



# CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT 2010



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Message, Mission, and Agency Profile	1
Region & Population Statistics	2
Planning	4
Programs	8
Visioning	14
Tribute and Honors	16
Financial Report	17
Council Members & Staff	18



## PROFILE & MISSION

The Central Florida Regional Planning Council (CFRPC) is a planning and public policy agency which works with public and private leadership in the Central Florida Region to achieve a healthy and sustainable future.

The Council's primary mission is to provide support to the citizens and counties of our region and to seek ways to improve the quality of life of the citizens of the Heartland.

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIRMAN & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

2010 was not only an election year signaling a number of changes at all levels of government but also another year with economic challenges for our citizens and local governments. These forces of change bring new members to the Central Florida Regional Planning Council and new perspectives for 2011 while many long serving members of the Council said goodbye.

Our local governments worked with CFRPC staff to complete regulatory requirements in 2010 including Evaluation and Appraisal Amendments to their Comprehensive Plans, Water Supply Plans, Public Schools Facilities Elements, Capital Improvement Elements, Joint Planning Area Agreements and updated Land Development Regulations. These were in addition to the routine planning and mapping services provided by the CFRPC.

The 2010 Census was completed and we assisted most of the governments in the region in a successful effort. The Census count results were considered to be far more accurate than in previous efforts. This will be important as new government districts are drawn in 2011 and 2012.

For the first time the State of Florida has a comprehensive disaster evacuation study prepared on a regional basis but coordinated as a seamless statewide plan. These efforts will ensure improved efficiency and safety for our citizens and all citizens of Florida.

Grants, grants, grants! The efforts of the Council were successful in securing a highly competitive national HUD, EPA, DOT grant for Regional Sustainability for the Heartland 2060 project. This effort will include work to complete the Heartland 2060 Vision, an economic strategic plan for alternative energy, work on affordable housing in rural communities and a five year strategic action plan.

The award winning Joint Land Use Study for Avon Park Air Force Range was completed under a Department of Defense Grant. The EPA Brownfields project for the planning and assessments of properties for the Heartland Brownfields Revitalization Partnership proceeded successfully. New grant applications were submitted and awarded for work in 2011. The Council continues to look for opportunities to provide service to our citizens and to maximize our resources to make the Heartland of Florida a better place for us all.

Best Regards,



Commissioner Pat Huff  
Chairman  
CFRPC



Pat Steed  
Executive Director  
CFRPC

# OUR REGION

## DeSoto

Area: 640 sq mi (land and water)  
Established: 1887  
Population (2010): 34,862  
Largest employment industries: Forestry,  
Fishing Related Activities, Transportation and Utilities  
County Seat: Arcadia  
Median age (2005 - 2009): 35.6

Incorporated Communities:  
City of Arcadia.

DeSoto County has a total land area of 637 square miles. The population grew from 32,209 persons in 2000 to 34,862 persons in 2010, yielding a density of 55 persons per square mile. Between 2000 and 2010, the average annual growth rate was 0.82% per year.



## Hardee

Area: 638 sq mi (land and water)  
Established: 1921  
Population (2010): 27,731  
Largest employment industries: Healthcare and  
Social Assistance, Transportation and Utilities  
County Seat: Wauchula  
Median age (2005-2009): 32.8

Incorporated Communities:  
City of Bowling Green, City of Wauchula, Town of Zolfo Springs.

Hardee County has a total land area of 637 square miles. The population grew from 26,938 persons in 2000 to 27,731 persons in 2010, yielding a density of 44 persons per square mile. Between 2000 and 2010, the average annual growth rate was 0.29% per year.



## Highlands

Area: 1,106 sq mi (land and water)  
Established: 1921  
Population (2010): 98,786  
Largest employment industries: Healthcare and  
Social Assistance, Retail Trade, Transportation and Utilities  
County Seat: Sebring  
Median age (2005-2009): 49.7

Incorporated Communities:  
City of Avon Park, Town of Lake Placid, City of Sebring.

Highlands County has a total land area of 1,029 square miles. The population grew from 87,366 persons in 2000 to 98,786 persons in 2010, yielding a density of 96 persons per square mile. Between 2000 and 2010, the average annual growth rate was 1.31% per year.





## OKEECHOBEE

Area: 892 sq mi (land and water)  
 Established: 1917  
 Population (2010): 39,996  
 Largest employment industries: Retail Trade,  
 Transportation and Utilities  
 County Seat: Okeechobee  
 Median age (2005-2009): 37.3

Incorporated Communities:  
 City of Okeechobee.



Okeechobee County has a total land area of 774 square miles. The population grew from 35,910 persons in 2000 to 39,996 persons in 2010, yielding a density of 52 persons per square mile. Between 2000 and 2010, the average annual growth rate was 1.14% per year.

## POLK

Area: 2,010 sq mi (land and water)  
 Established: 1861  
 Population (2010): 602,095  
 Largest employment industries: Retail Trade,  
 Transportation and Utilities  
 County Seat: Bartow  
 Median age (2005 - 2009): 38.7



Incorporated Communities:

City of Auburndale, City of Bartow, City of Davenport, Town of Dundee, City of Eagle Lake, City of Fort Meade, City of Frostproof, City of Haines City, Village of Highlands Park, Town of Hillcrest Heights, City of Lake Alfred, Town of Lake Hamilton, City of Lakeland, City of Lake Wales, City of Mulberry, Town of Polk City, and City of Winter Haven.

Polk County has a total land area of 1,875 square miles. The population grew from 483,924 persons in 2000 to 602,095 persons in 2010, yielding a density of 321 persons per square mile. Between 2000 and 2010, the average annual growth rate was 2.44% per year.

**POPULATION DATA FOR THE CENTRAL FLORIDA REGION, 2000 - 2010**

	CENSUS 2000	ESTIMATE									CENSUS 2010
		2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	
DeSoto	32,309	32,592	32,697	33,449	33,870	33,364	33,666	34,170	34,459	34,709	34,862
Hardee	26,938	26,699	27,026	27,012	27,187	27,045	26,946	27,620	27,691	27,691	27,731
Highlands	87,366	88,195	89,244	90,712	92,387	94,274	96,776	98,907	99,274	99,274	98,786
Okeechobee	35,910	36,244	36,724	37,342	38,264	38,627	39,116	39,681	40,013	39,973	39,996
Polk	483,924	491,295	499,747	510,503	524,410	542,260	562,297	580,352	591,659	597,560	602,095
<b>Region</b>	<b>666,447</b>	<b>675,025</b>	<b>685,438</b>	<b>699,018</b>	<b>716,118</b>	<b>735,570</b>	<b>758,801</b>	<b>780,494</b>	<b>793,437</b>	<b>799,207</b>	<b>803,470</b>

Chart Information Source:

Bureau of Economic and Business Research (BEBR) at the University of Florida, 2010. All population projections were based on the medium value.

