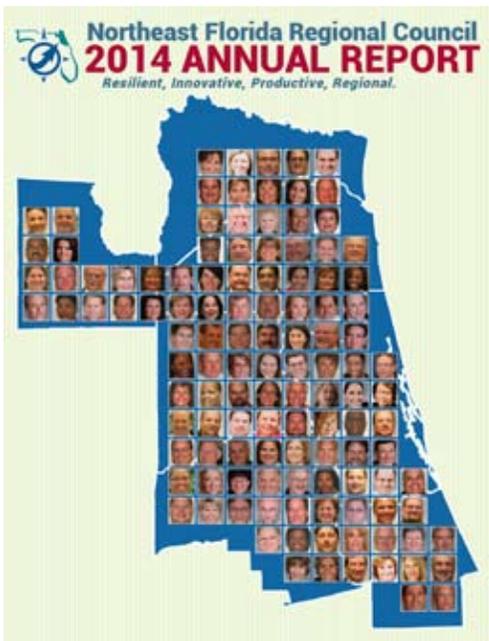


NEFRC

Highlights

Monthly Report of the Northeast Florida Regional Council

April 2015



Annual Report 2014 Year in Review

What better way to start spring than to reflect on the last year's achievements? The 2014 Annual Report shares the projects Council staff has successfully completed as well as programs implemented across the Region. Projects range from training, exercises and workshops held fostering emergency preparedness in the Region to participation in One Spark crowdfunding festival in 2014 with 'Dipping our Toes in Rising Waters'.

The Council is tackling economic development policy through the implementation of a regional action plan on Thriving Small Business. Year after year the Council reviews comprehensive plan amendments within our seven county region, coordinates the Development of Regional Impact process, provides inter-governmental coordination and review, and provides technical assistance to our local governments. 2014 was a year of great achievement and will be sure to be surpassed by the work completed in 2015. For more information, please contact Brian Teeple, at bteeple@nefrc.org.



New Board Member From Clay County

NEFRC welcomes its newest board member, Commissioner Gavin Rollins of Clay County. Com. Rollins represents District 4 in Clay County, which covers the western portion of the County. He previously served two terms on the Keystone Heights City Council and is currently the youngest County Commissioner in the State of Florida. Commissioner Rollins is in the Florida Army National Guard and over the course of his tenure has served in various roles, including enlisted service as well as an Officer. The Council looks forward to Commissioner Rollin's participation in the Region. For more information, contact Brian Teeple, at bteeple@nefrc.org.

Rural Transit Matters – Council Supports Providing Transportation in the Region

During the Council's April Board Meeting, the Board of Directors unanimously adopted a resolution supporting Rural Transit. Public transportation for Florida's elderly, disabled and low income populations is in crisis due to the unintended consequences of Medicaid reform. This is compounded in rural areas by the large and disproportionate amount of unmet demand. Specifically, the resolution expresses support for the work of the Finance Committee of the Putnam County Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board in their efforts to identify funding sources to address the current crisis and permanent solutions to the issues facing the transportation disadvantaged. A potential solution to this issue may be through the use of Florida Transit Block Grant funds. For more information, please contact Margo Moehring, at mmoehring@nefrc.org.



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Bringing Communities Together to Advance the Regional Agenda

Building For Sale

The Council Board of Directors decided at their February meeting to list for sale the Council's office building located at 6850 Belfort Oaks Place in Jacksonville. The building is located next to Southpoint Business Park across from St. Vincent's Hospital's Southside location. It is convenient to I-95, J. Turner Butler Blvd. & Southside Blvd. The building contains over 28,000 square feet and features amenities including turn-key traditional office space, with a mix of open and private office space, lobby with reception and waiting area, 5 conference rooms, 2 fully equipped break rooms, elevator, receiving/loading dock and plenty of parking. The Council is currently in the process of obtaining a broker to market the building. For more information, contact Brian Teple, at bteple@nefrc.org.



RLA Flagler County – Sustainability

The Regional Leadership Academy was held on Earth Day, April 22, in Flagler County. The program agenda for "Resiliency on Earth Day" included a morning tour of the Flagler County Emergency Operations Center, followed by a panel discussion on Mitigation Planning for Resiliency and Changing Trends. Candidates were then treated to a delicious locally sourced lunch and a tour of the Hastings Agricultural Extension Center, Barnes Farm, and the Rype and Readi Farm and Market. The Flagler County Emergency Management staff and David Dinkins, Tri-County Sustainable Agriculture Extension Agent provided lively conversation and timely perspectives in their areas of interest. Thanks to all who participated. For information on upcoming RLA events, please contact Margo Moehring at mmoehring@nefrc.org.



Return on Investment Through the Ship Program and Council Work

Council staff manages a housing program, the Statewide Housing Initiatives Program (SHIP) for two of our member counties: Baker and Putnam. This program provides local support through State appropriations into the Sadowski Housing Trust Fund to meet emergency repair, rehabilitation and new construction or purchase for very low, low and moderate income families. The program aims to meet the needs of the financially vulnerable, and through repair projects, helps to preserve the affordable housing stock in the community. An added benefit is the program also allows aging populations to stay in their homes and age in place. During the 13/14 Fiscal Year, Putnam County received a \$350,000 allocation, which provided for the rehab of 20 homes, helping 35 individual family members. For more information on this program please contact Lindsay Haga at lhaga@nefrc.org.

Did you know...

The FDOT District 2 has \$1B dollars in active construction projects with an additional \$700 million planned for FY15-16. Dollar per person = \$666 dollars per person

Jim Knight, FDOT and NEFRC Ex-Officio Member, April 2015.