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## MEETING NOTICE

# NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

There will be a meeting of the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council on **January 22, 2026**. 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/920075645>**

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

**ACCESS CODE: 920 075 645**

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

*Please email [koons@ncfrpc.org](mailto:koons@ncfrpc.org) by January 21, 2026 to let us know if you will be attending the meeting in-person or via communications media technology. THANK YOU.*

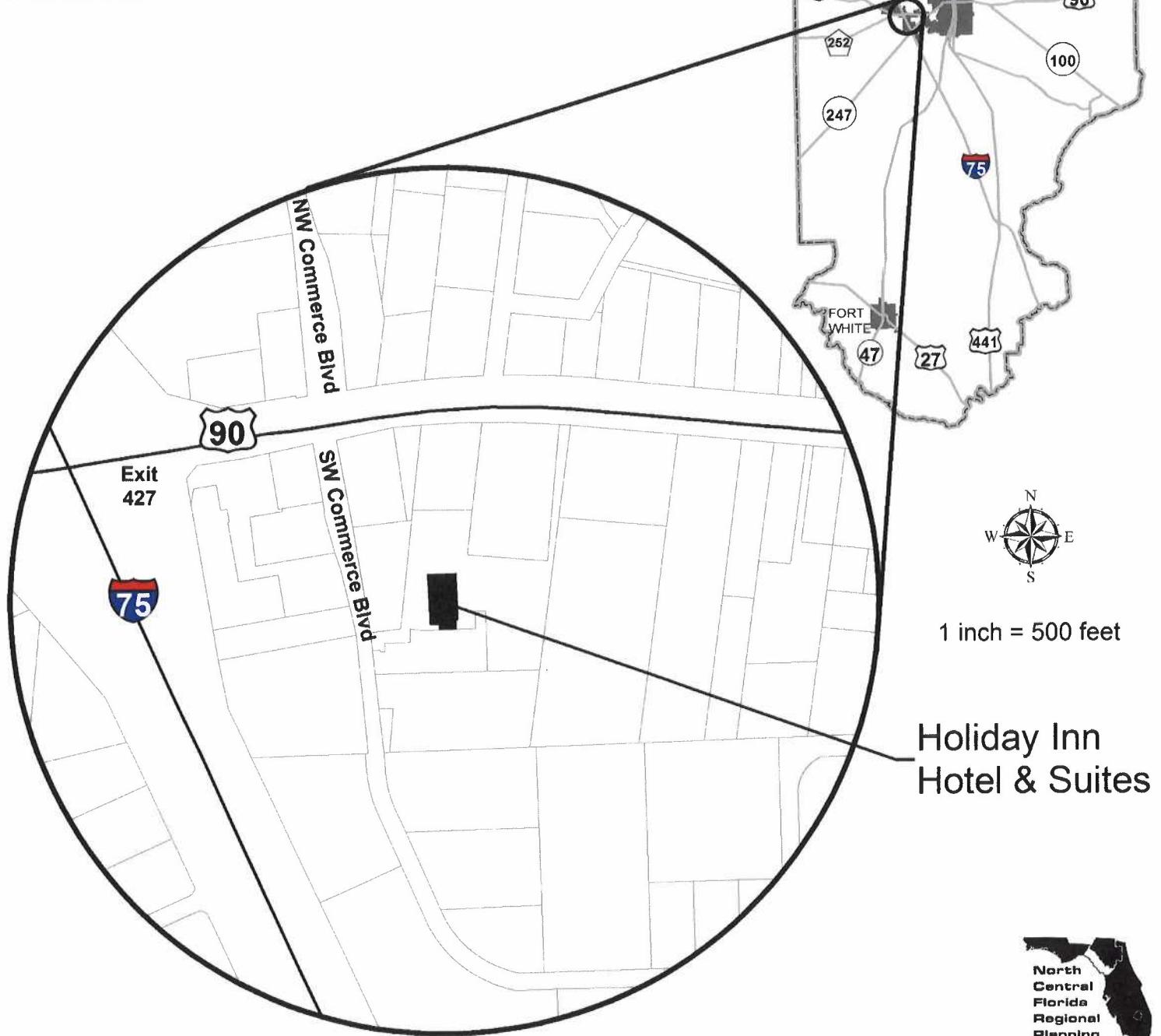
*Please be advised that the Council meeting packet is posted on the Council website at <http://ncfrpc.org> (click on Upcoming Meetings and Meeting Packets, then click on North Central Florida Regional Planning Council Full Packet.)*

# 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

January 22, 2026  
7:00 p.m.

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by enhancing public safety, protecting regional resources,  
promoting economic development and providing technical services to local governments.

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IX. EX-OFFICIO MEMBER REPORTS

X. PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

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XII. COUNCIL MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

XIII. NEXT MEETING - February 26, 2026

\* See Attachment

NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL  
MINUTES

IV.A.

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

December 11, 2025  
7:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT  
IN PERSON

Anthony Adams, Lafayette County  
**Mary Alford, Alachua County**  
**Patricia Bouie Hutchinson, City of Hawthorne**  
Louie Davis, City of Waldo  
Don Hale, Suwannee County  
James Howell, Hamilton County  
Diane Landry, City of Perry  
Melissa McNeal, Union County  
Janice Mortimer, City of Starke  
Kevin Parnell, Columbia County  
Kenrick Thomas, Gilchrist County  
Judy Townsend, City of Madison

MEMBERS PRESENT  
VIA COMMUNICATIONS  
MEDIA TECHNOLOGY  
(FOR QUORUM)

Ed Book, City of Gainesville  
Charles Chestnut IV, Alachua County  
Frank Davis, City of Live Oak  
Thomas Demps, Taylor County  
James Ingle, City of Gainesville  
Donald Long, City of Newberry