# REGIONAL AND LOCAL PLANNING

## STRATEGIC REGIONAL POLICY PLAN (SRPP)

The Strategic Regional Policy Plan (SRPP) for the Central Florida Regional Planning Council and its constituent jurisdictions provides a long range guide for the physical, economic, and social development of the region. The SRPP is a direction-setting tool rather than a regulatory document. The systems or elements in the SRPP are mandated by the Florida Legislature. The SRPP is not merely a plan for the Regional Planning Council, it is a plan for all the cities and counties within the Region; those communities who are active participants in shaping a more healthy and sustainable future. The SRPP contains the following five elements:

- Natural Resources
- Economic Development
- Regional Transportation
- Affordable Housing
- Emergency Preparedness

The SRPP is also the documentation of Natural Resources of Regional Significance and Significant Regional Facilities. These materials document the Region's network of natural systems as they relate to developing urban and agricultural areas. They also document historic resources and critical infrastructure; resources that preserve our heritage and provide the foundation of our future development.

Each local government comprehensive plan amendment in the region is evaluated for consistency with the SRPP. In 2010, a total of 64 amendments were reviewed by the Council. No amendments were found inconsistent with the SRPP.



## DEVELOPMENTS OF REGIONAL IMPACT (DRI)

In 2010, the Council held hearings on one Development of Regional Impact (DRI) Application for Development Approval and one DRI Notice of Proposed Change (NOPC). These DRIs include:

### • Old Florida Plantation (City of Bartow, Polk County):

The Council held a public hearing in September 2010 on this Notice of Proposed Change (NOPC) and forwarded recommended conditions of approval to the City of Bartow in Polk County. The City approved the NOPC in October 2010. Old Florida Plantation is a DRI located on the south and east sides of Lake Hancock. The changes included: 1) increase in the amount of conservation/open space areas and decrease the area designated for development; 2) reduction of the development program allowed; 3) extension of phase and build-out dates by two years; 4) allowance for DRI annual reporting requirement of biennial rather than annual; 5) addition of proportionate share mitigation; and 6) general updates to accommodate changes 1-5. The boundary and total acreage of the DRI property do not change.

### • Lake Placid Groves (Highlands County):

The Council held a public hearing in June 2010 on this Application for Development Approval (ADA) and forwarded recommended conditions of approval to Highlands County. On September 7, 2010, the Highlands County Board of County Commissioners approved the ADA with the Council's recommended conditions of approval. Located in along US 27 and CR 17, the ADA is approved for approximately 2,144 acres to develop 3,400 single family dwelling units, 675 multi-family dwelling units, an 18-hole golf course, 500,000 square feet of commercial space, 207,500 square feet of office space, 312,000 square feet of light industrial uses, and 150 hotel rooms. The ADA was appealed by the Florida Department of Community Affairs and is in settlement negotiations.

- Lake Placid Groves DRI Boundary
- Land Use**
- Residential
  - Commercial / Office / Civic Institutional
  - Light Industrial / Office / Hotel / Commercial / Civic / Institutional
  - Light Industrial / Office
  - Town Center
  - Park / Open Space
  - Wildlife Corridor
  - Wetlands
  - Upland Preservation
  - Right-Of-Way



## LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE

The Central Florida Regional Planning serves 30 local government jurisdictions including five counties and 25 municipalities. The CFRPC provides assistance to those jurisdictions through a number of services and special tasks as listed below:

### Planning Advisory Services:

In 2010, the CFRPC provided Planning Advisory Services to 13 jurisdictions. Planning Advisory Services include technical assistance in the review and preparation of small- and large-scale comprehensive plan amendments as well as rezonings and development proposals.

### **Ten Year Water Supply Plans:**

Local governments must amend their comprehensive plans to be consistent with the Water Management District's Regional Water Supply Plan. The Council assisted 2 local governments in the preparation of required water supply plans and amendments during 2010.

### **Public School Facilities Elements:**

The Council assisted 2 jurisdictions in the preparation and adoption of the Public School Facilities Element.

### **Annual Capital Improvement Element Updates:**

The Council assisted 14 local governments in the preparation and adoption of Capital Improvement Element (CIE) in 2010.

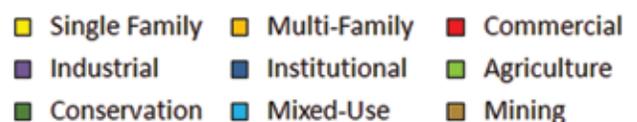
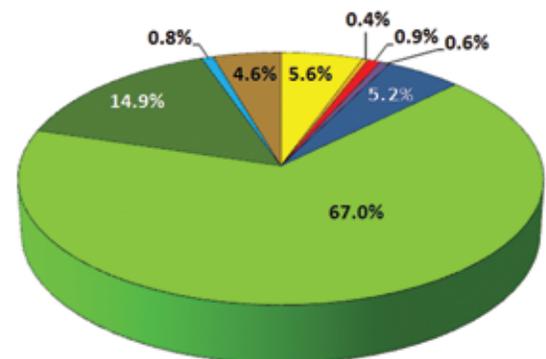
### **Land Development Regulations (LDRs):**

In 2010, the Council assisted one local jurisdiction in re-writing its Land Development Regulations.

### **Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Mapping Services:**

The CFRPC provided GIS Mapping Services to 16 municipalities within the Region in 2010. The GIS mapping services included updates to the Future Land Use Map and Zoning Map of each jurisdiction as well as requested maps such as the delineation of Community Redevelopment Areas, Utility Service Areas, and of natural resources and environmentally sensitive areas.

