



INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION

DATE: July 30, 2015

TO: Mayor Ed Braddy and Members of the City Commission

FROM: Russ Blackburn, City Manager *RB*

SUBJECT: No. Central Florida Regional Planning Council Fees and Membership Voting

The following information is provided in response to the following City Commission referral:

Inquiry

Mayor Braddy raised concerns about the proposed fees and voting for membership in the North Florida Regional Planning Council. He indicated that the Planning Council has proposed fee increases for Gainesville but also a change in voting that would reduce the number of votes for the City of Gainesville. He indicated that he spoke with Executive Director Scott Koons who when questioned indicated that the City is not required to be a member.

Please prepare a memorandum to the Mayor via the City Manager with copies to the City Commission indicating: 1) how much the City pays now and how much the City would pay next year; 2) the City's voting allowance now and the new proposal; 3) services/benefits the City receives from the Planning Council; and 4) any possible impacts if the City were to withdraw from the Planning Council. The Mayor indicated that the City Commission can then decide if they would like to schedule an agenda item on the topic.

Response

1. For fiscal year 14/15, the City paid \$22,372.00 to the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council (NCFRPC). The amount due for FY 15/16 is \$21,704.00 (25% of this amount to be paid in October, 2015 and the remaining 75% of dues will be invoiced in January. The total amount is already included in the City's current budget for FY 14/15 and will be paid out of the Planning and Development Services Department budget prior to October 1, 2015.). According to Scott Koons, Executive Director of the NCFRPC, the proposed estimated amount for FY 16/17 would rise to \$37,439.00.
2. The City's current representation on the NCFRPC is 5 members (based on population). Under the proposed new system (per the Proposed Amended Interlocal Agreement), the City's representation (and for all other local governments) would drop to one local elected official as a member. There is a provision in the proposed Interlocal agreement

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that allows for additional representatives. However, these provisions would not guarantee that the City of Gainesville would get additional member representation based on the text of the Interlocal agreement (see quoted section that follows). “In order to maintain the proper proportion of local elected officials, the Council shall request selected member units to appoint additional representatives as appropriate... member units may appoint Additional Representatives only if requested to do so by the Council and that the Council shall make such periodic requests in such manner as to ensure broad representation throughout the Regional, with consideration being given to proper representation (1) from both counties and cities, and (2) from rural as well as urban areas.”

3. The services/benefits the City receives from the NCFRPC include the following (per an email from Scott Koons dated 7/8/15):
 - a. Participation in shaping the regional agenda by being engaged in a regional community that provides a forum for working together with its neighbors to share best practices and discuss issues of mutual interest.
 - b. No cost training for first responders for hazardous materials response. The City continues to play a significant role with the North Central Florida Regional Hazardous Materials Response Team, an affiliate organization of the Planning Council.
 - c. Participation in the Planning Council’s district designation as a U. S. Economic Development Administration designated economic development district that maintains a comprehensive economic development strategy to diversify the economy of the region by facilitating job creation projects. The City received federal economic development funding from the U. S. Economic Development Administration for the Gainesville Technology Enterprise Center and the University of Florida received grant for the Innovation Hub at Innovation Square that is located within the City.
 - d. No cost economic impact analysis of economic development projects assessing the secondary job impacts, income impacts and ad valorem tax revenue. The Council recently assisted City staff in evaluating economic impact of the hotel proposal for Lot 10.
 - e. Coordination of growth management and protection of regional resources.
 - f. The Council staffs the Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization for the Gainesville urbanized area.
 - g. The Council staffs the North Central Florida Local Emergency Planning Committee, the North Central Florida Regional Hazardous Materials Response Team and “The Original Florida” Tourism Task Force.

Comprehensive planning assistance and community development grant administration services provided by the Council to local governments is on a fee for service contract basis that is in addition to the annual membership dues assessment.

4. There is no requirement that the City maintain a membership in the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council. However, if the City were to withdraw its membership, Alachua County’s dues would rise because counties are responsible for dues for the population within their limits minus the population of member municipalities within the county. Per State statute, counties must have a membership in a regional planning council. If the City withdraws from membership, the City would no longer have a vote at Council meetings concerning growth management/regional resource issues. The City would be able to take advantage of the economic development grants because of being a part of Alachua County. And, participation with the Local Emergency Planning Committee and

Hazardous Materials Regional Response Team could also be retained because those are affiliate organizations.

5. Separate from the membership fees paid to the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council, the City also pays membership dues to the Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization (MTPO) for transportation planning services. The fee for the MTPO membership in FY 14/15 was \$14,400. Per an agreement dated 5/22/02, the City receives annual payments from the MTPO for staffing the Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Board. In FY 14 that payment to the City was \$8,870.10.

Attachments to this document provide greater detail about why the dues are going up and the membership representation for Gainesville will be changing (see the Proposed Interlocal Agreement Amendments document). The 2014 Annual Report and email from Scott Koons provide more detail about the benefits/services provided by the Planning Council.

Attachments:

Proposed Interlocal Agreement Amendments
2014 Annual Report, North Central Florida Regional Planning Council
Email from Scott Koons to Onelia Lazzari dated 7/8/15
Gainesville Fire Rescue Affiliation with the North Central Regional Planning Council




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Alachua • Bradford
Columbia • Dixie • Gilchrist
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June 17, 2015

TO: Council Members

FROM: Scott R. Koons, AICP, Executive Director 

SUBJECT: Proposed Interlocal Agreement Amendments

RECOMMENDATION:

Request member local governments to amend the interlocal agreement creating the Council.

BACKGROUND:

As you know, Senate Bill 1216 (Chapter 2015-30, Laws of Florida) recently enacted by the Legislature eliminated the Withlacoochee Regional Planning Council and transferred Levy County and Marion County to the north central Florida region. The North Central Florida Regional Planning Council was created by an interlocal agreement pursuant to Section 163.01, Florida Statutes, entered into by counties and municipalities located in the north central Florida region. In order to add Levy County and Marion County to the membership of the Council, the existing member local governments will need to amend the interlocal agreement.

The Executive Committee recommends that the Council recommend the following amendments to the interlocal agreement to the member local governments. These amendments include the following provisions.

1. Geographic area;
2. Governance structure;
3. Additional representatives; and
4. Dues credit.

The first amendment adds Levy County and Marion County to the list of counties within the geographic area of the north central Florida region.

The second amendment changes the governance structure by eliminating the population-based representation for member local governments. Based on the current structure, Levy County would be entitled to two local elected representatives and Marion County would be entitled to ten local elected official representatives. Along with one additional gubernatorial representative from Levy County and five additional gubernatorial representatives from Marion County, the total number of representatives to the Council would increase from 48 to 66. By eliminating the population-based representation for member local governments provision, the total number of representations to the Council would decrease from 48 to 39.

