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 organizations, 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,

Rick Davis
Chair

“The Council promotes regional strategies, partnerships and solutions.”
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 2016 was 898,229, an increase of 37,548 persons over the 2006 population of 860,681 representing a 4.4 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 67.1 percent of the total population of the north central Florida region.
The Council

The Council is an association of 25 general purpose local governments. Membership includes 12 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 community planning 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, community planning and community 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.
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

The North Central Florida Strategic Regional Policy Plan is a long-range guide for the physical, economic and social development of the region. The regional plan contains regional goals and policies designed to promote a coordinated program of regional actions directed at resolving problems identified in the trends and conditions statements contained within each of the strategic regional subject areas: Affordable Housing; Economic Development; Emergency Preparedness; Natural Resources of Regional Significance; and Regional Transportation. The regional plan is the primary policy document of the Council and is the basis for Council comments concerning its review responsibilities.

During 2016, the Council approved proposed Evaluation and Appraisal Report-based amendments to the North Central Florida Strategic Regional Policy Plan for distribution and review by state and regional agencies. The proposed amendments add natural resources of regional significance and regional facilities located in Levy County to the regional plan. The Council is scheduled to adopt these amendments to the regional plan in 2017.

In 2016, the Council also 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.

The Steinhatchee River, Big Bend Salt Marsh and Big Bend Seagrass Beds Aquatic Preserve are recognized as Natural Resources of Regional Significance in the North Central Florida Strategic Regional Policy Plan.

Review Activities

One of the ways in 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. Reviews included the following types.

- Applications for federal assistance totaling $43,310,190
- Local comprehensive plan amendments
- Environmental impact statements/assessments

The Council reviewed these projects in order to:

- Avoid or mitigate potential adverse impacts to regionally significant resources, regionally significant facilities or neighboring communities or counties;
- Ensure coordination with local government plans; and
- Avoid duplication or conflict with other local or area plans and programs.
Of the 109 review items in 2016, the Council reviewed 61 amendments to local government comprehensive plans. The Council forwarded its comments 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, 19 U.S. Federal Transit Administration grant applications for either capital assistance or operating assistance, four U.S. Department of Agriculture grant/loan applications and four other review items. The Council provided 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 2016, 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.

How-to-Comply workshops were held to assist businesses and government agencies with the best ways to increase preparedness with local and regional emergency responders. The Council distributed over 2,400 copies of the 2016 update to the Emergency Response Guidebook for transportation incidents. The guidebook provides the steps to follow when first responders encounter a chemical spill.

The Council conducted a hazardous materials commodity flow study for the Local Emergency Planning Committee. This study identified the most common chemicals transported by both rail and highway in the region. This study resulted in increased preparedness for the types of releases that are most likely to occur.

**First Responder Training**

During 2016, the Council coordinated hazardous materials emergency response training classes. A total of 15 classes were held, training 171 students for a total of 4,564 hours. Approximately 80 percent of the classes were at the technician level and included a variety of hands-on training.

In 2016, the Council started using a new type of training class that makes it more convenient for firefighters to attend advanced hazardous materials training. The technician level training is 160 hours in length. In the new hybrid class, one-half of the training is done on-line. The on-line training is combined with hands-on training over eight ten-hour days.

**Pipeline Safety**

In 2016, the North Central Florida Regional Hazardous Materials Response Team was awarded a grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation. The grant project consisted of planning, training, public outreach, and exercising components. The Team conducted two tabletop exercises involving emergency response activities with an odorizing station in Trenton and a compressor station in Brooker. Council staff provided staff support to the Team in implementing this project.
Hurricane Preparedness

During 2016, the Council continued its support of emergency managers by providing them decision-making tools to assist in determining who and when to evacuate in response to an approaching hurricane. Hurricanes Hermine and Matthew both caused damage in the region during the year and the decision-making tools were used by emergency managers to make critical life-saving decisions concerning these storm events.

Council staff served as lead evaluator for the Florida Division of Emergency Management for the 2016 Statewide Hurricane Exercise. The exercise focused on the relocation of the State Emergency Operations Center from Tallahassee to Camp Blanding. The evaluation team included staff from Apalachicola Regional Planning Council and West Florida Regional Planning Council.

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 provided staff support to counties throughout the north central Florida region with small quantity hazardous waste monitoring.

