



MEMORANDUM

AGENDA ITEM # VI.E.

DATE: JANUARY 23, 2023

TO: COUNCIL MEMBERS

FROM: STAFF

SUBJECT: FRCA WINTER POLICY BOARD MEETING; 2021 – 2022 FRCA ANNUAL REPORT

The Florida Regional Councils Association (FRCA) Policy Board consists of three board members from each of the state's 10 Councils: a Gubernatorial Appointee, a County Representative, and a Municipal Representative. Immediate Past Chair Bailey, Councilmember Udine, and Councilmember Caplan represent the South Florida RPC on the Policy Board. Councilmember Ross serves as an alternate member.

The Policy Board met in Tallahassee on Friday, January 13, 2023. The agenda is included for your information. Among the guest speakers, Policy Board Members heard from the U.S. Department of Commerce and the State of Florida on ongoing Broadband initiatives and funding, the Florida Housing Coalition, and FRCA Executive Director Ron Book who provided a legislative report and preview.

The 2021-2022 FRCA Annual Report highlights the accomplishments of the regional planning councils throughout the last year. It is included for your information.

Recommendation

Information Only.



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Apalachee • Central Florida
East Central Florida • Emerald Coast
North Central Florida • Northeast Florida • South Florida
Southwest Florida • Tampa Bay • Treasure Coast

Florida Regional Councils Association Policy Board Meeting

January 13, 2023
8:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

DoubleTree Hotel
101 South Adams Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32301

AGENDA

- 8:00 – 8:30 a.m. **Hot Breakfast and Networking**
- 8:30 – 8:40 a.m. **Call to Order, Welcome and Introductions**
Mr. John Lesman, East Central Florida RPC, FRCA President
- 8:40 – 8:45 a.m. **Consent Agenda***
- **Approval of the June 10, 2022, Meeting Summary**
 - **Approval of the January 13, 2023, Policy Board Meeting Agenda**
- Mr. John Lesman, East Central Florida RPC, FRCA President
- 8:45 – 9:00 a.m. **2023 Legislative Agenda and Legislative Report***
Ron Book, Ron Book, P.A.
Rana Brown, Legislative Advocate, Ron Book P.A.
- 9:00 – 9:20 a.m. **Update on Broadband**
Carlos Nathan, Federal Program Officer, Florida
Office of Interconnectivity and Growth, National Telecommunications
and Information Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce
- Katie Smith, Director, Office of Broadband, Florida Department of
Economic Opportunity
- 9:20 – 9:40 a.m. **Florida Housing Coalition (invited)**
Ashon Nesbitt, Chief Executive Officer
- 9:40 – 10:00 a.m. **Executive Office of the Governor (invited)**
Dr. Wesley Brooks, Chief Resiliency Officer
- 10:00 – 10:15 a.m. **BREAK**

- 10:15 – 10:20 a.m. Resolution Supporting Water Resource Investments**
Commissioner Doug Smith, Treasure Coast RPC, Martin County
- 10:20 – 10:25 a.m. FRCA Financial Report***
Tara McCue, Treasurer, FRCA Executive Directors Advisory Committee
- 10:25 – 10:35 a.m. Presentation of the 2021-22 FRCA Annual Report**
Pat Steed, Central Florida RPC, Executive Director
- 10:35 – 10:40 a.m. Appointment of Nominating Committee for 2023-2024 Policy Board Officers**
Mr. John Lesman, East Central Florida RPC, FRCA President
- 10:40 – 11:10 a.m. Regional Planning Council Recent Projects Report Out**
All Regional Planning Councils
- 11:10 – 11:30 a.m. Other Business**
- **Summer Policy Board Meeting, Tampa Bay RPC**
 - **Retirement of Pat Steed, Executive Director, Central Florida RPC**
- Mr. John Lesman, East Central Florida RPC, FRCA President

Adjourn



2023 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA - Draft

Regional planning councils have been in existence in Florida since the early 1960s, created by the local governments they serve, to meet local community and regional needs, provide services, and ensure access to state and federal initiatives and programs. Florida Statutes recognize regional planning councils as *"Florida's only multipurpose regional entities that plan for and coordinate intergovernmental solutions on multi-jurisdictional issues, support regional economic development, and provide assistance to local governments."*

The Florida Regional Councils Association's 2023 legislative agenda is divided into two categories:

1) Other Legislative Priorities in Support of RPCs and their Member Local Governments

These are statements in support of RPCs and various legislative priorities of mutual interest and concern set forth by the Florida Association of Counties, Florida League of Cities, and Florida Small County Coalition. These priorities are conceived with the input of numerous RPC board members and other local elected officials who participate in these statewide organizations. This portion of the Florida Regional Councils Association's 2023 Legislative Agenda is organized under the Florida Chamber Foundation's Six-Pillar framework.

