

2021 Annual Report



North Central Florida
Regional Planning Council



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Letter To Our Citizens

During 2021, the Council continued to be a very successful public agency that provided valuable services in fulfilling our mission to improve the **quality of life of the region's citizens by enhancing public safety, protecting regional resources, promoting economic development and providing technical services to local governments.** The following pages summarize these accomplishments.

For over 50 years, the Council has engaged in strategic regional planning, comprehensive economic development strategy planning and emergency preparedness planning for the future of the north central Florida region. By bringing together local governments and gubernatorial appointees to provide a venue for analyzing issues, resolving problems and sharing solutions, the Council has contributed to the enhancement of the north central Florida region.

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

During the past year, the Council, in partnership with economic development organizations and local governments, promoted regional strategies, partnerships and solutions to strengthen the economic competitiveness and quality of life of the 12 counties and 40 incorporated municipalities in the north central Florida region. The Council, whose members are local elected officials and gubernatorial appointees, continued to administer a variety of state and federal programs for the north central Florida region, including Alachua, Bradford, Columbia, Dixie, Gilchrist, Hamilton, Lafayette, Levy, Madison, Suwannee, Taylor and Union Counties.

Programs included 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 hazardous materials and economic development programs. In addition, the Council provided staff services to the Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization for the Gainesville Urbanized Area, the North Central Florida Local Emergency Planning Committee, the North Central Florida Regional Hazardous Materials Response Team and The Original Florida Tourism Task Force.

Our successes in these activities have been realized through the dedicated work of the Council staff under the guidance provided by our members and by the leaders of our affiliated organizations, including the Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization for the Gainesville

Urbanized Area, the North Central Florida Local Emergency Planning Committee, the North Central Florida Regional Hazardous Materials Team and The Original Florida Tourism Task Force. All of these groups continued to remain committed to achieving excellence as they continued to pursue ways to improve the north central Florida 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 were 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, rural counties and small cities have been able to improve the quality of life in rural north central Florida.

We hope that you find the report concerning our programs on the following pages to be informative. Also provided in this report 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 north central Florida region. We look forward to working together with you in the future for the betterment of the north central Florida region.

Sincerely,



Thomas Demps
Chair



Thomas Demps, Chair
North Central Florida Regional Planning Council

The Council

The Council is an association of 26 general purpose local governments. Membership includes 12 counties and 14 of the municipalities in the north central Florida region. One-third of the representatives are appointed by the Governor with the remaining two-thirds of the representatives being local elected officials.

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

Each year, the Council adopts an annual work program and budget. Also each year, the Council elects officers for the organization: Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary-Treasurer from among its ranks.

Council members serve on several committees appointed by the Chair. The purpose of these committees is to advise the Council on administrative and programmatic matters. The Council serves as a forum for the coordination and review of federal/state/local government community planning and community development programs and activities affecting the north central Florida region.

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
Marihelen Wheeler
* Vacant
* Vacant
* Vacant
* Vacant

Alachua

Dayna Miller

Archer

Fletcher Hope

Gainesville

Cynthia Chestnut
Desmon Duncan-Walker
Reina Saco

Hawthorne

Patricia Bouie Hutchinson

High Springs

Linda Jones

Newberry

Mark Clark

Waldo

Louie Davis

BRADFORD COUNTY

Daniel Riddick
* Vacant

Starke

Janice Mortimer

COLUMBIA COUNTY

Toby Witt
* Vacant

Lake City

Stephen Witt

DIXIE COUNTY

Jody Stephenson
* Lorene Thomas

GILCHRIST COUNTY

Kenrick Thomas
* Vacant

HAMILTON COUNTY

Robert Brown
* Vacant

Jasper

Vacant

LAFAYETTE COUNTY

Anthony Adams
* Vacant

LEVY COUNTY

John Meeks
* Vacant

MADISON COUNTY

Donnie Waldrep
* Vacant

City of Madison

James Catron

SUWANNEE COUNTY

Travis Land
* Vacant

Live Oak

Frank Davis

TAYLOR COUNTY

Thomas Demps
* Vacant

Perry

Ward Ketring

UNION COUNTY

James Tallman
* Vacant

Lake Butler

David Stegall

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

Florida Department of
Economic Opportunity
Florida Department of
Environmental Protection
Florida Department of
Transportation
Southwest Florida
Water Management District
Suwannee River
Water Management District
St. Johns River
Water Management District

