

ANNUAL REPORT 1998

Setting



Directions

**Northeast Florida
Regional Planning Council**

NORTHEAST FLORIDA REGION

Baker County

Clay County

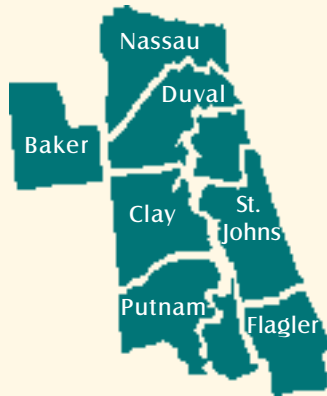
Duval County

Flagler County

Nassau County

Putnam County

St. Johns County



Mission

As a dynamic network of local governance, the Northeast Florida Regional Planning Council provides visionary leadership and coordination between counties and governmental agencies to preserve and enhance the quality of Northeast Florida's natural, man-made, economic, and social environment.

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*It was an exciting year for the Council,
a year of new directions and a year
of enhanced regionalism.*

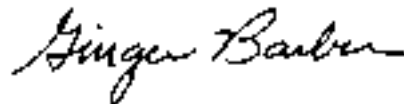
A strategic planning retreat early in 1998 led to a new mission statement (see page 4) directing the Council to become a catalyst in strengthening the regional alliance and shaping the region's future growth.

The Council intensified its advocacy of regional cooperation on several fronts:

- Played a major role in St. Johns County's Regional Cooperation Summit.
- Convened Gridlock II, a regional transportation conference.
- Purchased a regional economic model for forecasting and feasibility studies.
- Participated and facilitated focus groups at the St. Johns River Summit.

Regional planning—the Storm Surge Atlas and Strategic Regional Policy Plan—also won planning awards. And the Council bid farewell and best wishes to First Coast Workforce Development, Inc., which became independent January 1, 1999.

Few people fully understand the scope of what the Council does. This annual report attempts to show how the Council makes a difference in the lives of all our citizens, as I am sure it will continue to do under the able leadership of Harry Waldron, our 1998-99 chairman.



Ginger Barber, Chairman 1997-98



In Memoriam

Long-time Board member Mr. Meyer O. Soforenko died Dec. 31, 1997. This portrait of him was unveiled June 4 when the Council conference room was dedicated in his memory. Mr. Soforenko had served the Council with great devotion and leadership as a gubernatorial appointee since 1980 and as secretary/treasurer since 1990.

The Council is in a unique position to provide a regional approach to growth management and quality of life issues as the area's population increases.

CHARTING A NEW COURSE

When the Council Board adopted *Strategic Directions* in 1997, it charted a new course for the region (Baker, Clay, Duval, Flagler, Nassau, Putnam, and St. Johns counties).

The Northeast Florida Strategic Regional Policy Plan is a plan of action, guiding Council activities and setting the direction for future physical, economic, and social development in five critical areas: Affordable Housing, Economic Development, Emergency Preparedness, Natural Resources of Regional Significance, and Regional Transportation.

In 1998, the plan was published in a user-friendly format that was distributed to key government and planning officials.

All local comprehensive plan amend-

ments are reviewed for compliance with *Strategic Directions*.

PLANNING WINS AWARDS

The Strategic Regional Policy Plan's forward focus was recognized by the Northeast Florida Chapter of the Florida Planning and Zoning Association with its "Test of Time Before Its Time" award in October 1998. The Northeast Florida Hurricane Storm Surge Atlas, produced by the Council, was also recognized with FPZA's "Public Awareness-Publication" award.

BOARD SETS DIRECTIONS

Following the adoption of the Strategic Regional Policy Plan during the Council's 20th anniversary year, the Board seized the

HIGHLIGHTS

October-December 1997

Top Lender

SBA names Business Development Corporation the top CDC lender in North Florida—and 6th in Southeast—during first quarter, Sept-Dec 1997.



opportunity to map the Council's and region's future during a Council Evaluation and Strategic Retreat held in February 1998. The retreat, facilitated by the Institute of Community and Area Development/Southeastern Regional Directors Institute at the University of Georgia, reviewed findings from focus groups of some 100 regional stakeholders as well as from one-on-one interviews with key community leaders.

