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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 **September 25, 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/200600453>

DIAL IN NUMBER: Toll Free: 1.866.899.4679

ACCESS CODE: 200 600 453

MEETING STARTS AT 7:00 P.M.

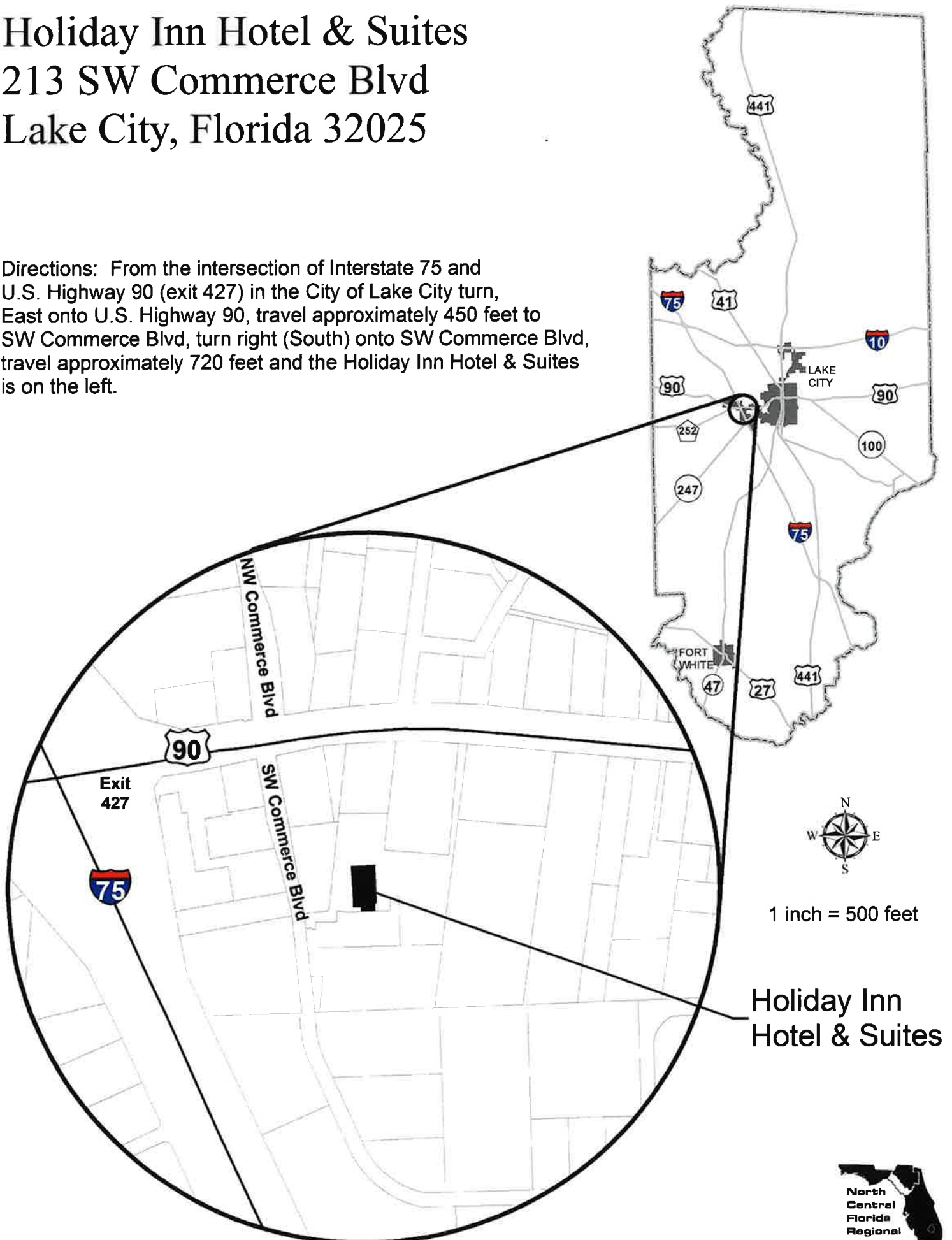
*Please email koons@ncfrpc.org by September 24, 2025 to let us know if you will be attending the meeting in-person or via communications media technology. **THANK YOU.***

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

Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites

213 SW Commerce Blvd
Lake City, Florida 32025

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



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AGENDA

NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

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

September 25, 2025
7:00 p.m.

