

NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL
MINUTES

Virtual Meeting
Via Communications Media Technology

April 28, 2022
7:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Anthony Adams, Lafayette County
Mary Alford, Alachua County
Robert Brown, Hamilton County
Charles Chestnut IV, Alachua County
Frank Davis, City of Live Oak
Louie Davis, City of Waldo
Thomas Demps, Taylor County
Fletcher Hope Jr., City of Archer
Ward Ketring, City of Perry
John Meeks, Levy County
Janice Mortimer, City of Starke
Daniel Riddick, Bradford County
David Stegall, City of Lake Butler
Jody Stephenson, Dixie County
James Tallman, Union County
Lorene Thomas, Dixie County
Marihelen Wheeler, Alachua County
Stephen Witt, City of Lake City

NON-VOTING DELEGATE PRESENT

Kristin Adkins, City of High Springs

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS PRESENT

Ben Glass, Suwannee River
Water Management District
David Tyler, Florida Department
of Transportation

COUNCIL ATTORNEY PRESENT

Jonathan Wershow

MEMBERS ABSENT

Patricia Bouie Hutchinson, City of Hawthorne
LaBarfield Bryant, City of Jasper
James Catron, City of Madison
Cynthia Chestnut, City of Gainesville
Mark Clark, City of Newberry
Desmon Duncan-Walker, City of Gainesville
Linda Jones, City of High Springs
Travis Land, Suwannee County
Reina Saco, City of Gainesville
Kenrick Thomas, Gilchrist County
Donnie Waldrep, Madison County
Toby Witt, Columbia County

OTHERS PRESENT

Diana Davis
Stew Lilker
Alison Stettner

STAFF PRESENT

Scott Koons
Lauren Yeatter
Tara Tucker

Executive Committee Members names are bold
Gubernatorial Members names are italicize

I. INVOCATION

Noting a quorum of the Council being present, Chair Thomas Demps called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. and 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 Demps welcomed Diana Davis, Executive Director, Alachua County League of Cities and wife of Council Member Louie Davis, and Stew Lilker, Columbia County Observer.

IV. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Minutes - March 24, 2022
- B. Monthly Financial Report - March 2022
- C. U. S. Economic Development Administration Economic Adjustment Assistance Program Grant Amendment
- D. Transportation Disadvantaged Program Local Coordinating Board Appointments
- E. Transportation Disadvantaged Program Community Transportation Coordinator Designation for Madison County

Chair Demps asked if there was a motion to approve the consent agenda.

ACTION: Commissioner Meeks made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Wheeler, to approve the consent agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

V. APPROVAL OF REGULAR AGENDA

ACTION: Commissioner Wheeler made the motion, with a second by Ms. Thomas, to approve the regular agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

VI. GUEST SPEAKER - Alison Stettner, Director, Office of Policy Planning,
Florida Department of Transportation

Scott Koons, Executive Director, introduced Alison Stettner, Director, Office of Policy Planning, Florida Department of Transportation. Ms. Stetter gave a presentation to the Council concerning transportation trends in Florida. Chair Demps thanked Ms. Stettner for her presentation.

VII. CHAIR REPORT -

- A. Transportation Disadvantaged Program Resolutions of Appreciation
 - 1. Teri Harmon
 - 2. Joey Pearson
 - 3. Leila Rykard

ACTION: Commissioner Meeks made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Brown to authorize the Chair to sign Transportation Disadvantaged Program Resolutions of Appreciation for former Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board members Teri Harmon, Citizen Advocate, Columbia, Hamilton and Suwannee County; Joey Pearson, Public Education Representative, Lafayette County; and Leila Rykard, Medical Community Representative, Madison County. The motion carried unanimously.

B. Mayor Janice Mortimer Receives Home Rule Hero Award

Chair Demps reported that the Florida League of Cities recently recognized Mayor Janice Mortimer, City of Starke, as a recipient of a 2022 Home Rule Hero Award. He stated this prestigious award was presented for tireless efforts to advance the Florida League of Cities legislative agenda and help protect the home rule power of Florida's cities during the 2022 Legislative Session.

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Executive Committee

1. Proclamation Proclaiming May 1-7, 2022 as Travel and Tourism Week

Chair Demps stated that the Executive Committee recommends that the Council adopt a proclamation proclaiming May 1-7, 2022 as Travel and Tourism Week in the north central Florida region. He further stated that Travel and Tourism Week is where activities are planned throughout the United States and Florida to support and celebrate the tourism industry.

