



# Central Florida Regional Planning Council

## Meeting Agenda

**Wednesday, February 14, 2024 | 9:30 a.m.**

<b>How to Attend:</b>	<p>In Person: Avon Park Community Center* West Main Street 300 Avon Park, FL 33825</p> <p><i>*An optional tour of the Avon Park Air Force Range will immediately follow the Council Meeting. Estimated start time of the tour is 11:45 am.</i></p>
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**Call To Order** – Chair Nathaniel Birdsong

- Invocation
- Pledge of Allegiance
- New Member Oath of Office
- Roll Call
- Announcements

**1) Opportunity for Public Comments**

**2) Council Administration**

- A) Approval of Minutes
- B) December 2023 Financial Report

Actions Requested:	Approval by Council
Exhibits:	#2A: December 13, 2023 Council Meeting Minutes - page 5 #2B: December 2023 Financial Report - page 9

**3) City of Avon Park Activities Report**

Mark Schrader, Avon Park City Manager, has been invited to update the Council on current activities in the City of Avon Park.

Actions Requested:	Information Only
Exhibits:	None

**4) Connecting Central Florida Manufacturing and Emergency Preparedness Project Kickoff**

Staff will provide an update regarding the State of Florida, FloridaCommerce Technical Assistance grant, Connecting Central Florida Manufacturing and Emergency Preparedness.

Actions Requested:	Information Only
Exhibits:	None

**5) Heartland Regional Transportation Planning Organization (HRTPO) Activities**

Staff will brief the Council on activities of the six-county Heartland Regional Transportation Planning Organization (HRTPO) and other transportation issues.

Actions Requested:	Information only
Exhibits:	None

**6) Community Development Block Grant – Mitigation (CDBG-MIT) Project Update**

The East Central Regional Planning Council was awarded a CDBG-MIT grant for Advancing Mitigation Assessment and Planning Through Regional Collaboration. The project provides a cohesive, statewide approach to resilience planning, including inland counties. The Central Florida Regional Planning Council is a subrecipient of the grant. Staff will provide a project update.

Actions Requested:	Information Only
Exhibits:	None

**7) Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) Resilient Florida Vulnerability Assessments Grants Update**

Staff will provide an update on the FDEP Vulnerability Assessments in the region.

Actions Requested:	Information Only
Exhibits:	None

**8) Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) Resilience Project Grant**

The CFRPC has been approved for a grant from FDEP to complete the identification and verification of regionally significant assets included in the Comprehensive Statewide Flood Vulnerability and Sea Level Rise Data Set.

Actions Requested:	Authorize the Executive Director to execute agreement and administer FDEP Grant - page 19
Exhibit:	Grant Work Plan

**9) Military Installation Resilience Review (MIRR) and Compatible Use Plan for Avon Park Air Force Range**

The CFRPC is working with the Avon Park Air Force Range to prepare a MIRR and complete a Compatible Use Plan. CFRPC staff provide an overview and update of these efforts.

Actions Requested:	Information Only
Exhibits:	None

**10) Avon Park Air Force Range Mission Brief**

Charles “Buck” MacLaughlin, APAFR Range Operations Officer, will provide a Mission Brief of operations at the Avon Park Air Force Range in preparation for the 11:45 am tour.

Actions Requested:	Information Only
Exhibits:	None

**11) Report on the Florida Regional Councils Association (FRCA) January Policy Board Meeting & FRCA Annual Report**

The Executive Director and Policy Board Members will report on the FRCA Policy Board Meeting held on January 26, 2024, in Tallahassee. Staff will present the FRCA 2022-2023 Annual Report.

Actions Requested:	Information Only
Exhibit:	#11: FRCA 2022-2023 Annual Report - page 29

**12) Executive Director’s Report**

The Executive Director will report on legislative bills, Florida Regional Councils Association (FRCA) activities, and Council programs.

Actions Requested:	Information Only
Exhibits:	#12A: FRCA Legislative Bill Report dated 2/6/2024 - page 47 #12B: FRCA Monthly Activities Report - page 53

**13) Next Meeting and Other Business**

- A) Next Meeting: April 10, 2024, 9:30 am, at the Hardee County Commission Chambers, 412 W Orange Street, Room 103, Wauchula, FL 33873.
- B) Other Business

**14) Adjourn to Optional Tour of the Avon Park Air Force Range**

*If any person decides to appeal any decision made by the Board with respect to any matter considered at this meeting or hearing, he/she will need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceeding is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence from which the appeal is to be issued.*

*Public participation is solicited without regard to race, color, national origin, age, sex, religion, disability, income, or family status. Persons who require special accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act or persons who require translation services (free of charge) should contact the CFRPC Title VI/Nondiscrimination Coordinator, Brenda Torres, 863-534-7130, or via Florida Relay Service 711, or by email: [btorres@cfrpc.org](mailto:btorres@cfrpc.org)*

*La participación pública es solicitada sin distinción de raza, color, origen nacional, sexo, edad, discapacidad, religión o situación familiar. Las personas que requieran alojamiento bajo el Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) o la traducción de idiomas, de forma gratuita deben ponerse en contacto Brenda Torres, CFRPC Título VI de Enlace, 863-534-7130 (voz), oa través de la Florida Relay Servicio 711, o por correo electrónico [btorres@cfrpc.org](mailto:btorres@cfrpc.org) al menos tres días antes del evento.*

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# Central Florida Regional Planning Council

## Meeting Minutes

Exhibit #2A

**Wednesday, December 13, 2023 | 9:30 a.m.**

Winter Haven AdventHealth Fieldhouse & Conference Center Room B  
210 Cypress Gardens Blvd.  
Winter Haven, FL 33880

Chair Keith Keene called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. Council Attorney Norman White led the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll was called and the following Council Members were in attendance:

Chair Council Member Keith Keene, City of Arcadia  
Vice Chair Donna Howerton, Highlands County Gubernatorial Appointee  
Commissioner Rick Wilson, Polk County  
Commissioner Nathaniel Birdsong, City of Winter Haven  
Commissioner Morris West, City of Haines City  
Robert "Jeff" Kincart, Polk County Gubernatorial Appointee  
Councilman Noel Chandler, City of Okeechobee  
Commissioner Neda Cobb, City of Wauchula  
Councilman Harrison Havery, City of Sebring  
Jackie Tucker, DeSoto County Gubernatorial Appointee  
Commissioner Don Elwell, Highlands County  
John Bohde, Polk County, Ex-Officio

A quorum of members was present.

### 1) **Opportunity for Public Comments**

No public comments.

### 2) **CFRPC 2023 Recognitions and Review**

The CFRPC team members introduced themselves. Jennifer Codo-Salisbury reviewed 2023 CFRPC accomplishments, awards and staff service recognitions including:

- Marisa Barmby, Program Manager, was awarded a certificate for her 15 years of service and contributions to the CFRPC.
- Donnie Arbeau, Program Manager, was awarded a certificate for his 5 years of service and contributions to the CFRPC.
- Matt Bushey, Webmaster and Graphic Designer, was awarded a certificate for his 5 years of service and contributions to the CFRPC.

### 3) **Council Administration**

#### A) Approval of Minutes

- A motion was made by: Rick Wilson
- The motion was seconded by: Noel Chandler
- The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

#### B) Approval of October Financial Report

- A motion was made by: Don Elwell
- The motion was seconded by: Morris West
- The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

**4) Polk County Activities Report**

Bill Beasley, Polk County Manager, updated the Council on current activities in Polk County.

**5) Audit Report for the Year Ended September 30, 2023**

Julie Fowler of CliftonLarsonAllen, LLP presented the audit report for FY 2022-23. There were no findings or concerns in any category.

**6) Recommendations from the Finance Committee**

The Finance Committee met on December 1, 2023, and recommended approval to the Council of the following items.

A) Approve Final Budget Amendment for FY 2022-23.

- A motion to Approve was made by: Rick Wilson
  - The motion was seconded by: Noel Chandler
  - The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

B) Accept Audit Report for FY 2022-23.

- A motion to Accept was made by: Don Elwell
  - The motion was seconded by: Nathaniel Birdsong
  - The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

C) Approve Budget Amendment #1 for FY 2023-24.