* Gubernatorial Appointee

Thomas Demps, Chair
Anthony Adams, Vice-Chair
Janice Mortimer, Secretary-Treasurer



The Region

The north central Florida region spans over 8,000 square miles with 12 counties and 40 municipalities.



In 2021, the population of the north central Florida region was 580,595 an increase of 88,718 persons over the 2011 population of 491,877, representing an 18.0 percent increase.

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

"The Council is dedicated to improving the quality of life of the region's citizens, by enhancing public safety, protecting regional resources, promoting economic development and providing technical services to local governments."

is the regional retail center and together with Alachua County accounts for 49.0 percent of the total population of the north central Florida region.



The north central Florida region spans over 8,000 square miles with 12 counties and 40 municipalities. Taylor County is located in the north central Florida region.

Regional

During 2021, the Council continued to use the North Central Florida Strategic Regional Policy Plan as the primary policy document and basis to provide comments concerning its review responsibilities.

Regional Planning

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



Coastal resources in the north central Florida region, such as the Big Bend Salt Marsh and Big Bend Sea Grass Beds, are recognized as Natural Resources of Regional Significance in the North Central Florida Strategic Regional Policy Plan.

"The Council used the Strategic Regional Policy Plan as the primary policy document and basis for Council comments concerning its review responsibilities."

Council History

The Council was created on May 7, 1969. For over 50 years, the Council has engaged in strategic regional planning, comprehensive economic development strategy planning and emergency preparedness planning for the future of the north central Florida region. By bringing together local governments and gubernatorial appointees to provide a venue for analyzing issues, resolving problems and sharing solutions, the Council has contributed to the enhancement of the north central Florida region.

Review Activities

One of the ways that the Council implemented the regional plan was through its review responsibilities. Since 1969, the Council has served as the area-wide clearinghouse for all federally-funded projects that affect the physical environment of the north central Florida region. In addition, the Council conducts other review activities undertaken as a result of state legislation.

Reviews included the following types:

- Applications for federal assistance totaling \$4,484,000;
- Local comprehensive plan amendments; and
- Environmental impact statements and assessments.

The Council reviewed these projects in order to:

- Avoid or mitigate potential adverse impacts to regionally significant natural resources, regionally significant facilities or neighboring communities or counties;
- Ensure coordination with local government plans; and
- Avoid duplication or conflict with other local or area-wide plans and programs.



Regional

The Council provided comments on 67 review items, including 54 amendments to local government comprehensive plans. The Council forwarded its comments on local government comprehensive plans to local governments under the expedited review process and to the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity for their consideration in determining the consistency of local government comprehensive plans with the State Comprehensive Plan and the North Central Florida Strategic Regional Policy Plan under the coordinated review process.

The Council also reviewed seven U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Community Development Block Grant applications, three environmental assessments, two ten-year electric power plant site plans and one strategic regional policy plan. The Council provided comments on applications for federal assistance to the Florida State Clearinghouse, which is housed in the Florida Department of Environmental Protection.

The Clearinghouse administers the intergovernmental coordination and review process of certain state and federal activities within the State of Florida. In particular, the Clear-

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

inghouse serves as the single point of contact for coordinating the review by the Council and other agencies of certain state and federal activities which involve federal financial assistance and/or direct federal activities that affect the physical environment. Council comments address potential impacts to Natural Resources of Regional Significance.



Freshwater resources in the north central Florida region, such as the Suwannee River, are recognized as Natural Resources of Regional Significance in the North Central Florida Strategic Regional Policy Plan.

Public Safety

During 2021, the Council continued to work on ongoing public safety activities in the north central Florida region.