While Board members reaffirmed support of the Council's many programs, such as Healthy Start and the Business Development Corporation, they directed the Council to become more proactive and aggressive in addressing regional issues such as growth management, transportation, and the environment.

With its marching orders in hand, staff assisted the Board in developing a new logo and mission, identifying the Northeast Florida Regional Planning Council as a direction-setter. The mission reads:

As a dynamic network of local governance, the

Northeast Florida Regional Planning Council provides visionary leadership and coordination between counties and governmental agencies to preserve and enhance the quality of Northeast Florida's natural, man-made, economic, and social environment.



To better accomplish its new role, planning staff was reorganized. A new position, Director of Special Projects, was created to spearhead strategic planning and development efforts; planning responsibilities were divided between a Director of Planning Programs and Director of Growth Management.

The Council also took a lead role in organizing a regional summit with St.

Johns County and a regional transportation conference with the Jacksonville Metropolitan Planning Organization.

COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING



primary statutory responsibility of the Council is to review local government comprehensive plans

HIGHLIGHTS

October-December 1997

TD Federal Grant

Transportation Disadvantaged programs in Flagler, Putnam and St. Johns counties win federal grant to develop Intelligent Transportation System pilot project.

Workforce in Egypt

Bryan Stone of First Coast Workforce Development represents U.S. workforce development at Egyptian conference on School-to-Work partnerships.

and plan amendments for consistency with the policies of local, regional (i.e. *Strategic Directions*), and state plans.

During fiscal year 1997-98, staff reviewed 97 comprehensive plan amendments. Seventy were small scale amendments addressing future land-use map changes, and 27 were full reviews related to text and future land-use map changes.

In addition, staff assisted its local governments in developing comprehensive plan amendments and in preparing Evaluation and Appraisal Reports (EARs) required by the state for adopted comprehensive plans.

Among the Council's comprehensive plan activities:

- Assisted the City of Crescent City and Baker County in developing comprehensive plan amendments.

- Revised Nassau County's zoning code and zoning maps to be consistent with its comprehensive plan.

- Provided Nassau County with Historic Preservation, Tree Protection, Wetland Protection and Wellhead Protection

ordinances to implement the goals of its comprehensive plan.

- Revised the City of Crescent City Zoning Ordinance to be consistent with the city's comprehensive plan.

- Prepared EARs for the City of Fernandina Beach, Nassau County, and Baker County.

- Assisted St. Johns County in the preparation and transmittal of the Traffic Circulation, Mass Transit, and Ports, Aviation and Related Facilities elements of the county's EAR.

State Plan Review

Staff also worked with the Governor's office in reviewing and assessing Florida's Comprehensive Plan from a regional perspective. A report submitted in December 1998

REGIONAL POPULATION

COUNTY	1990	1995	2000	2005	2010
Baker	18,486	20,275	22,005	23,402	24,797
Clay	105,986	120,896	136,198	151,203	165,900
Duval	672,971	718,355	760,901	802,199	842,503
Flagler	28,701	36,997	45,594	54,302	62,898
Nassau	43,941	49,127	53,897	58,502	63,003
Putnam	65,070	69,516	74,500	79,199	83,799
St. Johns	83,829	98,188	111,797	125,300	138,602
Region	1,018,984	1,113,354	1,204,892	1,294,107	1,381,502

Source: 1990 Census; BEBR's Florida Population Studies, Bulletin No. 115, July, 1996.

HIGHLIGHTS

October-December 1997

FIRST Formed

Transportation committee forms Northeast Florida FIRST (Forum for Improving Regional and State Transportation) to include other government agencies.

Expedited Review

Winn-Dixie Stores warehouse facility in Duval County becomes first project to undergo region's expedited permitting review process.

also identified major issues facing Northeast Florida over the next 10-20 years.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

From the development of comprehensive plan amendments to planning studies and grant

writing, technical support is one of the Council's most valuable resources.

Highlights follow:

Regional Summit

The Council assisted the St. Johns County Commission with the Regional Cooperation Summit held at the World Golf Village in June 1998. Staff facilitated five break-out sessions on growth management/infrastructure, transportation, tourism/economic development, environment/solid waste, and water resources.