- A motion to Approve was made by: Rick Wilson
  - The motion was seconded by: Morris West
  - The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

**7) Opportunity For Public Hearing for Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Grants**

Marybeth Soderstrom, CFRPC Transportation Director, stated that staff prepared FTA Capital Grant applications that require a public hearing be set in the event anyone from the public would like to comment on the grants. She stated there were no requests to conduct a public hearing received.

**8) Public Transportation Grant Agreements (PTGA) with the Florida Department of Transportation for FTA 5339 Capital Grant, 5311 Mobility Management, 5310 Rural Operating, 5310 Small Urban**

Marybeth Soderstrom, CFRPC Transportation Director, provided an overview of the transportation grants and requested approval on Resolutions 2023-12A through 2023-12E authorizing the Executive Director to sign the PTGAs to purchase replacement vehicles, and continue funding for transportation disadvantaged programs in DeSoto, Hardee, Highlands, and Okeechobee counties.

Approval of Resolutions granting authority to Jennifer Codo-Salisbury, Executive Director, to enter into, modify, extend, or terminate specific PTGAs with the Florida Department of Transportation. Those Resolutions include:

- 2023-12A – 5339 Capital Funds for Replacement of vehicle
- 2023-12B – 5339 Capital Funds Vehicle Replacement Fleet Beyond Useful Life
- 2023-12C – 5310 Small Urban Operating
- 2023-12D – 5310 Rural Operating
- 2023-12E – 5311 Mobility Management

The Council understands the Financial Management Number will be written once assigned.



- A motion to Approve was made by: Noel Chandler
  - The motion was seconded by: Jackie Tucker
  - The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

**9) Avon Park Air Force Range Military Installation Resilience Review (MIRR)**

CFRPC staff issued a Request for Proposals for a MIRR for the Avon Park Air Force Range under a grant received from the US Department of Defense, Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation. Shannon McPherson, CFRPC Administrative Director, presented the Selection Committee’s recommendation following review of the three received proposals. Martsel-Day, LLC ranked the highest.

- A motion for approval to select Martsel-Day, LLC was made by: Nathaniel Birdsong
  - The motion was seconded by: Neda Cobb
  - The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

**10) Winter Haven One Water Program**

Keeli Carlton, City of Winter Haven Water Program Administrator provided an overview of Winter Haven’s One Water Program.

**11) 2024 Holiday Schedule**

Jennifer Codo-Salisbury presented the 2024 Holiday Schedule to the Council for approval.

- A motion for was made by: Donna Howerton
  - The motion was seconded by: Rick Wilson
  - The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

**12) Election of Council Officers for 2024**

The Council Nominating Committee (City of Lakeland Commissioner Chad McLeod, Okeechobee County Commissioner Kelly Owens, and DeSoto County Gubernatorial Appointee Jackie Tucker) met prior to the Council meeting to consider nominations for a Council Chair and Vice Chair for 2024. Jackie Tucker presented the nomination of Nathaniel Birdsong as Chair and Donna Howerton as Vice Chair.

- A motion for was made by: Jackie Tucker
  - The motion was seconded by: Don Elwell
  - The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

**13) Appoint Members to the Florida Regional Councils Association (FRCA) Policy Board**

The newly elected Chair Nathaniel Birdsong appointed three members and two alternates to serve on the FRCA Policy Board representing the CFRPC for 2024. The appointees included Jackie Tucker, Kelly Owners and Nathaniel Birdsong. Neda Cobb and Keith Keene were appointed as alternates.

- A motion for was made by: Don Elwell
  - The motion was seconded by: Morris West
  - The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

**14) Appoint Members to the Finance Committee**

Chair Nathaniel Birdsong appointed Donna Howerton, Neda Cobb, and Rick Wilson to serve as the Council’s Finance Committee for 2024. The Council Chair, Nathaniel Birdsong, also serves on the Finance Committee.



- A motion was made by: Morris West
  - The motion was seconded by: Jackie Tucker
  - The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

**15) Executive Director's Report**

Jennifer Codo-Salisbury thanked Keith Keene for his service as Chair for the past two years. The 2024 schedule of CFRPC Board meetings was distributed. Jennifer briefed the Council on staff's efforts to schedule future meetings to include tours and/or additional information following Council meetings.

**16) Next Meeting and Other Business**

- A) Next Meeting: February 14, 2024 at 9:30 am at the Avon Park Community Center, 310 West Main Street, Avon Park, Florida. Following the meeting, there will be an optional tour of the Avon Park Air Force Range.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

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Nathaniel Birdsong, Chair





**CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL**  
**STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES FY 2023-2024**  
**For the Month Ended December 31, 2023**

Exhibit #2B

**UNAUDITED**

December = 25%

		<u>ACCRUAL</u>	<u>ACTUAL</u>	<u>Approved Budget</u>	<u>ACCRUAL</u>
		<u>December 2023</u>	<u>December 2023</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>% of Budget</u>
<b>ORDINARY INCOME/EXPENSE</b>					
<b>INCOME</b>					
1	Use of Prior Year Surplus	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0%
2	Member Assessments	89,984	89,984	359,935	25%
3	Local Revenue	319,551	231,883	1,712,250	19%
4	State Revenue	172,652	41,109	512,515	34%
5	Federal Revenue	735,439	1,186,994	3,390,431	22%
6	<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>1,317,626</b>	<b>1,549,970</b>	<b>5,975,131</b>	<b>22%</b>
<b>7 EXPENSE</b>					
8	Salaries & Fringe Benefits	689,422	661,417	3,215,831	21%
9	Consultants	21,865	60,656	662,200	3%
10	Transportation for the Disadvantaged Trips	489,361	688,515	1,568,000	31%
12	Accounting/Payroll Services	299	299	2,500	12%
13	Advertising	4,263	4,213	15,000	28%
14	Audit	26,250	26,250	34,500	76%
15	Auto Expense	2,776	3,455	15,000	19%
16	Building Security	190	193	1,600	12%
17	Dues & Fees	10,650	11,214	55,000	19%
18	Equipment Expense	1,152	1,356	9,000	13%
19	File Management	(332)	(332)	-	0%
20	Insurance	18,794	18,551	40,000	47%
21	Janitorial/Maintenance	3,468	3,561	15,500	22%
22	Legal Fees	9,171	9,171	37,500	24%
23	Meeting Expense	237	399	15,000	2%
24	Miscellaneous	-	267	1,000	0%
25	Office Supplies	2,789	3,061	15,000	19%
26	Postage & Delivery	102	102	5,000	2%
27	Printing	42	43	7,500	1%
28	Repair & Maintenance	4,407	6,433	15,000	29%
29	Technology Supplies	6,695	7,297	60,000	11%
30	Telephone	4,258	5,140	20,000	21%
31	Travel & Registration Fees	13,397	18,303	70,000	19%
32	Utilities	1,428	2,635	15,000	10%
33	Capital Outlay - Office & Technology	-	-	25,000	0%
34	Capital Outlay - Vehicle	-	-	-	0%
34	Capital Outlay - TD Vehicle	-	-	-	0%
35	Capital Outlay - Building	-	-	55,000	0%
36	<b>TOTAL EXPENSE</b>	<b>\$ 1,310,685</b>	<b>\$ 1,532,200</b>	<b>\$ 5,975,131</b>	<b>22%</b>
37					
38	<b>INCOME OVER (UNDER) EXPENSE</b>	<b>\$ 6,941</b>	<b>\$ 17,771</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	
<b>CASH ON HAND 12/31/2023</b>					
	Checking Account + Petty Cash	\$ 252,331			
	Cash Held in Reserve:				
	Money Market Account	\$ 276,090			
	Local Govt Investment Pool	\$ 10,152			
	<b>Total Cash</b>	<b>\$ 538,572</b>			

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**CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL**  
**STATEMENT OF NET ASSETS**  
**December 31, 2023**