ACTION: Commissioner Wheeler made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Charles Chestnut IV to adopt the proclamation proclaiming May 1-7, 2022 as Travel and Tourism Week in the north central Florida region, which has been attached hereto and made a part of these minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

2. Proclamation Proclaiming May 9-13, 2022 Economic Development Week

Chair Demps stated that the Executive Committee recommends that the Council adopt a proclamation proclaiming May 9-13, 2022 as Economic Development Week in the north central Florida region. He further stated that Economic Development Week is to recognize the work of economic developers in promoting economic well-being and quality of life for communities create, retaining and expanding jobs that facilitate growth, enhancing wealth and providing a stable tax base.

ACTION: Commissioner Alford made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Charles Chestnut IV to adopt the proclamation proclaiming May 9-13, 2022 as Economic Development Week in the north central Florida region, which has been attached hereto and made a part of these minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Amendment to Bylaws

Chair Demps stated that the Executive Committee recommends that the Council amend Section 6 Officers-Duties-Terms of Office and Section 8 Standing and Special Committees of the Council Bylaws to delete the Secretary-Treasurer officer position, delete the Executive Committee Member position, add a separate Treasurer officer position, add a separate Secretary officer position, and delete the review of amendments to developments of regional impact as a duty of the Clearinghouse Committee to be effective May 26, 2022.

ACTION: Commissioner Alford made the motion, with a second by Ms. Thomas to amend Section 6 Officers-Duties-Term of Office and Section 8 Standing and Special Committees of the Council Bylaws to delete the Secretary-Treasurer officer position, delete the Executive Committee Member position, add a separate Treasurer officer position, add a separate Secretary officer position, and delete the review of amendments to developments of regional impact as a duty of the Clearinghouse Committee to be effective May 26, 2022. The motion carried unanimously.

B. Clearinghouse Committee - Committee Level Comprehensive Plan Review Items

Lauren Yeatter, Senior Planner, stated that the Clearinghouse Committee did not meet virtually via communications media technology earlier in the evening due to a lack of a quorum. She reported on the following local government comprehensive plan amendments which were included on the Council agenda for consideration.

- #70 - Dixie County Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (DEO No. 22-1ESR)
- #71 - City of Jasper Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (DEO No. 22-1ESR)
- #72 - City of Lake City Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (DEO No. 22-1ER)
- #73 - City of Alachua Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment (DEO No. 22-1ESR)
- #74 - City of Alachua Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (DEO No. 22-2ESR)
- #76 - Town of Fort White Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment (DEO No. 22-1ESR)
- #78 - City of High Springs Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (DEO No. 22-1ER)
- #79 - Town of Micanopy Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (DEO No. 22-1ER)
- #80 - Town of LaCrosse Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (DEO No. 22-1ER)

Ms. Yeatter stated that staff finds that the local government comprehensive plans, as amended, are not anticipated to result in significant adverse impacts to regional facilities, Natural Resources of Regional Significance or adjacent local governments. She stated that staff recommends forwarding these findings to the respective local governments and the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity.

ACTION: Ms. Thomas made the motion, with a second by Mayor Mortimer, to accept the staff reports concerning Item #70 - Dixie County Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (DEO No. 22-1ESR); Item #71 - City of Jasper Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (DEO No. 22-1ESR); Item #72 - City of Lake City Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (DEO No. 22-1ER); Item #73 - City of Alachua Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment (DEO No. 22-1ESR); Item #74 - City of Alachua Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (DEO No. 22-2ESR); Item #76 - Town of Fort White

Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment (DEO No. 22-1ESR); Item #78 - City of High Springs Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (DEO No. 22-1ER); Item #79 - Town of Micanopy Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (DEO No. 22-1ER); and Item #80 - Town of LaCrosse Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (DEO No. 22-1ER). The motion carried unanimously.

IX. EX-OFFICIO MEMBER REPORTS

David Tyler, Rural Transportation Planning Manager, Florida Department of Transportation District 2, discussed transportation issues with Council members. In particular, Commissioner Alford stated that rising water has apparently flooded the wildlife eco-passage under U.S. Highway 441 in Paynes Prairie State Preserve in Alachua County. Mr. Tyler stated he would research the matter and advise Commissioner Alford of his findings. Commissioner Alford also stated that wildflowers along U.S. Highway 441 in southern Alachua County had recently been mowed by the Department. Commissioner Wheeler stated that wildflowers along U.S. Highway in northern Alachua County had also recently been mowed by the Department. Mr. Tyler stated he would research the matter and advise Commissioner Alford and Commissioner Wheeler of his findings.