The Council continued to provide compliance assistance to mainly small businesses during the required verification visits. A goal is to help facilities properly manage waste disposal in a cost efficient manner. The overall goal is to keep hazardous waste out of landfills and groundwater.

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, Madison and Starke.

During 2016, a training trailer was deployed at Suwannee County Fire Rescue. The trailer will be used to support training for natural gas pipeline and other hazardous materials transportation incidents.

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 2016, facilities reported the amounts of extremely hazardous substances which are stored in the region.

Council staff serves as Chair of the State Emergency Response Commission Hazards Analysis Working Group. During 2016, the working group made progress 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.

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

Public Health

Council staff assisted the Dixie, Gilchrist and Levy County Health Departments with conducting a tabletop exercise. The scenario involved a disease outbreak where the health departments needed to prescribe and dispense medications to every resident of a county. By conducting this exercise, emergency plans were able to be tested, existing partnerships with community partners were strengthened and potential new partnerships were identified.
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 2016 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 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.”

The Council’s five-year Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy for the period 2013 to 2017 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.

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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, coordinating consumer travel show participation, creating proactive publicity campaigns and producing collateral materials to meet the goals of the regional marketing plan.

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 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 that are distributed at the VISIT FLORIDA Welcome Centers, statewide AAA offices and at hundreds of private business locations along the major highways in Florida and I-75 in Georgia.

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.

Economic Development

“The Council provided staff services to The Original Florida Tourism Task Force to promote the region for nature-, culture- and heritage-based tourism.”
During 2016, 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 2016, the Council continued to assist 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, public school facilities and capital improvements. In addition, the comprehensive plan may include optional elements such as 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 11 municipalities process 108 development-related applications. This assistance included the review and adoption of 36 comprehensive plan map and text amendments. The Council also assisted these local governments with 64 land development regulation map and text amendments, six land development regulation special exceptions and conditional use permits and two variances.

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.

**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 and lighting as well as 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 projects in the City of Madison and the Town of Mayo.

Improvements such as renovated kitchen plumbing and new kitchen appliances to meet code requirements were completed for low- to moderate-income owner-occupied dwelling units using Community Development Block Grant funds.

Community Development Block Grant funds were used by the City of Madison to rehabilitate low- to moderate-income owner-occupied dwelling units located throughout the city.
Transportation

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 provided staff services to the Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization for the Gainesville Urbanized Area, providing technical and administrative assistance in developing transportation plans and programs. Another major transportation planning activity is the Transportation Disadvantaged Program. This program is required in order for counties to receive state funds for transportation services for low-income individuals, elderly individuals, persons with disabilities and children-at-risk.

Metropolitan Transportation Planning

In 2016, a number of transportation planning activities were conducted, which included the following.

Long Range Transportation Plan

In 2016, the Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization for the Gainesville Urbanized Area distributed copies of its adopted multimodal Year 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan Final Report to its membership, the legislative delegation and federal and state agencies. Several projects in the Long-Range Transportation Plan were at various stages in 2016. These projects included:

- State Infrastructure Bank loan-funded Celebration Pointe bridge over Interstate 75;
- State Road 24 (Archer Road) Four-Lane Project, Development and Environment Study;
- State Roads 26 and 26A (West University Avenue and SW 2nd Avenue) at State Road 121 (SW 34th Street) Safety Project Study; and
- State Road 121 (NW 34th Street) Left Turn Lane Study from NW 16th Avenue to U.S. 441.

Bicycle and Pedestrian Projects

In 2016, the Federal Transportation Alternatives Program-funded University of Florida Campus Greenway was completed. In addition several projects within the Gainesville Metropolitan Area were awarded funding, including:

- Federal Transportation Alternatives Program-funded Northwest 19th Lane Bike/Pedestrian Facility Project;
- State Safe Routes to School-funded NE 18th Avenue (Metcalfe Elementary School) Sidewalk Project; and
- State Shared-Use Network Trail-funded State Road 24 (Archer Road) SW 75th Street (Tower Road) Bicycle/Pedestrian Project.