Baker Industrial Parks

Under a contract from the Florida Rural Economic Development Strategy Pilot Partnership Program, planners helped Baker County's Development Commission prepare compre-

hensive plan amendments and develop industrial covenants for two industrial park sites. Staff also created a printed marketing package and Internet site for the project.

CDBG Grants

The Council assisted in preparing several successful Community Development Block Grant applications and administered others:

- Administered and completed St. Johns County \$750,000 road repaving project which came in 25

percent below estimate.

- Continued to administer the second phase of \$750,000 CDBG to expand water system in E. Palatka for which the

Council prepared both first and second phase applications.

- Helped prepare grant application for a community center in Bryceville.

Other Technical Support

Other technical support examples include:

- Provided on-site temporary staff plan-



HIGHLIGHTS

October-December 1997

First River Summit

A speaker at the first ever St. Johns River Summit (December 1997), the Council's executive director presents data on the river's economic value to region.

FRCA Veep

Council's 1st Vice Chairman Harry Waldron elected vice president of Florida Regional Councils Association.

ning assistance to City of Fernandina Beach and City of Green Cove Springs.

- Supplied data on State Housing Initiatives Partnership program to Clay County.

- Assisted in obtaining approval from Department of Community Affairs for Welaka on Lazy Days comprehensive plan amendment.

- Updated future land-use maps for Baker and Nassau counties, and Green Cove Springs.

- Provided assistance on port expansion to Port of Fernandina and Fernandina Beach.

- Furnished information to private citizens on the Strategic Regional Policy Plan, comprehensive plan amendments, EAR process, historic preservation, affordable housing, and cellular towers.

- Developed “quality of life” indicators for Nassau County.

- Created an evacuation zone map for Duval County.

REVIEWS

In accordance with state and federal guidelines, the Council is responsible for conducting reviews of Developments of Regional Impact and of federally funded projects (through the Intergovernmental Coordination and Review process) in the region.

Developments of Regional Impact

Since 1977, the Council has had statutory responsibility for coordinating the review of Developments of Regional Impact (DRI) to ensure that large-scale projects remain consistent with the region’s strategic plan. During the fiscal year, preapplication conferences were held for three proposed DRIs:

- CB Universal Inc. Day Cruise, a proposed port development along the north side of Atlantic Boulevard at the Intracoastal Waterway in Atlantic Beach.

- Bulow Plantation, a proposed residential development along Old Kings Road in Flagler County.

- Jacksonville International Airport Substantial Deviation, a proposed modification to the airport, including changes to the terminal area and the addition of land.

The Council adopted recommendation reports on two DRIs: CB Universal Day Cruise in the City of Atlantic Beach, and Marshall Creek, a multi-use project with dwelling units, offices, and retail development on 1,540 acres in St. Johns County.

Other DRI activity included the review of a number of proposed amendments to existing DRIs, including Freedom Commerce Center, First Coast Technology Park,

HIGHLIGHTS

January-March 1998

Healthy Start

Program marks 5th anniversary with continued maternal/child health improvements detailed in its 1997 Community Report.

Board Retreat

Board begins mapping new directions for the region during Strategic Retreat in February 1998.

Julington Creek, Plantation Bay, Fleming Island, and the St. Johns DRI.

Expedited Review

Staff participated in a preapplication meeting and provided expedited review for the first Northeast Florida project—a Winn-Dixie Stores Distribution facility—to go through the new Florida Expedited Permitting Review Process.

IC&R

Through the Intergovernmental Coordination and Review process, the Council reviews and approves for consideration all project applications for federal assistance. During 1997-98, staff reviewed 85 applications for funding requests totaling more than \$234 million.

Ten-Year Site Plans

In accordance with Florida statutes, staff also reviewed ten-year site plans for the Jacksonville Electric Authority, Florida Power and Light, Florida Municipal Power Agency, and Seminole Electric Cooperative, Inc. No new

power plant sites are planned in the region.

DISPUTE RESOLUTION



The Regional Dispute Resolution Process was implemented in 1994-95 to provide a neutral setting with a facilitator, so conflicting parties could resolve differences in the area of planning, growth

management and other disputes among local governments, regional agencies and private parties.

