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During this past year, the Council continued to be a very successful public agency that provides valuable services in fulfilling our mission to improve the quality of life of the region’s citizens by coordinating growth management, protecting regional resources, promoting economic development and providing technical services to local governments. The following pages summarize these accomplishments.

The Council, in partnership with economic development organizations and local governments, promotes regional strategies, partnerships and solutions to strengthen the economic competitiveness and quality of life of the 13 counties and 45 incorporated municipalities in the north central Florida region. The Council, whose members are local elected officials and gubernatorial appointees, administers a variety of state and federal programs for north central Florida including Alachua, Bradford, Columbia, Dixie, Gilchrist, Hamilton, Lafayette, Levy, Madison, Marion, Suwannee, Taylor and Union Counties.

Programs include development of the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy, the Strategic Regional Policy Plan, technical assistance to local governments in development of comprehensive plans, land development regulations and grant management, and administration of local mitigation strategies, hazardous materials, homeland security and economic development programs. In addition, the Council staffs the Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization for the Gainesville Urbanized Area, the North Central Florida Local Emergency Planning Committee, the North Central Florida Regional Hazardous Materials Response Team and The Original Florida Tourism Task Force.

Our successes in these activities have been realized through the dedicated work of the Council staff under the guidance provided by our members and by the leaders of our affiliated agencies, including the Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization for the Gainesville Urbanized Area, the North Central Florida Local Emergency Planning Committee, the North Central Florida Regional Hazardous Materials Team and The Original Florida Tourism Task Force. All of these groups remain committed to achieving excellence as they continue to pursue ways to improve our region.

Of particular note are the extremely important and beneficial services the Council continued to provide to rural local governments in the areas of comprehensive planning, community development, grant procurement and grant administration. By combining their limited financial resources, small rural jurisdictions have been able to have access to these services of the Council that they would have been unable to afford on an individual basis. Working together as partners, the Council, counties and cities have been able to improve the quality of life in rural north central Florida.

We hope that you find the discussion of our programs in this report to be informative. Also provided is a summary of our financial status and a brief look at the year ahead.

The Council members and staff are most appreciative of the support received from our member local governments and the citizens of the region. We look forward to working together with you in the future for the betterment of north central Florida.

Sincerely,

Daniel Riddick
Chair
The north central Florida region includes 13 counties and 45 incorporated municipalities in the north central portion of Florida. Containing nearly 10,000 square miles of area, the region is characterized by its abundant natural resources, which include the world-famous Suwannee River, the marshes of the Gulf Coast, cypress swamps, upland forests and a large number of clear turquoise springs.

According to the University of Florida, Bureau of Economic and Business Research, the population of the region in the year 2015 was 891,014, an increase of 51,922 persons over the 2006 population of 839,092 representing a 6.2 percent increase over the past ten years.

The economic base of the north central Florida region relies heavily on the government and services sectors, with the University of Florida in Gainesville accounting for a major portion of the government employment. The City of Gainesville and City of Ocala are the regional retail centers and, together with Alachua County and Marion County, accounts for 66.9 percent of the total population of the north central Florida region.

Mission Statement

“To improve the quality of life of the Region’s citizens, by coordinating growth management, protecting regional resources, promoting economic development and providing technical services to local governments.”
The Council

The Council is an association of 24 general purpose local governments. Membership includes all 11 counties and 13 of the municipalities in the region. One-third of the representatives are appointed by the Governor, with the remainder appointed by member local governments. Two-thirds of the representatives must be local elected officials.

The Council meets monthly. At its May meeting, the Council adopts the annual work program and budget. Also at this meeting, the Council elects the officers for the organization: Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary/Treasurer from among its ranks.

Council members serve on several standing and ad hoc committees appointed by the Chair. The purpose of these various committees is to advise the Council on administrative and programmatic matters, including planning and development activities which come before the Council for review and comment. The Council serves as a forum for the coordination and review of federal/state/local government, and private sector planning and development programs and activities affecting the north central Florida region.