Dedicated to improving 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.

Council Members
June 17, 2015
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The third amendment deletes the additional representatives provision for minority population. The current interlocal agreement provides for a member local government to appoint additional representatives if requested by the Council to ensure representation of minority population.

The fourth amendment deletes the dues credit provision for minority population. The current interlocal agreement includes a provision for a dues credit to certain local governments of an amount equal to one percent of funds expended on planning activities during the preceding fiscal year. However, the dues credit cannot lower the dues assessment to an amount less than \$20,000. Currently, only Alachua County and the City of Gainesville are eligible for this dues credit. For Fiscal Year 2015-16, the dues credit for Alachua County is (\$10,268) and the City of Gainesville is (\$15,735). In addition, Marion County would also be eligible for a dues credit of (\$12,953).

Finally, the Executive Committee recommends that the Council recommend to the member local governments several other administrative amendments and technical amendments as statutory and administrative code citations, and aligning the powers and duties of the Council to confirm to the powers and duties as listed in Chapter 186, Florida Statutes, as amended.

Please find attached a strike-through underline version of the proposed interlocal agreement amendments. Language deleted is struck through and language added is underlined in the attached proposed interlocal agreement amendment document.

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

Attachment

Words **bolded and underlined** have been added.
 Words ~~bolded and struck through~~ have been deleted.

PROPOSED AMENDED

INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT CREATING THE
 NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

As Amended on June 25, 2015

THIS AMENDED AGREEMENT, made and entered into this 1st day of June 1975, with subsequent amendments to become effective the 1st day of December 1980, the 1st day of October 1984, **and** the 1st day of March 1990, **and the 1st day of October 2015** pursuant to the authority of Section 163.01, Florida Statutes, **as amended**, by and between the units of **general purpose** local government passing resolutions to that effect, all of which being located within the ~~3rd Comprehensive Planning District as defined by Rule 22E-1.01 of the Administrative Regulations of the State of Florida,~~ **North Central Florida Regional Planning Council district as defined in Chapter 186, Florida Statutes, as amended, or as revised pursuant to an executive order issued by the Governor of the State of Florida said-District district** currently being the geographic area including the Counties of Alachua, Bradford, Columbia, Dixie, Gilchrist, Hamilton, Lafayette, **Levy**, Madison, **Marion**, Suwannee, Taylor and Union, hereinafter referred to as the ~~North-Central Florida Region or~~ Region.

WITNESSETH:

WHEREAS, the parties hereto desire to make the most efficient use of their powers to cooperate for mutual advantages to provide services and facilities in an effort to optimize the employment of human, economic and natural resources in an effort to optimize economic, natural resources, social, land use, transportation and public safety development and by qualifying under and accepting the powers, duties and responsibilities provided by Chapter 186, Florida Statutes; and

WHEREAS, Section 163.01(4), Florida Statutes provides "a public agency of the State of Florida may exercise jointly with another public agency of the State, or of the United States Government any power, privilege or authority which such agencies share in common and which each might exercise separately."

NOW, THEREFORE, FOR AND IN CONSIDERATION of the mutual promises, covenants, benefits to accrue and agreements herein contained and set forth, the parties signatory hereto do hereby establish the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council, hereinafter referred to as the Council, a separate legal entity, and do further agree, as follows:

1. Purpose: The purpose of this Amended **Interlocal** Agreement is:
 - a. To provide a means of exercising the rights, duties and powers of a regional planning agency set forth by Chapters ~~23~~, 163, 186 and 380, Florida Statutes, **including as well as** those functions enumerated in other applicable ~~Florida~~, federal, **state** and local laws;
 - b. To serve as regional coordinator for the Region;
 - c. To exchange, interchange and review various programs of the individual members **units of general purpose local government, herein after referred to as member units**, which have a relationship to regional problems;
 - d. To promote communication between the members **units** for the conservation and compatible development of the member counties **and member municipalities**; and
 - e. To cooperate with federal, state, local and non-governmental agencies to accomplish these objectives.

Words **bolded and underlined** have been added.

Words ~~**bolded and struck through**~~ have been deleted.

2. Effective Date, Duration, Termination, and Withdrawal:

a. The member units of the Council will include those units of local general purpose **local** government as may agree into this Amended Interlocal Agreement by resolution, provided such units of **general purpose** local government (a) are located within the Region; and (b) meet the requirements set forth in Section 3 herein. Officers shall be elected and bylaws adopted and the Council shall be deemed to be in effect at that time. The organizational meeting shall be convened by the ~~Chairman~~ of the existing North Central Florida Regional Planning Council as established under Chapter 160, Florida Statutes, and notice of the time and place thereof shall be given the chief elected official of the **member** units of local government signatory hereto in writing by regular mail postmarked at least ten (10) days prior to the date set for said organizational meeting.

b. This **Amended Interlocal Agreement** shall be effective for an initial term of one (1) year from the effective date hereof, and shall continue thereafter from year to year without the necessity of a formal renewal by any party hereto, unless terminated as hereinafter provided.

c. Amendments to this Amended **Interlocal Agreement** shall be made effective by an affirmative vote of not less than three-fourths (3/4) of the governing bodies of the member units.

d. Any **member unit** party hereto may withdraw its membership, **except as provided by Chapter 186, Florida Statutes, as amended**, by resolution duly adopted by its governing body, and upon giving ninety (90) days written notice of withdrawal to the ~~Chairman~~ of the governing body of each other **principal** member unit. Contractual obligations of the withdrawing member **unit** shall continue until such obligation has been satisfactorily terminated. All property, real or personal, of the Council on the effective date of withdrawal shall remain the property of the Council and the withdrawing **principal** member unit shall have no right thereto.

e. In the event there is a complete termination of ~~the agreement~~ **this Amended Interlocal Agreement** which would involve the disposition of the property of the Council, such property shall be liquidated and each current member unit holding membership at the time of termination shall be entitled to a share of the proceeds bearing the same ratio to the total proceeds as the contribution of the **principal** member unit bore to total **membership dues assessment** contributions made by all member units from the time of the creation of the Council; provided, however, the preceding provisions notwithstanding, that in the event a member **unit** withdraws as a member **unit** of the Council and subsequently rejoins at a later date, said withdrawing member **unit** shall be eligible to share in the proceeds of liquidation of property only to the extent of its proportionate share of ~~contributions-membership dues assessments~~ made since the date it last became a member **unit** of the Council.

f. In case of a complete termination of this **Amended Interlocal Agreement**, the non-federal matching contribution to any approved federal grant shall be firm. The project shall be completed and the required reports and accounting shall be completed.

g. This **Amended Interlocal Agreement** may be terminated at any time by resolution duly adopted by the governing body of each and every member unit.