2) Legislative Action Items and Top Priorities

These are legislative priorities where a proactive role and involvement is expected by the Florida Regional Councils Association's Executive Director and the RPC membership in order to accomplish them; and

The Florida Regional Councils Association is an alliance of Florida's 10 regional planning councils and serves to strengthen the consistency and quality of regional planning council programs to ensure economic prosperity and add value to local, regional, and state initiatives. To that end, the Florida Regional Councils Association's Policy Board adopted the following priorities for the 2023 Legislative Session:

Legislative Priorities in Support of RPCs and Their Member Local Governments

Talent Supply & Education

The Florida Regional Councils Association **supports** enhanced economic competitiveness, which must include an emphasis on Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math (STEAM) and critical thinking in public education and training programs that are aligned with existing and emerging job markets and industry clusters.

Innovation & Economic Development

The Florida Regional Councils Association **supports** full funding of regional planning councils to, at a minimum, leverage the role of regional planning councils as federally designated economic development districts; provide support to state and regional economic development initiatives and activities; provide assistance to local economic development organizations; and, cover the costs of statutory responsibilities.

The Florida Regional Councils Association **supports** retaining the existing statutory authorities and responsibilities vested in RPCs.

Infrastructure & Growth Leadership

The Florida Regional Councils Association **supports** a continued state and regional role in helping local governments accommodate future growth while ensuring economic prosperity and preparing for and responding to emergencies and natural disasters.

The Florida Regional Councils Association **supports** future transportation corridors, a diverse and competitive statewide multi-modal transportation network, and sustainable sources of transportation funding that are consistent with and support regional visions and further the regional Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies of Florida's 10 federally designated Economic Development Districts.

The Florida Regional Councils Association **supports** planning and prioritizing state water resource investments with coordinated and regular funding for regional systems in concert with local funding to meet water needs and protect water resources now and into the future.

The Florida Regional Councils Association **supports** legislation that provides a mechanism to ensure the extra-jurisdictional impacts from large-scale development projects are adequately addressed within the impacted cities and counties prior to development approval.

The Florida Regional Councils Association **supports** maintaining and protecting the integrity of all Trust Funds for their stated use.

Business Climate & Competitiveness

The Florida Regional Councils Association **supports** a strong, but fair development impact mitigation process that addresses extra-jurisdictional impacts and impacts to natural resources of regional significance and other regional resources and facilities; provides a seat at the table for all impacted local governments; preserves the role of regional planning councils as conveners and their right to collect fees for services; utilizes regional planning councils' dispute resolution processes; and, protects the entitlements and vested development rights necessary for large-scale, long-term financial investments.

The Florida Regional Councils Association **supports** the ability of a regional planning council to provide planning and technical services for a fee, in furtherance of its mission and in support of its local governments.

Civic & Governance Systems

The Florida Regional Councils Association **supports** the positions and policies of organizations that share a common membership with regional planning councils including the Florida Association of Counties, Florida League of Cities, Small County Coalition, and the Metropolitan Planning Organization Advisory Council, and which are of mutual interest and concern.

The Florida Regional Councils Association **supports** efforts to improve efficiency and collaboration among agencies tasked with multi-jurisdictional planning throughout the state.

The Florida Regional Councils Association (FRCA) **supports** an evaluation of impacts that growth management law changes have had on Florida's economy, environment, local and regional infrastructure, and community development.

Quality of Life & Quality Places

The Florida Regional Councils Association **supports** regional visioning as a means to guide the future of Florida, build public/private coalitions to implement key regional and statewide initiatives, and serve as the basis for strategic statewide planning and budgeting initiatives.

The Florida Regional Councils Association **supports** a comprehensive and balanced multi-modal approach with context sensitive solutions, tied to strategic statewide planning and budgeting initiatives, for solving the state's traffic congestion and mobility problems.

Resilience

The Florida Regional Councils Association **supports** a comprehensive action plan on coastal and inland flooding and loss, with energy policies and other funding initiatives to

reduce greenhouse gases, sea level rise, salt-water intrusion, extreme weather events and to address ecosystem sustainability, long-term water supply, flood protection, public health and safety, adaptation and mitigation, infrastructure needs, and economic prosperity.