“The Council serves as a forum for coordination and review.”

In addition to the regional planning and review activities, the Council provides a variety of services to benefit its local governments. These services include: community planning assistance, grant application and administration services, transportation planning assistance, hazardous waste monitoring, emergency response planning assistance and economic development activities.

ALACHUA COUNTY
Ken Cornell
Charles Chestnut IV
Lee Pinkoson
* Vacant
* Vacant
* Vacant
* Vacant
Alachua
Robert Wilford
Archer
Fletcher Hope
Gainesville
Harvey Budd
Lauren Poe
Helen Warren
Hawthorne
DeLoris Roberts
High Springs
Jason Evans
Newberry
Rick Coleman
Waldo
Louie Davis
BRADFORD COUNTY
Daniel Riddick
* Vacant
Starke
Janice Mortimer

COLUMBIA COUNTY
Tim Murphy
* James Montgomery
Lake City
Stephen Witt

DIXIE COUNTY
Jason Hollifield
* Lorene Thomas

GILCHRIST COUNTY
Kenrick Thomas
* Vacant

HAMILTON COUNTY
Beth Burnam
William Hunter
Jasper
LaBarfield Bryant

LAFAYETTE COUNTY
Anthony Adams
* Vacant

MADISON COUNTY
Rick Davis
* Mike Williams

City of Madison
Jim Catron

SUKWANNEE COUNTY
Larry Sessions
* Vacant
Live Oak
Garth Nobles, Jr.

TAYLOR COUNTY
Thomas Demps
* Vacant
Perry
Mike Deming

UNION COUNTY
James Tallman
* Daniel Webb

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS
Vacant, St. Johns River Water Management District
Vacant, Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Vacant, Enterprise Florida, Inc.
Vacant, Florida Department of Transportation
Vacant, Suwannee River Water Management District

* Gubernatorial Appointee

Daniel Riddick, Chair
Rick Davis, Vice-Chair
Lorene Thomas, Secretary-Treasurer
Dealing with issues of growth provides opportunities for regional cooperation and planning. Being an association of local governments with strong ties to state and federal agencies, the Council is uniquely positioned to coordinate the development and implementation of strategies designed to address the problems and opportunities created by growth.

Regional Planning

Transportation Planning Best Practices and Local Government Comprehensive Plans

The North Central Florida Strategic Regional Policy Plan encourages the implementation of transportation planning best practices as an alternative to traditional transportation concurrency. Transportation planning best practices can include enhancing road network connectivity, providing parallel local routes to the Regional Road Network, incorporating access management strategies and developing multimodal transportation systems. By relying on transportation planning best practices, urban development can still be directed to incorporated municipalities, urban service areas and urban development areas while minimizing transportation infrastructure costs and declines in level of service.

In 2015, the Council reviewed several local government comprehensive plan amendments which incorporated transportation planning best practices as policies in the Transportation Element of their local government comprehensive plans.

Review Activities

One of the ways the Council implements the regional plan is through its review responsibilities. The Governor has designated the Council as the area-wide clearinghouse for all federally-funded projects that affect the region, and other review activities undertaken as a result of state legislation. In 2015, the Council reviewed 85 projects submitted by private development interests, private not-for-profit corporations, units of local government, as well as state and federal agencies. Reviews included the following types.

- Applications for federal assistance totaling $37,772,705
- Local comprehensive plans and plan amendments
- 10-year site plans of major electric utilities
- Water quality basin action plans

“The Council is uniquely positioned to coordinate the development and implementation of strategies designed to address the problems and opportunities created by growth.”

Stephen Foster State Park, located adjacent to White Springs, Florida, is recognized as a Natural Resource of Regional Significance in the North Central Florida Strategic Regional Policy Plan.