3. Membership, Representation, and Voting: All units of general purpose local governments within the Region may become members-**units** of the Council with allotted representation as provided in Paragraph 3.a.(1) ~~and 3.a.(2)~~ and other representatives may be appointed by the appropriate member units as provided in Paragraph 3.a. ~~(3) (2)~~. The Governor of the State of Florida as required by Chapter 186, Florida Statutes, may also appoint representatives as provided in Paragraph 3.a. ~~(4) (3)~~.

a. Type of Membership and Representation

(1) **Counties** - Each member county **and each member municipality** within the Region shall have ~~representation, as follows: one local elected official representative each.~~

~~a) One representative for the first 37,499 population, provided that each member county shall have at least one (1) such representative;~~

~~b) two representatives for a total population of 37,500 to 62,499;~~

~~c) three representatives for a total population of 62,500 to 87,499;~~

~~d) four representatives for a total population of 87,500 to 112,499;~~

Words **bolded and underlined** have been added.

Words ~~bolded and struck through~~ have been deleted.

- e) ~~five representatives for a total population of 112,500 to 137,499; —~~
- f) ~~six representatives for a total of 137,500 to 162,499;~~
- g) ~~seven representatives for a total population of 162,500 to 187,499;~~
- b) ~~eight representatives for a total population of 187,500 to 212,499;~~
- i) ~~nine representatives for a total population of 212,500 to 237,499; and~~
- j) ~~ten representatives for a total population of 237,500 to 262,499.~~

~~Population shall be determined as stated in Paragraph 4 d. below, and any population represented by a member municipality, shall be deducted, for purposes of computing representation, from the total population represented by the county within which said municipality is located.~~

~~(2) Municipalities—Any municipality within the Region may become a member of the Council. Municipal representation on the Council shall be determined, as follows:~~

~~a) One representative for the first 37,499 population, provided that each member municipality shall have at least one (1) such representative;~~

~~b) two representatives for a total population of 37,500 to 62,499;~~

~~e) three representatives for a total population of 62,500 to 87,499;~~

~~d) four representatives for a total of 87,500 to 112,499; and~~

~~e) five representative for a total population of 112,500 to 137,499.~~

~~(3) (2) Additional Representatives - In order to insure adequate representation of the Region's minority population, and also to maintain the proper proportion of local elected officials, the Council shall request selected member units of local government to appoint additional representatives as appropriate, providing:~~

~~a) That the number of Additional Representatives shall not consist of more than twenty five (25) percent of the total number of representatives on the Council including those allotted to member units by Paragraphs 3.a.(1), 3.a.(2), and 3.a.(4) (3), and the Additional Representative;~~

~~b) a) That such Additional Representative is intended to increase the representation of the appointing member unit and will not be a substitution or replacement for the member's allocated representation of the member unit;~~

~~e) b) That the member units requested to appoint such Additional Representatives, if they choose to comply with such request, select the Additional Representative pursuant to procedures developed requirements specified by the Council; and~~

~~d) c) That member units may appoint Additional Representatives only if requested to do so by the Council and that the Council shall make such periodic requests in such manner as to insure ensure broad representation throughout the Region, with consideration being given to proper representation (1) from both counties and cities, and (2) from rural as well as urban areas, and (3) according to minority population distribution when the request is to appoint an additional Minority Representative.~~

~~(4) (3) As provided within and in accordance with Chapter 186, Florida Statutes, as amended, the Governor of the State of Florida shall appoint representatives to the Council equaling one-half (1/2) of the total representatives appointed by the member units counties and municipalities or one-third (1/3) of the total number of representatives on the Council.~~

~~b. Term of Representatives and Representation Composition~~

~~(1) Terms - Terms of representatives allotted by Paragraphs 3.a.(1), 3 a.(2) and 3.a.(3), and 3.a. (4) shall be as determined by each appointing member unit county, member municipality and the Governor, respectively, with such determination being stipulated to the Council in writing at the time of initial appointments and at such times as such determinations are amended.~~

~~(2) Composition - At least two-thirds (2/3) of the representatives serving on the Council shall be local elected officials elected to serve serving on the governing body of member units of general purpose local government or other county elected officials chosen by the said governing bodies or the Governor. The Council shall adopt rules to insure the maintenance of this composition.~~

~~c. Voting~~

~~Each representative shall have one (1) vote on matters considered by the Council.~~

Words **bolded and underlined** have been added.

Words ~~**bolded and struck through**~~ have been deleted.

4. Finances:

a. On or before ~~June~~ **July** 1st of each year, the Council shall ~~adopt a budget and certify a copy thereof to establish the member unit dues assessment for the subsequent fiscal year and shall notify the chief administrative officer of the governing body of the member units of such member unit dues assessment.~~ Each member unit shall include in its annual budget an amount sufficient ~~to fund the proportionate share of each member unit of~~ **to pay such member unit dues assessment** the Council budget.

b. The fiscal year of the Council shall commence on the first day of October and end on the last day of September in each year. ~~On or before September 30th of each year, the Council shall adopt a budget for the subsequent fiscal year.~~

c. The Council shall have the right to receive and accept in furtherance of its functions, funds grants and services from federal, state and local governments or their agencies and from private and community sources, and to expend therefrom such sums of money as shall be deemed necessary from time to time for attainment of its objectives.

d. ~~The proportionate share of the general budget of the Council shall be an amount which bears the same ratio to the total budget as the population of each member unit bears to the total population of all member units, such~~ **Any member unit dues assessment based upon a per capita formula shall use the** population being determined annually by the ~~Department of Administration~~ **Florida Office of Economic Demographic Research or its successor agency** pursuant to ~~Section 23.019 Chapter 186, Florida Statutes, as amended,~~ for the year preceding ~~the member unit annual dues assessment; each budget determination;~~ **the member unit annual dues assessment;** provided, however, that the minimum ~~contribution~~ **member unit dues assessment** due from any member unit shall be \$750, ~~and further provided, that said membership fee shall be reduced by one (1) percent of funds expended by a member for local planning activities during the preceding fiscal year, but such reduction shall not reduce the total fee to an amount which is less than \$20,000.00.~~ Any cost incurred by the Council in providing special services to member units shall be the sole responsibility of the member unit receiving such services.