MEMBERS PRESENT  
VIA COMMUNICATIONS  
MEDIA TECHNOLOGY  
(NOT FOR QUORUM)

**Jhelecia Hawkins, City of Jasper**  
Daniel Riddick, Bradford County

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  
Ken Cornell, Alachua County  
Rick Davis, Madison County  
Desmon Duncan-Walker, City of Gainesville  
Melissa Hendrix, City of Lake Butler  
**Fletcher Hope Jr., City of Archer**  
Kirk Marhefka, Town of Cross City  
Desiree Mills, Levy County  
Jody Stephenson, Dixie County  
Dayna Williams, City of Alachua

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS PRESENT

Amy Roberson, Florida Department of  
Transportation

COUNCIL ATTORNEY PRESENT

Jonathan Wershaw

OTHERS PRESENT

Stanford Amos - In-Person  
Mason Byrd - In-Person  
Diana Davis - In-Person  
Christian Doolin - In-Person  
Victoria King - In-Person  
Stew Lilker - In-Person  
James Williams - In-Person

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 7:04 p.m. Commissioner Kendrick Thomas 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 Mason Byrd, County Commissioner, Lafayette County; Stanford Amos, City Manager, City of Madison; Victoria King, Town Manager, Town of Greenville; James Williams, County Coordinator, Union County; Diana Davis, Executive Director, Alachua County League of Cities and wife of Council Member Louie Davis; and Stew Lilker, Columbia County Observer.

The Council observed a moment of silence in remembrance of Maurice Perkins, County Commissioner, Suwannee County. He died November 26, 2025 at the age of 62 years. Commissioner Perkins served on the Council for three years from 2022 to 2025 and also served as Council Vice-Chair in 2025.

IV. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Chair Alford asked that the consent agenda be approved.

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

A. Minutes - October 23, 2025

B. Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board Appointment

V. APPROVAL OF REGULAR AGENDA

Chair Alford asked that the regular agenda be approved.

**ACTION: Vice-Mayor Janice Mortimer made the motion, with a second by Vice-Mayor Patricia Bouie Hutchinson, to approve the regular agenda. The motion carried unanimously.**

VI. GUEST SPEAKER - Christian Doolin Legislative Consultant  
Florida Small County Coalition

Scott Koons, Executive Director, introduced Christian Doolin, Legislative Consultant, Florida Small County Coalition. Mr. Doolin made a presentation concerning an overview of the upcoming 2026 Legislative Session. Chair Alford thanked Mr. Doolin for his presentation.

VII. CHAIR REPORT

A. Transportation Disadvantaged Resolution of Appreciation

1. Steve Russell

**ACTION:** **Commissioner Hale made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Townsend, to authorize the Chair to sign a Transportation Disadvantaged Program Resolution of Appreciation for former Madison County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board Florida Department of Children and Families Voting Representative Steve Russell. The motion carried unanimously.**

B. New Member

Chair Alford welcomed new Council member Don Hale, Suwannee County.

**VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

A. Executive Committee - None

B. Clearinghouse Committee - Committee Level Comprehensive Plan Review Items

Commissioner Melissa McNeal, 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 and strategic regional policy plan which were included on the Council agenda for consideration.

- #4 - Levy County Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (FC No. 25-2ESR)
- #5 - Taylor County Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment (FC No. 25-2ER)
- #7 - City of Fanning Springs Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment (FC No. 25-1ESR)
- #8 - City of Lake City Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment (FC No. 25-1ESR)
- #9 - Northeast Florida Strategic Regional Policy Plan Draft Amendment
- #10 - City of Newberry Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment (FC No. 25-3ESR)
- #11 - Town of Branford Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment (FC No. 25-1ESR)

Commissioner McNeal stated with regards to these items, the Committee found that the local government comprehensive plans, as amended, and the strategic regional policy plan, 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, regional council and the Florida Department of Commerce.

**ACTION:** **Commissioner McNeal made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Townsend, to approve the Clearinghouse Committee recommendations concerning Item - #4 Levy County Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (FC No. 25-2ESR); Item - #5 Taylor County Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment (FC No. 25-2ER); Item - #7 City of Fanning Springs Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment (FC No. 25-1ESR); Item - #8 City of Lake City Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment (FC No. 25-1ESR); Item - #9 Northeast Florida Strategic Regional Policy Plan Draft Amendment; Item - #10 City of Newberry Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment (FC No. 25-3ESR); Item - #11 Town of Branford Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment (FC No. 25-1ESR). The motion carried unanimously.**

**IX. EX-OFFICIO MEMBER REPORTS -**

Amy Roberson, Planning Supervisor, Planning and Environmental Management Office, Florida Department of Transportation District 2, reported that the deadline for local governments to submit Shared Use Non-Motorized SUNTrail grant applications for bicycle and pedestrian projects to the Department is January 22, 2026. She stated that the deadline for local governments to submit Transportation Alternatives grant applications for bicycle and pedestrian projects to the Department is January 22, 2026. Ms. Roberson also reported that Small County Road Assistance Program grant applications, Small County Outreach Program grant applications, Transportation Regional Incentive Program grant applications and County Incentive Grant Program grant applications will be due to the Department on January 22, 2026.

**X. PUBLIC COMMENTS -**

Stew Lilker, Columbia County Observer, discussed distracted driving, a recent business relocation project in Hamilton County and rural workforce transit transportation.

**XI. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT**

**A. Florida Regional Councils Association Monthly Activity Report**

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

**C. Legislative Report**

Mr. Koons stated the 2026 Legislature Session will convene on January 13, 2026 and is scheduled to adjourn on March 13, 2026. Mr. Koons reported that 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

D. Water Quantity and Quality Grant Awards

Mr. Koons reported that awards through the Springs Restoration Grant Program were recently made to local governments, water management districts and not-for-profit organizations. He noted a total of \$13,015,200 in funding was awarded to five projects in the north central Florida region, including Alachua Conservation Trust, Inc., City of Archer, City of Newberry, Suwannee River Water Management District and City of Williston.