- Environmental impact statements
- Mine reclamation plans

The Council reviewed these projects to:

1. Avoid or mitigate potential adverse impacts to regionally significant resources, regionally significant facilities or neighboring communities or counties;
2. Ensure coordination with local government plans; and
3. Avoid duplication or conflict with other local or area plans and programs.
Of the 85 review items in 2015, the Council reviewed 34 amendments to local government comprehensive plans. The Council forwarded its findings on local government comprehensive plans to local governments under the expedited review process and to the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity for their consideration in determining the consistency of local government comprehensive plans with the State Comprehensive Plan and the North Central Florida Strategic Regional Policy Plan under the coordinated review process.

The Council also reviewed 21 U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Community Development Block Grant applications, 24 U.S. Federal Transit Administration grant applications for either capital assistance or operating assistance, three U.S. Department of Agriculture grant/loan applications and three other review items. The Council provides comments on applications for federal assistance to the Florida State Clearinghouse, which is housed in the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. The Florida State Clearinghouse administers the intergovernmental coordination and review process of certain state and federal activities within the State of Florida which involve federal financial assistance and/or direct federal activity.

“The Council provided comments on applications for federal assistance, ensuring that federal grants were consistent with local plans and programs throughout the region.”

The Suwannee River, which flows through the heart of the region, is recognized as a Natural Resource of Regional Significance in the North Central Florida Strategic Regional Policy Plan.
During 2015, the Council continued working on ongoing public safety and regulatory compliance activities and also started several new projects.

Local Emergency Planning Committee

The North Central Florida Local Emergency Planning Committee continued its mission of increasing chemical safety in our communities. The Council has provided staff support to the Committee since 1989.

The Committee’s tools included planning, training, reviewing, exercising, offering How-to-Comply assistance to business and industry and educating the public. An updated emergency response plan for the north central Florida region was completed this year.

A significant change for 2015 was adding Levy and Marion Counties into the hazardous materials safety program. The Committee held meetings at the Marion County Emergency Operations Center and the Levy County Public Safety Complex.

Council staff assisted with a variety of hazardous materials exercises during 2015. In August, staff prepared an After Action Report on a CSX Railroad Incident tabletop exercise held for Alachua County responders. The largest exercise of 2015 was a multi-regional exercise conducted jointly with the Northeast Florida Regional Council.

Pipeline Safety

The North Central Florida Regional Hazardous Materials Response Team was awarded a grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation to improve pipeline safety. The grant project consisted of planning, training, public outreach, and exercising components. Council staff provided staff support to the Team in implementing this project.

The Team conducted a tabletop exercise involving emergency response activities with the compressor station in Perry.

Public Safety and Regulatory Compliance

Emergency Management

The Council participated in the 2015 Alachua County Prepares Festival in September as part of National Preparedness Month. The focus was on Shelter In-Place training. In response to a hazardous materials incident, a critical decision to be made by emergency management and the incident commander is whether to shelter in-place or evacuate specific areas. Often, the best solution during a spill is to shelter in place and let a toxic chemical cloud blow over while remaining indoors.

First Responder Training

During 2015, the Council coordinated hazardous materials emergency response training classes. Council staff conducted 26 classes for the Local Emergency Planning Committee. A total of 354 emergency responders completed 4,860 hours of training.
Hazardous Waste

All counties in Florida are required by law to conduct annual site visits to verify the hazardous waste management practices of 20 percent of the businesses and government agencies in a county.

The Council continued to provide compliance assistance during the required verification visits. A goal is helping facilities properly manage waste disposal in a cost efficient manner.

As an example, Council staff can give a facility a stencil to paint “used oil” on a tank rather than reporting the facility was out of compliance because a used oil tank was not properly labeled.

Hazardous Materials
Regional Response Team

The Council continued to provide staff support to the North Central Florida Regional Hazardous Materials Response Team. Members include Alachua, Bradford, Columbia, Dixie, Gilchrist, Lafayette, Suwannee and Union Counties as well as the following cities: Gainesville, Lake City and Starke. During 2015, the City of Madison joined the Regional Team.