Ben Glass, Legislative and Community Affairs Chief, Suwannee River Water Management District, stated recent rain events have resulted in rising water along the rivers in the District. He also stated that everyone should complete their hurricane response plan and preparations prior to hurricane season beginning on June 1, 2022. In conclusion, Mr. Glass stated that individuals can register on the District website to receive a monthly hydrologic report.

X. CITIZEN COMMENTS - None

XI. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

A. Florida Regional Councils Association Monthly Activity Report

Mr. Koons reported that the Florida Regional Councils Association is the statewide organization of the ten regional planning councils. He stated that the Association strengthens Florida's regional planning councils, partners with government and the business community to enhance regional economic prosperity and improves the consistency and quality of regional planning councils programs to ensure they add value to state, regional and local initiatives. Mr. Koons also stated that the Association strives to accomplish these goals by carrying out the activities listed in the March 2022 activity report included in the Council meeting packet. He reviewed the activities listed in the March 2022 report.

B. Florida Chamber Foundation Scorecard™

Mr. Koons reported that the Florida Chamber Foundation has developed the Florida Scorecard™ to provide Florida leaders the metrics needed to secure Florida's future. He stated that the Florida Chamber Foundation's objective to developing a 20-year, statewide strategic plan requires a commitment to measuring our current status and progress toward the stated goals of the Six Pillars 20-year Strategic Plan. Mr. Koons noted that the Scorecard reports metrics for each of the following Six Pillars: Talent and Supply Education, Innovation and Economic Development, Infrastructure and Growth Leadership, Business Climate and Competitiveness, Civic and Governance Systems, and Quality of Life and Quality Places. He reviewed the April 2022 Scorecard™ that was included in the Council meeting packet.

C. Florida Job Growth Grant Fund

Mr. Koons reported pursuant to Section 288.101, Florida Statutes, the Florida Job Growth Fund is an economic development program designed to build on Florida's success and economic prosperity. He stated in its first year, Fiscal Year 2017-18 (July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018), the Florida Job Growth Fund provided \$85 million. Mr. Koons noted that the Fiscal Year 2021-22 (July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022) state budget provides \$50 million for public infrastructure and job training projects that support growth and employment in Florida's diverse industries. He stated public infrastructure projects include transportation and utilities needed to support economic development. Mr. Koons also stated workforce training projects provide Floridians with transferable, sustainable workforce skills applicable to many employers.

Mr. Koons stated that, on April 5, 2022, Hamilton County received a \$5,400,000 Florida Job Growth Fund grant award for a logistics and travel center. He reported that the funds will be used to provide an access road, and water and sanitary sewer facilities to a logistics center and travel center with the potential for future manufacturing opportunities on a 57-acre site at the Interstate 75 and State Road 6 interchange.

XII. COUNCIL MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Wheeler invited Council members to attend the Island Grove Blueberry Festival to be held in Island Grove on May 7, 2022.

Mayor Louie Davis invited Council members to attend the Waldo Car Show to be held in Waldo on May 21, 2022.

Chair Thomas Demps asked everyone to keep Commissioner Waldrep in their prayers as he undergoes treatment for cancer.

XIII. NEXT MEETING

Chair Demps stated that the next Council meeting is scheduled to be held on May 26, 2022.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:11 p.m.


Thomas Demps, Chair

5/26/22
Date

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-10

A RESOLUTION OF THE NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL RECOMMENDING THE FLORIDA COMMISSION FOR THE TRANSPORTATION DISADVANTAGED DESIGNATE BIG BEND TRANSIT, INC. THE COMMUNITY TRANSPORTATION COORDINATOR FOR MADISON COUNTY

WHEREAS, the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council is designated by the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged as the Official Planning Agency for the Transportation Disadvantaged Program for Madison County;

WHEREAS, the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council has the authority to recommend the designation of the Community Transportation Coordinator for Madison County in accordance with Rule 41-2.010 (1), Florida Administrative Code;

WHEREAS, the designation of the Community Transportation Coordinator will be accomplished through public competitive bidding or proposals in accordance with Rule 41-2.010 (3), Florida Administrative Code;

WHEREAS, the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council issued Request for Proposals No. 2022-01 for the designation of the Madison County Community Transportation Coordinator on February 4, 2022;

WHEREAS, the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council received two proposals in response to Request for Proposals No. 2022-01; and

WHEREAS, the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council appointed a Technical Review Committee to score and rank the proposals;

WHEREAS, the Technical Review Committee ranked the proposals in the following order:

1. Big Bend Transit, Inc.
2. Maruti Mobility Management, Inc.

WHEREAS, the Technical Review Committee recommended that the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council recommend to the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged the designation of Big Bend Transit, Inc. as the Community Transportation Coordinator for Madison County;

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

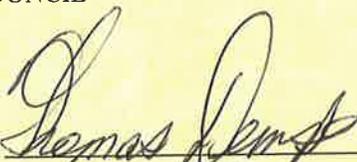
In accordance with Chapter 427, Florida Statutes, the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council recommends to the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged designate Big Bend Transit, Inc. the Community Transportation Coordinator for Madison County for a five-year period effective July 1, 2022.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED by the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council this 28th day of April 2022.

NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

ATTEST:


Scott R. Koons, Executive Director


Thomas Demps, Chair

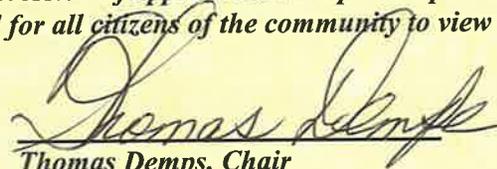
RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Teri Harmon has served as the voting Citizen Advocate Representative on the Columbia, Hamilton and Suwannee Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board since May 2020; and

WHEREAS, Teri Harmon ably discharged the duties of the voting Citizen Advocate Representative on the Columbia, Hamilton and Suwannee 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 Teri Harmon for dedicated service rendered to the Columbia, Hamilton and Suwannee Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board and concern for the transportation disadvantaged needs of Columbia, Hamilton and Suwannee 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 Teri Harmon.


Thomas Demps, Chair

ADOPTED BY THE NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

April 28, 2022
Date

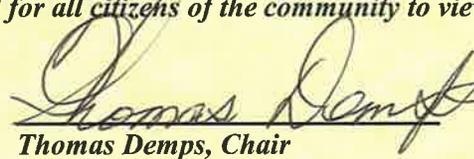
RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Joey Pearson has served as the voting Public Education Representative on the Lafayette County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board since May 2017; and

WHEREAS, Joey Pearson ably discharged the duties of the voting Public Education Representative on the Lafayette 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 Joey Pearson for dedicated service rendered to the Lafayette County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board and concern for the transportation disadvantaged needs of Lafayette 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 Joey Pearson.


Thomas Demps, Chair

ADOPTED BY THE NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

April 28, 2022

Date

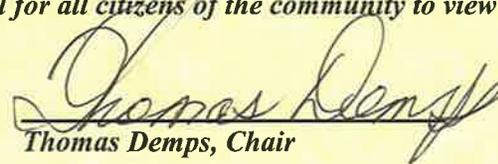
RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Leila Rykard has served as the voting Local Medical Community Representative on the Madison County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board since September 2013; and

WHEREAS, Leila Rykard ably discharged the duties of the voting Local Medical Community 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 Leila Rykard 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 Leila Rykard.


Thomas Demps, Chair

ADOPTED BY THE NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

April 28, 2022

Date



PROCLAMATION

PROCLAIMING MAY 1-7, 2022 AS TRAVEL AND TOURISM WEEK

WHEREAS, tourism brings over 122 million visitors annually to the State of Florida, generates an estimated 96 billion dollars in economic activity, estimated eight billion dollars in annual sales tax revenues and employs over one million persons;

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

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

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

NOW, THEREFORE, the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council hereby proclaims the week of May 1-7, 2022 as *Travel and Tourism Week* throughout the north central Florida region.

DULY ADOPTED AND PROCLAIMED this 28th day of April 2022.

ATTEST:

SEAL

Janice D. Mortimer, Secretary-Treasurer

Thomas Demps, Chair



PROCLAMATION

PROCLAIMING MAY 9-13, 2022 AS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT WEEK

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

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

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

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

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

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

NOW, THEREFORE, the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council hereby proclaims the week of May 9-13, 2022 as *Economic Development Week* throughout the north central Florida region.

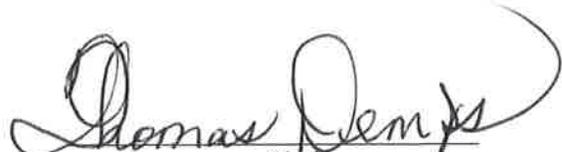
DULY ADOPTED AND PROCLAIMED this 28th day of April 2022.

ATTEST:

NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA
REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

SEAL


Janice D. Mortimer, Secretary-Treasurer


Thomas Demps, Chair