Mr. Koons also reported that awards through the Alternative Water Supply Grant Program were recently made to local governments and water management districts. He noted that a total of \$2,057,195 in funding was awarded to three projects in the north central Florida region, including one project to the City of Live Oak and two projects to the Suwannee River Water Management District.

E. Middle and Lower Suwannee River and Withlacoochee River Task Force

Mr. Koons reported that Commissioner Rick Davis, Chair, Middle and Lower Suwannee River and Withlacoochee River Task Force and he met with the Mayor, Interim City Manager and Utilities Director for the City of Valdosta, Georgia in Valdosta on December 9, 2025. He noted that the meeting was a follow-up meeting to the Joint Workshop held between the River Task Force and the City of Valdosta in Valdosta on August 14, 2025. Mr. Koons reported that Chair Davis and he received an update from City officials on the status of on-going City infrastructure projects to address wastewater spills.

XII. COUNCIL MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Hale announced that the Live Oak Christmas Parade will be held on December 12, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. in Live Oak.

Commissioner McNeal announced that the Lake Butler Christmas Parade will be held on December 13, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. in Lake Butler.

Commissioner Parnell announced that the Lake City Christmas Parade will be held on December 13, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. in Lake City.

Commissioner Townsend announced that the Madison Christmas Parade will be held on December 13, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. in Madison.

Vice-Mayor Mortimer announced that the Starke Christmas Parade will be held on December 13, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. in Starke.

Commissioner Alford announced that Sparks in the Park will be held on December 31, 2025 at 5:00 p.m. with fireworks at 6:30 p.m. at Depot Park in Gainesville.

XIII. NEXT MEETING

Chair Alford stated that the next Council meeting is scheduled to be held on January 22, 2026.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:24 p.m.

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Mary C. Alford, Chair

1/22/26  
Date

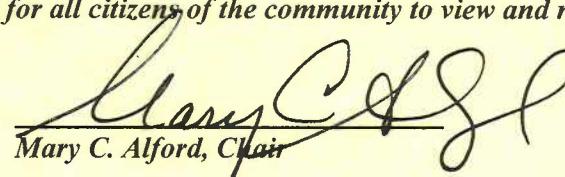
## RESOLUTION

*WHEREAS, Steve Russell has served as the Florida Department of Children and Families Representative on the Madison Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board since April 2016; and*

*WHEREAS, Steve Russell ably discharged the duties as the Florida Department of Children and Families Representative on the Madison County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board;*

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

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



Mary C. Alford, Chair

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

December 11, 2025  
Date



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January 15, 2026

TO: Council Members

FROM: Scott R. Koons, AICP, Executive Director

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "STK". It is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line extending to the right from the end of the "K".

SUBJECT: Local Government Land Development Regulations Update Services Agreement  
Fiscal Year 2025-26 - Town of Cross City

RECOMMENDATION:

**Authorize the Chair to execute an agreement with the Town of Cross City to provide technical assistance to prepare updates to their land development regulations and official zoning atlas for a fixed fee amount of \$75,000.**

BACKGROUND:

The Town of Cross City has requested the Council assist them with updates to their land development regulations and official zoning atlas. The updates will be prepared pursuant to a Community Planning Technical Assistance Grant awarded to the Town by the Florida Department of Commerce.

The Council will be responsible for providing technical assistance to the Town to prepare updates to their land development regulations and official zoning atlas for a fixed fee amount of \$75,000.

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





**IV.C.**

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January 15, 2026

TO: Council Members

FROM: Scott R. Koons, AICP, Executive Director *SRK*

SUBJECT: Local Government Comprehensive Planning Services Agreement  
Fiscal Year 2025-26 - Town of Bronson

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**Authorize the Chair to execute a Fiscal Year 2025-26 agreement with the Town of Bronson to provide local government comprehensive planning assistance services in the amount of \$5,250.**

**BACKGROUND:**

The Council proposes to enter into a technical assistance agreement with the Town of Bronson 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 \$5,250.

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





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January 15, 2026

TO: Council Members

FROM: Scott R. Koons, AICP, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Transportation Disadvantaged Program Local Coordinating Board Appointment

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**Appoint Commissioner Tim Hodge as Chair of the Levy County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board.**

**BACKGROUND:**

According to Rule 41-2.012 of the Florida Administrative Code, the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council, serving as the Designated Official Planning Agency, is responsible for appointing members to the local Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Boards. It is recommended Commissioner Tim Hodge be appointed Chair of the Levy County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board.

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





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January 15, 2026

TO: Council Members  
FROM: Mary C. Alford, Chair  
SUBJECT: Resolution of Appreciation - Ed Book

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**Approve the attached resolution of appreciation for Ed Book.**

**BACKGROUND:**

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

Attachment



# Resolution

## OF APPRECIATION

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

WHEREAS, Ed Book 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 Ed Book 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 Ed Book.

---

Mary C. Alford, Chair

ATTEST:

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Patricia B. Hutchinson, Secretary

ADOPTED BY THE NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL AT THEIR MEETING  
OF JANUARY 22, 2026.







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January 15, 2026

TO: Council Members  
FROM: Mary C. Alford, Chair  
SUBJECT: Resolution of Appreciation - Desmon Duncan-Walker

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**Approve the attached resolution of appreciation for Desmon Duncan-Walker.**

**BACKGROUND:**

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

Attachment



# Resolution

## OF APPRECIATION

WHEREAS, Desmon Duncan-Walker has been representing the City of Gainesville on the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council since May 2021;

WHEREAS, Desmon Duncan-Walker 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 Desmon Duncan-Walker 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 Desmon Duncan-Walker.