<u>UNAUDITED</u>	<u>ACCRUAL</u>
<b>ASSETS</b>	
1      Cash	\$    252,316
2      Petty Cash	15
3      Accounts Receivable	610,942
4      Unbilled Costs	551,409
5      Prepaid Expenses	28,746
6      Fixed Assets	1,022,232
7      Funds Held in Reserve	286,242
8	
9 <b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b><u>\$   2,751,901</u></b>
10	
11 <b>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	
12	
13 <b>Liabilities</b>	
14      Accounts Payable	\$    512,163
15      Compensated Absences Liability	156,931
16      Deferred Revenue	40,062
17 <b>Total Liabilities</b>	<u>709,157</u>
18	
19 <b>Fund Balance</b>	2,042,745
20	
21 <b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<b><u>\$   2,751,901</u></b>

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Agenda Item #4  
**Connecting Central Florida Manufacturing and Emergency Preparedness Project  
Kickoff**

Actions Requested:	Information Only
Exhibits:	None

**Background:** FloridaCommerce awarded the CFRPC a FY 2023-2024 Community Planning Technical Assistance grant to facilitate the connection of Central Florida to Manufacturing and Emergency Preparedness. The Central Florida Regional Planning Council and the East Central Florida Regional Planning Council are coordinating with FloridaMakes to provide outreach and engage the economic development and emergency preparedness community. The products from this effort will include:

- A partnership and outreach database for each county within the respective regions.
- Creation of informational materials to support the outreach and engagement activities for FloridaMakes –including a video showcasing success stories.
- Information from host informational/feedback sessions within each RPC region for the manufacturing and emergency preparedness communities (in person or virtual) as evidenced by an agenda, sign-in sheet/invite list, and an event summary.
- An Implementation Framework based on feedback from the information sessions to be used by FloridaMakes, the manufacturers, and the emergency preparedness community to integrate the utilization of disaster response scenarios.

The project is scheduled to be completed by May 2024. Staff will provide a project overview and update.

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Agenda Item #6  
**Community Development Block Grant Mitigation (CDBG MIT) Project Update**

Actions Requested:	Information Only
Exhibits:	None

**Background:** The East Central Florida Regional Planning Council was awarded a CDBG-MIT grant for Advancing Mitigation Assessment and Planning through Regional Collaboration. The project will provide a cohesive, statewide approach to resilience planning, including inland counties. Central Florida Regional Planning Council will be one of the subrecipients of the grant, performing a portion of the work and implementation.

The Northeast, East Central, Tampa Bay, North Central, Treasure Coast and Central Florida Regional Planning Councils are subrecipients of the grant through the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity.

The Scope of Work for the CFRPC includes the following:

- Project Management and Coordination
- GIS Flood Assessment Modeling
- Comprehensive Regional Mitigation Assessment (methodology and template)
- Regional Mitigation Priority Areas and Project List
- Selective Small Area Plans
- Stormwater Management Best Practices
- Stakeholder Engagement

Staff will provide a project update.

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Agenda Item #7  
**Florida Department of Environmental Protection Resilient Florida Vulnerability Assessments Grants Update**

Actions Requested:	Information Only
Exhibits:	None

**Background:** Staff will provide an update on the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) Vulnerability Assessments in the region. The FDEP awarded each of the five counties and two cities (Bartow and Wauchula) in the region Resilient Florida Planning Grants to conduct a Comprehensive Vulnerability Assessment (VA) pursuant to Section 380.093, Florida Statutes.

**The final products will include:**

- **Final Vulnerability Assessment Report will include:**
  - Results and conclusions, including illustrations via maps and tables, based on the statutorily required scenarios and standards in s. 380.093, F.S.;
  - List of critical and regionally significant assets that are impacted by flooding. The list of critical and regionally significant assets must be prioritized by area or immediate need and must identify which flood scenario(s) impacts each asset;
  - Electronic mapping data used to illustrate flooding and sea level rise impacts identified in the VA, to include the geospatial data in an electronic file format and GIS metadata; and
  - A signed Vulnerability Assessment Compliance Checklist Certification.
  
- **Public Presentation**
  - Presentation of the final VA results to local governing boards, technical committees, or other appropriate officers and elected officials.
  - The purpose of the presentation is to share the findings from the final VA and provide recommendations of actions for adaptation strategies and future project funding.
  - The presentation will also inform the public of the results and the future risk of increased flooding and encourage community participation when identifying mitigation strategies to address the flooding vulnerabilities.
  
- **Local Mitigation Strategy**
  - The results of the VA will be used to inform the County Local Mitigation Strategy Workgroup as required by the Florida Division of Emergency Management.

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Agenda Item #8  
Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP)  
Resilience Project Grant

Actions Requested:	Authorize the Executive Director to execute agreement and administer FDEP Grant
Exhibits:	#8: Scope of Work

**Background:** The CFRPC has been approved for a grant from FDEP to complete the identification and verification of regionally significant assets included in the Comprehensive Statewide Flood Vulnerability and Sea Level Rise Data Set.

The total grant amount is \$66,610.00. Work will be completed by June 2024.

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# Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) Resilience Project Grant

## Grant Scope of Work

### PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The Central Florida Regional Planning Council (Grantee) will conduct the Central Florida Regional Planning Council Resilience Project (Project) to include the identification of verification of regionally significant assets included in the Comprehensive Statewide Flood Vulnerability and Sea Level Rise Data Set.

### TASKS AND DELIVERABLES:

#### Task 1: Regionally Significant Asset Identification and Verification

**Description:** The Grantee will review the Comprehensive Statewide Flood Vulnerability and Sea Level Rise Data Set for their region and identify any regionally significant assets, meeting the definitions in s. 380.093, that are not currently included in the Dataset. During the review, the Grantee will also verify the accuracy of the identified regionally significant assets for their region and provide updated information as needed. If any data gaps are identified, where missing or low-quality information may result in the exclusion of a or regionally significant asset, the Grantee will, in coordination with their member communities, rectify any gaps of necessary data. GIS files and associated metadata must adhere to the Resilient Florida Program's GIS Data Standards (Attachment 6), and raw data sources shall be defined within the associated metadata.

**Deliverables:** The Grantee will provide the following:

- 1.1: A list or spreadsheet of regionally significant assets that should be added to the Statewide Data Set, and which contains the critical assets attributes required by the Resilient Florida Program's GIS Data Standards;
- 1.2: A list or spreadsheet of regionally significant assets that are incorrectly labeled as locally significant in the Statewide Dataset and locally significant assets that are incorrectly labeled as regionally significant;
- 1.3: GIS files and associated metadata; and
- 1.4: A summary report to include recommendations to address the identified data gaps and actions taken to rectify them, if applicable.

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Agenda Item #9  
**Military Installation Resilience Review (MIRR)**  
**Avon Park Air Force Range**

Actions Requested:	Information Only
Exhibits:	None

**Background:** In August 2023, the Central Florida Regional Planning Council was awarded a grant from the US Department of Defense, Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation to support a Military Installation Resiliency Review (MIRR) project for the Avon Park Air Force Range in the amount of \$462,915, to be completed by January 2025.

This project integrates critical military and community resilience concerns into the strategies, plans, and investments of surrounding municipalities to foster, protect, and create a resilient future that considers the unique contributions of the Avon Park Air Force Range. This project will be led by the CFRPC, building upon our strong relationships with Range personnel, military leadership, municipal and county governments, economic development organizations, Sentinel Landscape partners, and the State of Florida.

With collaboration from key stakeholders, the Project Team will:

- Conduct a comprehensive review of present and forecasted natural and man-made threats and vulnerabilities;
- Perform table-top exercises with local military and community (public and private) leadership to review capacities of hard infrastructure such as transportation networks, electricity, communications, and water supply, and the public services necessary to respond to natural and/or man-made disruptions.
- Develop community partnerships;
- Model impacts from potential threats and geospatial mapping; and
- Develop a Cost-benefit analysis of implementation options.

Staff will provide a project update.

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Agenda Item #10  
Avon Park Air Force Range (APAR) Mission Brief

Actions Requested:	Information Only
Exhibits:	None

**Background:** Charles “Buck” MacLaughlin, APAFR Range Operations Officer, will provide a Mission Brief of operations at the Avon Park Air Force Range (APAFR) in preparation for the optional tour following the Council Meeting.