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X. PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

XI. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

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

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- * 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

August 28, 2025
7:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT
IN PERSON

Anthony Adams, Lafayette County
Mary Alford, Alachua County
Patricia Bouie Hutchinson, City of Hawthorne
Ken Cornell, Alachua County
Rick Davis, Madison County
Thomas Demps, Taylor County
Jhelecia Hawkins, City of Jasper
Melissa Hendrix, City of Lake Butler
Fletcher Hope Jr., City of Archer
James Howell, Hamilton County
Diane Landry, City of Perry
Janice Mortimer, City of Starke
Maurice Perkins, Suwannee County
Daniel Riddick, Bradford County
Kenrick Thomas, Gilchrist County
Judy Townsend, City of Madison

MEMBERS PRESENT
VIA COMMUNICATIONS
MEDIA TECHNOLOGY
(FOR QUORUM)

Ed Book, City of Gainesville
Frank Davis, City of Live Oak
Louie Davis, City of Waldo
Dayna Williams, City of Alachua

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
James Carter Jr., City of Lake City
Charles Chestnut IV, Alachua County
Desmon Duncan-Walker, City of Gainesville
James Ingle, City of Gainesville
Tony Mazon, City of Newberry
Melissa McNeal, Union County
Kevin Parnell, Columbia County
Jody Stephenson, Dixie County
Desiree Mills, Levy County

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS PRESENT

Austin Burgess, Florida Fish and Wildlife
Conservation Commission - In-Person
Amy Roberson, Florida Department of
Transportation - In-Person
Mary Margret Hull, Southwest Florida
Water Management District - Virtual
William White, St. Johns River
Water Management District - Virtual
Tyler Winburn, Suwannee River
Water Management District - Virtual

COUNCIL ATTORNEY PRESENT

Jonathan Wershow - Virtual

OTHERS PRESENT

Diana Davis - Virtual
Jordan Green - In-Person
Karen Harrell - Virtual
Stew Lilker - In-Person
Emily Rhodes - Virtual

STAFF PRESENT

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

Executive Committee Members names are bold

I. INVOCATION

Chair Mary Alford noting a quorum being present called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. Commissioner Daniel Riddick 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 Alford welcomed Stew Lilker, Columbia County Observer. Also, in attendance at the meeting virtually was Diana Davis, Executive Director, Alachua County League of Cities and wife of Council Member Louie Davis; Emily Rhodes, Statewide Planning Analyst, Florida Department of Transportation, Central Office; and Karen Harrell, Owner, Quest Corporation.

The Council observed a moment of silence in remembrance of Roy Ellis, County Commissioner, Madison County. He died August 25, 2025 at the age of 81 years. Commissioner Ellis served on the Council for 11 years from 2001 to 2012 and also served as Council Chair in 2007-08.

The Council observed a moment of silence in remembrance of Michael Escalante, former Council employee. He died July 4, 2025 at the age of 70 years. Mr. Escalante worked for the Council for 37 years.

IV. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Chair Alford asked that the consent agenda be approved.

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

- A. Minutes – June 30, 2025
- B. Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization for the Gainesville Urbanized Area Intergovernmental Coordination and review and Public Transportation Collaborative Planning Agreement
- C. Local Government Comprehensive Planning Services Agreements - Fiscal Year 2025-26
- D. Hazardous Waste Monitoring Verification and Notification Services Agreements - Fiscal Year 2025-26
- E. Transportation Disadvantaged Program Local Coordinating Board Appointment

V. APPROVAL OF REGULAR AGENDA

Chair Alford asked that the regular agenda be approved.

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

VI. GUEST SPEAKER – Jordan Green, Director of Transportation Support
Florida Department of Transportation, District 2

Scott Koons, Executive Director, introduced Jordan Green, Director of Transportation Support, Florida Department of Transportation, District 2. Mr. Green made a presentation concerning the Department's Target Zero highway safety initiative. Chair Alford thanked Mr. Green for his presentation.

VII. CHAIR REPORT

A. Resolution of Appreciation

1. Angela Gregory

ACTION: Commissioner Cornell made the motion, with a second by Mayor Hope, to authorize the Chair to sign a Transportation Disadvantaged Program Resolution of Appreciation for former Bradford County; Columbia Hamilton and Suwannee; Dixie County; Gilchrist County; Lafayette County; Levy County; Madison County and Union County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Boards Florida Department of Transportation Voting Representative Angela Gregory. The motion carried unanimously

B. Florida Association of Counties - Presidential Advocate Awards

Chair Alford stated, that at the Florida Association of Counties Annual Meeting held in Orlando on June 27, 2025, Florida Association of Counties President Terry Buurroughs awarded Presidential Advocate Awards to Lafayette County Commissioner Anthony Adams, Alachua County Commissioner Mary Alford, Alachua County Ken Cornell, Taylor County Commissioner Thomas Demps, Union County Commissioner Melissa McNeal and Suwannee County Commissioner Maurice Perkins. Chair Alford congratulated these county commissioners on their accomplishments.