**Existing Land Uses**



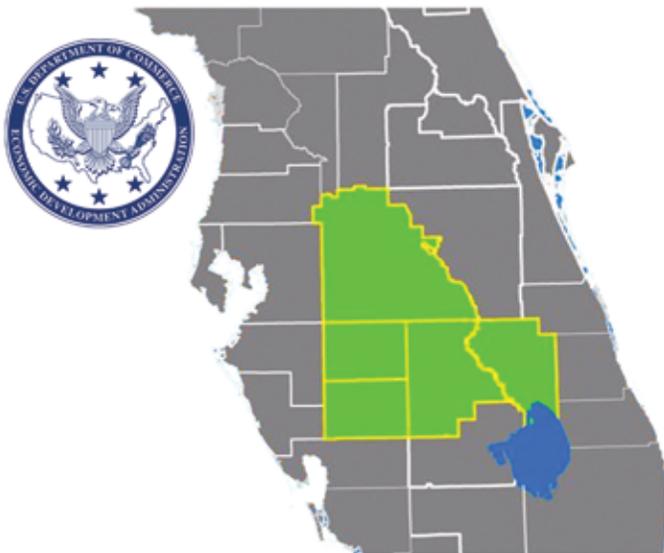
### **Comprehensive Plan Updates (Phase II of Evaluation and Appraisal Process):**

Section 163.3191, Florida Statutes requires that all local governments in the State of Florida prepare an Evaluation and Appraisal Report of their comprehensive plans every seven years. The EAR provides a review of the comprehensive plan and recommendations on how the plan should be amended to better serve the community in future years. Most of the jurisdictions in the Region have EAR due dates between the years of 2008 and 2010. EAR preparation and completion is approximately an 18-month process. In total, the CFRPC completed 19 EARs in 2009. The second step of the Evaluation and Appraisal Report program is to update the Comprehensive Plan based on the recommendations of the Evaluation and Appraisal Report. The Comprehensive Plan Update process includes the preparation of necessary research, data collection, and analysis to create a new growth management strategy that addresses the major issues and other special topic areas raised in the EAR as well as new amendments as directed by the local government. The Council provided comprehensive plan update technical services for 21 local governments during 2010.

# ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT

The US Economic Development Administration (EDA) designated the Central Florida Regional Planning Council as an Economic Development District (Region IV) in 1976. The district is a mix of urban and rural areas and includes the counties of DeSoto, Hardee, Highlands, Okeechobee and Polk. The Council receives funding from the EDA to provide assistance to local governments and economic development agencies in securing Economic Development Administration funding for viable projects, and to develop Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies (CEDs). The CEDs is an economic development plan designed to bring public and private sectors together to create an economic road map to diversify and strengthen the regional economy. It serves as a guide for establishing regional goals and objectives, developing and implementing a regional plan of action and identifying investment priorities and funding sources. It also assigns responsibilities for execution of the plan to lead organizations. Amendments were submitted in 2008. No amendments were made to the plan in 2010.



Central Florida Regional Planning Council  
Economic Development District (EDD) for the Central Florida Region

## COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

### STRATEGIES (CEDs) PRIORITY PROJECTS

#### **SOUTH CENTRAL RACEC CATALYST PROJECT**

Includes Healthcare Services, Life Sciences, and Environmental Industries and Science

#### **SEBRING AIRPORT RUNWAY EXTENSION**

(Highlands County)

#### **ALTERNATIVE FUELS**

(Highlands County and other suitable district locations)

#### **INCUBATOR**

University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (Polk County)

#### **GREEN BUILDINGS/PRODUCTS**

(DeSoto County and other suitable Industrial areas throughout the district)

#### **INCUBATOR**

Small Business Development Center (VIRTUAL) (Highlands County)

#### **POLK STATE COLLEGE**

Corporate College - Clear Springs Campus (Polk County)

#### **INCUBATOR**

University of South Florida Polytechnic (Lakeland Campus) (Polk County)

#### **FLORIDA INSTITUTE FOR NEUROLOGICAL REHABILITATION (Expansion)**

(Hardee County)

#### **INCUBATOR**

Small Business Development Center (Okeechobee) (Okeechobee County)

## RURAL AREAS OF CRITICAL ECONOMIC CONCERN (RACEC)

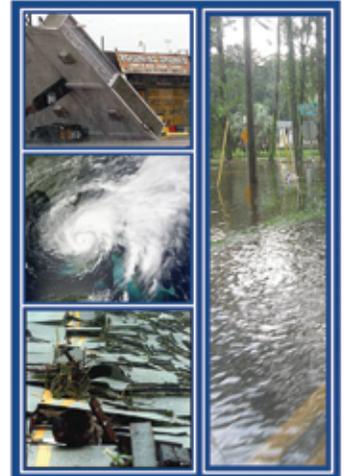
The Counties of DeSoto, Hardee, Highlands, and Okeechobee as well as Glades and Hendry are included in the South Central RACEC. Under the framework of the Catalyst initiative, all local governments within the RACEC can participate in the investment required to implement a jobs-producing project within the rural area and can share in additional revenues generated by the project. The Catalyst project selected in this region includes healthcare services, life sciences, and environmental industries and science. The Sebring Airport Authority was chosen as the site for the project and entails a 100-acre medical complex located in the 2,000 acre business campus adjacent to Sebring Regional Airport.



## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

This year was a busy year for economic development activity and queries in the Region, as well as across the Country. The Central Florida Regional Planning Council assisted in the preparation of several EDA grant applications in an effort to continue to plan for and stimulate economic development in our Region.

The Council was the recipient of an EDA grant for an Economic Analysis and Disaster Resiliency Study of the effects of a future Catastrophic Event in the Central Florida Region. The Council completed the study which is summarized below.



## ECONOMIC ANALYSIS AND DISASTER RESILIENCY STUDY

### **PURPOSE:**

The Economic Analysis and Disaster Resiliency Study, funded by the Economic Development Administration of the U.S. Department of Commerce as part of the Second Supplemental Appropriations Disaster Relief Opportunity Grant with a local match provided by the Central Florida Regional Planning Council, is a study to document existing conditions in the five counties (DeSoto, Hardee, Highlands, Okeechobee, and Polk) in the Central Florida Region and to review the implications of a catastrophic event with respect to regional economic impacts. The Second Supplemental Appropriations Disaster Relief Opportunity Grant was awarded to areas which sustained significant damage from Tropical Storm Fay in 2008. The storm left a path of destruction in three Central Florida counties: Hardee, Highlands, and Okeechobee. These jurisdictions were recognized as disaster relief eligible counties. In addition to Tropical Storm Fay in 2008, the Central Florida Region sustained significant damage from three hurricanes in less than three months during 2004. Hurricanes Charley, Jeanne and Frances all traversed the Central Florida region.