The APAFR occupies an area of approximately 165 square miles in central Florida. All branches of the armed forces use the APAFR for military training. The Air Force and Navy perform live bombing missions, and the Army National Guard conducts artillery exercises. The restricted airspace extends beyond the APAFR to the north and south. Low lever-training flights extend beyond restricted airspace.



The APAFR, the largest primary training range east of the Mississippi River, provides:

- World-class training for all branches of the Armed Forces;
- Approximately 106,000 acres as a daytime and nighttime training range;
- Flexible training environment and facilities; and
- Uncontrolled airfield in restricted airspace.

## Agenda Item #10 Avon Park Air Force Range (APAR) Mission Brief

The APAFR's operation impacts seven jurisdictions. Located in southeastern Polk County (1) and northeastern Highlands County (2), the APAFR is situated in Florida's heartland between two rapidly growing coastal populations to the south of the Orlando Metropolitan Area. The APAFR also borders Okeechobee County (3), and its operations impact Osceola County (4). The communities of Avon Park (5), Frostproof (6), and Sebring (7) are the closest municipalities.

The effects of encroachment created by new and proposed residential, commercial, and industrial uses threaten the future viability of the APAFR. These encroachments may hamper the APAFR's ability to carry out crucial combat training functions and negatively impact the value of the military installation.



Managing actual and potential encroachment is critical to the operations and viability of the APAFR and the quality of life for the residents of surrounding areas. Osceola County has experienced the most significant growth with a 58.16% increase in population between 2010 and 2022. Polk County's population increased by 27.89% between that same time frame.

**APAFR Study Area Population Trends – 2010 to 2022**

	2010	April 1, 2022	% Change 2010 2022
Highlands County	98,786	103,102	4.37%
Avon Park	8,836	9,769	10.56
Sebring	10,491	11,361	8.29%
Okeechobee County	39,996	39,385	-1.53%
<b>Osceola County</b>	<b>268,685</b>	<b>424,946</b>	<b>58.16%</b>
<b>Polk County</b>	<b>602,095</b>	<b>770,019</b>	<b>27.89%</b>
Frostproof	2,992	2,998	0.20%

Source: US Census, American Community Survey, Bureau of Economic and Business Research

Growth projections within the study area indicate continued increases between 2021 and 2045.

Agenda Item #11  
Report on the Florida Regional Councils Association (FRCA)  
January Policy Board Meeting & FRCA Annual Report

Actions Requested:	Information Only
Exhibit:	#11: FRCA 2022-2023 Annual Report

**Background:** The Executive Director and Policy Board Members will report on the FRCA Policy Board Meeting, which was held on January 26, 2024, in Tallahassee. The FRCA 2022-2023 Annual Report will also be presented.

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# 2022 Annual Report 2023

**LOCAL KNOWLEDGE**

**REGIONAL SOLUTIONS**

**STATEWIDE IMPACT**

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A scenic sunset over a body of water. The sky is filled with vibrant orange, red, and purple clouds. In the foreground, two ducks are swimming on the water. In the background, a fountain with multiple jets of water is illuminated with purple and blue lights. To the right, a tall building is visible against the sunset sky.

*The Florida Regional Councils Association is an alliance of Florida's ten Regional Planning Councils and serves to enhance regional collaboration throughout the state.*

# *Our Mission*

Leveraging partnerships to build a strong economy  
and improve the lives of all Floridians

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# President's Message

Supporting communities successfully through economic recovery, preparing for the impacts of the next natural disaster, and identifying best practices to create resilience and sustainability for the future, Florida's regional planning councils have led the way this year. In partnership with the US Economic Development Administration, Florida's ten regional planning councils prepared Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies (CEDs) which serve as blueprints for economic growth in each region. Each RPC also worked with the Florida Division of Emergency Management (DEM) to ensure first responders have access to training and the forum for collaboration to better prepare for the next emergency response. Along with many locally developed initiatives and activities, each RPC is actively supporting resiliency planning statewide, with five RPCs leading their region's resiliency coalitions.

The Florida Regional Councils Association (FRCA) is a pillar that supports the building and sustaining of partnerships regionally, statewide, and nationally. Through internal coordination among RPCs and collaborative partnerships with associations such as the Florida Association of Counties, Florida League of Cities, Small County Coalition, Florida Chapter of the American Planning Association, Florida Chamber of Commerce, and many non-profit organizations, FRCA fosters effective relationships and delivers programs with state agencies and Florida policymakers.

During this demanding year, it has been my privilege to serve as President of FRCA and work with the Policy Board Members throughout the state to support the critical mission of these multi-disciplinary organizations. Regional planning councils bring local knowledge to create regional solutions and make impacts statewide on the shared problems and unlimited opportunities of Florida's communities. Highly technical and dedicated staff work in each of the 67 counties with local governments, state and Federal agencies, the business community, and citizens to bring a better quality of life to Florida. We proudly bring you this Annual Report that reflects the diverse work of our organizations in the past year.

John Lesman, President  
East Central Florida Regional Planning Council  
Florida Regional Councils Association



**1st VICE PRESIDENT**  
Commissioner Tray Hawkins  
Emerald Coast Regional Council



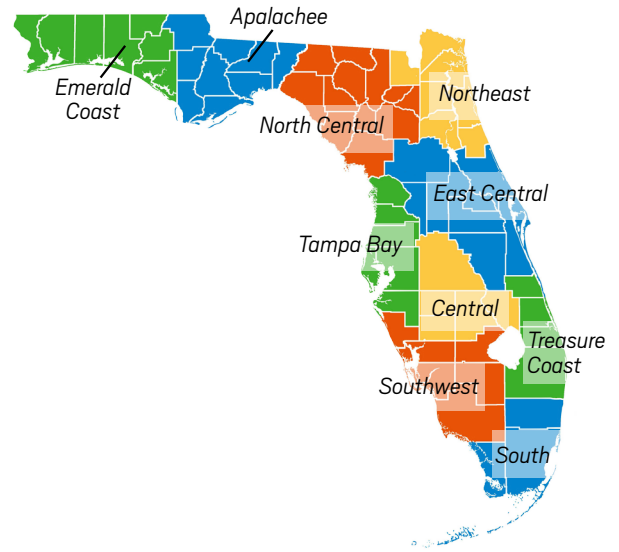
**2nd VICE PRESIDENT**  
Councilman Jeff Hmara  
Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council



**PAST PRESIDENT**  
Commissioner Kristin Dozier  
Apalachee Regional Planning Council



# Policy Board



## **APALACHEE REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL**

Lisa Miller, Gubernatorial Appointee  
Honorable Rick Minor, Leon County  
Honorable Jack Porter, City of Tallahassee

## **CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL**

Honorable Nathaniel Birdsong, City of Winter Haven  
Honorable Kelly Owens, Okeechobee County  
Jackie Tucker, Gubernatorial Appointee

## **EAST CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL**

Honorable Julian Green, City of Wildwood  
John Lesman, Gubernatorial Appointee, President  
Honorable Sean Parks, Commissioner, Lake County

## **EMERALD COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL**

Kasey Cuchens, Gubernatorial Appointee  
Honorable Tray Hawkins, Washington County, 1st Vice President  
J.D. Smith, Gubernatorial Appointee

## **NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL**

Honorable Charles Chestnut, Alachua County  
Honorable Janice Mortimer, City of Starke  
Lorene Thomas, Gubernatorial Appointee

## **NORTHEAST FLORIDA REGIONAL COUNCIL**

Darryl Register, Gubernatorial Appointee  
Honorable Christian Whitehurst, St. Johns County  
Honorable John Drew, Nassau County  
Honorable Randy DeFoor, City of Jacksonville

## **SOUTH FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL**

Mario Bailey, Gubernatorial Appointee  
Honorable Frank Caplan, Village of Key Biscayne  
Honorable Michael Udine, Broward County

## **SOUTHWEST FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL**

Tommy Perry, Gubernatorial Appointee

## **TAMPA BAY REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL**

Honorable Brandi Gabbard, City of St. Petersburg  
Honorable Jack Mariano, Pasco County  
Barbara Sheen Todd, Gubernatorial Appointee

