

# **NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL**

**SERVING**



## **2000 ANNUAL REPORT**

**T**hrough an interlocal agreement signed by the Florida Department of Transportation, Alachua County and the City of Gainesville, the Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization (MTPO) was formed to conduct transportation planning activities in the Gainesville metropolitan area. This coordinated planning program is required in order for the area to receive federal funds for transportation projects. The Council serves as staff, 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 to low-income individuals, elderly individuals, persons with disabilities and children-at-risk.

## MTPO ACTIVITIES

In the year 2000, the MTPO conducted a number of transportation planning activities.

## Year 2020 Long Range Transportation Plan Update

During 2000, the MTPO continued updating the long range transportation plan for the Gainesville Metropolitan Area. This planning effort examined the following four distinctly different alternative land use patterns, each requiring a different set of transportation projects.

**Westward growth**- a continuation of historical and current development patterns orientated toward a predominately suburban, low-density segregated land use pattern.

**Compact growth**- a pattern which would promote development in the traditional urban core area of the County's municipalities to encourage more pedestrian, bicycle and transit travel.

**Town/Village Center**- A pattern which would concentrate development in a limited number of intensively developed, mixed use centers.

**Radial development** - A pattern which would locate a limited number of intensively developed, mixed use centers along major linear corridors linking outlying municipalities with Gainesville.

After testing and evaluating these alternative land use patterns, the MTPO adopted a hybrid that combines elements of the compact, town/village center and radial concepts. This adopted plan was called the "Livable Community Reinvestment Plan." This plan contains the following three key components:

1. re-investing in the traditional core areas of Gainesville and other municipalities in Alachua County to develop walkable downtown centers;
2. connecting a limited number of highly developed mixed-use centers; and
3. providing a high level of premium transit service in the Archer Road corridor.



Construction continues on SW 75 Street/Tower Road, where Alachua County is considering a proposal to construct most of the section as a modified three-lane road with traffic calming features such as roundabouts, and improved bicycle and pedestrian facilities.

## **TRANSPORTATION DISADVANTAGED PROGRAM**

During the year, the Council continued to serve as the designated official planning agency for nine counties in the region under the Transportation Disadvantaged Program. The Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization (MTPO) for the Gainesville Urbanized Area serves as the planning agency for Alachua County. As the planning agency, the Council conducts planning studies to increase transportation services to the elderly, low-income, persons with disabilities and children at risk. The Council and the MTPO appoint and staff ten transportation disadvantaged coordinating boards in the region.

As required by the Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged, the Council issued seven requests for proposals for Community Transportation Coordinators this year. Through this process, a new Community Transportation Coordinator was selected for Alachua County. The Council assisted the users of the system and the new Coordinator with the transition process. In addition, the Council continued to participate on an ADA

Transportation Task Force. The purpose of this Task Force is to improve public transportation services for persons with disabilities.

This year, the Council was invited to present the Job Access Planning Challenge project at the Transportation Research Board's 80<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference in Washington, D.C. The objective of this project was to facilitate the development of transportation services for job related trips for WAGES participants.

*The Transportation Disadvantaged Program helps individuals who are unable to transport themselves because of age, disability or income status.*



## COMMUNICATIONS

A quarterly newsletter is published to inform Council members, government agencies, the private sector, and the general public about new programs and other various activities in which the Council is involved. Brochures and informational briefs are also published for special programs, studies and projects.

In addition to the numerous planning and other technical studies prepared under contract with local governments throughout the region, the Council prepared the following materials in the year 2000.

### ***Regional Programs***

[ ] Evaluation Reports on Local Comprehensive Plans, Developments of Regional Impact and other Council review items

[ ] Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Plan 2000 Update

[ ] Strategic Regional Policy Plan 5-Year Evaluation and Appraisal Report

### ***Economic Development***

[ ] Overall Economic Development Program 1999 Annual Report

[ ] North Central Florida Area-wide Development Co., Inc. Annual Report, Oct. 1, 1999 - Sep. 30, 2000

[ ] The Original Florida Guide & Map to Adventure

[ ] Hidden Coast Aquaculture Clam Recipes

[ ] Hidden Coast and Suwannee River Attractions

[ ] The Original Florida Eco-Heritage Opportunities

[ ] Looking for Business - Business Opportunities in The Original Florida

### ***Transportation***

[ ] Fiscal Years 2001-2005 Transportation Improvement Program

[ ] Fiscal Year 2001 Unified Planning Work Program

[ ] Annual Report for Regional Transit System Ridership

[ ] MPO Year 2020 Transportation Plan

[ ] Transportation Disadvantaged - Coordinated Transportation Development Plans

### ***General***

[ ] NCFRPC Annual Report

[ ] NCFRPC Overall Program Design

The Council also provides general planning assistance and referral services to the public along with the following maps and information resources which are available at reproduction cost.

[ ] Existing and Future Land Use Maps

[ ] Census Information