Local Emergency Planning Committee

The North Central Florida Local Emergency Planning Committee continued its mission of increasing chemical safety in communities throughout the north central Florida region. Since 1989, the Council has provided staff support to the Committee.

The tools used by the Committee include 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 also completed by the Committee.

“The Council provided staff support to the Local Emergency Planning Committee to update the emergency response plan for the region ”

Public presentations are held for interested parties in the north central Florida region to assist in increasing public awareness of the federal Emergency Planning and Community Right-To-Know Act Program. An overview of the North Central Florida Local Emergency Planning Committee activities are also part of these public presentations. The Act ensures that first responders are aware of the types and quantities of hazardous materials stored and used in communities.

First Responder Training

The Council coordinated hazardous materials emergency response training classes. A total of six classes were held, training 101 first responders for a total of 404 hours. Some classes are offered in a shift-friendly format where the same one-day class is repeated three consecutive days. This approach provides an opportunity for all three shifts at a fire rescue department to attend the class.

The use of on-line training is used as part of the 160-hour hazardous materials technician class. With the first 80 hours available online, it is more convenient for firefighters to attend advanced hazardous materials training. The additional 80 hours of hands-on training is conducted locally.

Florida Hazardous Materials Symposium

Advanced training continues to be a priority for the North Central Florida Local Emergency Planning Committee. The Council provides scholarships for firefighters to attend the Florida Hazardous Materials Symposium. The Symposium offers a combination of both classroom and hands-on training for hazardous materials technicians.



Firefighters from the north central Florida region attend the Florida Hazardous Materials Symposium and receive both classroom and hands-on training.

Hazardous Materials Training Exercises

The Committee plans and conducts field exercises and tabletop exercises concerning response to hazardous materials incidents in the north central Florida region. The exercises provide an opportunity for first responders to meet and determine how to work together to respond to such incidents using available resources.

Hazardous Materials Regional Response Team

Since 2000, the Council has provided staff support to the North Central Florida Regional Hazardous Materials Response Team. Member jurisdictions of the Team include Alachua, Bradford, Columbia, Dixie, Gilchrist, Lafayette, Suwannee and Union Counties as well as the following cities: Gainesville, Lake City, Madison and Starke.

Public Safety

Hazards Analyses

The federal Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know Act requires hazardous chemical emergency planning by federal, state and local governments, and industry. The Act also requires industry to report on the storage, use and releases of certain hazardous materials.

Each year, pursuant to the Act, the Council, in partnership with the Committee, performs outreach activities to increase hazardous materials awareness, collects data on hazardous materials stored within the north central Florida region, develops hazardous materials emergency plans and provides the public with hazardous materials information upon request.

Hazardous materials emergency response planning continued to address chemical hazards in the north central Florida region. Facilities reported the amounts of extremely hazardous substances stored at their sites. In addition, the Council continued to provide hazards analyses site visit assistance to counties in the north central Florida region.

“The Council assisted counties with conducting hazards analyses and hazardous waste site visits.”

Hazardous Waste

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

The Council continued to assist counties by providing compliance assistance to businesses during the required verification site visits. The assistance helped facilities properly manage waste disposal in a cost efficient manner.



The Council provided assistance to Madison County and other counties throughout the north central Florida region with small quantity hazardous waste monitoring.

Economic Development

During 2021, the Council continued to promote long-term economic prosperity in the north central Florida region by conducting comprehensive economic development planning, assisting local governments and economic development organizations with implementation activities and by promoting tourism opportunities of the north central Florida region as an economic development strategy.

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

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy

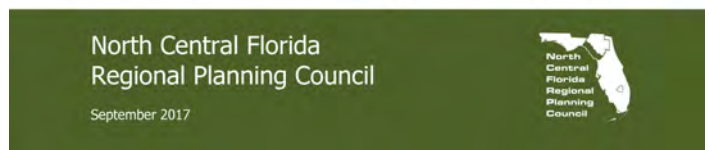
In 1978, the U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration designated the north central Florida region as the first economic development district in Florida. Since then, the Council has served as the primary regional economic development planning organization for the north central Florida region. The Council continued to provide technical assistance to local governments and economic development organizations in order to promote the economic growth of the north central Florida region.