The Florida Regional Councils Association **supports** a comprehensive approach to long-term economic resilience in order for communities to quickly respond to, withstand and recover from adverse situations such as public health crisis, extreme weather events, and disruptions to major supply chains with the ability to adapt to changing conditions and to prevent and avoid disruptions when possible.

Legislative Action Items and Top Priorities

- 1) **Support** legislation with emphasis in the RPC program areas of economic development, transportation, housing, emergency preparedness, and environmental protection.
- 2) **Support** legislation directing the use of all Florida Housing Trust fund monies for Florida's housing programs including workforce housing in proximity to workplace destinations, transit hubs and economic centers.
- 3) **Support** inclusion of RPCs as regional resources in resiliency activities throughout the state.

RESOLUTION #23-01

A RESOLUTION OF THE FLORIDA REGIONAL COUNCILS ASSOCIATION SUPPORTING CREATION OF A STATEWIDE COORDINATED PLANNING AND PRIORITIZATION APPROACH FOR WATER RESOURCE INVESTMENTS MODELLED ON THE FLORIDA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION; PROVIDING FOR TRANSMITTAL; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the Florida Regional Councils Association is a multi-purpose association of regional planning councils with policy responsibility in the areas of economic development, emergency preparedness, transportation, and resiliency; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Regional Councils Association includes membership by the Apalachee, Central Florida, East Central Florida, Emerald Coast, North Central Florida, Northeast Florida, South Florida, Tampa Bay and Treasure Coast Regional Planning Councils; and

WHEREAS, a significant roadblock to effectively addressing the water challenges facing Florida is the fractured nature of responsibility for water and the uncoordinated investment of funds to meet our needs; and

WHEREAS, funding at the state level has been subject to shifting legislative priorities and local perspectives rather than a strategic approach, leading to inefficiencies and a growing backlog of needed infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, recognizing this situation, the Water and Environmental Sustainability Committee of the Florida Association of Counties recently proposed modeling state water resource investment on the Florida Transportation Commission and Florida Transportation Plan approach for planning, prioritization, a predictable multi-year capital construction program, and oversight which reliably delivers transportation improvements; and

WHEREAS, coordinated and efficient investment of sufficient state funding for regional systems in concert with local funding of local systems is needed in order to meet water needs and protect water resources and the environment now and into the future.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE FLORIDA REGIONAL COUNCIL ASSOCIATION THAT:

Section 1. The above recitals are declared to be true and correct and are hereby made a part of this Resolution.

Section 2. The Association expresses its support for statutory changes that will lead to coordinated and strategic investment of state funds for water resources using a structure modelled on the Florida Transportation Commission.

Section 3. A copy of this Resolution shall be transmitted to the Governor, the President of the Florida Senate, the Speaker of the Florida House of Representatives, the Florida Association of Counties, the Florida League of Cities, and all Regional Planning Councils in Florida.

DULY ADOPTED by the Florida Regional Councils Association this 13th day of January 2023.

Attest:

Ms. Beth Payne
Chair, EDAC

Mr. John Lesman
President



RESOLUTION #23-02

A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF PATRICIA M. STEED, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CENTRAL FLORIDA PLANNING COUNCIL

WHEREAS, the Central Florida Regional Planning Council was created in 1974 to serve citizens and member local governments of DeSoto, Hardee, Highlands, Okeechobee and Polk counties; and

WHEREAS, Patricia M. Steed has provided 17 years of distinguished service as Executive Director serving from January 2006 through December 2022; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Steed led the Central Florida Regional Planning Council in visioning efforts such as Heartland 2060, developed award winning programs and represented the region on local, state and national boards; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Steed has served and contributed to the Central Florida Regional Planning Council and Florida Regional Councils Association with distinction and honor, having served as Chair, Vice Chair and Treasurer of the Florida Regional Councils Association Executive Directors Advisory Committee; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Steed announced her retirement from the Central Florida Regional Planning Council effective December 31, 2022.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Florida Regional Councils Association hereby congratulates Ms. Steed upon the occasion of her retirement, thanks her for her many outstanding contributions on behalf of the Central Florida Regional Planning Council and Florida Regional Councils Association and wishes her well in her retirement and future endeavors.

DULY ADOPTED by the Florida Regional Councils Association this 13th day of January 2023.