Hazards Analyses and Hazards Analysis Working Group

Hazardous materials emergency response planning requires an understanding of the chemical hazards and potential threats to nearby communities. In 2015, facilities reported the following amounts of extremely hazardous substances which are included in the hazards analyses:

- Sulfuric Acid - 140 sites with 6,900,000 pounds
- Anhydrous Ammonia - 11 sites with 281,000 pounds
- Chlorine - 20 sites with 824,000 pounds

Council staff serves as Chair of the State Emergency Response Commission Hazards Analysis Working Group. During 2015, progress was made in improving the overall process to ensure that emergency management and first responders have the most accurate and useful information in the case of a toxic chemical release.

“The Council provided staff support to counties to conduct hazards analyses site visits.”

Hurricane Preparedness

During 2015, the Council completed work on a variety of new tools to assist emergency managers make decisions on who and when to evacuate when threatened by an approaching hurricane. Taylor County has the largest potential storm surge in Florida at 53 feet above sea level.

A Storm Surge Directional Atlas was completed. This new atlas depicts the worst case surge impacted areas for Category One through Category Five storms depending if the storm is approaching, paralleling or exiting the coast. The atlas is used to assist emergency management personnel identify vulnerable areas in greater detail.

The Council also completed an update of the Evacuation Transportation Analysis. This analysis is part of a statewide update being conducted by regional planning councils throughout Florida. With a statewide approach, the traffic impacts from other regions can be projected and planned for such as evacuees traveling north from the Tampa Bay region to the north central Florida region.
The economic development program of the Council strives to promote long-term economic prosperity in the region by conducting comprehensive economic development planning, assisting local governments and economic development organizations with implementation activities and by promoting tourism opportunities of the region as a means of economic development.

**Economic Development Planning**

In 1978, the U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration designated the north central Florida region as an Economic Development District. Since then, the Council has served as the primary regional economic development planning organization for the north central Florida region. The Council continued to maintain a high level of involvement in 2015 by providing technical assistance to local governments and economic development organizations in order to promote the economic growth of the region.

**Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy**

Council staff continued to support initiatives that support the five regional priorities identified in the five-year Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy of the Economic Development District, which was submitted to the U.S. Economic Development Administration in 2012. Those five priorities are: support the two Rural Economic Development Initiative Catalyst Sites in the North Central Florida Rural Area of Opportunity; promote regional tourism through The Original Florida Tourism Task Force; create strategies to increase the labor force in the healthcare and life science industries; seek opportunities to improve the multimodal infrastructure of the region; and expand and support regional business incubators and research parks.

The five-year Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy for the 2013 to 2017 period utilizes the Florida Chamber Foundation’s Six Pillars of Florida’s Economic Future principles as the underlying Strategy framework. The Goals and Objectives of the Strategy are also coordinated with the State of Florida Five-Year Economic Development Strategy, developed by the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity.

Council staff continued to support local economic development organizations throughout the region by providing technical assistance in the form of economic impact analysis for potential economic development projects. Utilizing Regional Economic Modeling, Inc. Policy Insite® software, Council staff provided estimated impacts to variables such as population, total employment, personal income and tax revenues, based on the industry, employment and incomes of the proposed project. These estimates are a valuable tool to local governments as they evaluate possible incentives to attract new and retain existing businesses in their communities.

"The Council's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy uses the Florida Chamber Foundation's Six Pillars of Florida's Economic Future as the organizing framework."
Visit Natural North Florida
(The Original Florida Tourism Task Force)

In many rural communities, tourism is often the primary source of economic development activity. Visit Natural North Florida (The Original Florida Tourism Task Force) markets the 14-county “Natural North Florida” region by promoting the development of nature-, culture- and heritage-based tourism. Visit Natural North Florida is comprised of representatives from each of the participating counties, appointed by their respective county commissions, to support and direct the regional tourism development effort. Since 1993, the Council has provided staffing services for the Task Force. Council staff assists the Task Force in upgrading and maintaining the VisitNaturalNorthFlorida.com website, coordinates consumer travel show participation, creates proactive publicity campaigns and produces collateral materials to meet the goals of the regional marketing plan.