5. Powers: The Council shall have all powers granted by law, including but not limited to the powers granted by Chapters ~~23,~~ 163, 186 ~~and~~ 380, Florida Statutes, as ~~now existing or as, from time to time,~~ amended; and furthermore, shall have the specific powers:

a. To adopt ~~rules of procedure and~~ **rules of procedure and** bylaws, ~~for the regulation of its affairs and the conduct of its business and to elect from among its members a chair to serve annually; however, such chair may be subject to reelection; including the ability to establish minimum requirements for attendance at Council meetings by member representatives and representatives appointed by the Governor;~~

b. To adopt an official **name and** seal;

c. ~~Because of the concentrations of planning activities in areas with high population density~~ **To maintain an** office(s) in ~~those~~ an urban center(s) designated as ~~standard~~ metropolitan statistical area(s) by the United States Office of Management and Budget;

d. To employ and compensate ~~staff members and~~ **such personnel,** consultants, ~~including an executive director, and~~ **technical and professional assistants as it** ~~others such as~~ **planning specialists** ~~clerical personnel, attorneys, engineers, as the Council deems necessary to exercise the powers and perform the duties set forth in this Amended Interlocal Agreement. and desirable for the performance of its duties and exercise of its rights and powers.~~ Compensation to staff members shall be consistent with that which is provided in pay plans adopted by **general purpose** local governmental units in the vicinity of Council's offices having similar positions;

e. ~~To utilize staff members employed by member units as agreed by the member units and determined by the Council to be desirable to solve regional and local problems and establish Council policies; To accept gifts, grants, assistance, funds or bequests;~~

f. To hold public hearings and sponsor public forums **in any part of the Region** whenever ~~the Council deemed~~ **deems it** necessary or useful in the execution of ~~the~~ its other functions ~~of the Council;~~

Words **bolded and underlined** have been added.
 Words ~~**bolded and struck through**~~ have been deleted.

g. To acquire, own, **hold in custody** operate, maintain, lease ~~and~~ **or** sell real or personal property and hold title thereto in the name of the Council;

h. ~~To fix and determine by resolution rules and regulations relating to advertisement for bids, manner of bidding and a maximum amount, below which same will not be required To dispose of any property acquired through the execution of an interlocal agreement under Section 163.01 Florida Statutes, as amended;~~

i. To sue and be sued, ~~implead and be impleaded, complain and defend in all courts in its own name;~~

j. ~~To accept and receive in furtherance of its functions, receive and accept from any federal or state agency grants, funds, grants and services from the federal government or its agencies, for or in aid of the purposes of the Council~~ from departments, agencies and instrumentalities of municipal or local government, **as or** from private or civic sources;

k. To receive and expend such sums of money as shall be, from time to time, appropriated ~~of~~ **for** its use by any member unit ~~of government when approved by the Council and act as an agency to receive and expand federal funds for planning;~~

l. To make and enter into all contracts and agreements, ~~and do and perform all acts deeds~~ necessary and incidental to the performance of its duties and the ~~exercise~~ **execution** of its powers **under this Amended Interlocal Agreement;**

m. To incur debts, liabilities or obligations which do not constitute the debts, liabilities or obligations of any of the parties of this **Amended Interlocal Agreement** agreement;

n. To act in advisory capacity to ~~the~~ **its** constituent local governments in regional, metropolitan, county and municipal planning matters;

o. To cooperate, in the exercise of its planning functions, with federal and state agencies in planning for ~~disaster preparedness~~ **emergency management**;

p. To fix and collect membership dues, rents, or fees where appropriate;

q. To conduct studies of the ~~Region's~~ **resources of the Region;**

r. To participate with other governmental agencies, educational institutions and private organizations in the coordination or conduct of its activities; ~~and~~

s. To enter into contracts to provide, at cost, such services related to its responsibilities as may be requested by local governments within the Region and which the Council finds feasible to perform;

t. To select and appoint such advisory bodies as the Council may find appropriate for the conduct of its activities;

u. To provide technical assistance to local governments on growth management matters;

v. To perform a coordinating function among other regional entities relating to preparation and assurance of regular review of its regional plan, with the entities to be coordinated determined by the topics addressed in its regional plan;

w. To coordinate land development and transportation policies in a manner that fosters regionwide transportation systems;

x. To use personnel, consultants, or technical or professional assistants of the Council to help local governments within the geographic area covered by the Council conduct economic development activities; and

y. To provide consulting services to a private developer or landowner for a project, if not provided in a review capacity in the future, except that statutorily mandated services may be provided by the Council regardless of its review role.

6. Amendments: It is expressly understood that the terms and conditions of this Amended **Interlocal Agreement** shall be effective between and among all members of the Council; and that the validity, force and effect of ~~the~~ **this Amended Interlocal Agreement** shall not be affected by one (1) or more of the parties named hereinbefore; not approving this Amended **Interlocal Agreement**, so long as not less than three-quarters (3/4) of the governing bodies of the member units have affirmatively voted to approve and executed this Amended **Interlocal Agreement**.

Words **bolded and underlined** have been added.
Words ~~bolded and struck through~~ have been deleted.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have caused this Amended Interlocal Agreement to be executed and their signatures to be affixed on the day and year first above written.

ATTEST: BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA

County Clerk BY: _____ Chair

ATTEST: BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA

County Clerk BY: _____ Chair

ATTEST: BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF COLUMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA

County Clerk BY: _____ Chair

ATTEST: BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF DIXIE COUNTY, FLORIDA

County Clerk BY: _____ Chair

ATTEST: BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF GILCHRIST COUNTY, FLORIDA

County Clerk BY: _____ Chair

ATTEST: BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF HAMILTON COUNTY, FLORIDA

County Clerk BY: _____ Chair

ATTEST: BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF LAFAYETTE COUNTY, FLORIDA

County Clerk BY: _____ Chair

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ATTEST:

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF MADISON COUNTY, FLORIDA

County Clerk

BY: _____
Chair

ATTEST:

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF SUWANNEE COUNTY, FLORIDA

County Clerk

BY: _____
Chair

ATTEST:

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF TAYLOR COUNTY, FLORIDA

County Clerk

BY: _____
Chair

ATTEST:

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF UNION COUNTY, FLORIDA

County Clerk

BY: _____
Chair

ATTEST:

CITY COMMISSION OF THE
CITY OF ALACHUA, FLORIDA

City Manager

BY: _____
Mayor

ATTEST:

CITY COMMISSION OF THE
CITY OF ARCHER, FLORIDA

City Manager/Clerk

BY: _____
Mayor

ATTEST:

CITY COMMISSION OF THE
CITY OF GAINESVILLE, FLORIDA

City Clerk

BY: _____
Mayor

Words **bolded and underlined** have been added.
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ATTEST:

CITY COMMISSION OF THE
CITY OF HAWTHORNE, FLORIDA

City Manager

BY: _____
Mayor

ATTEST:

CITY COMMISSION OF THE
CITY OF HIGH SPRINGS, FLORIDA

City Clerk

BY: _____
Mayor

ATTEST:

CITY COUNCIL OF THE
CITY OF JASPER, FLORIDA

City Clerk

BY: _____
Mayor

ATTEST:

CITY COUNCIL OF THE
CITY OF LAKE CITY, FLORIDA

City Clerk

BY: _____
Mayor

ATTEST:

CITY COUNCIL OF THE
CITY OF LIVE OAK, FLORIDA

City Clerk

BY: _____
Mayor

ATTEST:

CITY COMMISSION OF THE
CITY OF MADISON, FLORIDA

City Clerk

BY: _____
Mayor

ATTEST:

CITY COMMISSION OF THE
CITY OF NEWBERRY, FLORIDA

City Clerk

BY: _____
Mayor

Words **bolded and underlined** have been added.
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ATTEST:

CITY COUNCIL OF THE
CITY OF PERRY, FLORIDA

City Manager

BY: _____
Mayor

ATTEST:

CITY COMMISSION OF THE
CITY OF STARKE, FLORIDA

City Clerk

BY: _____
Mayor

ATTEST:

CITY COUNCIL OF THE
CITY OF WALDO, FLORIDA

City Manager

BY: _____
Mayor

2014 Annual Report



North Central Florida
Regional Planning Council



1	Letter To Our Citizens
2	The Region
3	The Council
4	Regional
6	Public Safety and Regulatory Compliance
8	Economic Development
10	Local Government Assistance
12	Transportation
14	Communications
15	Upcoming Activities
16	Financial Report

Letter To Our Citizens

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 11 counties and 33 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, Madison, Suwannee, Taylor and Union Counties.

"The Council promotes regional strategies, partnerships and solutions."

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 developments of regional impact, 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 Original Florida Tourism Task Force*, the

North Central Florida Local Emergency Planning Committee and the North Central Florida Regional Hazardous Materials Team. 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,



Carolyn B. Spooner
Chair



The Region

The north central Florida region includes 11 counties and 33 incorporated municipalities in the north central portion of Florida. Containing nearly 7,000 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 2014 was 504,185, an increase of 34,380 persons over the 2004 population of 469,805 representing a seven percent increase over the past ten years.



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 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 is the regional retail center and, together with Alachua County, accounts for 49.7 percent of the total population of the north central Florida region.



North Central Florida Counties and Municipalities

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
Robert Hutchinson
Lee Pinkoson
* Vacant
* Vacant
* Vacant
* Vacant
* Vacant

Alachua

Robert Wilford

Archer

Doug Jones

Gainesville

Ed Braddy
Craig Carter
Lauren Poe
Helen Warren
Randy Wells

Hawthorne

DeLoris Roberts

High Springs

Jason Evans

Newberry

Timothy Marden

Waldo

Louie Davis

BRADFORD COUNTY

Daniel Riddick
* Vacant

Starke

Carolyn Spooner

COLUMBIA COUNTY

Scarlet Frisina
* James Montgomery
Everett Phillips

Lake City

Stephen Witt

DIXIE COUNTY

Jason Holifield
* Lorene Thomas

GILCHRIST COUNTY

Kenrick Thomas
* Vacant

HAMILTON COUNTY

Beth Burnam
* William Hunter

Jasper

LaBarfield Bryant

LAFAYETTE COUNTY

Donnie Hamlin
* Vacant

MADISON COUNTY

Rick Davis
* Mike Williams

City of Madison

Jim Catron

SUWANNEE COUNTY

* Sandra Haas
Larry Sessions

Live Oak

Garth Nobles, Jr.

TAYLOR COUNTY

Patricia Patterson
* Vacant

Perry

David Sullivan

UNION COUNTY

James Tallman
* Daniel Webb

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

Kraig McLane, 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

Carolyn Spooner, Chair
Daniel Riddick, Vice-Chair
Rick Davis, Secretary-Treasurer

Regional

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 2014, 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.

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

Review Activities

One of the ways the Council implements the regional plan is through its review responsibilities. The Governor has desig-

nated 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 2013, the Council reviewed 75 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 \$26,385,540
- Local comprehensive plans and plan amendments
- 10-year site plans of major electric utilities



The Council reviewed the Gulf of Mexico Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Lease Sales Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement during 2014.

- Water quality basin action plans
- 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.

Regional

Of the 75 review items in 2014, the Council reviewed 28 amendments to local government comprehensive plans. The Council forwarded its findings on local government comprehensive plans to local governments under the expedited

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

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 17 U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Community Development Block Grant applications, 22 U.S. Federal Transit Administration grant applications for either capital assistance or operating assistance, two U.S. Department of Agriculture grant/loan applications and six 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 Steinhatchee River is recognized as a Natural Resource of Regional Significance in the North Central Florida Strategic Regional Policy Plan.

Public Safety and Regulatory Compliance

During 2014, 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 in 2014.

After the ammonium nitrate explosion in West Texas which killed 15 people, the President issued Executive Order 13650 on Improving Chemical Facility Safety and Security. The Local Emergency Planning Committee has submitted a variety of suggestions based upon successful practices used here in north central Florida.

A primary recommendation was that the Florida model of regional Local Emergency Planning Committees staffed by regional planning councils and supported by a state fee system has greatly facilitated the creation of a successful statewide hazardous materials emergency preparedness program.

"The Council provided staff support to the Local Emergency Planning Committee for How-to-Comply seminars for facilities which use or store chemicals."

Emergency Management

The Council participated in a variety of different types of disaster exercises. Council staff assisted the Apalachee Regional Planning Council with Operation Deep Freeze. This full scale exercise scenario involved terrorists causing an explosion at a laboratory at Florida State University and then hiding out in Suwannee County. The combined Columbia and Suwannee County Sheriffs Special Weapons and Tactic team working with the Big Bend Regional Bomb Squad was used to neutralize the threat. In addition, hazardous materials table top exercises were facilitated in Columbia and St. Johns Coun-

ties. Staff assisted Taylor County by preparing an After Action Report on an active shooter at a school exercise conducted in Perry.



As part of a terrorism training exercise, Columbia and Suwannee County Sheriff's Offices working with the Big Bend Regional Bomb Squad captured a terrorist that caused an explosion in a laboratory at Florida State University in Tallahassee.

