executive Director Beth Cicchetti.
- Attended **Florida Commerce Spring Rural Economic Development Initiative (REDI) meeting** at the Wakulla Environmental Institute.
- Sponsorship & Exhibitor applications for **Florida Association of Counties Annual Conference**.
- Attended LEPC Coordinators meeting and discussed plans for future workgroup meetings with lead staff in multiple departments.

As we continue to advocate for Florida's Regional Planning Councils, we want to thank all RPC Board Members, Partners and advocates for your support in recent weeks!



With your help, we are making progress, and we will continue to advocate for our RPCs until the end of the 2025 Legislative Session.

We also want to thank those who traveled to Tallahassee to testify before the *Senate Commerce and Tourism Committee* on March 31st!

Scott Koons, Executive Director NCFRPC; **Commissioner Rick Davis**, Madison County, NCFRPC Board Member; **Commissioner Quincee Messersmith**, Wakulla County, ARPC Vice Chair; **Mr. Tom Lewis**, Terracon; **Mrs. Beth Payne**, Chief Executive Officer NEFRC; **Mr. Darryl Register**, Baker County Chamber of Commerce, NEFRC Gubernatorial Appointee and FRCA 1st Vice President; **Mayor Sean Lynch**, City of Baldwin and NEFRC Board Member; *(not in photo)* **Mr. Kurvin Qualls**, Chair ECRC, Gubernatorial Appointee; **Mayor Pro Tem April Sutton**, City of Mary Esther, ECRC Vice 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

April 17, 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 April 2025 Scorecard.

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

Attachment

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

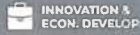
THE FLORIDA SCORECARD

METRICS TO HELP SECURE FLORIDA'S FUTURE

View County Data...



TALENT SUPPLY
& EDUCATION



INNOVATION &
ECON. DEVELOP.



INFRASTRUCTURE &
GROWTH LEADERSHIP



BUSINESS CLIMATE &
COMPETITIVENESS



CIVICS &
GOVERNANCE



QUALITY
OF LIFE

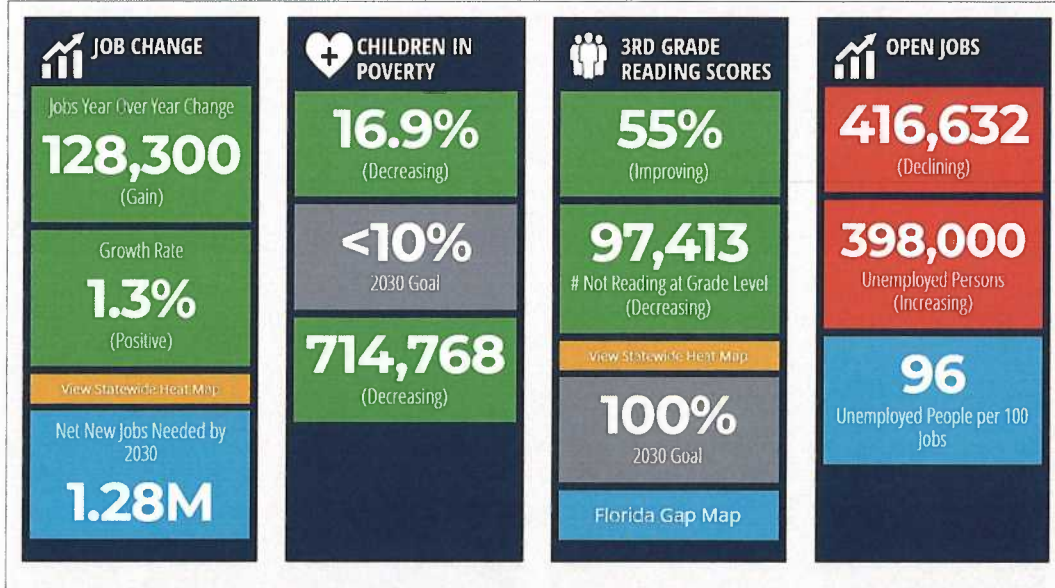
State of Florida Metrics

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

Florida FutureCast

FLORIDA POPULATION 04/15/2025

23,527,845



© 2025 FLORIDA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

[CONTACT US](#) [TERMS & CONDITIONS](#) [FLORIDA CHAMBER FOUNDATION](#) [PRIVACY POLICY](#)

POWERED BY THE FLORIDA CHAMBER FOUNDATION



Community Development
Partnership Council

State of Florida Metrics (What is this?)

Talent Supply & Education

Click any metric to get more information!

State of Florida FutureCast



State of Florida Metrics

Innovation & Economic Development

State - Florida FutureScore

Click any metric to get more information





State of Florida Metrics (What is this?)

Infrastructure & Growth Leadership

Click any metric to get more information!