Attest:

Ms. Beth Payne
Chair, EDAC

Mr. John Lesman
President





Annual Report
2021-2022



Our Mission

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

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



President's Message

Challenged by bringing communities successfully through economic recovery, preparing for the impacts of the next natural disaster, and identifying the best practices to create resiliency and sustainability from those impacts, Florida's regional planning councils have led the way. The ten regional councils across Florida prepared Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) blueprints for each region in partnership with the US Economic Development Administration (EDA). Each RPC worked with the Florida Department of Emergency Management (DEM) to ensure first responders have access to training and provided coordination for all communities to support natural and manmade disaster emergency response. All RPCs actively support resiliency planning, and five are now leading resiliency coalitions.

The Florida Regional Councils Association (FRCA) works on building and sustaining partnerships. 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 more effective relationships and program delivery 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 throughout the state with local governments, state and Federal agencies, the business community, and citizens to bring a better quality of life to Florida. We bring you this Annual Report that reflects the diverse work of our organizations.

Kristin Dozier, President
Florida Regional Councils Association



1st VICE PRESIDENT
Commissioner Robert Wilford
North Central Florida RPC

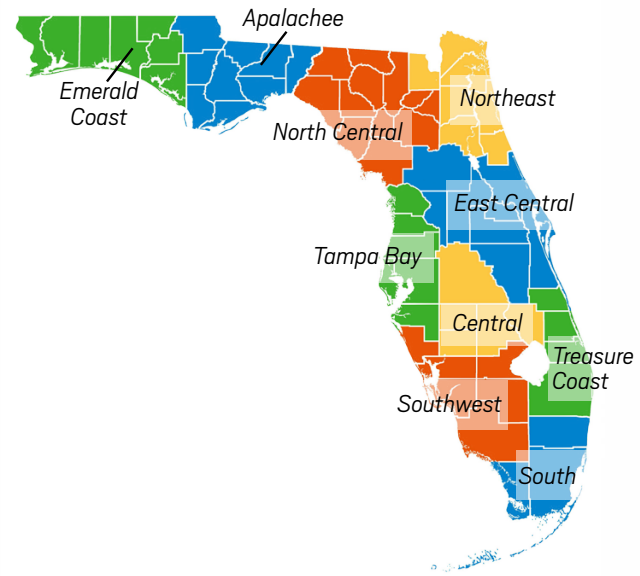


2nd VICE PRESIDENT
Mr. John Lesman
East Central Florida RPC



PAST PRESIDENT
Commissioner Peter O'Bryan
Treasure Coast RPC

Policy Board



APALACHEE REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

Honorable Kristin Dozier, Leon County
Ms. Lisa Miller, Gubernatorial Appointee
Honorable Gene Wright, Town of Malone

CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

Honorable Nathaniel Birdsong, City of Winter Haven
Honorable Kelly Owens, Okeechobee County
Ms. Jacqueline Tucker, Gubernatorial Appointee

EAST CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

Mr. John Lesman, Gubernatorial Appointee
Commissioner Sean Parks, Lake County
Commissioner Julian Green, City Of Wildwood, Sumter County

EMERALD COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL

Honorable Kasey Cuchens, City of Freeport
Honorable Tray Hawkins, Washington County
Mr. J.D. Smith, Gubernatorial Appointee

NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

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

NORTHEAST FLORIDA REGIONAL COUNCIL

Honorable Randy DeFoor, City of Jacksonville
Honorable Larry Harvey, Putnam County
Mr. Darryl Register, Gubernatorial Appointee

SOUTH FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

Mr. Mario Bailey, Gubernatorial Appointee
Honorable Jordan Leonard, Town of Bay Harbor Islands
Honorable Michael Udine, Broward County

SOUTHWEST FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

Mr. Tommy Perry, Gubernatorial Appointee

TAMPA BAY REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

Honorable Scott Black, City of Dade City
Honorable Ronald Kitchen, Citrus County
Ms. Barbara Sheen Todd, Gubernatorial Appointee

TREASURE COAST REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

Honorable Jeff Hmara, Village of Royal Palm Beach
Mr. Reece Parrish, Gubernatorial Appointee
Honorable Doug Smith, Martin County

Advisory Committee & Staff

EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Chair | Sean T. Sullivan, Tampa Bay RPC
Vice Chair | Elizabeth Payne, Northeast Florida RC
Treasurer | Thomas J. Lanahan, Treasure Coast RPC
Immediate Past Chair | Chris N. Rietow, Apalachee RPC