First Responder Training

During 2014, the Council coordinated hazardous materials emergency response training classes. Council staff conducted 27 classes for the Local Emergency Planning Committee. A total of 333 emergency responders completed 5,273 hours of training.

The Council conducted 4-hour Awareness, 24-hour Operations and 160-hour Technician Level classes. Refresher training was also conducted to help emergency responders keep their skills up to date.



Gainesville Fire Rescue Hazardous Materials Response Team participated in training classes with other members of the Regional Hazardous Materials Response Team.

Public Safety and Regulatory Compliance

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 assistance to counties in conducting annual site visits to hazardous waste generators."

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,



Decontamination training was conducted during a class held in Dixie County. The North Central Florida Regional Hazardous Materials Response Team training trailer contains training suits and other training equipment that was used to enhance hands-on training.

Gilchrist, Lafayette, Suwannee and Union Counties as well as the following cities: Gainesville, Lake City and Starke. An interlocal agreement provides the organizational structure for the Team.

Hurricane Preparedness

During 2014, the Council initiated work on creating a directional storm surge atlas. The atlas will build on the existing surge atlas which depicts the worst case surge impacted



The path of a hurricane can greatly influence the storm surge height in Dixie and Taylor Counties. The Hurricane Directional Atlas project Initiated in 2014 will provide greater detail in identifying areas vulnerable to storm surge.

areas for Category One through Category Five storms, regardless of path. The atlas will assist emergency management personnel identify vulnerable areas in greater detail. In 2014, Council staff hosted a meeting where coastal emergency managers selected three storm track scenarios for the directional atlas, approaching storms, paralleling storms and exiting storms.

Hazards Analysis

Hazardous materials emergency response planning requires an understanding of the chemical hazards and potential threats to nearby communities. In 2014, Council staff was elected as Chair of the State Emergency Response Commission's Hazards Analysis Working Group. The goal of this group is to improve the planning and review process to ensure that emergency management and first responders have the most accurate and useful information to be prepared in the case of a toxic chemical release.

Economic Development

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.

"The Council's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy uses the Florida Chamber Foundation's Six Pillars of Florida's Economic Future as the organizing framework."

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.

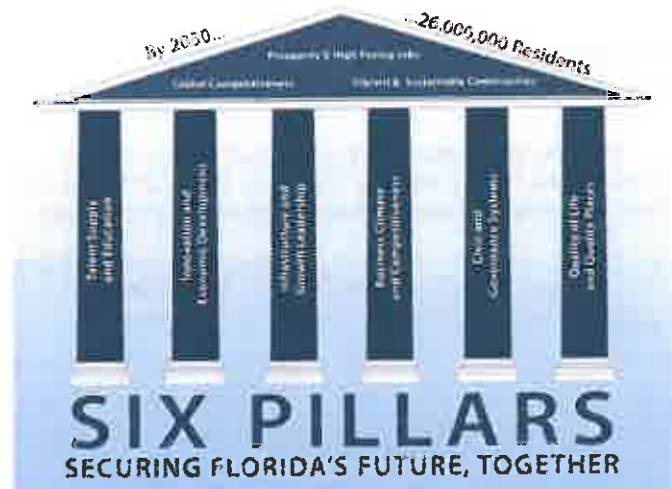
Council staff continued to support local economic development organizations throughout the region by providing technical assistance in the form of economic impact analysis for potential economic development projects. Utilizing Regional Economic Modeling, Inc. Policy Insite⁺ software, Council staff provided 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.

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 2014 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 promote 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



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.

Economic Development

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 10-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, organizes and conducts regional press familiarization trips, coordinates consumer travel show participation, creates proactive publicity campaigns, and produces collateral materials to meet the goals of the regional marketing plan.



Blue Springs in Gilchrist County is one of many tourist-oriented sites featured in the marketing efforts of *The Original Florida Tourism Task Force*.

Visit Natural North Florida participates in several consumer travel shows, where members and staff actively engage hundreds of potential visitors and provide collateral marketing materials to thousands more. Visit Natural North Florida regularly staffs show booths at The Villages Travel Expo, the Tampa Tribune Outdoors Expo and Boat Show, VISIT FLORIDA Welcome Center Festivals and other travel shows, all with the goal of attracting overnight visitors.

One of the most successful means by which Visit Natural North Florida promotes the region is through its websites, VisitNaturalNorthFlorida.com and fnnf.com (Fish Natural North Florida). Both websites offer visitors a wealth of information about the region that tourists can use to plan their trip itineraries. Information about attractions and accommodations can

be accessed by specific activity or location and the websites provide links to contact information and websites of businesses throughout the region. These extensive websites are maintained by Visit Natural North Florida and are a dynamic means of communication with current and future vacationers.

"The Council provided staff services to *The Original Florida Tourism Task Force* to promote the region for nature-, culture- and heritage-based tourism."

Visit Natural North Florida also promotes the region by placing advertisements in targeted publications that have proven to yield positive results such as VISIT FLORIDA Undiscovered Florida. In addition Visit Natural North Florida also advertises on select travel websites, such as the VISIT FLORIDA Outdoor Expert section.

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 Town of Greenville located in Madison County, the boyhood home of Grammy-award, winning singer Ray Charles, is one of the many historic sites in the Natural North Florida highlighted by *The Original Florida Tourism Task Force*.

Local Government Assistance

During 2014, 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 growth management legislation, the Council continued to place a significant emphasis on comprehensive planning assistance for local governments. During 2014, 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 seven counties and eight municipalities process 68 development-related applications. This assistance included the review and adoption of 18 comprehensive plan map and text amendments. The Council also assisted these local governments with 26 land development regulation map and text amendments, 20 land development regulation special exceptions and special permits, four-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.

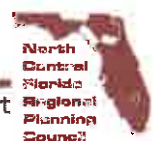
The Council assisted five municipalities prepare Evaluation and Appraisal Reviews of their local government comprehensive plans pursuant to the Community Planning Act. These reviews evaluated the success of the plans and included recommendations for amendments to update the comprehensive plans.



The Council provided assistance to Dixie County and other local governments throughout the north central Florida region with comprehensive planning and land development regulation.

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.



Local Government Assistance

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



Council staff provided Community Development Block Grant housing rehabilitation administrative assistance to the City of Madison during 2014.



Community Development Block Grant funds were used by Suwannee County to constrict a water well and storage tank for the Klausner One project at a North Central Florida Rural Area of Opportunity Catalyst Site.