C. Florida Association of Counties - Board of Directors Election

Chair Alford stated that at the Florida Association of Counties Annual Meeting held in Orlando on June 27, 2025, she was elected to the Board of Directors.

D. Florida Small County Coalition - Officers and Board of Directors Election

Chair Alford stated that at the Florida Small County Coalition Annual Meeting held in Orlando on June 25, 2025, the Coalition held its election of officers and members of the Board of Directors. She reported that Lafayette County Commissioner Anthony Adams was elected to serve on the Board of Directors of the Coalition. She congratulated Commissioner Adams.

E. Florida League of Cities Board of Directors Election

Chair Alford stated that at the Florida League of Cities Annual Meeting held in Orlando on August 16, 2025, City of Waldo Mayor Louie Davis was elected to the Board of Directors. She congratulated Mayor Louie Davis.

F. Florida League of Cities Home Rule Hero Award

Chair Alford reported that the Florida League of Cities recently recognized Mayor Louie Davis, City of Waldo, as a recipient of a 2025 Home Rule Hero Award. She stated this prestigious award was presented for tireless efforts to advance the Florida League of Cities legislative agenda and help protect the home rule power of Florida's cities during the 2025 Legislative Session. She congratulated Mayor Louie Davis on his accomplishment.

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORT

A. Executive Committee -

Chair Alford reported that the Executive Committee discussed guest speaker presentation topics for future Council meetings. She also stated that the Executive Committee discussed Council member engagement at Council meetings.

B. Clearinghouse Committee - Committee Level Comprehensive Plan Review Items

Commissioner Daniel Riddick, Vice-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.

- #85 - Town of Inglis Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (FC No. 25-1ER)
- #86 - Alachua County Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (FC No. 25-4ESR)
- #87 - Taylor County Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (FC No. 25-2ER)
- #88 - Alachua County Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment (FC No. 25-2ESR)
- #89 - Town of Branford Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (FC No. 25-1ESR)
- #91 - Alachua County Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment (FC No. 25-3ESR)

Commissioner Riddick 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. He stated that the Committee recommends forwarding these findings to the respective local government and the Florida Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Commissioner Riddick made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Demps, to approve the Clearinghouse Committee recommendations concerning Item #85 - Town of Inglis Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (FC No. 25-1ESR); Item #86 - Alachua County Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (FC No. 25-4ESR); Item #87 - Taylor County Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (FC No. 25-2ER); Item #88 - Alachua County Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment (FC No. 25-2ESR); Item #89 - Town of Branford Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (FC No. 25-1ESR); and Item #91 - Alachua County Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment (FC No. 25-3ESR). The motion carried unanimously.

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

Commissioner Rick Davis, Chair of the Middle and Lower Suwannee River and Withlacoochee River Task Force, reported that the River Task Force met with the City of Valdosta City Council for a Joint Workshop on August 14, 2025 in Valdosta, Georgia. The City of Valdosta city officials discussed completed projects, current projects and planned projects for upgrades to the City of Valdosta wastewater system to prevent sewage spills from occurring in the Withlacoochee River. Commissioner Davis also reported on the recent City of Valdosta sewage spill that occurred on August 23, 2025 resulting in approximately 1.5 million gallons of stormwater and sewage being discharged from the Withlacoochee Wastewater Treatment Plant.

IX. EX-OFFICIO MEMBER REPORTS

Amy Roberson, Planning Supervisor, Planning and Environmental Management Office, Florida Department of Transportation District 2, reported that Transportation Alternatives grant applications for bicycle and pedestrian facilities are due to the Department by January 22, 2026. She stated that Small County Road Assistance Program grant applications, Small County Outreach Program grant applications, Transportation Regional Incentive Program grant applications and County Incentive Grant program grant applications are also due to the Department by January 22, 2026. Ms. Roberson noted that Safe Routes to School grant applications are due to the Department by January 31, 2026. She also stated that the Department will be conducting a Tentative Work Program for Fiscal Year 2026-27 to Fiscal Year 2030-31 public hearing on October 21, 2025 at 4:30 p.m. at the District 2 Urban Area Office in Jacksonville.

Austin Burgess, Senior Biologist, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, stated that the Commission offers wildlife conservation planning services to landowners and local governments throughout the region.

Tyler Winburn, Legislative and Government Affairs Coordinator, reported that Troy Roberts, Public Information Officer for the District, attended the Middle and Lower Suwannee River and Withlacoochee River Task Force Joint Workshop in Valdosta on August 14, 2025.