---

Mary C. Alford, Chair

ATTEST:

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Patricia B. Hutchinson, Secretary

ADOPTED BY THE NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL AT THEIR MEETING  
OF JANUARY 22, 2026.







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

January 15, 2026

TO: Council Members

FROM: Scott R. Koons, AICP, Executive Director *SPK*

SUBJECT: Transportation Disadvantaged Program Resolution of Appreciation

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**Approve the attached resolution of appreciation for Commissioner Desiree Mills.**

**BACKGROUND:**

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

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

Attachment

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## RESOLUTION

*WHEREAS, Desire Mills has served as Chair of the Levy County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board since January 2024; and*

*WHEREAS, Desire Mills. ably discharged the duties as Chair of the Levy County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board;*

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

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

---

*Mary C. Alford, Chair*

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

January 22, 2026

*Date*





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January 15, 2026

TO: Council Members

FROM: Scott R. Koons, AICP, Executive Director

*SRK* \_\_\_\_\_

SUBJECT: Proclamation Proclaiming February 23, 2026 - March 1, 2026  
Hazardous Materials Awareness Week

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**Approve the attached proclamation proclaiming the week of February 23, 2026 - March 1, 2026 as Hazardous Materials Awareness Week in the north central Florida region.**

**BACKGROUND:**

The North Central Florida Local Emergency Planning Committee has the job of increasing the safety of our communities from chemical releases. Public outreach and education are important to increasing chemical safety in our communities. The North Central Florida Local Emergency Planning Committee has designated the week of February 23, 2026 - March 1, 2026 as Hazardous Materials Awareness Week. It is recommended that the Council join in this public outreach effort by proclaiming the week of February 23, 2026 - March 1, 2026 as Hazardous Materials Awareness Week (see attached Proclamation).

One goal of Hazardous Materials Awareness Week is to let the public know that facilities, first responders and emergency management are working together to ensure that our communities are as prepared as possible for both accidental and deliberate releases of hazardous materials. A second goal is to encourage local governments to take advantage of free hazardous materials training classes offered by the Local Emergency Planning Committee.

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

Attachment

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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.



# PROCLAMATION

## PROCLAIMING FEBRUARY 23, 2026 - MARCH 1, 2026 AS HAZARDOUS MATERIALS AWARENESS WEEK

WHEREAS, the safe use of hazardous materials is essential to citizens, business, industry and local governments to maintain economic stability and the public health; and

WHEREAS, the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council recognizes the importance of protecting our communities from both accidental and deliberate releases of hazardous materials and joins the North Central Florida Local Emergency Planning Committee, and numerous municipalities, counties and school boards, in publicly promoting community hazardous materials safety; and

WHEREAS, it is essential for local governments, regional planning councils and local emergency planning committees to work together to increase community safety by encouraging emergency responders to attend free training on how to safely respond to releases of hazardous materials; and

WHEREAS, citizens need to know that local governments, businesses, emergency responders and emergency planners are working together to ensure that our communities are as prepared as possible for both accidental and deliberate releases of hazardous materials.

NOW, THEREFORE, the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council hereby proclaims the week of February 23, 2026 - March 1, 2026 as ***Hazardous Materials Awareness Week*** throughout the north central Florida region.

DULY ADOPTED AND PROCLAIMED this 22nd day of January 2026.

ATTEST:

SEAL

---

Paricia B. Hutchinson, Secretary

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Mary C. Alford, Chair





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

January 15, 2026

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., January 22, 2026. 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

1. #13 - City of Lake City Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (FC No. 25-2ESR)
2. #14 - City of Gainesville Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (FC No. 25-1ESR)

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

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January 15, 2026

TO: Council Members

FROM: Scott R. Koons, AICP, Executive Director 

SUBJECT: Election of Vice-Chair, Treasurer and Secretary

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**Approve the Nominating Committee officer slate of nominees for Vice-Chair, Treasurer and Secretary for the remainder of Program Year 2025-26.**

**BACKGROUND:**

The Nominating Committee met on January 15, 2026, to develop, for the Council's consideration, recommendations concerning the vacant Vice-Chair position on the Executive Committee. Since the Committee's recommendation involves advancing existing officers to new positions, the Committee is also making a recommendation for those positions as well.

A list of those recommendations is attached.

Also attached, for your information, are excerpts from the Bylaws which govern the election of officers. Specifically, at this time, the Council is to elect individuals to the following positions.

Vice-Chair  
Treasurer  
Secretary

**NOTE:** No more than one officer may be from representatives appointed by the same governmental unit.

In addition, if you want to make a nomination from the floor, please find attached a list of current Council members. Only local government representatives are eligible for election as officers.

If you have any questions concerning the election process, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Attachments

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NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

2025-26  
January 22, 2026

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE VACANT POSITIONS**

Jhelecia Hawkins, Vice-Chair  
Patricia Bouie Hutchinson, Treasurer  
Melissa McNeal, Secretary