## **TREASURE COAST REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL**

Honorable Jeff Hmara, City of Royal Palm Beach, 2nd Vice President  
Reece Parrish, Gubernatorial Appointee  
Honorable Doug Smith, Martin County

## Advisory Committee and Staff

### **EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Chair, Beth Payne, Northeast Florida RC  
Vice Chair, Tom Lanahan, Treasure Coast RPC  
Treasurer, Tara McCue, East Central Florida RPC  
Immediate Past Chair, Sean Sullivan, Tampa Bay RPC

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**2022-2023**

# By the Numbers

▶ **5**

**METROPOLITAN/  
TRANSPORTATION  
PLANNING ORGANIZATIONS  
STAFFED**

▶ **97**

**ECONOMIC ANALYSES  
COMPLETED (REMI)**

▶ **1,427**

**HAZARDOUS MATERIALS  
INSPECTIONS OF SMALL  
QUANTITY GENERATORS (SQG)**

▶ **174**

**REVOLVING LOAN FUND  
APPLICATIONS REVIEWED**

▶ **2,541**

**FIRST RESPONDERS TRAINED  
WITH LEPC/HMEP FUNDING**

▶ **1,301,677**

**TRANSPORTATION  
DISADVANTAGED  
TRIPS PLANNED**

# Regional Councils

bring local governments together to solve problems at the regional level and help communities grow.

	Date Established	2023 Regional Population <sup>1</sup>	Governing Board Size	Staff Size (FTE) <sup>2</sup>	Square Miles <sup>3</sup>	Budget (in millions)
 <p><b>Apalachee</b> Calhoun, Franklin, Gadsden, Gulf, Jackson, Jefferson, Leon, Liberty, Wakulla</p>	Aug. 23, 1977	497,784	27	17	6,757	\$7.6
 <p><b>Central Florida</b> DeSoto, Hardee, Highlands, Okeechobee, Polk</p>	July 1, 1974	1,002,211	18	21	5,287	\$5.5
 <p><b>East Central Florida</b> Brevard, Lake, Marion, Orange, Osceola, Seminole, Sumter, Volusia</p>	Feb. 22, 1962	4,617,326	35	18	9,244	\$3.5
 <p><b>Emerald Coast</b> Bay, Escambia, Holmes, Okaloosa, Santa Rosa, Walton, Washington</p>	Oct. 1, 1964	1,071,778	28	28	6,509	\$8.6
 <p><b>North Central Florida</b> Alachua, Bradford, Columbia, Dixie, Gilchrist, Hamilton, Lafayette, Levy, Madison, Suwannee, Taylor, Union</p>	May 7, 1969	598,011	45	6	8,660	\$1.57
 <p><b>Northeast Florida</b> Baker, Clay, Duval, Flagler, Nassau, Putnam, St. Johns</p>	Feb. 14, 1977	1,933,401	35	16	5,097	\$2.7
 <p><b>South Florida</b> Broward, Miami-Dade, Monroe</p>	July 1, 1974	4,827,044	19	13	7,492	\$3.3
 <p><b>Southwest Florida</b> Charlotte, Collier, Glades, Hendry, Lee, Sarasota</p>	Nov. 8, 1973	1,922,304	36	3	7,278	\$1.0
 <p><b>Tampa Bay</b> Citrus, Hernando, Hillsborough, Manatee, Pasco, Pinellas</p>	Feb. 16, 1962	3,933,034	44	12	4,998	\$2.7
 <p><b>Treasure Coast</b> Indian River, Martin, Palm Beach, St. Lucie</p>	Aug. 19, 1976	2,231,974	28	10	4,441	\$2.5

<sup>1</sup>Source: Bureau of Economic and Business Research (2023 Estimates)

<sup>2</sup>FTE means Full-Time Equivalent.

<sup>3</sup>Total land and water area.

# QUALITY OF *Life*

*The RPCs assist local communities as they implement community visions and strategies. Brownfields programs across the state work to provide resources that clean up abandoned or underused commercial and industrial sites. Many RPCs also provide other services to enhance the quality of life using GIS mapping and affordable housing initiatives.*



## **“Wills on Wheels” an AARP Community Challenge Provides legal assistance via mobile clinics throughout the Apalachee Region**

*Apalachee RPC, Legal Services of North Florida, and funding partner AARP*

In coordination with county senior citizen agencies, this initiative, dubbed “Wills on Wheels”, provided information on estate planning, end-of-life planning and assistance to help resolve heirs’ property issues. At each clinic, residents were given a presentation covering The Last Will and Testament document, Healthcare Directives and Surrogate Forms, The Living Will document, The Power of Attorney Document, and Guardianship forms. Eligible attendees were provided questionnaires that will be used to draft documents prior to executing them. A total of five initial clinics were held around the region, reaching over 200 residents. Questionnaires are being received and plans are being made to coordinate meetings between the residents and volunteer attorneys for document execution.



## **Housing Summit Considers Potential solutions to affordable housing in Martin County, with a desire to ensure that the solutions fit local conditions**

*Treasure Coast RPC and Housing Solutions Council of Martin County*

The Summit was well attended by the public, non-profit organizations, local elected officials, Florida Senator Gayle Harrell, and staff for other state and federal elected officials. Continuing work includes local affordable housing partners information, policy guidance, and support towards resolving this critical economic and social concern.



## **A Resilient Shoreline Model Ordinance template to support local governments when making updates to local plans and ordinances related to shoreline protection developed for Tampa Bay**

*Tampa Bay RPC and funding partner the Florida Department of Environmental Protection*

The new Resilient Shoreline Model Ordinance template is one of the first of its kind in the state and defines an integrated set of policies to ensure that all types of shoreline protection strategies are designed to be resilient to changing sea levels and tidally influenced flooding through 2070. It also considers both community flood protection benefits and ecological integrity of coastal habitats and shorelines on bay waters and riverine systems. The template will help local governments streamline their review and approval processes and if adopted, will provide guidance to property owners and contractors to create shoreline projects that increase community resilience and improve local habitats and water quality. Visit [tbrpc.org/shoreline-model](http://tbrpc.org/shoreline-model) to download the template.



**The Central Florida RPC hosted the Central Florida Economic Recovery and Resiliency Workshop** | *The workshop provided an opportunity for local policy makers, county administrative staff and economic development planners to discuss the framework for implementation of goals, strategies, and actions the region may pursue to achieve economic recovery and resiliency.*

# EMERGENCY Preparedness

*Working together, RPCs conduct cooperative statewide projects such as the award winning statewide Regional Evacuation Study, the Energy Assurance Study, and coastal resiliency planning.*

## **A state-wide exercise of Florida's Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) teams, Mutual Aid Radio Communication teams, FSU's Florida Unmanned Aerial Search team, and the Florida Incident Support Team was hosted at Camp Blanding and the Clay County Emergency Operations Center**

*East Central Florida RPC, Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service (TEEX) and the Florida State Fire College*

The training event simulated a realistic emergency scenario, challenging the participants to coordinate their efforts in a time-sensitive and high-pressure environment. It involved search and rescue, incident management, and austere communications missions. The exercise assessed the effectiveness of each USAR team's operational capabilities, including search and rescue techniques, medical triage, logistical support, and mobile communication. It incorporated many lessons learned from recent real-life events and offered unique technological tools that some participants may not have previously worked with. These full-scale exercises not only serve as valuable training opportunities for all involved but also highlight the importance of ongoing preparedness and continuous improvement in safeguarding communities during times of crisis.



## **Electric & Propane School Bus First Responder Training helps to ensure public safety continues to be a priority**

*Southeast Florida Clean Cities Coalition, the South Florida Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) Region 10, Florida Transportation Systems, Inc, and the City of Hollywood Fire Rescue & Beach Safety*

According to vehicle registration data, Florida is #2 in the nation for electric vehicle consumers. This trend is expected to continue along with acceleration of other alternative fuel vehicles such as propane, hydrogen, and renewable natural gas. Alternative fuel training for school buses was selected to coincide with Broward County Public School's (BCPS) contract with Blue Bird to supply 60 new electric school buses. The order replaced part of BCPS diesel fleet with zero-emission vehicles through the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) Volkswagen Mitigation Settlement Trust Fund. This deal marks the largest electric school bus fleet purchase in Blue Bird's history. BCPS also operates the largest propane school bus fleet in the state.