X. PUBLIC COMMENTS - Stew Lilker, Columbia County Observer, discussed rural transit services and CareerSource North Central Florida services.

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 June 2025 and July 2025 activity reports included in the Council meeting packet. He reviewed the activities listed in the June 2025 and July 2025 reports.

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

C. 2024-25 Member James H. Montgomery Certificates of Outstanding Attendance

Mr. Koons stated an essential component of the ability of the Council to conduct its business is the regular attendance of members at Council meetings. He stated a Council Member Attendance Recognition Program was established by the Council at the May 22, 2008 Council meeting to recognize the commitment of those Council members actively engaged in the organization by regularly attending Council meetings.

He stated the Council named the Member Attendance Recognition Program the James H. Montgomery Certificate of Outstanding Attendance in honor of Mr. Montgomery at the February 26, 2020 Council meeting. He stated James H. Montgomery served on the Council from 1976 to 2004 as a member representing the Board of County Commissioners of Columbia County, Florida. He stated that from 2010 to 2019, he also served on the Council as a gubernatorial appointee. Mr. Koons stated he provided 38 years of distinguished leadership and service to the Council.

Mr. Koons presented James H. Montgomery Certificates of Outstanding Attendance Award in recognition of their attendance at every scheduled Council meeting during Program Year 2024-25 to Commissioner Ed Book, City of Gainesville; Thomas Demps, Taylor County; Vice-Mayor Patricia Bouie Hutchinson; Mayor Frank Davis, City of Live Oak; Councilwoman Jhelecia Hawkins, City of Jasper; Mayor Fletcher Hope Jr., City of Archer; and Vice-Mayor Janice Mortimer, City of Starke.

D. Executive Director's Cup

Mr. Koons stated that in furtherance of the Council Member Attendance Recognition Program and to encourage attendance at Council meetings, an Executive Director's Cup is awarded each year to recognize the most members with 100 percent attendance by either county, city or gubernatorial members during a program year.

Mr. Koons presented the 2024-25 Executive Director's Cup to City members Commissioner Ed Book, City of Gainesville; Vice-Mayor Patricia Bouie Hutchinson; Mayor Frank Davis, City of Live Oak; Councilwoman Jhelecia Hawkins, City of Jasper; Mayor Fletcher Hope Jr., City of Archer; and Vice-Mayor Janice Mortimer, City of Starke. He also stated that the Executive Director's Cup is prominently displayed at the Council office.

XII. COUNCIL MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS -

Commissioner Cornell reported that the City of Gainesville is considering no longer contracting with MV Contract Transportation, Inc. to provide the Americans with Disabilities Act complimentary paratransit service. He stated that such action could potentially result in it no longer being financially feasible for MV Contract Transportation, Inc. to continue as the Community Transportation Coordinator for the Transportation Disadvantaged Program in Alachua County.

ACTION: Commissioner Cornell made the motion, with a second by Vice-Mayor Mortimer, to authorize the Chair to send a letter to the City of Gainesville requesting that the City pause the action of insourcing the Americans with Disabilities Act complimentary paratransit service to allow for further discussion of the issues involved regarding paratransit and transportation disadvantaged service throughout Alachua County. The motion carried 19 Yeas, 1 Nay.

XIII. NEXT MEETING

Chair Alford stated that the next Council meeting is scheduled to be held on September 25, 2025.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:33 p.m.

Mary C. Alford, Chair

9/25/25
Date

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Angela Gregory has served as the Florida Department of Transportation Representative on the Bradford County; Columbia Hamilton and Suwannee; Dixie County; Gilchrist County; Lafayette County; Levy County; Madison County and Union County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Boards since August 2023; and

WHEREAS, Angela Gregory ably discharged the duties of the Florida Department of Transportation Representative on the Bradford County; Columbia Hamilton and Suwannee; Dixie County; Gilchrist County; Lafayette County; Levy County; Madison County and Union County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Boards;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the members and staff of the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council do hereby express their appreciation to Angela Gregory for dedicated service rendered to the Bradford County; Columbia Hamilton and Suwannee; Dixie County; Gilchrist County; Lafayette County; Levy County; Madison County and Union County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Boards and concern for the transportation disadvantaged needs of Bradford, Columbia, Dixie, Gilchrist, Hamilton, Lafayette, Levy, Madison, Suwannee and Union Counties 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 Angela Gregory.


Mary C. Alford, Chair

ADOPTED BY THE NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

August 28, 2025
Date




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September 18, 2025

TO: Council Members

FROM: Scott R. Koons, AICP, Executive Director 

SUBJECT: Local Government Comprehensive Planning Services Agreement
Fiscal Year 2025-26 – Madison County

RECOMMENDATION:

Authorize the Chair to execute a Fiscal Year 2025-26 agreement with Madison County to provide local government comprehensive planning assistance services in the amount of \$13,000.