Visit Natural North Florida participates in in-state, domestic out-of-state and international consumer travel shows, where members actively engage and provide collateral marketing material to thousands of potential visitors.


Visit Natural North Florida members are eligible to receive scholarships to attend educational programs such as the Southeast Tourism Society Marketing College and the annual Florida Governor’s Tourism Conference. Attendees are taught marketing techniques in all facets of the tourism industry and learn about the latest trends in tourism promotion. In addition, each member county receives exposure in digital as well as print media advertising campaigns. The advertisements are viewed by millions annually.

Visit Natural North Florida maintains several different forms of printed media, including fold-out map brochures and rack cards that are distributed at the VISIT FLORIDA Welcome Centers, state-wide AAA offices and at hundreds of private business locations along the major highways in Florida and I-75 in Georgia.

The Original Florida Tourism Task Force recently revamped its website to be more engaging to tourists. The website can be found at www.vnnf.org.

“Council officials received, on behalf of the Council, an Innovation Award from the National Association of Development Organizations for online bicycle trail maps available on The Original Florida Tourism Task Force website. Left to right, Lorene Thomas, Secretary-Treasurer of the Council, Daniel Riddick, Chair of the Council, Terry Bobrowski, President of the National Association of Development Organizations, Scott Koons, Executive Director of the Council, and Carolyn Spooner, Immediate Past Chair of the Council.”
During 2015, the Council offered technical assistance to local governments which do not have available staff or expertise for certain activities. These activities ranged from comprehensive planning to community development.

**Comprehensive Planning**

In response to the requirements of Florida community planning legislation, the Council continued to place a significant emphasis on comprehensive planning assistance for local governments. During 2015, the Council continued to assist counties and cities throughout the region in complying with the requirements of the Community Planning Act.

“The Council assisted counties and cities throughout the region in complying with the requirements of the Community Planning Act.”

The Act requires counties and cities to prepare, adopt, update and implement a comprehensive plan to guide future growth and development in their communities. The comprehensive plan must address future land use, transportation, housing, public facilities, including potable water, sanitary sewer, solid waste and storm water drainage, conservation of natural resources, recreation and open space, intergovernmental coordination and capital improvements. In addition, the comprehensive plan may include optional elements such as public school facilities, economic development, and public buildings and facilities.

The comprehensive plan must be implemented through the adoption of land development regulations governing the subdivision of land, use of land, protection of potable well fields, regulations subject to flooding, protection of environmentally sensitive lands, signage, public facility concurrency and onsite traffic flow and parking. The Act also requires local governments to evaluate their comprehensive plan every seven years to determine whether it complies with all statutory and administrative rule requirements. Such evaluations may result in recommended amendments to the comprehensive plan.

The Council provided ongoing comprehensive planning assistance to local governments to assist with interpretations of comprehensive plans and land development regulations, preparation of comprehensive plan and land development regulation amendments, codification of comprehensive plans and land development regulations, and concurrency assessments of plats and site and development plans.

In particular, the Council assisted six counties and seven municipalities process 83 development-related applications. This assistance included the review and adoption of 26 comprehensive plan map and text amendments. The Council also assisted these local governments with 36 land development regulation map and text amendments, seven land development regulation special exceptions and special permits, 14 concurrency assessments for plats, variances, nonconforming use changes and site and development plans.

The Council assisted counties and municipalities in preparing concurrency assessments to evaluate the impacts of development on the level of service for roads, water, sanitary sewer, solid waste, storm water drainage and recreation facilities.

The Council assisted one county and two municipalities prepare evaluation and appraisal reviews of their local government comprehensive plans pursuant to the Community Planning Act. These reviews evaluated the success of the plans and included recommendations for amendments to update the comprehensive plans.