### **STUDY FINDINGS:**

For the Hurricane Categories 1 through 3 events, recovery is possible relatively quickly through a combination of planning efforts and recovery funds. In most scenarios, a Category 4 or 5 Hurricane event would present long term devastation, even with a significant infusion of federal recovery funds.

Loss of residential structures and employment are the two most significant drivers of economic damage and recovery. An economic recovery can only occur when a community's population can return to home and to work. Lack of housing and employment can lead to permanent relocation of an area's population, which would have long term negative impacts on recovery. Jobs created through rebuilding efforts provide a temporary improvement to the local economy, but they are not sustainable. The study indicates that counties recover from Hurricane Categories 1 through 3 within 5 to 10 years. The study also indicates that counties have a longer recovery period, greater than 10 years, following events such as Hurricane Categories 4 and 5. This is consistent with Florida's past experience with Hurricane Andrew which was a Category 5 event when it landed in Homestead, Florida on August 24, 1992. In addition, the Central Florida Region continues to recover from the effects of Hurricane Charley, one of three hurricanes which struck the region in 2004.

### **SCOPE:**

The study was completed in two phases: Phase 1) developed an itemized inventory for each of the five counties detailing each county's traffic analysis zones, employment by industry, residential structures by decade built, critical infrastructure, and staging areas for reconstruction; and

Phase 2) provided for an economic analysis of the effects of a catastrophic event on each of the five counties. The study provides two recovery scenarios: one scenario of normal recovery based on research of recovery experiences under similar situations; and a second scenario of accelerated recovery rates based on \$1 billion of direct federal funding to each of the five counties.



# TRANSPORTATION DISADVANTAGED



## TRANSPORTATION DISADVANTAGED PROGRAM

The Central Florida Regional Planning Council is the Designated Official Planning Agency (DOPA) for the Transportation Disadvantaged (TD) Program (Chapter 427, Florida Statutes) in Hardee, Highlands, and Okeechobee Counties. The Council provides planning services and staff support and implements the program for the TD Commission at the local level. The TD Commission ensures the availability of safe, efficient, cost-effective and quality transportation services for individuals throughout the State.

The Central Florida Regional Planning Council created a multi-county service area which is served by a Local Coordinating Board (LCB) comprised of members from each of the three counties. This Board provides oversight and recommendations to the Community Transportation Coordinator (CTC) for transportation operations, conducts evaluations of the CTC and its operators, sets local standards and develops the service area plan called the Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan (TDSP).

The CTC for the service area is a total brokerage system and contracts with local transportation providers who provide the actual transportation service.

passenger trips provided	vehicle miles travelled	total accidents	total local match	total operating expense
151,747	2,097,546	2	\$69,857	\$3,352,926

## TRANSPORTATION DISADVANTAGED TRIPS PROVIDED PER COUNTY

County	People Served	Total Trips	Unmet Demand for Trips
Hardee	491	17,885	1,271
Highlands	2,104	96,673	2,905
Okeechobee	692	37,189	363
Region	3,287	151,747	4,539





## PUBLIC TRANSIT SERVICE PROGRAM

The Central Florida Regional Planning Council administers the Federal Transit Administration Section 5311 program for the Multi-County Transportation Disadvantaged service area of Hardee, Highlands and Okeechobee counties. These funds are designated to be used in rural communities throughout the United States. The area is without public transit service and the FTA 5311 funds are used to enhance mobility to the general public in the service area.

In FY 2009/2010 approximately 17,408 trips were provided to the general public through this program.

## FUNDING SUPPORT

In addition to the FTA Section 5311 funds, the Council also applies for FTA 5310 Capital funds to procure vehicles that are used in the Multi-County Transportation Disadvantaged service area of Hardee, Highlands and Okeechobee counties. Vehicles awarded through this grant are titled to the Council which then leases them to the Community Transportation Coordinator. The Council was awarded funds to procure two wheelchair accessible mini vans in 2010.

Funds received through the FTA 5311, 5310, 5316 and 5317 programs bring additional resources to the service area in the amount of approximately \$524,424.

## JOB ACCESS AND REVERSE COMMUTE (JARC)

### GRANT AWARD

The Council submitted an application for JARC funds for the first time in January 2009. Funds were awarded in March 2010 and program start-up occurred in April 2010. The goal of the JARC program is to improve access to transportation services to employment and employment related activities for welfare recipients and eligible low-income individuals, and, to transport residents of urbanized areas and non-urbanized areas to suburban employment opportunities. The program requires coordination of federally-assisted programs and services in order to make the most efficient use of federal resources.

To assist in identifying eligible clients in need of transport, the Council partnered with the district Workforce Boards and Department of Education, Vocational Rehabilitation agencies. These agencies also schedule trips with the transportation disadvantaged Community Coordinator, and provide necessary support documentation for the use of their time and services toward meeting match requirements. In the first six months of operation, 959 JARC trips were provided with this grant.

## NEW FREEDOM GRANT AWARD

The Council submitted a first time application in January 2009. Funds were awarded in March 2010 and program start-up occurred in April 2010. New Freedom Program funds are used in the three county transportation disadvantaged service area of Hardee, Highlands, and Okeechobee to support "new public transportation services" that go beyond those required by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), and new public transportation alternatives beyond those required by ADA designed to assist individuals with disabilities with accessing transportation services including transportation to and from jobs and employment support services. Services are open to the general public. The district Workforce Boards and Vocational Rehabilitation agencies help to identify clients and/or inform clients of the transportation services available to them through these funds. These agencies also help to provide in-kind match required for the program.

Through the use of these funds, access to employment and other general trips have been extended to meet the needs of the disabled community. In the first six months of operation, 309 New Freedom trips were provided with this grant.