STAFF

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2021-2022
By the Numbers

▶ **5**

**METROPOLITAN/
 TRANSPORTATION
 PLANNING ORGANIZATIONS
 STAFFED**

▶ **101**

**ECONOMIC ANALYSES
 COMPLETED (REMI)**

▶ **722**

**PLANNING ACTIVITIES
 CONDUCTED**

▶ **182**

**NUMBER OF REVOLVING
 LOAN FUND APPLICATIONS
 REVIEWED**

▶ **1,009**

**TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE
 ACTIVITIES PROVIDED TO
 LOCAL GOVERNMENTS**

▶ **1,409**

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

▶ **1,029,930**

**TRANSPORTATION
 DISADVANTAGED
 TRIPS PLANNED**

Regional Councils

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

	Date Established	2021 Regional Population ¹	Governing Board Size	Staff Size (FTE) ²	Square Miles ³	Budget (in millions)
 <p>Apalachee Calhoun, Franklin, Gadsden, Gulf, Jackson, Jefferson, Leon, Liberty, Wakulla</p>	Aug. 23, 1977	484,168	27	17	6,757	\$4.2
 <p>Central Florida DeSoto, Hardee, Highlands, Okeechobee, Polk</p>	July 1, 1974	948,878	18	21	5,287	\$5.3
 <p>East Central Florida Brevard, Lake, Marion, Orange, Osceola, Seminole, Sumter, Volusia</p>	Feb. 22, 1962	4,437,866	35	16	9,244	\$2.6
 <p>Emerald Coast Bay, Escambia, Holmes, Okaloosa, Santa Rosa, Walton, Washington</p>	Oct. 1, 1964	1,030,456	28	28	6,509	\$4.4
 <p>North Central Florida Alachua, Bradford, Columbia, Dixie, Gilchrist, Hamilton, Lafayette, Levy, Madison, Suwannee, Taylor, Union</p>	May 7, 1969	580,595	45	8	8,660	\$1.5
 <p>Northeast Florida Baker, Clay, Duval, Flagler, Nassau, Putnam, St. Johns</p>	Feb. 14, 1977	1,838,821	35	16	5,097	\$2.6
 <p>South Florida Broward, Miami-Dade, Monroe</p>	July 1, 1974	4,770,725	19	16	7,492	\$3.3
 <p>Southwest Florida Charlotte, Collier, Glades, Hendry, Lee, Sarasota</p>	Nov. 8, 1973	1,850,007	36	3	7,278	\$1.0
 <p>Tampa Bay Citrus, Hernando, Hillsborough, Manatee, Pasco, Pinellas</p>	Feb. 16, 1962	3,794,119	44	12	4,998	\$3.1
 <p>Treasure Coast Indian River, Martin, Palm Beach, St. Lucie</p>	Aug. 19, 1976	2,163,310	28	10	4,441	\$2.7

¹Source: Florida Estimates of Population, 2021, Table 5, Bureau of Economic and Business Research, University of Florida, 2021.

²FTE means Full-Time Equivalent.

³Total land and water area.

Regional Councils Work Together

FOR HURRICANE EVACUATION & RECOVERY

In a rapidly changing climate and severe weather events, Florida is an epicenter of tropical storms and hurricanes, which are predicted to become more intense and destructive in the coming years. A future with physical devastation, the potential risk of loss of life, property, and economic disruption caused by major hurricanes, requires all hands on deck to prepare our state.

The regional planning councils of Florida are partners not only with local governments, emergency management officials, state agencies including DEM and DEO, Federal agencies including FEMA, EDA, and SBA, but also nonprofit and religious organizations providing aid to citizens and businesses impacted by these disasters. Through staffing to Local Emergency Planning Committees and coordination and presence in Emergency Operations Centers (EOC) around the state, RPC's continually assist with planning and preparing for manmade and natural disasters but are also there for service during declared events.

From a statewide perspective, the regional councils supported DEM in the update of the Statewide Regional Evacuation Study and continue to provide technical input to update the study with new data. This study covering every region in the state provides critical evacuation times based upon predictive models of the travel behavior of persons in preparation for a declared emergency evacuation.

All ten Florida RPCs have been involved in recovery from various storm-related impacts in the last decade. Whether dealing with inland flooding, tornadoes, wind damage, or devastating coastal storm surge and beach erosion, RPCs have worked with both recovery partners and with sustained long-term economic development initiatives to rebuild our communities. Unwelcomed visits from Irma, Michael, Maria, Ian, and Nicole, will undoubtedly be joined by future names. This continuing commitment to be there in the planning and preparation, evacuation and emergency operations, and short and long-term recovery is a hallmark of the mission of Florida's regional planning councils.



Regional Councils *Are Building Resiliency*

Resilience is the ability to bounce forward; absorb, recover and get better in the face of short term shocks like hurricanes or infrastructure failures and long – term stressors like affordable housing, aging infrastructure, shifting economic trends and climate change. All 10 RPCs are actively involved in supporting resiliency planning and five now are leading resiliency coalitions.