## **Lessons from a mass casualty incident (MCI) in Las Vegas**

*Northeast Florida Regional Council's Region 3 Healthcare Coalition, the First Coast Disaster Council, and the Northeast Florida Regional Domestic Security Task Force*

Deputy Chief Sasha Larkin and Lieutenant Braden Schrag of the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department presented to an audience of over 300 people on the Route 91 Harvest Music Festival mass casualty incident (MCI) that occurred in Las Vegas on October 1, 2017. Attendees came from various professional backgrounds, including elected officials, law enforcement, fire and rescue services, hospitals, healthcare, emergency management, and more. The presenters walked the participants through the shooting incident from start to finish while highlighting operational considerations of managing 20,000+ concertgoers and an unknown gunman. The officers also discussed recovery from an incident of this scale and magnitude. Response organizations and local hospitals endured trauma following the shooting and surge of patients. Programs and resources had to be allocated for mental health and resiliency centers to assist the community with healing from this catastrophic event.

# ECONOMIC *Development*

*RPCs complete regional economic impact analysis using the nationally recognized REMI software, facilitate Post Disaster Redevelopment Planning, and administer revolving loan funds for small business loans and brownfields redevelopment.*



**The Apalachee Regional Broadband Plan and Map will ensure that the predominantly rural, nine-county Apalachee Region is in the best possible position to access state, federal, and private resources for broadband network expansion**  
*Apalachee RPC and the Florida State University Barnebey Planning & Development Lab, with funding partner FloridaCommerce*

As technology continues to advance, many rural communities are working to close the digital divide and create digital equity through widespread broadband internet access. The Study focuses on determining areas of insufficient broadband infrastructure, identifying potential service providers, and determining the needed improvements and associated costs for construction of broadband infrastructure. Community input remained a high priority throughout the project, and staff provided 25 in-person opportunities for citizens of Liberty and Wakulla counties to provide feedback on broadband internet accessibility and affordability.



**Regional Planning Councils Receive EDA Disaster Recovery Funding**  
*Central Florida, East Central Florida, Southwest Florida and Tampa Bay Regional Planning Councils with funding partner Economic Development Administration*

The impacts of Hurricanes Ian and Nicole were experienced statewide with long-term recovery efforts continuing on for the foreseeable future. With these funds each region now has a Disaster Recovery Coordinator to support long-term economic recovery and resiliency activities.

East Central Florida Regional Planning Council

The City of Florida  
**Palm Bay**

**City of Palm Bay**  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIC PLANNING

**East Central Florida RPC Develops Economic Strategy for City of Palm Bay**  
The East Central Florida RPC economic development staff researched and developed the City of Palm Bay Economic Strategic Plan. An analysis was conducted to analyze the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats related to the economic development pillars — People, Places, and Prosperity. A Strategies and Recommendations Report was completed in 2022 and included actions the city can undertake to further economic development and potential funding sources to implement those actions.



**The Central Florida RPC and the City of Lakeland created an Award-Winning Leaner Comprehensive Plan**  
*Central Florida RPC and City of Lakeland*

Originally adopted in 1991, the City of Lakeland Comprehensive Plan contained more than 700 pages of text. To make it more user friendly, the updated Plan was reduced by more than 500 pages and reflects the citizens' vision for their community. All areas of Lakeland were engaged to determine what is important to residents of all incomes, all neighborhoods, and all ethnicities.

The Central Florida RPC drafted amendments to the Plan to unite community visioning and comprehensive planning to guide and balance the future economic, social, physical, environmental, and fiscal management of development and redevelopment of Lakeland. The Plan provides the philosophy and goals, objectives and policies that establish consistency with other City adopted regulations including the City of Lakeland Land Development Code and is consistent with Florida Statutory requirements.

**In anticipation of a nationally branded fishing resort developing nearby, the Town of Welaka developed a vision of its downtown and plan for economic development.**

*Northeast Florida RC and Town of Welaka, funding partner FloridaCommerce*

Through a series of six meetings, the Town of Welaka Downtown Vision was developed and included project priorities and various funding mechanisms providing a guiding document for future development.

The Northeast Florida RC designed an engagement process that was participative, appealing, and transparent. The foundation of the process was a visual preference survey that allowed town residents to vote on what architectural elements and styles they preferred using Mentimeter, a tool that allows for quantifiable feedback. Residents were presented with several architectural elements and styles such as single-story versus two-story buildings, log cabin, coastal, or board and batten designs as well as green infrastructure options and golf cart and bike paths.



**\$38 Million to Support the Shrimp Industry Recovery in Southwest Florida**

*Southwest Florida RPC*

More than 75% of the pink shrimp harvested in the United States comes from the west coast of Florida. San Carlos Island, located in the Southwest Florida region, serves as a primary site for shrimpers to sell their catch and refuel. Hurricane Ian severely impacted not only the shrimp boat fleet in the region, but also the facilities used by shrimpers along the Gulf Coast. Prior to Hurricane Ian, more than 50 shrimp boats made up the harvesting industry fleet; today only 10 boats remain in operation. All docks on San Carlos Island were lost along with many of the support facilities including worker housing. To assist in recovery efforts, the Southwest Florida RPC wrote grants totaling over \$38 million. As they recover, the local shrimpers are considering more resilient practices for rebuilding docks, support facilities, and worker housing.



# Transportation

*RPCs participate in the Transportation Disadvantaged program, as staff to local Metropolitan/ Transportation Planning Organizations, and provide planning services for Complete Streets, Safe Routes to Schools, and Greenways and Trails.*



## **Regional Stormwater Resilience Pilot Plan guides long range planning**

*Emerald Coast RC and Florida-Alabama Transportation Planning Organization (TPO)*

Stormwater runoff is one of the most impactful environmental issues affecting northwest Florida. The Emerald Coast RC under the Florida-Alabama Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) is excited to be developing a Regional Stormwater Resilience Pilot Plan using Transportation Management Area (TMA) funds.

The Stormwater Resilience Pilot Plan will identify local stormwater needs and assets, focusing on impacts of projects currently included in the TPO's 20-year Long-Range Transportation Plan. The goal is to develop a process by which local governments can work with FDOT during the early planning stage to develop projects with multiple community-based benefits. This stormwater pilot project will achieve three primary goals: development of a process for identifying and aligning TPO, FDOT, and community stormwater priorities/needs; identification of up to three sites where regional stormwater parks can be designed to meet both FDOT and community stormwater needs; and the development of conceptual layout/plans for the regional stormwater parks identified, including proposed project estimates.

## **Gainesville Metropolitan Area Multimodal Level of Service Report identifies unmet transportation system needs and develop priority projects for the Gainesville Metropolitan Area**

*North Central Florida RPC*

The North Central Florida RPC provided staff support services to the Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization (MTPO) for the Gainesville Urbanized Area—an interlocal agreement organization among the City of Gainesville, Alachua County and the Florida Department of Transportation. As part of the services provided, the North Central Florida RPC staff annually prepares the Gainesville Metropolitan Area Multimodal Level of Service Report. The Service Report provides level of service analysis for automotive/highway, bicycle, pedestrian, and transit modes of travel in the Gainesville Metropolitan Area. Council staff compiled and analyzed FDOT, City, and County traffic count data in preparing the Service Report. The bicycle, pedestrian and transit levels of service estimates of all functionally classified collector and arterial roadways within the Gainesville Metropolitan Area are provided in the report.

The Service Report enables the North Central Florida RPC, in partnership with the MTPO, to identify unmet transportation system needs and develop priority projects to enhance the operational efficiency of the transportation system for the Gainesville Metropolitan Area.