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

The five-year Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy 2018 to 2022 utilizes the Florida Chamber Foundation's Six Pillars for Securing Florida's Future principles as the organizing framework. The goals and objectives of the Strategy are also coordinated with the Florida Strategic Plan for Economic Development as developed by the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity.

Economic Impact Analyses

Council staff continued to support local governments and local economic development organizations throughout the north central Florida region by providing technical assistance. In particular, Council staff prepared economic impact analyses for potential economic development projects.



The Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy 2018 to 2022 for the north central Florida region uses the Florida Chamber Foundation's Six Pillars for Securing Florida's Future as the organizing framework.

Using Regional Economic Modeling, Inc. Policy Insight[®] software, Council staff provided estimated impacts to population, total employment and personal income, based on the industry sector, employment and average employee wages 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

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) marketed the 14-county Visit Natural North Florida region by promoting the development of nature-based, culture-based and heritage-based tourism. Since 1993, the Council has provided staff support to The Original Florida Tourism Task Force to assist in implementing its annual marketing plan.

The Task Force is comprised of representatives from each of the participating counties, appointed by their respective board of county commissioners or tourist development council, to support and direct the regional tourism development effort. The Council continued to provide staff services to the Task Force in maintaining the VisitNaturalNorthFlorida.com website and producing collateral materials to meet the goals of the regional marketing plan.

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

Visit Natural North Florida members receive scholarships to attend the Southeast Tourism Society Marketing College. Attendees are taught marketing techniques in all facets of the tourism industry and learn about the latest trends in tourism promotion.

PREPARE YOUR ADVENTURE

PLAN YOUR TRIP IN 3 EASY STEPS

Planning your next Natural North Florida adventure doesn't have to be overwhelming. The hardest part is choosing which of the year-round activities to experience during your trip. Whether you're a lifelong Natural North Florida resident or one of the millions of visitors to our state each year, you can plan an organized adventure using our helpful Trip Planner tool. Natural North Florida's Trip Planner simplifies everything down to a detailed itinerary so the only thing left to do is start packing.



1. PLAN ACTIVITIES

Hiking, biking, kayaking, canoeing, or sightseeing, the Natural North Florida activity is yours to choose.



2. PICK ACCOMMODATIONS

Stay a night or several at the many accommodation options during your trip.



3. VIEW ITINERARY

Once planned, view, print, or email your itinerary before packing for a Natural North Florida adventure!

JOIN OUR NEWSLETTER

Receive updates on all upcoming events and other happenings in Natural North Florida

Email Address

SIGN UP

The Original Florida Tourism Task Force promoted the north central Florida region for nature-based, heritage-based and culture-based tourism. The Council, in conjunction with the Task Force, received an Impact Award from the National Association of Development Organizations for the Visit Natural North Florida website.

Local Government Assistance

During 2021, the Council continued to offer technical assistance to local governments which did not have available staff or expertise for these activities ranging from community planning to community development.

Community Planning

Since 1975, in response to the requirements of Florida community planning legislation, the Council has placed an emphasis on community planning assistance to local governments. The Council continued to assist counties and cities throughout the north central Florida 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, public school facilities, capital improvements and property rights. In addition, the comprehensive plan may include optional elements such as economic development, and public buildings and facilities.

The comprehensive plan must be implemented through the adoption of land development regulations governing the subdivision of land, use of land, protection of potable water well fields, regulation of areas 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 requirements. Such evaluations may result in recommended amendments to the comprehensive plan.

The Council provided ongoing community 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 13 municipalities process 130 development-related applications. This assistance included the review and adoption of 47 comprehensive plan map and text amendments. The Council also assisted these local governments with 51 land development regulation map and text amendments, 16 land development regulation special exceptions, nine variances, four site and development plans and three subdivision plats.