**Apalachee Strong Regional Resiliency Collaborative • Heartland Regional Resiliency Coalition
East Central Florida Regional Resilience Collaborative • Resilient First Coast
Tampa Bay Regional Resiliency Coalition**



East Central Florida RPC Participates in Partnership for the Goals Event

More than one hundred regional leaders from different organizations in east central Florida came together as part of the region's first Partnership for the Goals event. The two-day summit was a partnership between the Brookings Institution, the East Central Florida Regional Resilience Collaborative, housed at the East Central Florida RPC, the Central Florida Foundation, the University of Central Florida's Center for Global Environmental and Economic Opportunity, Orange County, the City of Orlando, and Florida for Good.

Partnership for the Goals was to break from business-as-usual and leverage the Sustainable Development

Goals (SDG) framework as a tool for conversation across government, philanthropic, academic, business, and civic society that often struggle to connect across professional vocabularies and organizational reference points.

The event resulted in new connections and yielded more than two dozen actionable ideas. Most importantly, the event culminated in new collaborations across regional sectors. The Brookings Institute stated it is quickly becoming a model for other global communities. It will remain a cornerstone event of the East Central Florida Regional Resilience Collaborative's efforts for years to come.

Northeast Florida Develops Resiliency Plan for the Health and Medical Lifeline

Administered by the Northeast Florida RC, the North Florida Resiliency Plan for the Health and Medical Lifeline aims to significantly enhance the healthcare sector's ability to adapt and recover from flooding, storm surge, and sea level rise impacts. This Resiliency Plan will provide supporting data, analysis, and mitigation strategies that will be useful during normal operations and extreme weather events. By focusing specifically on improving healthcare infrastructure resilience and essential clinical care service delivery, this Resiliency Plan aims to assist organizations in reducing future vulnerabilities and losses and improving the functioning of a broad range of healthcare facilities across the 18-county region.

In February, the State's Chief Resilience Officer, Dr. Wesley Brooks, met with county and city officials across the Tampa Bay region to tour and discuss resiliency projects and challenges faced by the Tampa Bay Region community. Dr. Brooks oversees the Office of Resilience and Coastal Protection at the Department of Environmental Protection and supports the resiliency efforts of several state agencies.



Tampa Bay Regional Resiliency Leadership Summit 2022

The Tampa Bay RPC hosted its 2nd Resiliency Leadership Summit on April 5 & 6, 2022. During the Summit, the Council unveiled the efforts, progress, and work that has taken place in the last year with the introduction of the Draft Regional Resiliency Action Plan. The Action Plan includes strategies and actions based on technical data that assesses sea-level rise vulnerability, informs planning efforts, and provides guidance on the sea-level rise projections to inform local planning efforts.



Tampa Bay Regional Mayors shown above (left to right): Jane Castor, City of Tampa; Ken Welch, City of St. Petersburg; Frank Hibbard, City of Clearwater; and Woody Brown, City of Largo.

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.



North Central Florida RPC Promotes Eco-tourism

The North Central Florida RPC provides staff support services to the Original Florida Tourism Task Force, a multi-county destination marketing organization promoting nature-based, heritage-based, and cultural-based tourism in the north-central Florida region. The area comprises 14 predominantly rural counties and covers approximately 10,000 square miles. The Task Force brands and markets the region as Visit Natural North Florida. Marketing activities include a website, digital and print advertising campaigns, brochures and a quarterly electronic newsletter distribution, and participation at travel shows.

This project is an innovative regional partnership approach to tourism promotion. This partnership supports rural counties throughout the north central Florida region to reach a larger market to promote their nature-based, heritage-based, and culture-based tourism opportunities. Visit the website: naturalnorthflorida.org for more information.

Central Florida RPC Partners on Florida Wildlife Corridor

The Florida Wildlife Corridor stretches from the Everglades to Georgia and west to Alabama. Its conservation helps ensure Florida's wildlife populations are connected and protected and was developed to create incentives for sustaining and conserving the green infrastructure. As a foundation of Florida's economy and quality of life, the Corridor includes nearly 18 million acres, with 46% identified as Opportunity Areas or Corridor areas yet to be conserved.