## PUBLIC TRANSIT TRIPS

Total 5311 Passenger Trips in 2010  
17,408

Total New Freedom Trips in 2010  
309

Total JARC Trips in 2010  
959

Value of Service Provided  
\$524,424

Vehicles Available Through Awarded Funds  
1



# STATEWIDE REGIONAL EVACUATION STUDY

## WHY THE EFFORT?

Officially released on December 1, 2010, this award winning study is a first time effort in creating a statewide standardized study and methodology across Florida. In addition to focusing on hurricane hazards and evacuation, the study addresses issues concerning other hazards which may warrant an evacuation, thus affecting the region. Other hazards addressed are tornadoes, freshwater flooding, and wildfires. Using the most up to shelter and state critical facility data, population data, transportation data and new behavioral survey data, the Statewide Regional Evacuation Study (SRES) for the Central Florida Region will be used in not only emergency management planning, but transportation and land use planning as well.

The primary purpose of this study was to coordinate a statewide, regionally consistent, comprehensive and quantitative evacuation study, primarily for hurricanes. The major components of the study consisted of the following:

- Hazards Analysis - A comprehensive analysis of potential hurricane hazards in the Central Florida Region utilizing the Sea, Lake and Overland Surges from Hurricanes (SLOSH) model and new topographic data, Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR).
- Vulnerability Analysis - Identification of the vulnerable areas and population to hurricane, wind and flooding hazards.
- Demographic and Land Use Analysis - Describes population and demographics for the region and counties using current socioeconomic data for 2006, 2010 and 2015.
- Behavioral Analysis - A survey and analysis to determine how vulnerable evacuees may respond to a hurricane threat as well as other hazards.

Shelter Analysis - A quantitative analysis of shelter availability, deficit, and special needs (medical and pets).

- Transportation Analysis - Development of hurricane evacuation clearance times for each county and storm scenario associated with the movement of the current and projected vulnerable population from specific evacuation areas to specific evacuation destinations for a Year 2006 base year and projected for years 2010 and 2015.
- Ensure consistency in evacuating population and routes with adjacent regions.

- Update and standardize the Division of Emergency Management (DEM) facilities database to provide all counties with consistent, accurate and standardized emergency management data.
- Establish standardized analysis and methodology for use in deriving impacts and determining mitigation needs as required in Section 163.3178, F.S.

## WE HAVE THE TIME

As a result of this study, an abbreviated model called "TIME" was developed that can be used by local emergency management officials, city and county planning staff, state emergency preparedness officials, and others to recalculate clearance times based upon land use and transportation system changes.

The SRES is not intended to serve as the detailed operations plan for each unit of local government in the region. Rather, it is intended to provide the data needed to develop local and state plans. The implementation of any evacuation plan is a local function. Therefore, the actual deployment and assignment of manpower and equipment to carry out the evacuation is best planned for at the local level. The data provided by this report will enable the local governments of the region to update specific operating procedures for the relocation of their vulnerable populations and recovery from a hurricane strike.



2004 Hurricane Frances



## LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE, DISTRICT 7

The CFRPC is the coordinator for the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) that is responsible for increasing hazardous materials safety and awareness. The LEPC accomplishes this by assisting in planning for chemical spill mitigation, supporting and providing training events, designing, conducting and evaluating emergency exercises, and educating the public on how to react to a hazardous materials release.

The LEPC is made up of individuals from diverse occupations. Members represent the various groups of first responders (Law Enforcement, Fire, Emergency Medical Services) while others represent corporate partners such as Publix, Mosaic and Coca-Cola. The goal of the LEPC is twofold. First, to establish smooth working relationships so that when an agency responds to an incident, they have already worked with and trained alongside the other responders. Second, to educate the public and professional responders on how to react to incidents in an "all hazards" environment.



Training Sponsored by the CFRPC and the Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness (HMEP) Training Grant.

## SMALL QUANTITY GENERATORS OF HAZARDOUS WASTE

The Small Quantity Generators (SQG) program identifies and monitors facilities that produce some form of hazardous waste either as a product or a by-product of their day to day business. This includes, but is not limited to, automotive repair facilities, dry cleaners, medical facilities that use x-ray machines, and many manufacturing businesses. The CFRPC conducted 285 inspections in three counties. All facilities are inspected every five years. The CFRPC maintains records of active businesses and historical data concerning the type of businesses that have occupied a given address in the past.

## HAZARDOUS ANALYSIS INSPECTIONS

The Hazards Analysis (HA) program monitors facilities that have extremely hazardous substances held in stock or used in their day to day operations. Some of these chemicals include Anhydrous Ammonia, Paraquat Dichloride, Sulfuric Acid and Chlorine. CFRPC conducts inspections in Okeechobee and DeSoto Counties under the HA inspection program. Each year the Council assesses approximately 15 sites as directed by the State of Florida. The data collected is used by the LEPC and local first responders to develop hazardous materials emergency plans for use in responding to and recovering from a release or spill of hazardous or toxic substances.





## THE GRANT

The CFRPC received a one million dollar, three-year Brownfields Assessment Coalition Grant from the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to undertake a pilot program known as the Heartland Brownfields Revitalization Partnership (HBRP). The grant will assist Polk County, and the Cities of Fort Meade and Mulberry conduct environmental assessments and reuse planning to put economically-obsolete properties back into productive use.

## BARRIERS TO REDEVELOPMENT

Brownfields are defined as abandoned or under-used industrial and commercial facilities and sites where redevelopment is complicated by real or perceived environmental contamination. Generally, Brownfield sites exist in a community's industrial section or commercial corridors, such as abandoned factories or commercial buildings. Small Brownfields sites may also be found in many older residential neighborhoods. Former dry cleaning establishments or gas stations often produced high levels of subsurface contaminants during prior operations. Some agricultural and mining uses also produced potential Brownfields. Many sites sit idle and unused for decades because of fears that the cost of cleaning them is more than the land would be worth after remediation of contaminants.



Contaminants sit exposed in a vacant building in Mulberry



## OUR ROLE

The CFRPC serves as the project manager for the County and Cities and provides planning services, manages the environmental consultants, coordinates the program activities, conducts public outreach activities and handles grant administration and reporting. To date, the Grant has enabled the HBRP Coalition to:

- Fund thirty-three Phase I and Phase II Assessments
- Carry out outreach, provide information and involvement opportunities
- Plan for remediation and reuse of the Brownfields sites
- Coordinate with property owners and economic development agencies to promote development on Brownfields properties

## FUTURE PLANS

The HBRP Project has generated plans for both public and private redevelopment including several parks, a proposed city-owned enterprise project, potential senior and market rate housing, a new city government center including a library, health center, senior center, a public safety facility, a new city hall, and job-creating commercial development. The Partnership plans to apply for funds to assist in the clean-up of Brownfields sites and to conduct more environmental assessments and reuse planning.