BACKGROUND:

The Council proposes to enter into a technical assistance agreement with Madison County to provide local government comprehensive planning assistance to prepare public notices, draft ordinances, data and analysis and concurrency review for comprehensive plan text and map and land development regulations text and zoning map amendments. The amount of the agreement will be \$13,000.

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

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September 18, 2025

TO: Council Members

FROM: Scott R. Koons, AICP, Executive Director 

SUBJECT: Transportation Disadvantaged Program Local Coordinating Board Appointment

RECOMMENDATION:

Appoint Tamika Hughes-Leeks, Exceptional Student Education Director, Madison County School District, the voting Public Education Representative on the Madison County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board.

BACKGROUND:

According to Rule 41-2.012 of the Florida Administrative Code, the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council, serving as the Designated Official Planning Agency, is responsible for appointing members to the local Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Boards. It is recommended Tamika Hughes-Leeks, ESE Director, Madison County School District, be appointed the voting Public Education Representative on the Madison County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board.

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



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September 25, 2025

TO: Council Members

FROM: Mary C. Alford, Chair

SUBJECT: Resolution of Appreciation – Tony Mazon

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve the attached resolution of appreciation for Tony Mazon.

BACKGROUND:

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

Attachment

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Resolution

OF APPRECIATION

WHEREAS, Tony Mazon has been representing the City of Newberry on the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council since June 2024;

WHEREAS, Tony Mazon 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 Tony Mazon 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

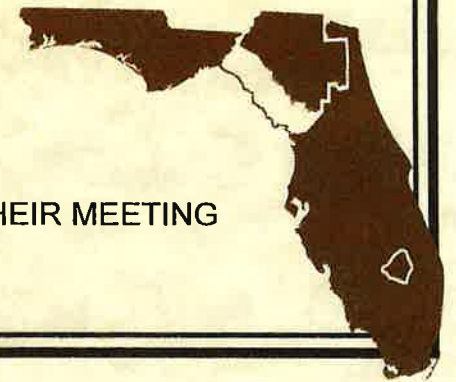
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That this expression of appreciation be spread upon the minutes of the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council for all citizens of the region to view and recognize the accomplishments and service of Tony Mazon.

Mary C. Alford, Chair

ATTEST:

Patricia B. Hutchinson, Secretary

ADOPTED BY THE NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL AT THEIR MEETING
OF SEPTEMBER 25, 2025.





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September 18, 2025

TO: Council Members

FROM: Scott R. Koons, AICP, Executive Director 

SUBJECT: Proclamation Proclaiming October 2025 as Community Planning Month

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve the attached proclamation proclaiming October 2025 as Community Planning Month in the north central Florida region.

BACKGROUND:

The month of October 2025 has been designated to celebrate National Community Planning Month. The American Planning Association and its professional institute, the American Institute of Certified Planners, endorse National Community Planning Month as an opportunity to highlight the contributions sound planning and plan implementation make to the quality of life in communities and the environment.

It is recommended that the Council join in the celebration of National Community Planning Month by proclaiming October 2025 as Community Planning Month to recognize the valuable contributions made by professional community and regional planners and to extend its thanks for the continued commitment to public service by these professionals (see attached Proclamation).

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

Attachment

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PROCLAMATION

PROCLAIMING OCTOBER 2025 AS COMMUNITY PLANNING MONTH

WHEREAS, change is constant and affects all cities, towns, suburbs, counties, rural areas, regions, and other places; and

WHEREAS, community planning and plans can help manage this change in a way that provides better choices for how people work and live; and

WHEREAS, community planning provides an opportunity for all residents to be meaningfully involved in making choices that determine the future of their community; and

WHEREAS, the full benefits of planning requires public officials and citizens who understand, support, and demand excellence in planning and plan implementation; and

WHEREAS, the month of October 2025 is designated as National Community Planning Month throughout the United States of America and its territories; and

WHEREAS, the celebration of National Community Planning Month provides an opportunity to publicly recognize the participation and dedication of the members of planning and zoning boards and other citizen planners who have contributed their time and expertise to the improvement of the north central Florida region; and

WHEREAS, the celebration of National Community Planning Month provides an opportunity to publicly recognize the many valuable contributions made by professional community and regional planners in the north central Florida region and extend our heartfelt thanks for the continued commitment to public service by these professionals.

NOW, THEREFORE, the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council hereby proclaims the month of October 2025 as ***Community Planning Month*** throughout the north central Florida region in conjunction with the celebration of National Community Planning Month.