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

The Council assisted one county and three municipalities to prepare evaluations of their local government comprehensive plans pursuant to the Community Planning Act. The evaluation examined the success of the plans and included recommendations for amendments to update the comprehensive plans.

The Council also assisted counties and municipalities to prepare 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.

Local Government Assistance

Community Development

Since 1976, the Council has assisted local governments in the north central Florida region with filing applications and administering projects under the Florida Small Cities Community Development Block Grant Program. The 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 small cities and rural counties apply to the State for funding through a competitive process.

The purpose of the Florida Small Cities Community Development Block Grant Program is to help reduce and reverse community decline and restore community vitality. This is accomplished by addressing housing stock, improving infrastructure and assisting private businesses with infrastructure needs so they can increase employment opportunities primarily for residents whose incomes are within the low- to moderate-income range for their community.

Though the program ultimately benefits local governments by providing grants to meet community development needs, the beneficiaries of this program are primarily resi-

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

dents whose incomes are within the low- to moderate-income range for their community. The Program has several categories which assist local governments with improving infrastructure in neighborhoods and downtowns, renovating housing, and creating jobs for low- to moderate-income residents.

In 2021, Council staff continued to provide administrative assistance for community development projects in Bradford County and the Town of Mayo and initiated administrative assistance for a community development project in the City of Madison.



The Council provided grant administrative services to Bradford County for a Community Development Block Grant housing rehabilitation project. The project resulted in providing safe, suitable and sanitary housing for low- and moderate-income persons residing in owner-occupied housing units.

Transportation

During 2021, the Council conducted a number of transportation planning activities throughout the north central Florida region.

Metropolitan Transportation Planning

Since 1978, the Council has provided staff services to the Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization for the Gainesville Urbanized Area to assist in developing transportation plans and programs.

Long-Range Transportation Plan

In 2021, several projects in the adopted multimodal Year 2045 Long-Range Transportation Plan were at various stages of development.

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

These projects included:

- SW 62nd Boulevard Connector Project - continuation of right-of-way acquisition;
- State Roads 26/26A at State Road 121 Safety Project - construction completed; and
- Federal Safety-Funded State Road 121 (NW 34th Street) Left Turn Lane Project from NW 16th Avenue to U.S. Highway 441 - continuation of construction.

In 2021, the Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization for the Gainesville Urbanized Area initiated implementation of its Year 2045 Long-Range Transportation Plan through the City of Gainesville Regional Transit System Transit Development Plan, including micro-mobility routes.

In 2021, the Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization for the Gainesville Urbanized Area approved federally-required transportation performance measures and targets for:

- Safety - all public roads; and
- Transit Safety Management - City of Gainesville Regional Transit System vehicle fleets and infrastructure.



The Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization for the Gainesville Urbanized Area adopted the 2021-22 to 2025-26 Transportation Improvement Program for highway, transit, bicycle and pedestrian projects in the Gainesville Metropolitan Area.

Bicycle and Pedestrian Projects

In 2021, the Florida Department of Transportation, City of Gainesville and University of Florida continued work on a Federal Highway Administration grant award for bicycle and pedestrian safety enhancements using the intelligent transportation system. Other funded projects within the Gainesville Metropolitan Area included:

- Federal Transportation Alternatives Program-funded a citywide Americans with Disabilities Act-Compliant Sidewalk Modification Project;
- State Safe Routes to School-funded Northwest 42nd Avenue (Stephen Foster Elementary School) Sidewalk Project - construction; and
- State Shared-Use Network Trail-funded State Road 24 (Archer Road)/Tower Road Bicycle/Pedestrian Project - continuation of construction.

Additional pedestrian projects included:

- Federal Safety funded State Road 26 (University Avenue) Pedestrian Safety Project; and
- Federal Safety funded State Road 222 (Northeast 39th Avenue) Midblock Pedestrian Crossing Project.

Transportation

Transportation Disadvantaged

Since 1990, the Council has served as the Florida Transportation Disadvantaged Program official planning agency for counties throughout the north central Florida region. The Council provides staff support to local coordinating boards, prepares annual service plans and every five years recommends community transportation coordinators to the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged.