Barbara Caprita, EPA Brownfields Program and Randy Knapp, Five Star Family Growers, LLC discuss plans for redevelopment in the Polk Commerce Centre CRA



## THE RANGE

The Avon Park Air Force Range (APAFR) is the largest bombing and gunnery range east of the Mississippi River. With approximately 400 square miles of restricted airspace and 1,000 square miles of military operating area, it is the second largest military installation in Florida. Located in Highlands and Polk Counties, APAFR's 106,000 acres provide an important training facility for active and reserve military units from all services and civilian public safety organizations.

Situated on a geological formation known as the Bombing Range Ridge, the Range also plays an important role in the protection of the environment and the threatened and endangered species that live on the Range. The Range has an extensive environmental program designed to preserve and protect the scrub habitat that provides a home for these and many other native Florida Species.



## THE STUDY

The Council completed a Joint Land Use Study (JLUS) in collaboration with APAFR and the four Counties of Highlands, Okeechobee, Osceola and Polk, and the three cities of Avon Park, Frostproof and Sebring that are affected by the military training activities on the Range.

The study analyzed planned future land uses and military activities for compatibility and made recommendations based on this analysis. Two public workshops were held in each County to get public input on the Study and recommendations. Policy guidance was provided by the elected representatives named by the jurisdictions to serve on the JLUS Policy Committee. The Policy Committee reviewed the study recommendations and referred them to each jurisdiction's elected body for consideration and implementation.

## FUTURE PLANS

During the final, implementation stage of the Study, Council staff will be working with each jurisdiction to assist them in considering and implementing the Study recommendations. For more information on the Range and to view the Joint Land Use Study, visit the website at [www.avonparkjlus.com](http://www.avonparkjlus.com).



Helen Sears and Lt. Col. Charles MacLaughlin with Local and National Awards for the JLUS



AFB Training Shots



## THE VISION

The Central Florida Regional Planning Council has continued its visioning effort for Florida's Heartland Region, entitled Heartland 2060. The Heartland 2060 visioning effort was born in September 2007. It encompasses 7 Counties in Central Florida, including Polk, Hardee, Highlands, DeSoto, Okeechobee, Glades and Hendry.

The Heartland Region is unique in natural habitat, rural lifestyle, and agricultural heritage, and we continue to face major changes and challenges. Through establishment of a clear vision, we can ensure preservation of our unique values while supporting sustainable growth and development of our communities. The Core Values of the vision were established by the Leadership Team:

- Stewardship of Natural Resources
- Our Water Resources
- Respect for Agriculture
- Our Communities
- Future for Our Children
- Sustainable Growth

The Leadership Team and the following Task Forces have worked since 2008 on key issues and goals for the Region.

### Environment and Natural Resources (ENR)

Key Issues: Water, Sustainable and Viable Natural Systems, Agriculture, & Climate and Energy Change

### Education, Workforce and Economic Development (EWED)

Key Issues: Economic Diversification, Infrastructure to Support a Diversified Economy, & Early Learning, K-16 and Lifelong Education

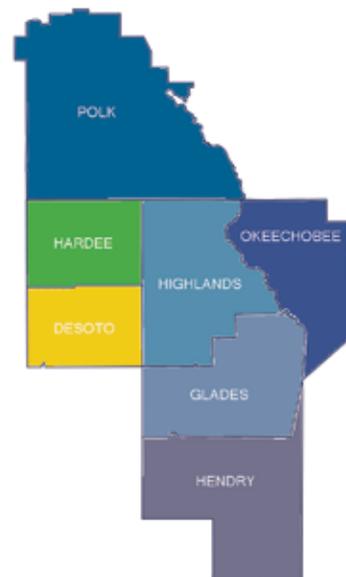
### Community Resources (CR)

Key Issues: Health Care & Cultural Resources

### Transportation and Land Use (TLU)

Key Issues: Integrating with Natural Resources Planning, Supporting Economic Development, Creating a Multimodal Transportation System, & Enhancing Existing and New Sustainable Communities

It is up to us to envision the future that we want to have in the Heartland Region. Long term planning and establishing a long term Regional vision are the only ways we can ensure that we are not carried along by the trend, but instead take the future into our own hands.





## REGIONAL PLAN FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

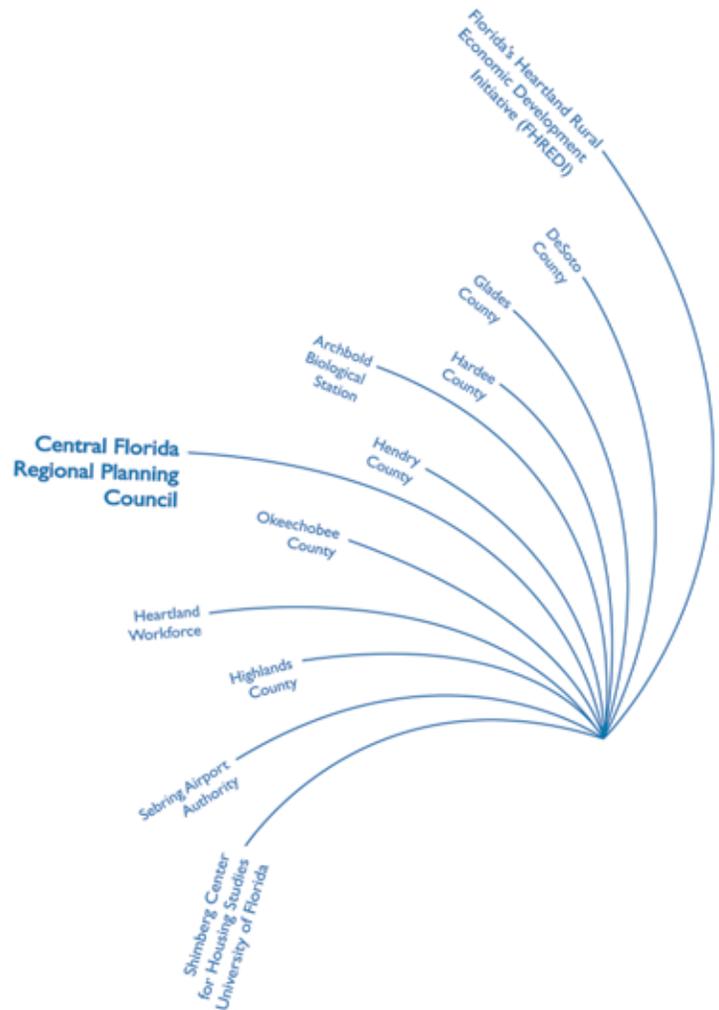
In order to further completion of the Heartland 2060 Vision, the Central Florida Regional Planning Council (CFRPC) applied for a federal grant through the US Office of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) Office of Sustainable Communities.