DULY ADOPTED AND PROCLAIMED this 25th day of September 2025.

Attest:

NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA
REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

SEAL

Patricia Bouie Hutchinson
Secretary

May C. Alford
Chair



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September 18, 2025

TO: Council Members

FROM: Scott R. Koons, AICP, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Proclamation Proclaiming October 3, 2025 as Manufacturing Day

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve the attached proclamation proclaiming October 3, 2025 as Manufacturing Day in the north central Florida region.

BACKGROUND:

The Fabrication and Manufacturers Association International, the National Association of Manufacturers, the U.S. Department of Commerce Manufacturing Extension Partnership and the Manufacturing Institute have designated the first Friday of October as Manufacturing Day.

This year October 3, 2025 has been designated to celebrate Manufacturing Day. Manufacturing Day is an effective way to highlight the importance of manufacturing in our region and support those manufacturing and school programs that prepare our workforce.

It is recommended that the Council join in the celebration of Manufacturing Day by proclaiming October 3, 2025 as Manufacturing Day to recognize the impact manufacturing has on the north central Florida region (see attached Proclamation).

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

Attachment

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PROCLAMATION

PROCLAIMING OCTOBER 3, 2025 AS MANUFACTURING DAY

WHEREAS, the Fabrication and Manufacturers Association International, the National Association of Manufacturers, the U.S. Department of Commerce Manufacturing Extension Partnership and the Manufacturing Institute have designated the first Friday of October as Manufacturing Day; and

WHEREAS, the goals of Manufacturing Day are to celebrate the impact manufacturing has on the north central Florida region, increase awareness about the benefits of a manufacturing career and attract students to future manufacturing jobs; and

WHEREAS, recognizing Manufacturing Day is an effective way to highlight the importance of manufacturing in our region and support those manufacturing and school programs that prepare our future workforce; and

WHEREAS, over 300 manufacturers provide jobs for over 12,000 citizens throughout the region and create products ranging from pulp and lumber products to orthopedic implant devices; and

WHEREAS, regional companies and education/workforce partners support manufacturing and manufacturing careers through increased collaboration and service to the regional manufacturing community; and

WHEREAS, manufacturing brings increased economic diversity to our region by providing high paying jobs at all skill levels and furthering the standard of living by focusing on technology, innovation and production.

NOW, THEREFORE, the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council hereby proclaims October 3, 2025 as ***Manufacturing Day*** in the north central Florida region and the Council urges all citizens to discover the value manufacturing brings to our economy and encourages students and educators to learn about the possibility of manufacturing as a career.

DULY ADOPTED AND PROCLAIMED this 25th day of September 2025.

Attest:

NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA
REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

SEAL

Patricia Bouie Hutchinson
Secretary


Mary C. Alford
Chair



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September 18, 2025

TO: Council Members
FROM: Scott R. Koons, AICP, Executive Director 
SUBJECT: Proclamation Proclaiming October 20-26, 2025 as Florida City Government Week

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve the attached proclamation proclaiming October 20-26, 2025 as Florida City Government Week in the north central Florida region.

The Florida League of Cities has designated the week of October 20-26, 2025 as Florida City Government Week. The League encourages cities to promote their cities through civic education activities.

Florida City Government Week is part of an ongoing effort sponsored by the League to raise public awareness about services that cities perform and to educate the public about how city government works. Cities are encouraged to involve their local schools, businesses, media and civic clubs in their Florida City Government Week activities.

It is recommended that the Council join in the recognition of city government by proclaiming the week of October 20-26, 2025 as Florida City Government Week (see attached Proclamation).

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

Attachment

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PROCLAMATION

PROCLAIMING OCTOBER 20-26, 2025 AS FLORIDA CITY GOVERNMENT WEEK

WHEREAS, city government is the government closest to most citizens and the one with the most direct daily impact upon its residents; and

WHEREAS, city government is administered for and by its citizens, and is dependent upon public commitment to and understanding of its many responsibilities; and

WHEREAS, city government officials and employees share the responsibility to pass along understanding of public services and their benefits; and

WHEREAS, Florida City Government Week is a very important time to recognize the important role played by city government in our lives; and

WHEREAS, this week offers important opportunity to spread the word to all citizens of Florida that they can shape and influence this branch of government which is closest to the people; and

WHEREAS, the Florida League of Cities and its member cities have joined together to teach students and other citizens about municipal government through a variety of different projects and information; and

WHEREAS, Florida City Government Week offers an important opportunity to convey to all citizens of Florida that they can shape and influence government through their civic involvement.

NOW, THEREFORE, the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council hereby proclaims the week of October 20-26, 2025 as *Florida City Government Week* throughout the north central Florida region.