While there were no formal requests for use of this process, Council staff attempted to assist Nassau County and the City of Fernandina Beach in resolving ongoing issues related to the relocation of the county

courthouse, judicial offices, and administrative offices outside the City of Fernandina Beach, and to assist the Town of Glen St. Mary and City of Macclenny in finding a solution to a shared water and sewer service issue. ■

IC&R APPLICATIONS BY COUNTY		
County	No.	Amount
Baker	3	\$ 1,286,105
Clay	5	1,294,100
Duval	16	63,887,992
Flagler	5	651,400
Nassau	11	14,626,536
Putnam	13	5,345,566
St. Johns	10	15,873,750
Multi-county	6	130,620,232
Statewide	16	1,350,000
Total	85	\$234,935,681

HIGHLIGHTS

January-March 1998

First Soforenko Award

BDC presents first Soforenko Credit Reinvestment Award to Bank of America for outstanding economic and community development efforts.

Gov. Chiles Visits

Gov. Lawton Chiles helps kick off Healthy Start's prenatal care awareness campaign with the Prenatal Passport in February.

*Transportation planning done in concert with land use
is imperative to the economic viability of the region.*

Northeast Florida FIRST is a step in that direction.

NORTHEAST FLORIDA FIRST

A major step in regional transportation planning was taken by the Board with the formation of Northeast Florida FIRST (Forum for Improving Regional and State Transportation). FIRST, the Council's transportation planning committee, is a forum to address regional transportation problems and provide for multi-jurisdictional, multi-agency solutions.

Working closely with the Florida Department of Transportation (DOT), Jacksonville Urbanized Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO),



*Hon. Alberta Hipps,
MPO representative,
speaks at Gridlock II.*

and local governments, the committee addressed a number of critical issues.

Gridlock II: Beyond 2000

A Northeast Florida transportation conference, co-sponsored with Jacksonville's MPO, drew more than 100 elected officials, transportation professionals, and concerned citizens to discuss regional transportation issues, including concurrency, hurricane evacuation, and light and high speed rail. The Jacksonville Transportation Authority, Florida DOT, and constituent local governments provided conference assistance.

Other transportation activities:

- Supported St. Johns County's I-95 Level of Service rule variance, working with the county, Florida DOT, and Florida Department of Community Affairs to find a creative solution to the

HIGHLIGHTS

January-March 1998

Responsible Fatherhood

Healthy Start wins \$50,000 state grant for responsible fatherhood initiative with Jacksonville Urban League.

Transportation Talk

Council facilitates Jacksonville and St. Johns County meetings on mutual transportation and land-use issues.

rule which hindered county development.

- Initiated series of ongoing meetings between Jacksonville and St. Johns County to explore transportation and land-use issues.

- Hosted meeting on the feasibility of publicly or privately funded mass transit system in St. Augustine and St. Johns County. The meeting led to a commitment by JTA to fund a study on transit service in the county.

- Successfully supported Jacksonville's efforts to maintain equitable funding in the federal transportation appropriations bill.

TRAFFIC STUDIES

Staff prepared 22 major studies in Clay County under an agreement with the county to develop and review traffic studies for concurrency. Seventy major traffic studies have been reviewed or prepared since the contract was signed in 1992.

The Council

has also had an agreement with St. Johns County since 1997 to review major traffic studies for concurrency (referred to as Land Development Transportation Assessments). Sixteen studies were reviewed this year, and 34 since the inception of the contract.

PLANNING

Council staff is developing bicycle route maps for Northeast Florida's counties with funding from the Florida Department of Transportation. The free maps, to be completed by September 1999, will include all known existing bicycle facilities, including street and road routes, rails-to-trails, and off-road trail locations.

Three regional representatives, including

Council Executive Director Brian Teeple and former Board Member Karen Taylor, served on the State Transportation and Land Use Study Com-



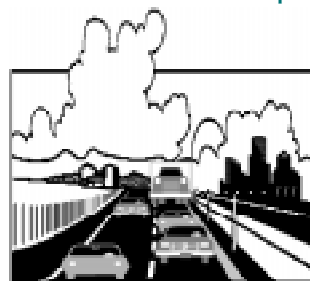
Gridlock II drew more than 100 interested persons.

