



NORTHEAST FLORIDA REGIONAL COUNCIL
Board of Directors Meeting
June 4, 2026

MINUTES

The Northeast Florida Regional Council Board of Directors held a meeting at the North Florida Transportation Planning Organization, 980 N. Jefferson Street, Jacksonville, FL 32209 on Thursday, June 4, 2026; President Anderson called the meeting to order at 10:06 a.m.

Roll call was conducted with the following members present, representing a quorum:

BAKER: Commissioner Anderson
Commissioner Iverson

CLAY: Commissioner Condon
Commissioner Renninger
Councilman Ludwig

DUVAL: Ms. Brown

FLAGLER: Commissioner Dance

NASSAU: Commissioner Huppmann
Commissioner Minshew

PUTNAM: Commissioner Wilkinson
Mayor Michele Meyers

ST. JOHNS: Commissioner Taylor
Commissioner Whitehurst
Commissioner Morgan

EX-OFFICIO: Mr. Hart
Ms. Gore, Florida Department of Environmental Protection (*virtual*)
Ms. Santana, Florida Department of Transportation
Mr. Conkey, St. Johns River Water Management District

Excused: Councilmember Amaro, Councilmember Gambaro, Commissioner Harvey,
Mayor Lynch, Commissioner Martin, Mr. Griffis, and Mr. Bourre

Absent: Councilmember Gay

Presenter: Matt Bocchino, Director, Cecil Airport and Spaceport

Guests: Pierre Tristan, and Darren (both virtual)

Staff: Elizabeth Payne, Donna Starling, Tyler Nolen, Kenajawa Woody, Annie Sieger,
Andrew Prokopiak, and Robert Jordan

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

President Anderson welcomed everyone to the meeting. The new Board Member, Mayor Michele Myers was recognized and welcomed.

*ACTION ITEMS

*Consent Agenda

President Anderson asked if anyone wanted to pull any item on the consent agenda. Hearing none, he called for a motion on the consent agenda. Commissioner Huppman motioned to approve the Consent Agenda; seconded by Commissioner Dance. Motion carried.

*Resolution: 2026-11-TD Signatory Authorization

Ms. Payne presented resolution 2026-11 that will continue her authorization to sign Transportation Disadvantaged contracts/grants as the Designated Official Planning Agency.

President Anderson called for a motion. Commissioner Condon motioned to approve Resolution 2026-11; seconded by Commissioner Minshew. Motion carried.

*FY 25/26 Proposed Amended Budget

Ms. Starling provided a brief overview of the FY 25/26 proposed amended budget. She stated that when this budget was adopted, there was an expected deficit of approximately \$70,000. However, since then the Council received additional funding that exceeded the initial deficit. A brief discussion followed.

President Anderson called for a motion. Commissioner Condon motioned to approve the FY 25/26 Proposed Amended Budget as presented; seconded by Commissioner Whitehurst. Motion carried.

Ms. Gore joined the meeting.

*FY 26/27 Proposed Budget

Ms. Starling provided an overview of the FY 26/27 proposed budget. The Members were reminded of the timeline of the adopted budget and the Council's fiscal year. The proposed budget with revenues estimated at \$2,745,067 and expenses of \$2,917,588 reflects an estimated deficit of approximately \$172,000. However, staff have submitted, and plan to submit more grant applications to generate additional revenue. While staff anticipates closing this deficit, the budget will be balanced through a general fund transfer if needed. An amended budget will be provided in October if needed.

President Anderson called for a motion. Commissioner Condon motioned to approve the FY 26/27 Proposed Budget as presented; seconded by Commissioner Whitehurst. Motion carried.

*Regional Issue: Data Centers

Ms. Payne reminded the Members of the presentation provided at the last meeting and the increased interest/concerns on the topic of Data Centers in Northeast Florida. At the May meeting, the Board agreed to bring this item back for a vote on making it a regional issue for the Council. A brief discussion followed.

President Anderson called for a motion. Commissioner Dance motioned to make data centers a regional issue; seconded by Commissioner Condon. Motion carried.