Through an agreement with Archbold Biological Station, the Central Florida RPC identified Florida Wildlife Corridor Opportunity Areas within the Heartland counties of DeSoto, Glades, Hardee, Hendry, Highlands, Okeechobee, and Polk with the potential for near-term development. Data collected and analyzed to inform the report included building permits, zoning changes, land suitability, generalized future land use, existing infrastructure relevant to future development, and development entitlements. Activities included coordination with State agencies, non-profit organizations, and landowners to identify Opportunity Areas potentially available for acquisition, voluntary conservation easements, or those requiring coordination to support new development or redevelopment projects.

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.

Central Florida RPC Hosts Full-Scale Airplane Crash and Mass Casualty Exercise

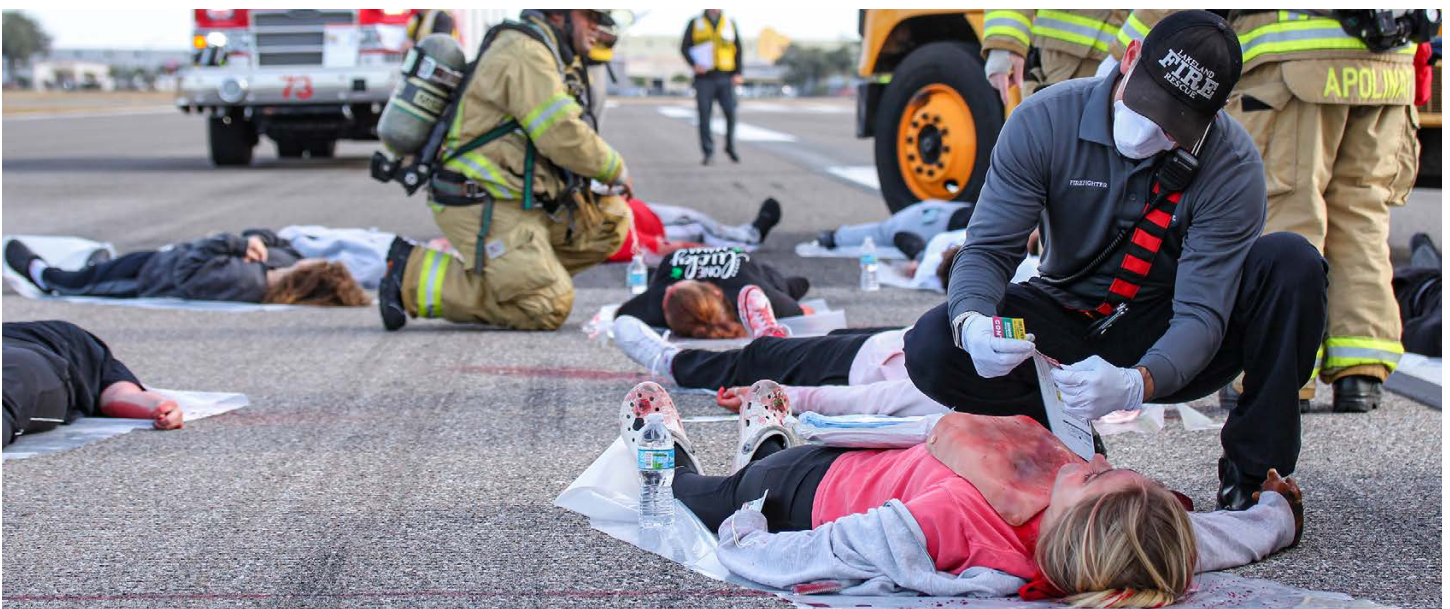
Over 170 first responders, volunteer victims, and evaluators worked together to simulate an airline crash at the Lakeland Linder International Airport to test existing plans, systems, and processes on February 15, 2022. The Central Florida RPC contracted with Emergency Response Educators and Consultants Inc. (EREC) to coordinate the triennial full-scale exercise, engaging multiple agencies to test emergency response policies and procedures.

An After-Action Report and Improvement Plan will provide participating agencies with a full report of the event and guide them in improving their response to real-time disaster events.

Florida Hazardous Materials Symposium

The 9th Annual Florida Hazardous Materials Symposium hosted over 575 participants and included 65+ training sessions. Led by the East Central Florida RPC, the Symposium aims to educate and train first responders, first receivers, manufacturers, and industry partners on hazardous materials response, mitigation, prevention, and safety through classroom and hands-on training.

During the four-day conference, hazmat teams compete in simulated hazardous materials scenarios and are scored according to National Fire Protection Association guidelines by independent experts. Seven HazMat Teams competed in the competition, with Orange County Fire Rescue winning first place, the City of Orlando Fire Department taking second place, and Palm Beach County Fire Rescue coming third.



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.