HUD announced on October 14, 2010 that the Central Florida Regional Planning Council was awarded a \$1.4 million grant to develop a Regional Plan for Sustainable Development for the Heartland Region of Florida. The CFRPC applied for the highly competitive grant on behalf of a Heartland 2060 Consortium that includes the six predominantly rural Heartland Counties of DeSoto, Glades, Hardee, Hendry, Highlands and Okeechobee, and Archbold Biological Station, Florida's Heartland Rural Economic Development Initiative (FHREDI), Heartland Workforce, Sebring Airport Authority, and the Shimberg Center for Housing Studies at the University of Florida. The award is one of only two granted in the State of Florida, and only forty-five awarded nationwide. A total of 225 eligible applications were submitted for consideration.

Funding from the Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant Program will enable the completion of the Heartland 2060 visioning effort which includes DeSoto, Glades, Hardee, Hendry, Highlands, Okeechobee, and Polk Counties, by enabling the Heartland 2060 Consortium to create and implement a Regional Plan for growth and development. The grant became effective on February 15, 2011.

The Plan will incorporate multiple elements including Scenario Modeling of future growth alternatives to explain these alternatives to elected officials and the public and assist with decision making. Public Involvement will be conducted throughout each County, to encourage all citizens to participate. Energy Baseline and Analysis of the Region's current energy footprint will be prepared to advance the regional goal to become a leader in alternative energy production and sustainable jobs for the future. The Rural Housing Initiatives will include a GIS-based inventory of available affordable housing lots in all six rural counties and an Affordable Housing Model methodology for rural areas. An Economic Strategic Plan for Alternate Fuels will create additional productive options for use of agricultural lands which would provide workforce opportunities while reducing dependence on fossil fuels.

The Economic Development Strategy will help the region move toward economic diversification and responsible development. A Five-Year Strategic Action Plan will be developed with specific action steps to be accomplished and will provide for updates throughout the duration of the vision, which will be 50 years. Benchmark measurements will be developed in order to measure progress over the duration of the implementation of the Regional Plan for Sustainable Development.





As 2010 ended, six of our long serving Council members ended their terms with the CFRPC as well. These individuals committed countless hours of service, provided leadership during challenging times and guided important decisions concerning programs and development discussing the Central Florida Region. We thank them for their service to our Region. But as some doors closed, others were opened. The CFRPC and its staff received a number of prestigious awards that reflect the mission of the Council and the commitment of staff to serve the community.

## JEFF CARLSON



Jeff Carlson began serving the CFRPC in June of 1999 representing the City of Sebring. He became a Highlands City Commissioner in 2008 and continued as a Council member. He served as Vice-Chairman from 2002 to 2006 and Chairman of the Council from 2007 through 2010. He was also a member of the Policy Board of the Florida Regional Councils Association.

## HOWARD WIGGS

Howard Wiggs began as a council member in December of 1996 representing the City of Lakeland as their City Commissioner. He served through 2010 and served on several Council committees.

## JEFF POTTER

Jeff Potter was appointed to the CFRPC representing the City of Winter Haven to begin service in December of 2002 serving until October of 2010 and served on the Finance Committee. He represented the CFRPC as a Policy Board member of the Florida Regional Councils Association.

## NOEL CHANDLER

As Okeechobee County Commissioner, Noel Chandler began serving on the Council in December of 2006. Mr. Chandler served on the Council until November of 2010.

## LORENZO DIXON

Dr. Lorenzo Dixon served on the Council from October of 2008 until November of 2010, representing the City of Arcadia. During 2010 he served as the Council's Vice-Chairman.

## JEAN REED

Jean Reed served on the Council as a Polk County Commissioner beginning in December of 2009 and served until November of 2010.

## 2010 WILLIAM G. & BUDD BELL LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Each year the Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged honors a person in the State who has demonstrated a long-term leadership role in advocating transportation issues, has been successful in promoting the benefits of coordination of all resources and has exhibited an interest in improving the accessibility of transportation. This year's award was given to a member of our staff, Marcia Staszko. Marcia has been involved with the Transportation Disadvantaged program since 1981. In recognition of her years of hard work, commitment, dedication and success, she was presented the 2010 William G. and Budd Bell Lifetime Achievement Award.



## 2010 PLANNING AWARDS

### **JLUS Avon Park Air Force Range**

FAPA Heart of Florida Award of Excellence  
*Master Planning & Urban Design*

National Association of Development Organizations  
*2010 Innovation Award*

### **Statewide Regional Evacuation Study**

FAPA Heart of Florida Award of Excellence  
*Master Planning & Urban Design*

## STAFF SERVICE RECOGNITION

35 Years: Marcia Staszko, Transportation Disadvantaged Director

30 Years: Kathy Hall, Program Coordinator

We would also like to give a special thanks to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Kissimmee Basin: The Northern Everglades for providing a number of photographs that have truly captured the spirit and beauty of our Central Florida Region.



# FINANCIAL REPORT

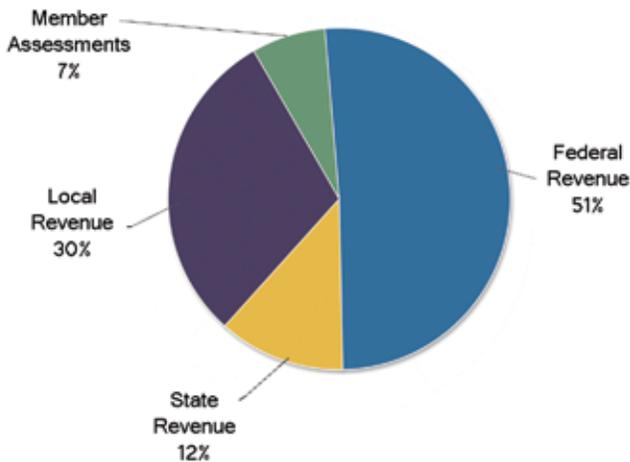


The financial statements of the CFRPC are audited each fiscal year. The following information was extracted from the financial statements for the year ended **September 30, 2010**.