In 2021, the Program provided state funds to counties to coordinate transportation services for older adults, persons with disabilities and persons with low-income. The services were provided through a statewide network of community transportation coordinators for employment, health care, education and other life sustaining activities. Community transportation coordinators in the north central Florida region provided 68,294 trips sponsored by the Program. Approximately 50 percent of the trips were for medical purposes.

In addition, Suwannee River Economic Council, Inc. and Suwannee Valley Transit Authority received funding from the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act and American Rescue Plan Grant Program. The funds

“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 of the region.”

were used to enhance transportation services in the north central Florida region.



Suwannee Valley Transit Authority, the Community Transportation Coordinator for Columbia, Hamilton and Suwannee Counties, provided public transportation services to persons who were unable to transport themselves because of age, disability or income status.

Upcoming Activities

In 2022, the Council will continue existing programs and initiate new regional, public safety, 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 and local plans. In addition, the Council will prepare amendments to the regional plan based upon the five-year Evaluation and Appraisal Report of the regional plan.

Public Safety

Emergency Management

The Council will assist with a tabletop or full-scale exercise to be conducted in the north central Florida region.

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

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 assist counties by providing compliance assistance to facilities that generate hazardous waste while inspecting small quantity generators. The Council will notify businesses when hazardous waste collection events and compliance assistance workshops are scheduled.

Economic Development

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

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy

The Council will assess progress toward implementing the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy and prepare the five-year update of the Strategy.

Visit Natural North Florida (The Original Florida Tourism Task Force)

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

Local Government Assistance

Community Planning

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

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.

Transportation

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

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

Transit Ridership

Council staff will update level of transit ridership information on the Regional Transit System in the Gainesville Metropolitan Area.

Transportation Disadvantaged

Council staff will prepare and update transportation disadvantaged service plans and continue coordinating transportation services to disadvantaged individuals in conjunction with transportation disadvantaged local coordinating boards.

Communications

During 2021, the Council prepared or maintained the following planning and technical studies.

Regional

- Strategic Regional Policy Plan.

Public Safety

- Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Plan Update;
- Hazards Analysis Updates; and
- Hazardous Waste Management Summary Reports.

Economic Development

- Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy.

Transportation

- Gainesville Area Transportation Improvement Program;
- Gainesville Area List of Priority Projects;
- Gainesville Area Multimodal Level of Service Report;
- Regional Transit System Ridership Report; and
- Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plans.

"The Council prepared planning and technical studies concerning regional, public safety, economic development, transportation and general program activities."

General

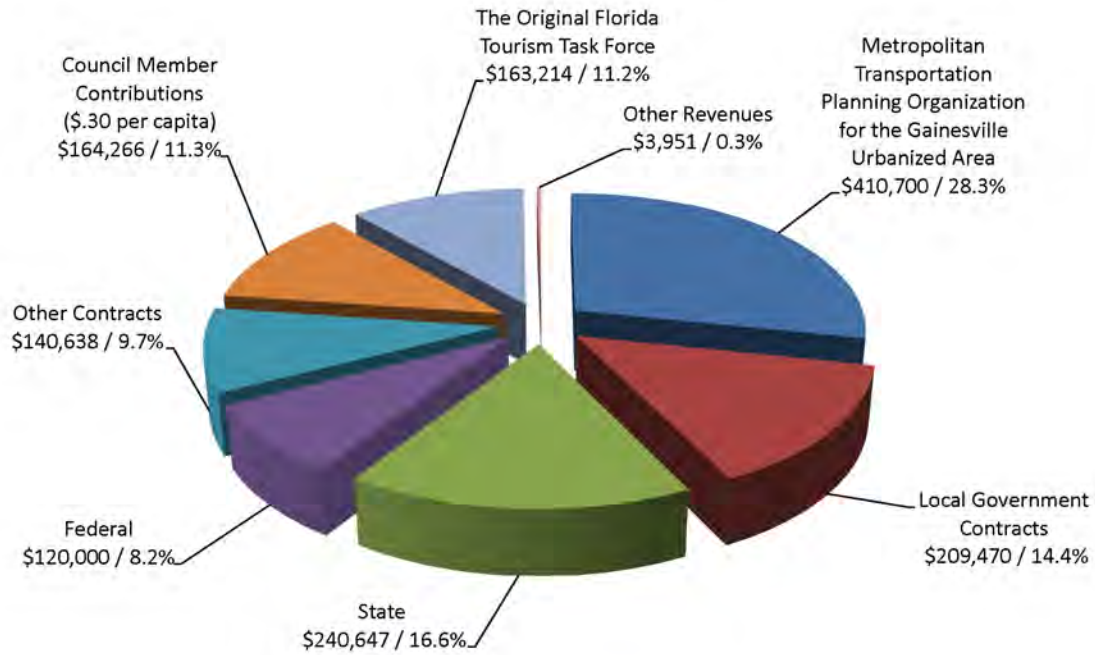
- Annual Report;
- Census Information;
- Existing and Future Land Use Maps;
- Overall Program Design;
- Regional Directory; and
- Zoning Maps.