Revolving Loan Funds Recapitalized in Apalachee and South Florida RPCs



For decades regional planning councils have supported small businesses through revolving loan programs established with funding through the EDA. This ongoing partnership, and local matching funds, allowed Apalachee and South Florida Regional Planning Councils to capitalize over \$6.8 million to help alleviate sudden and severe economic impacts caused by the coronavirus pandemic and Hurricane Michael.

South Florida RPC reached the milestone of lending the entirety of the EDA's CARES Act Revolving Loan Fund of \$5.38 million six months ahead of schedule. The SFRPC was recognized as a successful program by the U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration.

Apalachee RPC expanded its RLF Program, adding two new funds totaling just over \$1.5 million. The Regional Economies Vested in Vital Enterprises (REVIVE!) program was established to grow small businesses and create more jobs within Leon County and the City of Tallahassee. A separate CARES Act RLF provided businesses in Calhoun, Franklin, Gadsden, Gulf, Jackson, Jefferson, Liberty, and Wakulla counties with gap financing to help them survive and recover from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Southwest Florida RPC Promotes SWFL Fresh – Choose Local, Choose Fresh



The Southwest Florida RPC was selected for the 2021 USDA Regional Food System Partnership grant to implement the trademarked regional brand "SWFL Fresh: Choose Local, Choose Fresh." The trademarked regional brand showcases SWFL food producers and their products. The RPC is leading the three-year project in collaboration with the University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Services Cooperative Extension Service and Tropical Research and Education Center.

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.



Hosted by the Emerald Coast Regional Council, the Transportation Symposium brings together leaders across transportation industries to learn, connect, and be inspired by the latest innovations in the transportation realm. This year's event was held on Thursday, October 6, and Friday, October 7, 2022, in Panama City Beach, Florida.



Apalachee RPC Coordinates "Cycle the Arts" Campaign

In collaboration with Council on Culture and Arts (COCA), Apalachee RPC staff coordinated and developed the "Cycle the Arts" campaign. This new biking experience highlights over 300 outdoor works of public art throughout Tallahassee. ARPC staff created an interactive PDF map for this initiative illustrating bike-friendly routes to public art sites around Tallahassee. Public art is people-powered, and the ARPC/ COCA "Cycle the Arts" campaign offers a new perspective on the accessibility and equity of public art.

REGIONAL *Converging*

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.

Northeast Florida Regional Council Hosts 2022 Overdose Summit



The Northeast Florida RC hosted the 2022 Overdose Summit at the World Golf Village in St. Augustine. The educational Summit brought together more than 120 attendees from around the region for a day-long event examining various aspects of addiction and overdose. While the Summit targeted all forms of addiction, the focus was primarily on fentanyl and the extreme danger it poses. The Summit included 19 speakers covering topics such as the neuroscience of addiction, the stigma of addiction, the risks of the opioid epidemic, and public safety.

Treasure Coast RPC Regional Economic Development Summit

In March 2022, Treasure Coast RPC hosted its Regional Economic Development Summit. It was a unique opportunity to review the latest economic trends, interact with industry leaders, and provide input to update the 2018 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Plan for the Treasure Coast Region. The goal of the summit was to provide an opportunity for broad-based and diverse stakeholder participation that addresses economic challenges and identifies unique opportunities for the entire Region.



Awards & Partners

2022 NADO Impact Awards

Apalachee Regional Planning Council

- *Cycle the Arts*

Central Florida Regional Planning Council

- *City of Lakeland's Comprehensive Plan: Our Community*
- *Hardee County Parks, Recreation, Open Space and Trails Master Plan*

East Central Florida Regional Planning Council

- *Southeast Volusia Economic Development Strategic Plan*
- *Partnership for the Goals*
- *Pipeline Emergency Response Initiative (PERI)*

North Central Florida Regional Planning Council

- *Gainesville Metropolitan Area Multimodal Level of Service Report*

Northeast Florida Regional Council

- *2022 Overdose Summit*

South Florida Regional Planning Council

- *The Southeast Florida Clean Cities Coalition*

Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council

- *An Industrial Land Strategy for Pasco County*
- *Resilient Ready Tampa Bay*



Central Florida RPC was recognized for City of Lakeland Comprehensive Plan: Our Community 2030 by NADO, APA Florida, and Florida Planning and Zoning Association. Pictured (left to right): Commissioner Chad McLeod, Pat Steed, Commissioner Sara Roberts McCarley

NADO Excellence in Regional Transportation Awards

Central Florida Regional Planning Council

Meeting Your Communities' Needs through Mobility Management

STATEWIDE PARTNERS





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