*ECRC Transportation Director Mary Beth Washnock presenting the Rural Regional Transportation Plan (RRTP), a pilot project developed with the Florida Department of Transportation. The RRTP interactive map can be found at: <http://www.ecrc.org/RRTPMAP>.*



# REGIONAL *Convening*

*RPCs serve as regional conveners. They lead community and regional vision efforts, engage the public in a variety of plans and programs, and maintain Strategic Regional Policy Plans.*

**The Central Florida RPC, in partnership with the City of Bowling Green in Hardee County, developed a downtown vision and action plan to create connections and help build Downtown Bowling Green into a thriving area**  
*Central Florida RPC and the City of Bowling Green with funding partner FloridaCommerce*



The Imagine Bowling Green: Downtown Vision and Action Plan is an innovative, community-vision directed approach to the development of a Downtown Master Plan and Land Development Code amendments for implementation that promotes economic development in the community, delivers safe and convenient mobility options, provides connections within the City and beyond its borders, and works to maintain an attractive and environmentally friendly community. The planning process recognized the downtown area will not thrive without connections to other places within the city and beyond the city's limits, and identified projects and policies and the foundation for creating economic recovery and resiliency in the downtown while respecting the area's history and cultural identity.

## **Community leaders from public, nonprofit, and private sectors engaged in action-oriented conversations around implementing Low Impact Development (LID) in East Central Florida.**

*East Central Florida RPC and partners from the University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Services and Volusia County*

The half-day workshop identified key challenges to implementing LID and Green Stormwater Infrastructure (GSI). Break-out groups brainstormed strategies to improve water quality and reduce flooding through resilient, nature-based stormwater solutions. Additionally, mechanisms and incentives to incorporate and emphasize LID in site planning and stormwater management were discussed. The workshop was hosted at Volusia County's Lyonia Environmental Center, a hands-on educational attraction that helped highlight the need for nature-based, low-impact standards. Next, the partnership will review the workshop findings with the goal of helping local governments and entities throughout Florida implement LID and GSI principles including presentation of workshop highlights, draft LID ordinances, and companion LID Implementation Guidebook to regional stakeholders for feedback.



## **The South Florida and Treasure Coast RPCs held their Annual Joint Meeting at the Long Key Natural Area and Nature Center in Davie, Florida.**

The meeting featured updates from state and local experts on the 2023 Florida Legislative Session; Florida's Coral Reef Protection and Restoration initiatives and federal coral reef legislation; Marine Research Hub; Southeast Florida Restoration and Flood Control Planning and Projects; Proposed state affordable housing legislation; and Statewide water infrastructure challenges and opportunities.

# Awards & Partners

## 2023 NADO Impact Awards

### Apalachee Regional Planning Council

- Apalachee Regional Broadband Planning Project
- Wakulla County Broadband Feasibility Study
- Liberty County Broadband Feasibility Study

### Central Florida Regional Planning Council

- Imagine Bowling Green: A Downtown Vision and Action Plan

### East Central Florida Regional Planning Council

- Palm Bay Economic Development Strategic Plan
- Low Impact Development (LID) Implementation Ordinance Recommendations
- R2C Risk & Vulnerability Assessment

### North Central Florida Regional Planning Council

Visit Natural North Florida Regional Tourism Marketing Campaign

### Northeast Florida Regional Council

- Town of Welaka Downtown Vision

### South Florida Regional Planning Council

- Brownfields Cleanup Revolving Loan Fund

### Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council

- US 19 Corridor Development Opportunities Project
- The Regional Resiliency Action Plan (RRAP)



The National Association of Regional Councils presented its 2023 Leadership and Achievement Awards on June 6th during an awards ceremony held at the NARC 57th Annual Conference & Exhibition. The Tampa Bay RPC won an Achievement Award for its Regional Resiliency Action Plan.

## 2023 American Planning Association, Florida Chapter

### Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council

- Florida Chapter Award of Merit for the Resilient Ready Tampa Bay project.

## 2023 National Association of Regional Councils

### Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council

Major Metros Achievement Award for Development of the Tampa Bay Regional Resiliency Action Plan.

## STATEWIDE PARTNERS



American Planning Association  
Florida Chapter



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**TREASURE COAST  
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Agenda Item #12  
Executive Director's Report

Actions Requested:	Information Only
Exhibits:	#12A: FRCA Legislative Bill Report dated 2/6/2024 #12B: FRCA Monthly Activities Report

**Background:** The Executive Direct will report on legislative bills and activities, Florida Regional Planning Councils Association (FRCA) activities, and Council programs.

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## FRCA Bill Report - Updated 2/6/24

The 2024 Regular Session of the Florida Legislature opened on January 9, 2024, and is scheduled to end March 8, 2024. Below is a list of bills being actively tracked of interest to regional planning councils:

### [SB 196 – Economic Development \(Simon\)](#)

Summary – Deleting the requirement that certain grants received by regional economic development organization must be matched in certain manner; removes provision requiring certain consideration; removes certain demonstration requirements of program applicants.

Last Action:

SB 196 – 1/16 In Fiscal Policy

[HB 141 – Regional Rural Development Grants \(Abbott\)](#) (similar) – 2/6 8:00 a.m. on Committee Agenda  
 Regulatory Reform & Economic Development Subcommittee

### [SB 266 – Transportation \(Hooper\)](#)

Summary – Prohibiting the Department of Transportation from annually committing more than a certain percentage of revenues derived from state fuel taxes and motor vehicle license-related fees to public transit projects; authorizing the department to enter into comprehensive agreements with private entities or the consortia thereof for the building, operation, ownership, or financing of transportation facilities; requiring the department to receive three letters of interest before proceeding with requests for proposals for certain contracts; revising a presumption regarding the proximate cause of death, injury, or damage in a civil suit against the department, etc.

Last Action:

SB 266 – 2/8 10:45 am. on Agenda - Appropriations Committee on Transportation, Tourism, and Economic Development

[HB 287 Transportation \(Esposito\)](#) (similar) – 2/2 In Infrastructure Strategies Committee

### [SB 298 – Saltwater Intrusion Vulnerability Assessment \(Polsky\)](#)

Summary - Providing that only coastal counties and coastal municipalities that received written authorization from the Department of Environmental Protection on or before a specified date may establish construction zoning and building code exceptions to coastal construction control lines; authorizing the department to provide coastal counties, beginning on a specified date, with Resilient Florida Grant Program grants to fund saltwater intrusion vulnerability assessments, etc.

Last Action:

SB 298 – 1/22 Placed on Calendar, on 2<sup>nd</sup> reading

[HB 1079 Coastal Construction and Assessments \(McFarland\)](#) (similar) – 1/29 In Agriculture & Natural Resources Appropriations Subcommittee

### **[SB 328 Affordable Housing \(Calatayud\)](#)**

Summary - Prohibiting counties and municipalities, respectively, from restricting the floor area ratio of certain proposed developments under certain circumstances; authorizing counties and municipalities, respectively, to restrict the height of proposed developments under certain circumstances; requiring counties and municipalities, respectively, to maintain a certain policy on their websites; revising conditions for when multifamily projects are considered property used for a charitable purpose and are eligible to receive an ad valorem property tax exemption, etc. APPROPRIATION: \$100,000,000

Last Action:

2/7 – on Special Order Calendar

**[HB 1239 \(Lopez\) \(identical\)](#)** – 2/7 10:00 a.m. on State Affairs Committee agenda

### **[SB 438 – Term Limits \(Ingoglia\)](#)**

Summary – Establishing term limits for county commissioners; prohibiting specified persons from seeking certain offices until after a specified timeframe, etc.

Last Action:

**[SB 438 - 2/6 3:00 p.m.](#)** – On Community Affairs agenda

**[HB 57 \(Salzman\)](#)** – 1/24 In State Affairs Committee

### **[SB 894 Governing Body Meetings \(Bradley\)](#)**

Summary - Deleting provisions related to appointment, powers, and duties of the Florida Transportation Commission; prohibiting the designation of additional metropolitan planning organizations (M.P.O.'s) after a specified date, with an exception for certain urbanized areas; requiring each M.P.O. to report its quality performance score annually to the district secretary and to publish the score on its website, beginning on a specified date; requiring M.P.O.'s that do not achieve the minimum acceptable quality performance score within a certain timeframe to be placed under the control of the Secretary of Transportation, etc.