DULY ADOPTED AND PROCLAIMED this 25th day of September 2025.

Attest:

NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA
REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

SEAL

Patricia Bouie Hutchinson
Secretary

Mary C. Alford
Chair



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September 18, 2025

TO: Council Members

FROM: Mary C. Alford, Chair

SUBJECT: Executive Director Annual Performance Evaluation

The employment contract between the Executive Director and the Council specifies that the Executive Committee shall adopt performance standards to annually review and evaluate the Executive Director. It further specifies that the annual review and evaluation of the Executive Director shall be conducted by the Executive Committee. It also specifies that at its discretion, the Executive Committee is authorized to provide a merit increase to the Executive Director on an annual basis commencing October 1st of each year.

The Executive Committee has adopted performance standards to review and evaluate the Executive Director. An evaluation form incorporating these performance standards was mailed to each Executive Committee member to be completed prior to the September 25, 2025 Council meeting. The results of this evaluation have been tabulated and will be reviewed by the Executive Committee at their meeting on September 25, 2025. The action of the Executive Committee concerning the Executive Director annual performance evaluation and merit pay adjustment will be reported to the Council at the September 25, 2025 meeting.

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September 18, 2025

TO: Council Members

FROM: Melissa McNeal, 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., September 25, 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

- #92 – City of Fanning Springs Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (FC No. 25-1ESR)
- #93 – City of Chiefland Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment (FC No. 25-1ER)
- #94 – City of Alachua Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (FC No. 25-1ESR)
- #95 – City of Newberry Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (FC No. 25-3ESR)
- #96 – City of Newberry Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment (FC No. 25-2ESR)
- #97 - Alachua County Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment (FC No. 25-4ESR)
- #99 - City of Lake City Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (FC No. 25-1ESR)

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

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VIII.C

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September 18, 2025

TO: Council Members

FROM: Scott R. Koons, AICP, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Middle and Lower Suwannee River and Withlacoochee River Update

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.

UPDATE:

The River Task Force has recommended that each of the counties in the north central Florida region provide a link on their websites to the City of Valdosta water sampling results webpage. In addition, the River Task Force continues to encourage the Florida Department of Health, Florida Department of Environmental Protection and the Suwannee River Water Management District to post results of water sample testing of the Withlacoochee River in Florida and the Suwannee River on their websites.

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

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September 18, 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 August 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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Apalachee • Central Florida • East Central Florida
Emerald Coast • North Central Florida • Northeast Florida
South Florida • Southwest Florida • Tampa Bay • Treasure Coast

MONTHLY ACTIVITY REPORT: August 2025

ASSOCIATION MANAGEMENT

- Prepared agenda, coordinated and hosted FRCAs Policy Board Nominating Committee Meeting
- Finalized FRCAs FY25-26 Budget and reports for August Executive Directors Advisory Committee meeting and FRCAs Summer Policy Board and Annual Meeting
- Prepared agenda and coordinated the August Executive Directors Advisory Committee Meeting and Executive Committee Meeting at the Tampa Bay RPC
- Prepared agenda and coordinated FRCAs Summer Policy Board and Annual Meeting at the Tampa Bay RPC
- Monthly meeting with FRCA's Bookkeeper and EDAC Treasurer
- Worked on FRCAs website and communications plan

RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT/CAPACITY BUILDING and OUTREACH

- Attended **Florida League of Cities Annual Conference** and managed FRCA's booth in the exhibit hall.
- Meeting with RPC Communications Workgroup
- Followed up with contacts made at Florida Association of Counties and Florida League of Cities Annual Conferences





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September 18, 2025

TO: Council Members

FROM: Scott R. Koons, AICP, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Florida Regional Councils Association Policy Board Meeting Report

Commissioner Charles Chestnut IV, Commissioner Thomas Demps, Vice-Mayor Janice Mortimer and I attended the semi-annual meeting of the Florida Regional Councils Association Policy Board held in Tampa on August 22, 2025.

The Policy Board heard a presentation from Jason Lauritsen, Chief Conservation Officer, Florida Wildlife Corridor Foundation.

The Policy Board accepted Financial Statements for Fiscal Year 2023-24 and received a financial report.

The Policy Board also adopted a budget for Fiscal Year 2025-26, received a legislative report and elected officers for the 2025-26 Policy Board Executive Committee.

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

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September 18, 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 September 2025 Scorecard.