## REVENUE BY PROGRAM:

Local Government Assistance	\$	863,723
Developments of Regional Impact	\$	227,684
Transportation Programs	\$	759,903
Joint Land Use Study	\$	118,665
Emergency Management Programs	\$	151,289
Brownfields	\$	305,462
Economic Development	\$	295,426
Other Programs	\$	18,938
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>2,741,090</b>

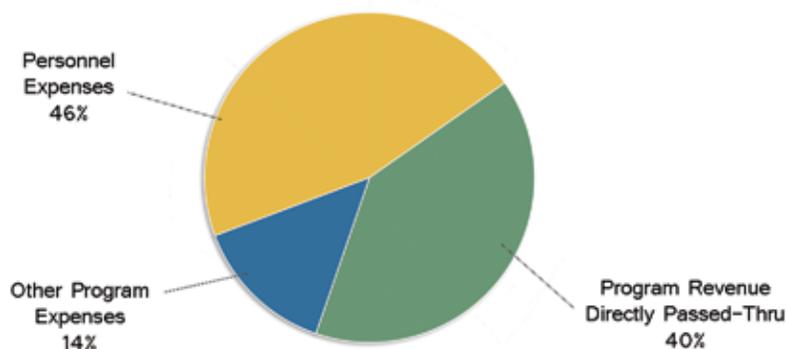
## FY 2009/2010 REVENUE SOURCES



### 2009/2010

Local Revenue	\$	804,544
State Revenue	\$	329,273
Federal Revenue	\$	1,410,193
Member Assessments	\$	197,080
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>2,741,090</b>

## FY 2009/2010 EXPENDITURES



### 2009/2010

Personnel Expenses	\$	1,254,061
Program Revenue Directly Passed-Thru	\$	1,082,044
Other Program Expenses	\$	389,770
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>2,725,875</b>

# 2010 REGIONAL COUNCIL MEMBERS

## DESOTO COUNTY



- BUDDY MANSFIELD** - DeSoto County Commissioner
- MARTHA CRAVEN** - Arcadia City Council Member
- JACQUELINE TUCKER** - DeSoto County Gubernatorial Appointee and Policy Board Member

## HARDEE COUNTY



- MINOR L. BRYANT** - Hardee County Commissioner Vice Chairman and Policy Board Member
- VACANT** - Wauchula City Commissioner
- VACANT** - Hardee County Gubernatorial Appointee

## HIGHLANDS COUNTY



- BARBARA STEWART** - Highlands County Commissioner
- SCOTT STANLEY** - Sebring City Council Member
- ANDY TUCK** - Highlands County Gubernatorial Appointee

## OKEECHOBEE COUNTY



- BRYANT CULPEPPER** - Okeechobee County Commissioner
- CLAYTON WILLIAMS** - Okeechobee City Council Member
- WILLIAM KEENE SR.** - Okeechobee County Gubernatorial Appointee

## POLK COUNTY



- PAT HUFF** - Bartow City Commissioner Chairman and Policy Board Member
- TODD DANTZLER** - Polk County Commissioner
- HOWARD WIGGS** - Lakeland City Council Member
- JAMES H. POWELL** - Winter Haven City Commissioner
- DR. MARSHALL GOODMAN** - Polk County Gubernatorial Appointee
- ERLINDA RADA-PILKINGTON** - Polk County Gubernatorial Appointee



PHOTO COMPLIMENTS OF KISSIMEE BASIN: THE NORTHERN EVERGLADES

## EX OFFICIO

**JENNIFER STULTS** - Planning and Public Transportation; Florida Department of Transportation, District One

**VACANT** - Department of Environmental Protection

**MISSIE BARLETTO** - South Florida Water Management District

**JOANNE MCCELLAN** - Southwest Florida Water Management District

**LYNN TOEPEL** - CEO; Florida Heartland Rural Economic Development Initiative

**JASON GREEN** - Planning Manager; DeSoto County Planning Department

**KEVIN DENNY** - Hardee County Planning Department

**MARK HILL** - Development Services Director; Highlands County Planning Department

**BILL ROYCE** - Planning Director; Okeechobee County Planning Department

**TOM DEARDORFF** - Polk County Growth Management

# COUNCIL STAFF



<u>STAFF</u>	<u>POSITION</u>	<u>PH. EXT.</u>
<b>PATRICIA M. STEED</b>	<b>EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR</b>	<b>130</b>
<b>JENNIFER CODO-SALISBURY MPA, AICP</b>	<b>PLANNING DIRECTOR</b>	<b>178</b>
<b>MARCIA STASZKO</b>	<b>PROGRAM DIRECTOR</b>	<b>103</b>
<b>EVA HALL, CPA</b>	<b>ADMINISTRATIVE / FINANCE DIRECTOR</b>	<b>105</b>
<b>MARISA M. BARMBY, AICP</b>	<b>SENIOR PLANNER</b>	<b>110</b>
<b>SHANNON BRETT</b>	<b>SENIOR PLANNER</b>	<b>132</b>
<b>CHUCK CARTER</b>	<b>PROGRAM MANAGER</b>	<b>107</b>
<b>KATHRYN HALL</b>	<b>PROGRAM COORDINATOR</b>	<b>129</b>
<b>ALAN KLOSE AICP</b>	<b>SENIOR PLANNER</b>	<b>177</b>
<b>REGINA LAUSELL</b>	<b>GRAPHIC DESIGN / PLANNING ASSISTANT</b>	<b>102</b>
<b>KATHERINE PURCELL</b>	<b>GIS COORDINATOR</b>	<b>108</b>
<b>HELEN SEARS</b>	<b>PRINCIPAL PLANNER</b>	<b>124</b>
<b>LISA THOMPSON WEIGERS</b>	<b>SENIOR PLANNER</b>	
<b>LARRY PNDARVIS</b>	<b>WEBMASTER</b>	



**CENTRAL FLORIDA  
REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL**

555 East Church Street, Bartow, FL 33830  
P.O. Box 2089, Bartow, FL 33831



[www.CFRPC.org](http://www.CFRPC.org)