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 two projects in Columbia County, one project in Bradford County, one project in Suwannee County and one project in the City of Madison. Administrative assistance was also initiated for a new project in Mayo. Council staff also assisted communities with preliminary work for potential economic development projects as well.

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 2014, a number of transportation planning activities were conducted, which included the following.

Year 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan

In 2014, the Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization for the Gainesville Urbanized Area approved a vision statement, principles and strategies to guide the planning process to update the long range transportation plan for the community. In addition, work continued on updating the transportation computer model for the area that will be used to forecast future (Year 2040) traffic conditions.



Community workshops were held to engage citizens in the update of the long range transportation plan that addresses highway, transit, bicycle and pedestrian transportation needs.

Also in 2014, the Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization for the Gainesville Urbanized Area contracted with the University of Florida Survey Research Center to conduct a statistically-valid transportation telephone survey. This survey asked respondents a series of questions concerning a number of transportation topics, such as how often they used different transportation facilities and the importance of spending on various types of transportation projects.



Council officials received, on behalf of the Council, an Innovation Award from the National Association of Development Organizations for the technical report, Incorporating Safety into Transportation Planning, completed for the Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization for the Gainesville Urbanized Area. Left to right, Scott Koons, Executive Director of the Council, Peter Gregory, President of the National Association of Development Organizations and Carolyn Spooner, Chair of the Council.

Transportation

State Road 26/University Avenue Multimodal Emphasis Corridor Study

A high priority in the adopted Year 2035 Cost Feasible Plan is improving multimodal transportation options on the State Road 26/University Avenue from Gale Lemerand Drive east to Waldo Road. In 2014, Phase 1 of this project documented existing conditions within the corridor for bicycle, pedestrian, roadway and transit users. The Florida Department of Transportation is providing \$100,000 in funding assistance to pay for the study.



The State Road 26/University Avenue Multimodal Emphasis Corridor addresses bicycle, pedestrian and transit needs along the corridor.

“The Council provided staff support to Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Boards to coordinate trips for access to employment, health care, education and other life-sustaining activities for residents in the region.”

transportation providers. Therefore, Medicaid non-emergency transportation services are no longer coordinated through Florida’s Coordinated Transportation System.



Community transportation coordinators in the north central Florida region are responsible for the coordination and provision of public transportation services for persons who are unable to transport themselves because of age, disability or income status.

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. In 2014, the Transportation Disadvantaged Program coordinated over 260,000 trips in the north central Florida region. Approximately, 70 percent of these trips were provided for medical purposes. The Community Transportation Coordinators in the region provided trips for individuals who have no other means of transportation and are unable to purchase transportation.

In May 2014, the Florida Agency of Health Care Administration implemented the Managed Medical Care Program in the region. The Managed Medical Care Program provides transportation services directly through their own network of

Communications

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 2014.

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, Gilchrist, 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 Report for Taylor County Emergency Management Exercise

Economic Development

- Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy 2013-2017

Transportation

- Fiscal Years 2015-2019 Transportation Improvement Program
- Fiscal Years 2016-2020 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

"The Council prepared several reports and documents during the past year."

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 2014, the Council prepared planning and technical studies concerning regional, public safety and regulatory compliance, transportation and general program activities.

Upcoming Activities

In 2015, the Council will continue programs started in 2014 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 development authorities 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 2016 to 2020 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

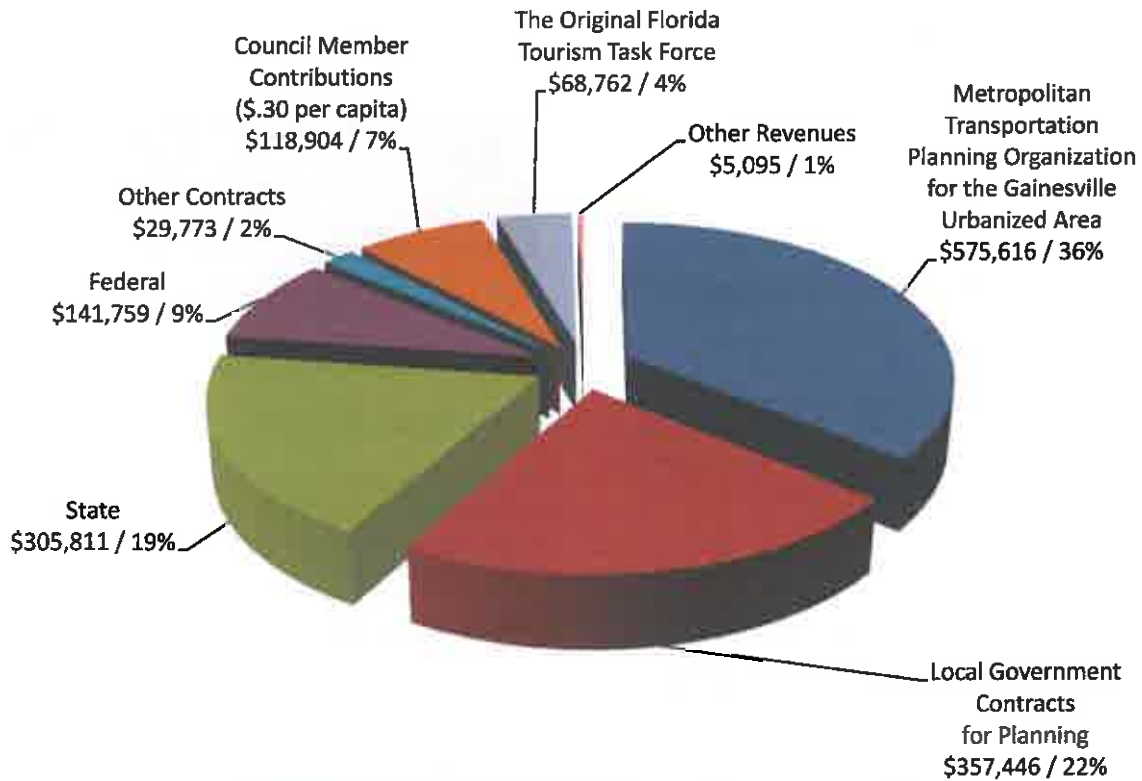
Council staff will update level of service information concerning the amount of traffic congestion on arterial and collector roads in the Gainesville metropolitan area.