**Community Development Block Grants**

Since 1976, the Council has assisted local governments with applications and administration for the Florida Small Cities Community Development Block Grant program. The Florida Small Cities Community Development Block Grant program is a federal program, which is part of the Federal Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, and is administered by the State of Florida. Eligible local governments apply to the State for funding through a competitive process.
The purpose of the Community Development Block Grant program is to help reduce and reverse community decline and restore community vitality. This is done by addressing the housing stock, improving infrastructure and assisting private businesses with infrastructure needs so they can be job creators.

“The Council assisted counties and cities identify community development needs, file grant applications and administer projects.”

Though the program ultimately benefits the local governments by providing grants for infrastructure, the beneficiaries of this program are primarily residents whose incomes are within the low- to moderate-income range for their community. The Florida Small Cities Community Development Block Grant Program has several different categories which assist local governments with improving infrastructure in neighborhoods and creating jobs for low- to moderate-income residents.

The categories are Housing, Neighborhood Revitalization, Commercial Revitalization and Economic Development. Housing is a direct benefit program, in which funds are used to rehabilitate or replace homes of low- to moderate-income families. This helps the individual family, but also helps the community by improving the local housing stock. Neighborhood Revitalization, both a direct benefit program and community-wide benefit, in which funds are used to rehabilitate or provide new infrastructure to primarily low- to moderate-income neighborhoods, such as paving roads, replacing or providing new water or sanitary sewer lines and providing connections to the lines.

Commercial Revitalization is used to improve the public right-of-way through improving sidewalks, lighting and building facades of downtown areas or commercial revitalization areas, making areas more attractive and safer, thereby making it more likely that private businesses will locate in the revitalized area and hire local residents. Economic Development funds are used to provide necessary infrastructure for a private business to locate or remain open within the boundaries of a local government. Private businesses that directly benefit from economic development funds agree to hire a certain number of low- to moderate-income residents.

Council staff continued to provide administrative assistance for a project in Suwannee County, a project in Town of Mayo and a project in the City of Madison.
Through an interlocal agreement entered into by the Florida Department of Transportation, Alachua County and the City of Gainesville, the Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization for the Gainesville Urbanized Area was formed in 1979 to conduct continuing, cooperative and comprehensive transportation planning activities in the Gainesville metropolitan area. This planning program is required in order for the area to receive federal funds for transportation projects.

“The Council provided staff services to the Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization for the Gainesville Urbanized Area to assist in developing transportation plans and programs.”

The Council assisted the Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization for the Gainesville Urbanized Area with the update of the Year 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan that identifies highway, transit, bicycle and pedestrian needs and projects.

**State Road 26/University Avenue Multimodal Emphasis Corridor Study**

A high priority in the adopted Year 2040 Cost Feasible Transportation Plan is improving multimodal transportation options on State Road 26 (University Avenue) and U.S. Highway 441 (West 13th Street) adjacent to and near the University of Florida. In 2015, Phase 2 of the State Road 26 Study was completed. This phase created a final listing of preferred multimodal design projects to implement on the corridor. These projects included enhanced pedestrian crossings and a pedway/bikeway adjacent to the University of Florida campus and re-constructing the Waldo Road/East University Avenue intersection to better accommodate pedestrians.

**Metropolitan Transportation Planning**

In 2015, a number of transportation planning activities were conducted, which included the following.

**Year 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan**

In 2015, the Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization for the Gainesville Urbanized Area adopted the Year 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan. This Plan updated transportation project priorities for the Gainesville Metropolitan Area.

The Plan addresses highway, transit, bicycle and pedestrian projects throughout the Gainesville metropolitan area for the next 25 years. The Plan is updated every five years and is a collaborative effort of the Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization for the Gainesville Urbanized Area, Technical Advisory Committee, Citizens Advisory Committee, Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Board and citizen participation assisted by the Council.

The Year 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan includes projects for enhanced pedestrian crossings and a pedway/bikeway adjacent to the University of Florida campus along State Road 26 (University Avenue).
Transportation Disadvantaged

Florida’s Transportation Disadvantaged Program provides access to employment, health care, education and other life sustaining activities for residents in the region who are elderly, disabled and/or low income. Public transportation services are provided through a network of community transportation coordinators for individuals who have no other means of transportation. In 2015, the Transportation Disadvantaged Program coordinated over 265,000 trips in the north central Florida region. Approximately 70 percent of these trips were provided for medical purposes.