## Section 6: Officers---Duties---Term of Office.

- (1) The members of the Council shall elect a Chair, Vice-Chair, Treasurer and Secretary to serve as officers of the Council. The officers shall be elected from among the members of the Council and may be elected or gubernatorial appointees no more than one (1) of who may be from representatives appointed by the same general purpose local governmental unit and no more than one (1) may be a gubernatorial appointee from the same county as another gubernatorial appointee. When a vacancy occurs among the officers, the vacancy shall be filled in the same manner in which the preceding officers were originally elected.
- (2) The officers shall perform the duties enumerated below and other duties prescribed by the Council:
  - (a) The Chair shall preside at meetings of the Council and of the Board; sign, with the counter-signature of the Secretary, or Executive Director, as authorized by the Council, any contracts or other instruments which is deemed in the Council's best interest; and perform such other duties incident to the office as may be prescribed by the Council.
  - (b) The Vice-Chair shall assist the Chair in the performance of the Chair's duties, and either in the absence of the Chair or in the event of the Chair's inability or refusal to act, shall have the powers and shall perform the duties of the Chair.
  - (c) The Treasurer shall, see that proper financial records of the Council are maintained in accordance with generally accepted governmental accounting principles. Further, the Treasurer shall, in general, perform all duties that may be assigned to him/her by the Chair or the Council.
  - (d) The Secretary shall see that minutes of the meetings and the records of the Council are kept; attest the signatures of the Council officers; and see that notices are duly given in accordance with the provisions of these Bylaws or as required by law. Further, the Secretary shall, in general, perform all duties that may be assigned to him/her by the Chair or the Council.
- (3) Each member elected to an office shall serve for one (1) year or until a successor is elected, and shall not be eligible for reelection to the same officer position in a succeeding year once their service for the one (1) year term of office has been completed and provided that the immediate past-Chair shall not be eligible to be elected to another officer position until two (2) years have elapsed following the end of their term as immediate past-Chair nor shall an elected official immediate past-Chair be succeeded in the office of Chair by a representative appointed by the same general purpose governmental unit or a gubernatorial appointee from the same county as another gubernatorial appointee.
- (4) Newly elected officers shall be declared installed following the election, and shall assume the duties of office upon adjournment of the Annual Meeting at which they are elected.



**NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL  
MEMBERS**

January 2, 2026

**COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES**

1. Anthony Adams	Lafayette County
2. <b>Mary Alford</b>	<b>Alachua County</b>
3. Charles Chestnut IV	Alachua County
4. Ken Cornell	Alachua County
5. Rick Davis	Madison County
6. Thomas Demps	Taylor County
7. Don Hale	Suwannee County
8. James Howell	Hamilton County
9. Melissa McNeal	Union County
10. Desiree Mills	Levy County
11. Kevin Parnell	Columbia County
12. Jody Stephenson	Dixie County
13. Daniel Riddick	Bradford County
14. Kenrick Thomas	Gilchrist County

**CITY REPRESENTATIVES**

15. Wayne Bloodsworth Jr.	High Springs
16. <b>Patricia Bouie Hutchinson</b>	<b>Hawthorne</b>
17. James Carter Jr.	Lake City
18. Frank Davis	Live Oak
19. Louie Davis	Waldo
20. Bryan Eastman	Gainesville
21. <b>Jhelecia Hawkins</b>	<b>Jasper</b>
22. Melissa Hendrix	Lake Butler
23. <b>Fletcher Hope Jr.</b>	<b>Archer</b>
24. James Ingle	Gainesville
25. Diane Landry	Perry
26. Kirk Marhefka	Cross City
27. Donald Long	Newberry
28. Janice Mortimer	Starke
29. Judy Townsend	Madison
30. Dayna Williams	Alachua

**NON-VOTING DELEGATE**

1. Kristyn Adkins	High Springs
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**EX-OFFICIO REPRESENTATIVES**

1. Florida Department of Commerce
2. Florida Department of Environmental Protection
3. Florida Department of Transportation
4. St. Johns River Water Management District
5. Southwest Florida Water Management District
6. Suwannee River Water Management District

**Executive Committee Members are Bolded**





**XIA.**

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

January 15, 2026

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 December 2025 Monthly Activity Report highlighting the activities of the Association.

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

#### Attachments

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





Apalachee • Central Florida • East Central Florida  
Emerald Coast • North Central Florida • Northeast Florida  
South Florida • Southwest Florida • Tampa Bay • Treasure Coast

## MONTHLY ACTIVITY REPORT: December 2025

### ASSOCIATION MANAGEMENT

- Monthly meeting with FRCA's Bookkeeper and EDAC Treasurer to review October Financial Report
- Prepared agenda and coordinated FRCAs December EDAC Meeting
- Prepared draft agenda for FRCA Winter Policy Board Meeting, January 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> in Tallahassee for EDAC approval; Worked with hotel, vendors and speakers for the Policy Board meeting.
- Attended Southwest Florida RPC December Board meeting to review roles and responsibilities of FRCA Policy Board members
- Worked with EDAC to draft 2026 Legislative Priorities for approval by the Policy Board and discussed potential legislative issues with FRCA's Legislative Consultants
- Met with FRCA-RPC LEPC Workgroup to review new HMEP Contract
- Met with FRCA-RPC Communications Workgroup to plan for 2026 meetings and discuss content for FRCA's Annual Report
- Requested information from each Council and drafted content for FRCA's Annual Report; worked with Graphic Designer to refresh the Annual Report's layout and style
- Coordinated information for FRCA's upcoming presentations and reports

### RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT/CAPACITY BUILDING and OUTREACH

- Attended US Department of Commerce, **Economic Development Administration's 2025 Disaster Supplemental Roundtable**, in Tallahassee at the Florida State Capitol, 22<sup>nd</sup> Floor on December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2025 and technical session with potential applicants
- Prepared and recorded presentation for the **Florida Chamber of Commerce Foundation virtual 2026 Florida Economic Outlook & Jobs Solution Summit**, January 29<sup>th</sup>, 1pm-4pm, with Tom Lanahan, Executive Director Treasure Coast RPC and EDAC Chair.
  - Participating in the Chamber's Summit provides an exciting opportunity to share how Regional Planning Councils work with members and partners to promote economic growth with a statewide audience.



### Florida Economic Outlook & Jobs Solution Summit

To register for the Summit and view the full agenda, visit [FLChamber.com/events](https://FLChamber.com/events) and use **promo code EOJSpeak26** to receive a special rate for individual registration.