The University of Florida Campus Greenway at Lake Alice which provides pedestrian, bicycle and wheelchair access for students, faculty, staff and visitors was completed in 2016.
Transportation Disadvantaged

Florida’s Transportation Disadvantaged Program provides access to employment, health care, education and other life-sustaining activities for older adults, persons with disabilities, and persons with low income. Transportation Disadvantaged Program sponsored services are provided through a network of Community Transportation Coordinators. In 2016, Community Transportation Coordinators provided over 237,000 trips in the north central Florida region. Approximately 50 percent of these trips were for medical purposes.

The 2016 Florida Legislature authorized non-recurring funds to be competitively awarded by the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged through a Mobility Enhancement Grant Program. The Florida Commission for the Transportation awarded grant funds to the following Community Transportation Coordinators in the region:

- MV Transportation, Inc., the Community Transportation Coordinator for Alachua County, was awarded funding to provide reduced fare bus passes to the homeless population residing in Gainesville. MV Transportation, Inc. partnered with GRACE Marketplace and the City of Gainesville to implement this project.
- Suwannee River Economic Council, Inc., the Community Transportation Coordinator for Bradford County was awarded funding to supplement their existing transportation services by providing same day on-demand transportation service for local medical, pharmacy and shopping purposes within the City of Starke; and
- Suwannee Valley Transit Authority, the Community Transportation Coordinator for Columbia, Hamilton and Suwannee Counties, was awarded funding to supplement their existing transportation services by providing same day on-demand transportation service within the City of Lake City for medical, pharmacy and shopping purposes.

In 2016, Santa Fe College contracted with MV Transportation, Inc. to provide the Santa Fe EXTRA Shuttle service. The EXTRA Shuttle provided round trip service from Alachua, Archer, Newberry, High Springs, Starke and Waldo to the Santa Fe College Northwest campus in Gainesville.

Upcoming Activities

In 2017, the Council will issue request for proposals for the designation of the Madison County Community Transportation Coordinator. The Council will continue to work with the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged.
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 2016.

**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, Marion and Taylor Counties
- Hazardous Waste Management Summary Reports for Bradford, Columbia, Dixie, Gilchrist, Lafayette, Levy, Madison, Suwannee and Union Counties
- After Action Reports for the following exercises: Dixie, Gilchrist and Levy County Health Departments Point of Dispensing Tabletop Exercise; Brooker and Trenton Natural Gas Pipeline Tabletop Exercises
- Model Coastal Flooding Vulnerability Assessment.

**Economic Development**

**Transportation**
- Fiscal Years 2017-2021 Transportation Improvement Program
- Fiscal Years 2018-2022 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 Service Plans

In 2016, the Council prepared planning and technical studies concerning regional, public safety and regulatory compliance, transportation, and general program activities.
In 2017, the Council will continue programs started in 2016 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. 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**


**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 Government Community Planning Assistance**

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

**Transportation**

**Fiscal Years 2018 to 2022 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.
2015-16 Revenues $2,002,397

- Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization for the Gainesville Urbanized Area $698,000 / 35%
- Local Government Contracts for Planning $331,408 / 17%
- The Original Florida Tourism Task Force $299,845 / 15%
- Other Revenues $14,401 / 1%
- Council Member Contributions ($0.30 per capita) $118,624 / 6%
- Other Contracts $128,907 / 6%
- Federal $146,514 / 7%
- State $264,606 / 13%

2015-16 Expenditures $2,004,839

- Economic Development $446,126 / 22%
- Public Safety and Regulatory Compliance $263,747 / 13%
- Regional $98,251 / 5%
- Transportation $883,441 / 44%
- Local Community Assistance $292,454 / 15%
- Program Development $20,820 / 1%
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Staff</th>
<th>Telephone Extension</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Scott R. Koons, AICP, Executive Director</td>
<td>101</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Andre M. Davis, Finance Director</td>
<td>107</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>108</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kevin D. Parrish, Information Technology and Property Management Director</td>
<td>133</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>109</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michael Escalante, AICP, Senior Planner, Transportation Planning</td>
<td>114</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>125</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>110</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sandra Joseph, Senior Planner, Local Government Comprehensive Planning</td>
<td>111</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>134</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tara Tucker, Secretary II</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
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Vice-Chair
Lorene Thomas

Secretary-Treasurer
Louie Davis

Executive Director
Scott R. Koons, AICP

Use the QR Reader App on your smartphone to visit our website!