The Transportation Disadvantaged Program in the region expanded in 2015 with the addition of Levy County. The Council was designated by the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged as the Official Planning Agency for Levy County. In addition, the Commission also designated Suwannee River Economic Council, Inc. the interim Community Transportation Coordinator for Union County. The following recognitions for outstanding work were received in the region from the Commission.

- MV Transportation, Inc., the Community Transportation Coordinator for Alachua County, received the 2015 Safety Award;
- Suwannee River Economic Council, Inc., the Community Transportation Coordinator for Bradford, Dixie, Gilchrist, Lafayette and Union Counties, received the 2015 Rural Transportation Coordinator of the Year Award; and
- The Council received the 2015 Planning Agency of the Year Award.

Upcoming Activities

In 2016, the Council will issue request for proposals for the designation of the Dixie, Gilchrist and Union County Community Transportation Coordinators. The Council will also recommend the designation of the Community Transportation Coordinator for Columbia, Hamilton and Suwannee Counties.

The Council will continue to work with the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged, community transportation coordinators and local coordinating boards in the region to continue coordinating transportation services to disadvantaged individuals.
in addition to the planning and other technical studies prepared under contract with local governments throughout the region, the Council prepared or maintained the following materials in the year 2015.

**Regional**

- Strategic Regional Policy Plan
- Evaluation reports on local comprehensive plan amendments and other Council review items

**Public Safety and Regulatory Compliance**

- Local Emergency Planning Committee Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Plan Update
- Hazards Analysis Updates for Columbia, Dixie, Hamilton, Lafayette, Madison and Taylor Counties
- Hazardous Waste Management Summary Reports for Bradford, Columbia, Dixie, Gilchrist, Lafayette, Madison, Suwannee and Union Counties
- After Action Report for North Florida Regional (Tallahassee) Domestic Security Task Force Terrorism Exercise
- After Action Reports for the following exercises: Alachua County CSX Railroad Tabletop, Obscured by Smoke Full-Scale Exercise, and Perry Natural Gas Pipeline Tabletop Exercise.
- Updates to Statewide Regional Evacuation Study including Hurricane Storm Surge Directional Atlas and transportation analysis.

**Economic Development**


**Transportation**

- Fiscal Years 2016-2020 Transportation Improvement Program
- Fiscal Years 2017-2021 Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization for the Gainesville Urbanized Area List of Priority Projects
- Annual Report for Regional Transit System Ridership
- Annual Multimodal Level of Service Report for the Gainesville Metropolitan Area
- Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinated Transportation Development Plans
- Pedestrian Safety Assessment in Proximity to Transit Stops and Facilities

“**The Council prepared planning and technical studies concerning regional, public safety and regulatory compliance, transportation, and general program activities.**”

**General**

- North Central Florida Regional Planning Council Annual Report
- North Central Florida Regional Planning Council Overall Program Design
- North Central Florida Regional Planning Council Regional Directory

The Council also provided general planning assistance and referral services to the public along with the following maps and information resources.

- Existing and Future Land Use Maps
- Zoning Maps
- Census Information

In 2015, the Council prepared planning and technical studies concerning regional, public safety and regulatory compliance, transportation, and general program activities.
Upcoming Activities

In 2016, the Council will continue programs started in 2015 or earlier, and initiate new regional, public safety and regulatory compliance, economic development, local government assistance and transportation projects and activities, as follows.

Regional

The Council will review federal grant and loan applications for consistency with area-wide plans.

Public Safety and Regulatory Compliance

Emergency Management

The Council will assist with a tabletop or full-scale exercise to be conducted in the north central Florida region and assist other regional planning councils with exercises as requested. The Council will schedule and teach classes on improving emergency preparedness.