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

Attachment

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

State of Florida Metrics

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

Florida FutureCast

FLORIDA POPULATION 09/15/2025

23,240,376

JOB CHANGE

Jobs Year Over Year Change
134,100
(Gain)

Growth Rate
1.3%
(Positive)

View Statewide Heat Map

Net New Jobs Needed by
2030
1.30M

CHILDREN IN POVERTY

16.9%
(Decreasing)

<10%
2030 Goal

714,768
(Decreasing)

3RD GRADE READING SCORES

57%
(Improving)

94,508
Not Reading at Grade Level
(Decreasing)

View Statewide Heat Map

100%
2030 Goal

Florida Gap Map

OPEN JOBS

459,038
(Increasing)

417,000
Unemployed Persons
(Increasing)

91
Unemployed People per 100
Jobs

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

3.7%
(Unchanged)

View Statewide Heat Map

Jobs Year Over Year Change
134,100

View Statewide Heat Map

STATE OF FLORIDA VISITORS

\$131.0
Billion Visitor Spending

142.9
Million Visitors

SINGLE FAMILY HOUSING STARTS & SALES

8,980
Starts (Declining)

22,707
Sales (Declining)

\$410,000
Median Sale Price (Decreasing)

POVERTY RATE

12.6%
(Better)

View Statewide Heat Map

CONSUMER SENTIMENT

80.6
(Declining)

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE

89.7%
(Improving)

View Statewide Heat Map

VOTER PARTICIPATION

79%
(Improving)

RIGHT / WRONG DIRECTION

53%/39%

LAND IN CONSERVATION

27.9%

STATE HOUSING STARTS & SALES

\$410,000
Median Price (Decreasing)



State of Florida Metrics (What is this?)

State of Florida FutureCust

Talent Supply & Education

Click any metric to get more information!



State of Florida Metrics (Where's Florida?)

State of Florida FutureCast

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?)

Infrastructure & Growth Leadership

Click any metric to get more information!

State of Florida FutureCast



LAND IN
CONSERVATION

27.9%



SINGLE FAMILY
HOUSING STARTS
& SALES

8,980

Starts (Declining)

22,707

Sales (Declining)

\$410,000

Median Sale Price (Decreasing)



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)



HIGH SPEED
COMMUNICATIONS

96.3%

(Unchanged)

[View Statewide Heat Map](#)

100%

2030 Goal



MEDIAN RENT
(APARTMENTS)

\$1,531

(Increasing)

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Community Development
Partnership Council

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

2.9%

National (Increasing)

2.6%

Southern Region (Increasing)



CONSUMER
SENTIMENT

80.6

(Declining)



CEO RANK

2nd

(Unchanged)



STATE LEGAL
CLIMATE RANKING

46th

(Unchanged)

Top 12

2030 Goal



BUSINESS TAX
CLIMATE

4th

#1

2030 Goal



OPEN JOBS

459,038

(Increasing)

417,000

Unemployed Persons
(Increasing)

91

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](#)

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**Community Development
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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

104,129



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 12

2030 Goal



STATE DEBT OUTSTANDING

\$15.4

Billion



CITIZENS INSURANCE EXPOSURE POLICIES

\$290.0

Billion Exposure

771,916

Policies





State of Florida Metrics (What is this?)

Quality of Life and Quality Places

Click any metric to get more information!

State of Florida FutureCast



POVERTY RATE

12.6%

(Better)

[View Statewide Heat Map](#)



CHILDREN IN POVERTY

16.9%

(Decreasing)

<10%

2030 Goal

714,768

(Decreasing)



ALICE HOUSEHOLDS

47%

(Increasing)



HOUSING COST BURDENED

54.9%

Renters (Increasing)

26.1%

Owners (Increasing)

35.7%

Overall (Increasing)

<10%

2030 Goal



CHILD HEALTH RANKING

32

(Decreasing)



FLORIDIANS WITHOUT HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE

2,569

Thousand (Declining)

11.9%

(Declining)



FREE & REDUCED LUNCH

71.6%

(Unchanged)

[View Statewide Heat Map](#)



YOUTH OBESITY

16.4%

(Worse)



PER CAPITA INCOME

\$68,703

(Improving)

[View Statewide Heat Map](#)



HOMELESS SCHOOL CHILDREN

77,203

(Increasing)



HOME OWNERSHIP RATE

65.5%

(Declining)



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September 18, 2025

TO: Council Members

FROM: Scott R. Koons, AICP, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Legislative Report

The 2026 regular Legislature Session will convene on January 13, 2026 and is scheduled to adjourn on March 13, 2026. The legislative interim Committee schedule is, as follows:

- Week of October 6-10, 2025
- Week of October 13-17, 2025
- Week of November 3-7, 2025
- Week of November 17-21, 2025
- Week of December 1-5, 2025
- Week of December 8-12, 2025

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

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