State of Florida FutureCast



LAND IN
CONSERVATION

27.9%



VEHICLE MILES
TRAVELED

227.75

Billion (Improving)



STATE HOUSING
STARTS & SALES

9,529

Starts (Declining)

17,697

Sales (Declining)

\$415,000

Median Price (Increasing)



ENERGY
RANKING

#50

Expenditures (Unchanged)

#45

Consumption (Decreasing)



POPULATION
ESTIMATE 2030

25.68M

[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

\$1,536

(Decreasing)





State of Florida Metrics (What is this?)

State of Florida FutureCast

Business Climate & Competitiveness

Click any metric to get more information!



INFLATION RATE

2.4%

National (Decreasing)

1.9%

Southern Region (Decreasing)



CONSUMER SENTIMENT

78.1

(Declining)



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

416,632

(Declining)

398,000

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





State of Florida Metrics (What is this?)

Civic & Governance Systems

Click any metric to get more information!

State of Florida FutureCast



VOTER REGISTRATION

39.5%

(Republican)

31.4%

(Democrat)

29.0%

(NPA/Other)



VOTER PARTICIPATION

79%

(Improving)



RIGHT / WRONG DIRECTION

53%/39%



INMATE POPULATION

100,001



DEPENDENCY RATIO

2015

56.5%

2030 Estimate

70%



GOVERNMENT EMPLOYMENT

252.1

Thousand (State)

740.2

Thousand (Local)



VOLUNTEERISM

20.4%

of Floridians Volunteer

47th

Florida's Rank

Top 3

2030 Goal



STATE DEBT OUTSTANDING

\$15.4

Billion



CITIZENS INSURANCE EXPOSURE POLICIES

\$336.5

Billion Exposure

841,470

Policies



UNDERFUNDED STATE PENSION

\$1120.0

Million (Increasing)



State of Florida Metrics (What is this?)

State of Florida FutureCast

Quality of Life and Quality Places

Click any metric to get more information!





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

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

April 17, 2025

TO: Council Members

FROM: Scott R. Koons, AICP, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Legislative Report

The 2025 regular Legislature Session convened on March 4, 2025 and is scheduled to adjourn on May 2, 2025. The legislative interim Committee schedule was, 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.

REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCILS

Senate Bill 1264 by Senator Collins concerning rural and urban business enterprises; revises the purpose of the Florida Department of Commerce; requires that the statewide emergency shelter plan identify the general location and square footage of special needs shelters by regional planning council regions, as such regions existed on a specified date, during the next five years; revises the purpose of the Targeted Marketing Assistance Program to include businesses in rural or urban areas; and establishes the Research, Innovation, Science, and Engineering Investment Tax Credit Program within the Florida Department of Commerce. Referred to Commerce and Tourism Committee; Finance and Tax Committee; Appropriations Committee on Transportation, Tourism, and Economic Development; and Rules Committee. Withdrawn from Finance and Tax Committee. Passed Commerce and Tourism Committee; and Appropriations Committee on Transportation, Tourism, and Economic Development. **This bill is currently in Rules Committee.**

House Bill 1125 by Representative Owen concerning regional planning and economic development; revises provisions relating to creation of the Florida Department of Commerce and its powers and duties; establishes the Office of Secure Florida within the Florida Department of Commerce; revises economic policies of state comprehensive plan to promote entrepreneurship from certain business startups; revises composition of statewide advisory board of Florida Small Business Development Center Network; creates Rural Accelerator Program within the Florida Department of Commerce; requires funds to be appropriated from Rural Infrastructure Fund; revises composition requirements of Florida Sports Foundation; revises provisions relating to convention grants program established by Florida Tourism Industry Marketing Corporation; revises provisions relating to use of statewide contracts register and who Florida Small Business Development Center is required to coordinate with regarding such use; authorizes counties and municipalities to enter into agreements to create regional planning entities pursuant to specified law; replaces regional planning councils with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection for purposes of hazardous waste management assessments and facilities; revises provisions relating to local health councils; and revises composition of Affordable Housing Study Commission. Referred to Commerce Committee; State Affairs Committee; Ways and Means Committee; and Budget Committee. **This bill is currently in Commerce Committee.**

SOUTHERN RAIL COMMISSION

Senate Bill 966 by Senator Davis concerning rapid rail transit compact; authorizes the Governor to execute a rapid rail transit compact with specified states, to join the Southern Rail Commission; and provides the form of the compact. Referred to Transportation Committee; Appropriations Committee on Transportation, Tourism, and Economic Development; and Fiscal Policy Committee.

House Bill 833 by Representatives Hinson and Campbell concerning Rapid Rail Transit Compact; authorizes Governor to execute rapid rail transit compact with specified states, to join Southern Rail Commission; and provides form of compact. Referred to Economic Infrastructure Subcommittee; and Commerce Committee. Passed Economic Infrastructure Subcommittee. **This bill is currently in Commerce Committee.**

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