Transportation Disadvantaged

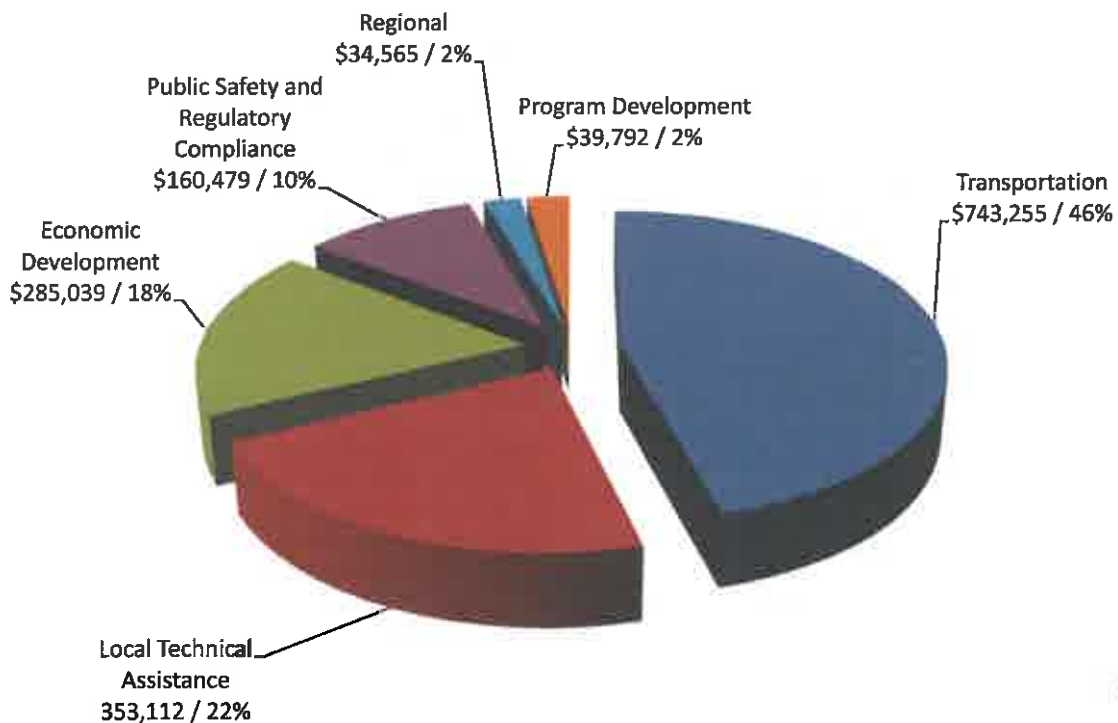
In 2015, the Council staff will work with the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged, Community Transportation Coordinators and local Coordinating Boards in the region to continue coordinating transportation services to disadvantaged individuals.

Financial Report

2013-14 Revenues \$1,603,166



2013-14 Expenditures \$1,616,242



North Central Florida Regional Planning Council

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Staff

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Lazzari, Onelia R.

From: Scott Koons <koons@ncfrpc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, July 08, 2015 7:42 PM
To: Lazzari, Onelia R.
Subject: Benefits of NCFRPC Membership

Onelia,

The North Central Florida Regional Planning Council was formed in 1969. The City of Gainesville is a 46-year charter member of the Council. The City was instrumental in the formation of the Council. The Council is diversified organization involved in community and economic development focusing on five principal activities; regional programs, economic development, public safety, transportation and local government services.

The Council is an association of local governments whose mission is to dedicated to improving 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, 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 portion of Florida.

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 developments of regional impact, 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.

As a member of the Council, the City, in cooperation with local governments throughout north central Florida, is able to participate in shaping the regional agenda. The City benefits by being engaged in a regional community that provides a forum for working together with its neighbors to share best practices and discuss issues of mutual interest.

The City has directly benefited from its membership in the Council through no cost training for first responders for hazardous materials response. The City was a leader in forming the North Central Florida Regional Hazardous Materials Response Team, an affiliate organization of the Council, and continues to play a significant with the Team.

The Council is a U.S. Economic Development Administration designated economic development district that maintains a comprehensive economic development strategy to diversify the economy of the region by facilitating job creation projects. The City has directly benefited from participation in the Council's district designation through federal economic development funding from the U.S. Economic Development Administration for the Gainesville Technology Enterprise Center and Innovation Hub at Innovation Square. Without the participation and support by the City in the Council, these funds would not have been available for these two critical economic development projects.

The Council also provides no cost economic impact analysis of economic development projects assessing the secondary job impacts, income impacts and ad valorem tax revenue. The Council recently assisted City staff in evaluating economic impact of the hotel proposal for Lot 10.

Please be advised that comprehensive planning assistance and community development grant administration services provided by the Council to local governments is on fee for service contract basis which is in addition to the annual membership dues assessment.

If you need additional information or have additional questions concerning the Council, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Scott



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PLEASE NOTE: Florida has a very broad public records law. Most written communications to or from government officials regarding government business are public records available to the public and media upon request. Your e-mail communications may be subject to public disclosure.

Gainesville Fire Rescue Affiliation with the North Central Regional Planning Council

Gainesville Fire Rescue's (GFR) Hazardous Materials Response Team serves as the core technical response asset of the North Central Florida Regional Hazardous Materials Response Team. This formal coalition in existence since approximately 1998 has been the recipient of numerous grants designed to expand the capabilities our eleven county region first response personnel.

Through a mutual aid agreement, various agencies come together to train and equipment themselves for a tiered response to emergencies involving the spill or release of hazardous substances. To date, GFR has received in excess of \$350,000 to aid in the coordination and enhancement of coalition response capabilities.

In addition, designated members from GFR have been assigned to committees representing the interest of the Local Emergency Planning Council (LEPC) and fellow stakeholders. Such committees include; the State Emergency Response Commission Training Task Force, the North Central Florida Regional Hazardous Materials Team Technical Workgroup, and the Local Emergency Planning Committee Responders Group. Services provided by GFR staff members have involved technical expertise and administrative assistance in support of regional coalition needs.

Members of the State Emergency Response Commission Training Task Force participate in the development, review and coordination of training standards and efforts related to hazardous materials response statewide. The Technical Workgroup of the North Central Florida Regional Hazardous Materials Team focus on responder training, specialized equipment, and coalition capabilities for the eleven counties within North Central Florida that comprise this region. A member of GFR Staff currently serves as Chairman of the State Emergency Response Commission Training Task Force and Chair of the Technical Workgroup; having done so for approximately four years.

This symbiotic relationship is sound and its commitment to meeting the needs of the coalition and team member expansion continues to be the foundation of the group's efforts.

The LEPC has provided direct reimbursement to GFR for significant travel to various meetings. In addition, GFR has been a recipient of enhanced levels of equipment and training for its Hazardous Materials Response Program. No payments by the City of Gainesville to the Local Emergency Planning Council occur.