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January 15, 2026

TO: Council Members

FROM: Scott R. Koons, AICP, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Florida Chamber Foundation Scorecard™

*STK*

The Florida Chamber Foundation has developed the Florida Scorecard™ to provide Florida leaders the metrics needed to secure Florida's future. The Florida Chamber Foundation's objective of developing a 20-year, statewide strategic plan requires a commitment to measuring our current status and progress toward the stated goals of the Six Pillars 20-year Strategic Plan.

The Scorecard reports metrics for each of the following Six Pillars.

- Talent and Supply Education;
- Innovation and Economic Development;
- Infrastructure and Growth Leadership;
- Business Climate and Competitiveness;
- Civic and Governance Systems; and
- Quality of Life and Quality Places.

Please find attached the January 2026 Scorecard.

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

Attachment



# THE FLORIDA SCORECARD

METRICS TO HELP SECURE FLORIDA'S FUTURE

[View County Data...](#)

 TALENT SUPPLY & EDUCATION

 INNOVATION & ECON. DEVELOP.

 INFRASTRUCTURE & GROWTH LEADERSHIP

 BUSINESS CLIMATE & COMPETITIVENESS

 CIVICS & GOVERNANCE

 QUALITY OF LIFE

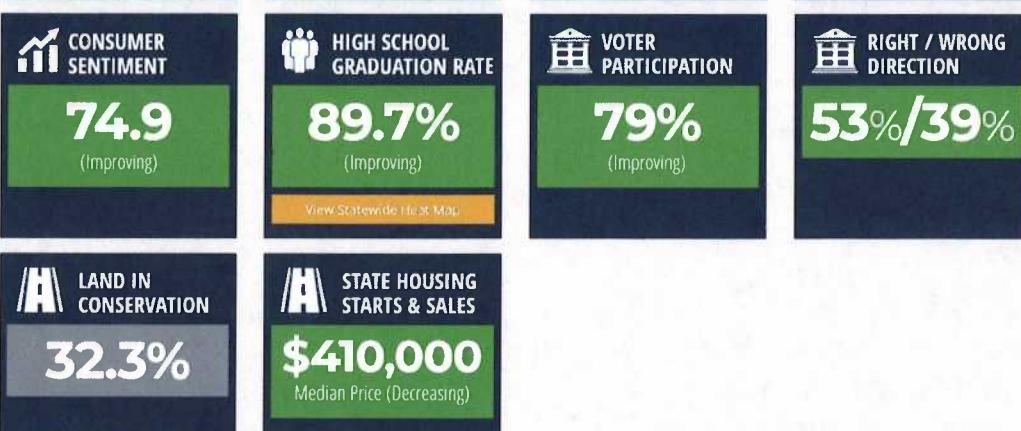
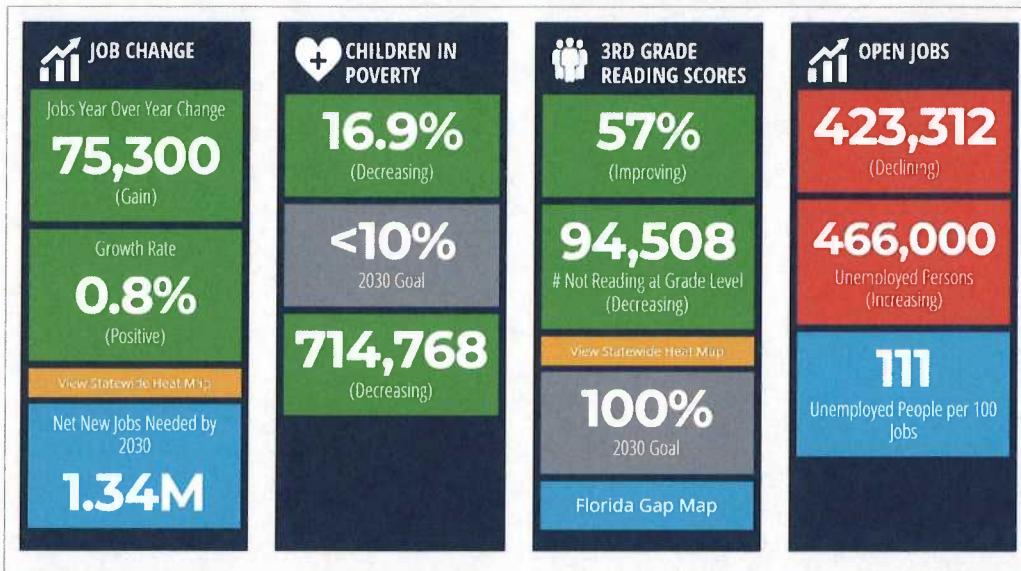
## State of Florida Metrics

Click any metric to get more information! [\(What is this?\)](#)

Florida FutureCast

FLORIDA POPULATION 01/12/2026

**23,415,999**





## 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 (What is this?)  
Innovation & Economic Development

Click any metric to get more information!

[State of Florida FutureCast](#)



# THE FLORIDA SCORECARD

## METRICS TO HELP SECURE FLORIDA'S FUTURE

[View County Data...](#)

 TALENT SUPPLY & EDUCATION

 INNOVATION & ECON. DEVELOP.

 INFRASTRUCTURE & GROWTH LEADERSHIP

 BUSINESS CLIMATE & COMPETITIVENESS

 CIVICS & GOVERNANCE

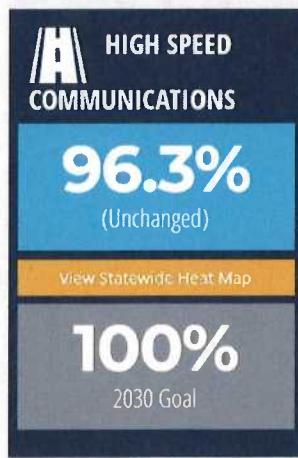
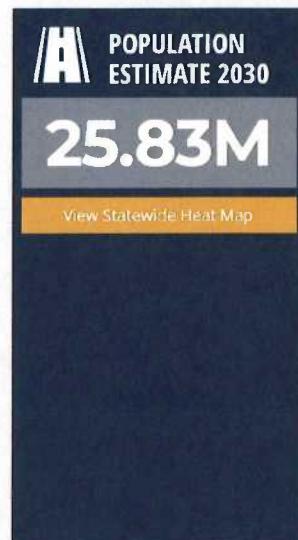
 QUALITY OF LIFE

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

### Infrastructure & Growth Leadership

Click any metric to get more information!