Last Action:

**[SB 894 – 2/6 3:00 p.m.](#)** On Committee agenda - Governmental Oversight and Accountability

**[HB 157 \(Caruso\)](#)** (identical) – 11/2/23 In Local Administration, Federal Affairs & Special Districts Subcommittee

### **[SB 1032 Transportation \(Gruters\)](#)**

Summary - Deleting provisions related to appointment, powers, and duties of the Florida Transportation Commission; prohibiting the designation of additional metropolitan planning organizations (M.P.O.'s) after a specified date, with an exception for certain urbanized areas; requiring each M.P.O. to report its quality performance score annually to the district secretary and to publish the score on its website, beginning on a specified date; requiring M.P.O.'s that do not achieve the minimum acceptable quality performance score within a certain timeframe to be placed under the control of the Secretary of Transportation, etc.



Last Action:

2/6 – Favorable 6-0; Appropriations Committee on Transportation, Tourism, and Economic Development; Appropriations

[HB 7049 \(McFarland\)](#) – 2/1 In Infrastructure Strategies Committee

**[SB 1110 Land Development \(DiCeglie\)](#)**

Summary - Revising the scope of power and responsibility of municipalities and counties under the Community Planning Act; revising exceptions from provisions governing credits against local impact fees; revising procedures regarding local government review of changes to previously approved developments of regional impact; authorizing changes to multimodal pathways, or the substitution of such pathways, in previously approved developments of regional impact if certain conditions are met, etc.

Last Action:

SB 1110 – 2/6, Referred to Community Affairs; Transportation; Rules

[HB 1177 \(Duggan\)](#) (identical) - 2/2 Bill discussed during the Office of EDR;s Revenue Estimating Impact Conference

**[SB 1184 Land Use and Development Regulations \(Ingoglia\)](#)**

Summary - Revising the types of data upon which comprehensive plans and plan amendments must be based; requiring that future land use plans be based on data that includes elements related to the amount of land required to accommodate anticipated growth for specified types of development and the amount of certain land located outside of urban service areas; requiring local land development regulations to establish minimum lot sizes in certain districts and infill development standards for specified housing units, etc.

Last Action:

SB 1184 - 1/8, Referred to Community Affairs; Judiciary; Rules

[HB 1221 \(McClain\) \(similar\)](#) - 1/29 In Commerce Committee

**[SB 1386 Department of Environmental Protection \(Calatayud\)](#)**

Revising the aquatic preserves within which a person may not operate a vessel outside a lawfully marked channel under certain circumstances; defining the term “Florida Flood Hub”; requiring the Department of Environmental Protection to conduct enforcement activities for violations of certain onsite sewage treatment and disposal system regulations in accordance with specified provisions; requiring certain facilities and systems to include a domestic wastewater treatment plan as part of a basin management action plan for nutrient total maximum daily loads, etc. (Updates language in Chapter 380.093 Resilient Florida Program to allow for continued updates to critical asset inventories and allows funding to be used for adaptation planning based on the vulnerability assessment.)

Last Action:

SB 1386 – 2/8, 2:00 p.m. On Committee Agenda Agriculture, Environment and General Government

[HB 1557 \(Chaney\)](#) (similar) – 1/31 In Infrastructure Strategies Committee

### **[SB 1420 Department of Commerce \(Burgess\)](#)**

Providing that amendments are deemed withdrawn if the local government fails to transmit the comprehensive plan amendments to the department, in its role as the state land planning agency, within a certain time period; revising the duties of the Florida Sports Foundation; requiring the department to establish a direct-support organization; specifying that the organization is a direct-support organization of the department and a corporation not for profit; authorizing the organization to take certain actions regarding administration of property and expenditures, etc.

Last Action:

**SB 1420 – 2/8 10:45 a.m. On Agenda – Appropriations Committee on Transportation, Tourism and Economic Development**

**[HB 1419 \(Tuck\)\(identical\)](#)** – 2/2 in Infrastructure & Tourism Appropriations Subcommittee

### **[SB 1492 Employment Regulations \(Trumbull\)](#)**

Summary - Prohibiting a political subdivision from requiring employers to meet or provide heat exposure requirements beyond those required by law; prohibiting a political subdivision from giving preference to or considering or seeking information from an employer in a competitive solicitation based on or relating to an employer's heat exposure requirements, etc

Last Action:

**SB 1492 – 2/6, 3:00 p.m. on Community Affairs Committee agenda**

**HB 0433 (Esposito) – 1/22 In State Affairs Committee**

### **[SB 1506 Strategic Infrastructure Investment Plan \(DiCeglie\)](#)**

Summary - Requiring the Department of Transportation to develop a strategic infrastructure investment plan to address freight mobility infrastructure; requiring the department to coordinate with certain stakeholders to develop the plan; requiring the department to complete an assessment of certain factors and to consider the findings of the assessment in developing the plan; authorizing the department to expend moneys from the State Transportation Trust Fund to pay the cost of any projects identified in the strategic infrastructure investment plan, etc (Mentions RPCs directly as a partner in the development of the strategic infrastructure investment plan)

Last Action:

**SB 1506 – 1/10 Referred to Transportation; Appropriations Committee on Transportation, Tourism, and Economic Development; Fiscal Policy**

**[HB 1275 \(Berfield\)](#)**(similar) – 1/13 In Transportation & Modals Subcommittee

**Also monitoring Senate and related House Bills**

[SB 452](#) & HB 451 Land Acquisition Trust Fund – Heartland Headwaters

Summary - Provides annual appropriation to DEP to implement Heartland Headwaters Protection & Sustainability Act; requires funds to be used & distributed for specified purposes.

[SB 566](#) Land Acquisition Trust Fund – Florida Keys

Summary - Requiring an annual appropriation from the Land Acquisition Trust Fund to the Department of Environmental Protection to implement the Florida Keys Stewardship Act or to acquire land within the Florida Keys Area of Critical State Concern for specified purposes; prohibiting the department from using the appropriated funds to implement wastewater management projects or programs, etc.

[SB 1258](#) & HB 1187 – Carbon Sequestration

Summary - Creating the Carbon Sequestration Task Force adjunct to the Department of Environmental Protection; providing for task force membership and duties; requiring the task force to submit specified reports to the Secretary of Environmental Protection and to the Governor and Legislature by specified dates; providing for expiration of the task force, etc. APPROPRIATION: \$350,000

[SB 1440](#) – Affordable Housing Property Tax Exemptions

Summary - Affordable Housing Property Tax Exemptions for Accessory Dwelling Units; Authorizing counties and municipalities to exempt certain accessory dwelling units from ad valorem taxation, etc

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## MONTHLY ACTIVITY REPORT: January 2024

### **RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT/CAPACITY BUILDING and OUTREACH**

- Collected articles for the January *FRCA Forward Newsletter*.
- Updated and maintained the email listserv for approximately 2,350 individuals who receive *FRCA Forward*.
- Updated the FRCA website with the 2022-23 FRCA Annual Report available at <http://www.flregionalcouncils.org/resources/annualreports/>
- To enhance partnerships and strengthen the relationship between regional planning councils and their state and federal partners, organized, participated in or attended the following meetings and shared information:
  - Florida Defense Support Task Force Meeting hosted by FloridaCommerce,
  - 2040/2070 Agriculture Webinar,
  - Climate Pollution Reduction Grant Coordination Meetings hosted by The Nature Conservancy, and;
  - Affordable Housing Legislative Webinar hosted by the Florida Housing Coalition,
- Compiled the October – December quarterly report on activities in each regional planning council area.

### **ASSOCIATION MANAGEMENT**

- Hosted and participated in the January FRCA Executive Directors Advisory Committee (EDAC) and the Winter Policy Board meetings held in Tallahassee. Guest presenters included the Florida Department of Commerce.
- Developed and distributed the 2024 FRCA Bill Report.
- Worked to develop Articles of Incorporation for the Association.
- Continued to coordinate logistics for the 2024 meeting and conference schedule.
- Shared, grant opportunities and information of interest from local, state and national organizations.