Hazardous Materials

The Local Emergency Planning Committee will continue to promote increasing public safety from chemical releases through planning, training, reviewing, exercising, offering How-to-Comply assistance and educating the public. Hazards analyses will be updated for facilities that handle extremely hazardous substances. The Regional Emergency Response Plan will be updated. The Council will continue to provide staff support to the North Central Florida Regional Hazardous Materials Response Team.

Hazardous Waste

The Council will continue to provide compliance assistance to facilities that generate hazardous waste while inspecting small quantity generators each year. The Council will notify businesses when hazardous waste collection events and compliance assistance workshops are scheduled.

Economic Development

The Council will continue to provide assistance to local governments and economic development organizations in securing grant funds to accommodate industrial and business growth. Council staff will also prepare economic impact analyses identifying the multiplier effect on employment, income and ad valorem revenue of economic development projects.

Economic Development Planning

The Council will assess progress toward implementing the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy.

Visit Natural North Florida

The Council will continue to staff Visit Natural North Florida (The Original Florida Tourism Task Force) in the implementation of its tourism marketing plan.

“The Council will continue existing programs and initiate new activities next year.”

Local Government Assistance

Community Development

Community Development Block Grant applications will be prepared for local governments. Other community development assistance, including administrative services, will be provided as requested.

Local Planning Assistance

The Council will continue assisting counties and cities in complying with the Community Planning Act requirements.

Transportation

Fiscal Years 2017 to 2021
Transportation Improvement Program

Working in cooperation with the Florida Department of Transportation, Council staff will assist the Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization for the Gainesville Urbanized Area with updating the five-year funding program of transportation projects for the Gainesville metropolitan area.

Level of Service Study

Council staff will update level of service information concerning the amount of traffic congestion on arterial and collector roads in the Gainesville metropolitan area.

Transportation Disadvantaged

Council staff will work with the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged, community transportation coordinators and local coordinating boards in the region to continue coordinating transportation services to disadvantaged individuals.
### 2014-15 Revenues $1,767,098

- Council Member Contributions ($3.00 per capita) $118,851 / 7%
- The Original Florida Tourism Task Force $182,310 / 10%
- Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization for the Gainesville Urbanized Area $683,906 / 39%
- Local Government Contracts for Planning $317,153 / 18%
- Other Revenues $11,625 / 1%
- Other Contracts $95,217 / 5%
- State $230,596 / 13%
- Federal $127,440 / 7%

### 2014-15 Expenditures $1,803,518

- Economic Development $377,534 / 21%
- Local Technical Assistance $281,811 / 16%
- Transportation $850,124 / 47%
- Program Development $57,911 / 3%
- Regional $55,056 / 3%
- Public Safety and Regulatory Compliance $181,082 / 10%
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Staff</th>
<th>Telephone</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Scott R. Koons, AICP, Executive Director</td>
<td>101</td>
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<tr>
<td>Andre M. Davis, Finance Director</td>
<td>107</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dwayne L. Mundy, Public Safety and Regulatory Compliance Program Director</td>
<td>108</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kevin D. Parrish, Information Technology and Property Management Director</td>
<td>133</td>
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<tr>
<td>Steven Dopp, Senior Planner, Economic Development, Regional Planning &amp; Transportation Planning</td>
<td>109</td>
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<td>Michael Escalante, AICP, Senior Planner, Transportation Planning</td>
<td>114</td>
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<td>Carmelita Franco, Planning Administrative Assistant, Local Government Comprehensive Planning</td>
<td>125</td>
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<td>Lynn Franson-Godfrey, AICP, Senior Planner, Transportation Disadvantaged</td>
<td>110</td>
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<td>Sandra Joseph, Senior Planner, Local Government Comprehensive Planning</td>
<td>111</td>
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<td>Jean Strong, Executive Assistant to the Executive Director</td>
<td>134</td>
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<td>Tara Tucker, Secretary II</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lauren Yeatter, AICP, Principal Planner, Geographic Information Systems</td>
<td>113</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Email Addresses

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