[State of Florida FutureCast](#)



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Community Development  
Partnership Council

# THE FLORIDA SCORECARD

## METRICS TO HELP SECURE FLORIDA'S FUTURE

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 TALENT SUPPLY & EDUCATION

 INNOVATION & ECON. DEVELOP.

 INFRASTRUCTURE & GROWTH LEADERSHIP

 BUSINESS CLIMATE & COMPETITIVENESS

 CIVICS & GOVERNANCE

 QUALITY OF LIFE

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

### Business Climate & Competitiveness

Click any metric to get more information!

[State of Florida FutureCast](#)



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# THE FLORIDA SCORECARD

## METRICS TO HELP SECURE FLORIDA'S FUTURE

[View County Data...](#)



TALENT SUPPLY  
& EDUCATION



INNOVATION &  
ECON. DEVELOP.



INFRASTRUCTURE &  
GROWTH LEADERSHIP



BUSINESS CLIMATE &  
COMPETITIVENESS



CIVICS &  
GOVERNANCE



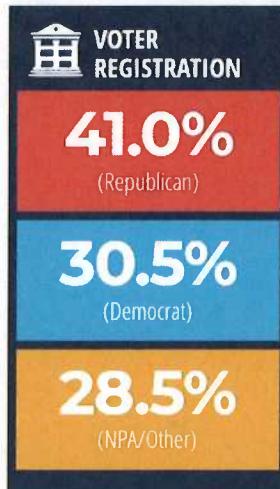
QUALITY  
OF LIFE

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

### Civic & Governance Systems

[State of Florida FutureCast](#)

Click any metric to get more information!

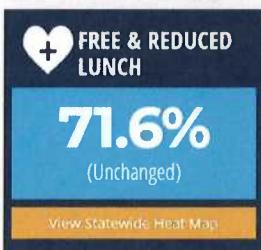
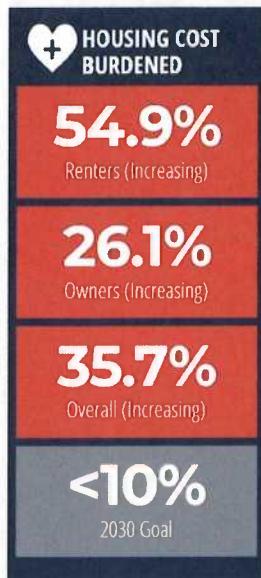
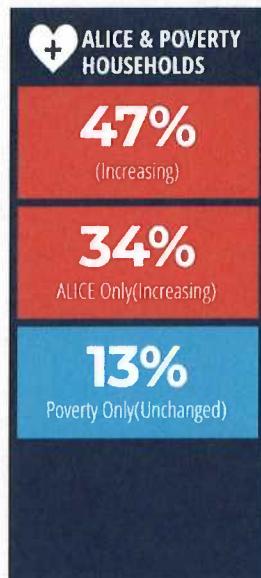
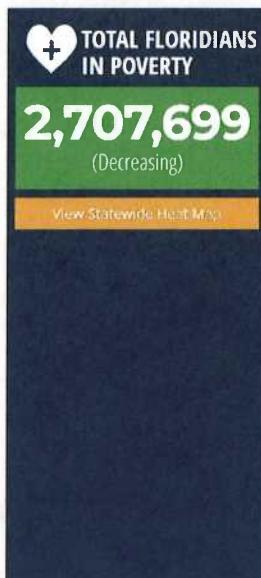


## State of Florida Metrics (What is this?)

### Quality of Life and Quality Places

Click any metric to get more information!

State of Florida FutureCast





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

January 15, 2026

TO: Council Members

FROM: Scott R. Koons, AICP, Executive Director

S.R.K. \_\_\_\_\_

SUBJECT: Legislative Report

The 2026 regular Legislature Session convened on January 13, 2026 and is scheduled to adjourn on March 13, 2026. The legislative interim Committee schedule was, 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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January 15, 2026

TO: Council Members

FROM: Scott Koons, AICP, Executive Director *SK*

SUBJECT: Community Development Block Grant -  
 Disaster Recovery Infrastructure Repair Program and  
 Rural Infrastructure Fund Program  
 Grant Awards

On December 18, 2025, \$311 million in grant awards were announced to improve infrastructure in 37 Florida communities, which includes 32 awards to rural counties and small cities. These awards come from funding through both the Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery Infrastructure Repair Program, helping communities impacted by the 2023 and 2024 Storms - Hurricanes Idalia, Debby, Helene, Milton and the 2024 North Florida Tornadoes and funding from the Rural Infrastructure Fund. These awards invest in critical infrastructure needs ranging from utility and transportation improvements to emergency operations resources in these communities - especially supporting critical water infrastructure investments across the state.

A total of \$52,932,768 in funding was awarded to the following six local governments and state college in the north central Florida region through the 2023 and 2024 Storms Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery Infrastructure Repair Program:

- **Bradford County Board of County Commissioners (\$5,951,403)** - to structurally reinforce the roadway by adding base, pavement and re-establish the roadside swales by regrading and adding erosion protection.
- **Columbia County Board of County Commissioners (\$4,000,000)** - to upgrade and harden community shelters.
- **City of Live Oak (\$3,895,500)** - to construct a 100,000-gallon water storage tank and support a water line loop project.
- **Santa Fe College (\$5,000,000)** - to repair and upgrade the campus gymnasium due to significant roof damage from the 2023 and 2024 storms.
- **Suwannee County Board of County Commissioners (\$38,044,115)** - to construct the North Florida Regional Special Needs Emergency Shelter.
- **Union County Board of County Commissioners (\$1,401,750)** - to construct a hardened public safety communications tower and upgrade the county's current emergency dispatch system.