Presentation: Cecil Airport

Mr. Matt Bocchino, Director, Cecil Airport and Spaceport, provided a presentation entitled ‘From Runways to Rockets: The Evolution of Cecil Airport & SpacePort’. The facility is the first licensed horizontal launch commercial spaceport on the East Coast. The facility is a hub for world-class Aerospace Tenants such as Boeing, U.S. Coast Guard, Jacksonville Fire Rescue Department, Tactical Air Support, and Florida State College Jacksonville. Also highlighted was the military/government support, partners, Cecil’s size and future, basic spaceport information, target markets beyond launch, spaceport facilities, mission control center, etc. Discussion followed.

Program Spotlight: USDA Local Food Promotion Program

Ms. Payne shared with the Members that the Council has been awarded a two-year \$100,000 grant to continue the work previously done with the Northeast Florida Shrimping Market Study. This new grant will be focused on the development of a comprehensive marketing strategy for the Northeast Florida Shrimping industry. A brief discussion followed.

Healthcare Coalition Update

Ms. Sieger provided an overview of the Healthcare Coalition (HCC) program. The program is funded through a federal grant (ASPR/HPP program) that is provided through a cooperative agreement with the Florida Department of Health, which works to increase the capabilities and resilience of the regional healthcare system through planning, training, equipping, and exercising. The NEFRC manages the Region 3 Healthcare Alliance that spans 18 counties and is entering the third year of a five-year contract. Highlighted were the HCC activities over the past year such as training and exercises, and equipment purchases. She also informed the Members that the Coalition received an increase in funding of over \$60,000 for the FY 26/27.

Community Resiliency Update

Mr. Prokopiak provided an overview of on-going resiliency activities regionwide. He highlighted a recent Steering Committee meeting, work toward completion of the FY 2025-2026 Regional Resilience Entity Grant, and completion of the final report for the Multi-Regional Mitigation Assessment and Planning project. He also shared updates on the Northeast Florida Military Installation Readiness Review, the Aquatic Connectivity and Infrastructure resilience project, and ongoing vulnerability assessments being conducted in partnership with local governments. A brief discussion followed.

Public Comment – None.

LOCAL AND REGIONAL ISSUES DISCUSSION

Nassau County – **Commissioner Minshew** shared that 91 loggerhead turtle nests were spotted on Fernandina Beach.

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS’ REPORT

Florida Department of Transportation – **Ms. Santana** stated that the FDOT will host a public meeting on July 1st to discuss proposed median modifications in various locations in Duval County at the Southeast Regional Library at 10599 Deerwood Park Blvd. from 4:30pm - 6pm.

St. Johns River Water Management District (WMD) – **Mr. Conkey** applauded Nassau County on their efforts with data centers. Members were reminded that Northeast Florida is in a Phase III Sever Drought designation.

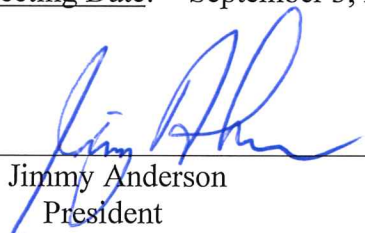
Department of Environmental Protection – **Ms. Gore** stated she had nothing to report.

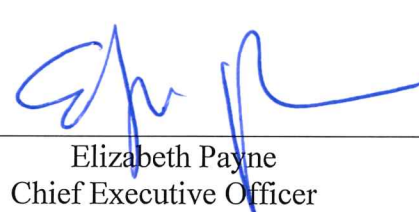
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER’S REPORT

Ms. Payne reminded the Members of hurricane season preparations; an upcoming Planning Commissioners training in Keystone Heights; Smart North Florida has opened its free pilot technology program to assist local governments in finding technology solutions; CEO evaluation form is coming in early July and encouraged all to complete it for discussion in August.

Next Meeting Date: September 3, 2026

Meeting Adjourned: 11:54 a.m.



Jimmy Anderson
President

Elizabeth Payne
Chief Executive Officer