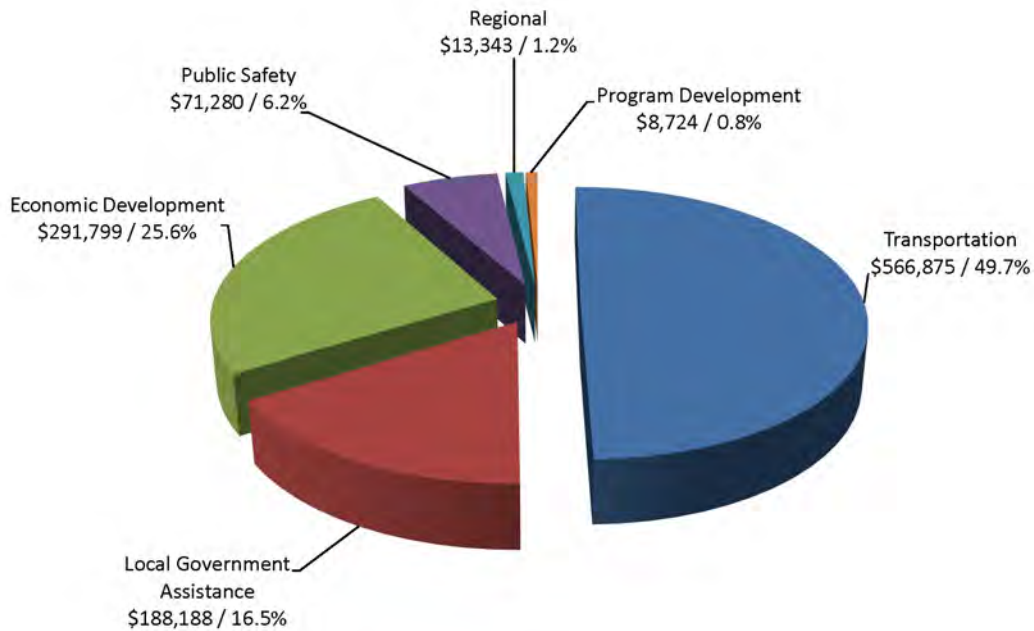
The Council prepared planning and technical studies concerning regional, public safety, economic development, transportation, and general program activities throughout the north central Florida region.

Financial Report

2020-21 Revenues \$1,452,886



2020-21 Expenditures \$1,140,209



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Lynn Franson-Godfrey, AICP, Senior Planner, Transportation Disadvantaged	110
Sandra Joseph, Senior Planner, Local Government Comprehensive Planning	111
Tara Tucker, Executive Assistant to the Executive Director	100
Lauren Yeatter, AICP, Senior Planner, Geographic Information Systems, Regional Planning, and Community and Economic Development	113

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Thomas Demps

Vice-Chair
Anthony Adams

Secretary-Treasurer
Janice Mortimer



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