Page 2  
Grant Awards

The Rural Infrastructure Fund Program supports infrastructure projects that drive job creation, capital investment, and strengthen economies in Rural Areas of Opportunity, rural counties and rural communities. For Fiscal Year 2025-2026, the Florida Legislature appropriated \$17 million for the Rural Infrastructure Fund statewide program and \$5 million for the Panhandle-Specific Program for a total of \$22 million. The Florida Department of Commerce received a record 112 applications requesting more than \$195 million in funding during the 2025-2026 Rural Infrastructure Fund application period. Since 2019, the program has awarded more than \$110 million in grant funds.

A total of \$3,788,415 in funding was awarded to the following two local governments in the north central Florida region through the Rural Infrastructure Fund Program:

- **Columbia County Board of County Commissioners (\$2,000,000)** - to construct an inbound and outbound rail track serving the North Florida Mega Industrial Park.
- **City of Lake City (\$1,788,415)** - to replace a hangar at the Lake City Gateway Airport significantly damaged by Hurricane Idalia.

On January 8, 2026, an additional \$167.5 million in grant awards were announced to improve infrastructure in 34 small and rural communities across the state. These awards also come from funding through the Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery Infrastructure Repair Program, helping areas impacted by the 2023 and 2024 Storms - Hurricanes Idalia, Debby, Helene, Milton and the 2024 North Florida Tornadoes and funding from the Rural Infrastructure Fund.

Taylor County, City of Perry and Doctor's Memorial Hospital were awarded \$35,749,846 through the Community Development Block Grant Program - Disaster Recovery Infrastructure Repair Program and the Rural Infrastructure Fund:

**Taylor County Board of County Commissioners (\$6,317,865)**

- **\$1,050,000** - to repair and reconstruct residential roads in Steinhatchee to reduce recurrent flooding and prevent future washouts.
- **\$4,969,425** - to construct the Taylor County Special Needs Emergency Shelter.
- **\$298,440** - to determine the best available location in Steinhatchee for the construction of critically needed infrastructure for a commercial seafood off-load, processing and distribution facility through the Rural Infrastructure Fund.

**City of Perry (\$25,000,000)**

- **\$12,000,000** - to construct a new parallel treatment plant, which will enhance operational resilience and safety during future storms.
- **\$8,500,000** - to replace current wastewater infrastructure and install modern equipment - managing capacity, ensuring regulatory compliance and enhancing system resilience during future storms.
- **\$4,500,000** - to create a resilient independent water source by restoring capacity and increasing the reliability of Well No. 3 that will directly serve the City if the main treatment plant or water lines are compromised during a hurricane.

**Doctor's Memorial Hospital in Taylor County (\$4,431,981)** - to install a whole-facility emergency power system, replace hospital telephone and communications systems and modernize the water treatment system through the Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery Mitigation Program.

Page 3  
Grant Awards

An additional \$77,104,009 in funding was awarded to the following eight local governments, water authority, and water and sewer district in the north central Florida region through the 2023 and 2024 Storms Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery Infrastructure Repair Program:

- **Big Bend Water Authority (\$4,514,185)** - to repair and replace critical water mains in Steinhatchee, Florida and Jena, Florida.
- **Cedar Key Water and Sewer District**
  - **\$7,349,280** - to construct and harden the Cedar Key Water and Sewer District potable water system.
  - **\$4,124,017** - to harden the Cedar Key Water and Sewer District Wastewater Treatment Facility.
- **Town of Cross City (\$37,770,475)**
  - **\$32,062,208** - to build a new wastewater treatment plant and repair the sewer lines in the city.
  - **\$5,708,267** - to improve and upgrade stormwater drainage by installing elliptical reinforced concrete piping along the streets, further collecting stormwater into the main drainage ditch alongside US Highway 19.
- **Gilchrist County Board of County Commissioners (\$1,298,634)** - to install updated drainage systems that are underperforming or have been damaged in previous storms.
- **Hamilton County Board of County Commissioners (\$1,200,000)** - to restore and provide needed improvements to Hamilton County's sole sheltering facility.
- **Lafayette County Board of County Commissioners (\$1,382,403)** - to restore and harden the drainage and roadway system that serves residents, school buses, agriculture and emergency vehicles.
- **Levy County Board of County Commissioners (\$1,465,015)**
  - **\$1,107,015** - to eliminate a severe safety hazard, restore essential recreational and tourism access, and increase resiliency for this vulnerable coastal location.
  - **\$358,000** - to complete a Fire Emergency Response and Control Project—ensuring reliable emergency services in one of the county's most vulnerable and hazard-prone regions.
- **Madison County Board of County Commissioners (\$8,000,000)** - to construct the Madison County Special Needs Shelter at the Madison County Emergency Operations Shelter.

An additional \$705,000 in funding was awarded to the following three local governments in the north central Florida region through the Rural Infrastructure Fund Program:

- **Hamilton County (\$300,000)** - to construct a new building at the Alapaha Commerce Center - providing flexible, move-in-ready facilities designed to attract logistics, distribution and advanced manufacturing companies.
- **Town of Jennings (\$300,000)** - to complete the planning, design and permitting of a new production well as well as critical improvements and upgrades to the existing water treatment plant.
- **Madison County Board of County Commissioners (\$105,000)** - to create a master plan for the Madison County Industrial Park, to include planning, market research and utility assessments necessary to guide Madison County Development Council's outreach to prospective companies.

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