HIGHLIGHTS

April-June 1998

Gridlock II: Beyond 2000

Council and Metropolitan Planning Organization sponsor Northeast Florida Transportation Conference in June to explore regional transportation issues and solutions.



mittee. The committee's report will be considered by the 1999 Legislative session.

Cooperating with the North Central and Withlacoochee Regional Planning Councils, the Council has initiated the process to designate a Clean Cities Coalition for Northern Florida. (See Natural Resources chapter.)

TD PROGRAM

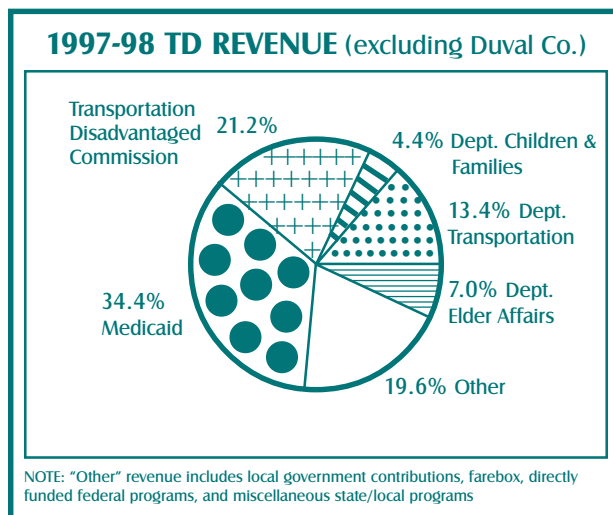
The Council serves as the Designated Official Planning agency for the Transportation Disadvantaged (TD) program in six of the region's counties—Baker, Clay, Flagler, Nassau, Putnam and St. Johns. Transportation services are provided through Community Transportation Coordinators (CTC) for health care appointments, employment, nutritional needs, and other life-sustaining activities.

Program year 1997-98 highlights:

- 496,090 one-way passenger trips, up eight percent, reversing three-year decline attributed to reduced Medicaid funding.
- Revenues up 8.6 percent, with Medicaid accounting for nearly 35 percent of revenue.
- Average cost per trip declined from \$9.09 to \$8.36, because of increased system efficiency and reduced need to transport clients to neighboring counties for recurring

medical treatments.

- TD programs in Flagler, Putnam and St. Johns counties awarded one of two U.S. DOT grants (\$200,000) through the Florida TD



Commission for a pilot project to improve rural transportation through an electronically coordinated transit service.

CTCs struggled to increase operational efficiency and decrease program costs while maintaining high quality services. Changes in service delivery in Clay County led to a breakdown of communications between some riders and the CTC, resulting in a grievance being filed. In resolving the issue, a new passenger handbook was created and procedures for addressing complaints were updated. ■

HIGHLIGHTS

April-June 1998

Tourist Initiative

NE Florida, S. Carolina and Georgia join in plan to promote Coastal Heritage corridor between Charleston and St. Augustine.

BDC Award

BDC wins National Association of Development Companies award for increased SBA 504 loans.

Employer Center

Grand opening of Workforce Development's Regional Employer Services Center in April 1998.

The Council plays a pivotal role in supporting local economic efforts and regional cooperation to foster economic prosperity in all parts of the region.

SPECIAL INITIATIVES

The Council took steps to generate and seek regional economic cooperation in several vital areas over the past year.

- The chairman and executive director met with the Jacksonville Economic Development Commission to explore closer cooperation.

- Staff and board members participated in Jacksonville's Economic Summit '98, which made recommendations on regional economic development, tourism, international competitiveness, transportation, neighborhoods, and small business.

- The Executive Director serves as an ex-officio member on the Clay County Economic Development Committee.

- Members of the Sports Development Ad Hoc Committee, which is

trying to attract major league baseball spring training to the area, joined the Jacksonville Chamber of Commerce's 1998 leadership trip to tour an Arizona spring training baseball facility.

- The Council's Business Development Corporation assisted the City of Palatka in applying for the Rural Development Administration's Intermediary Lending Program.

REGIONAL TOURISM

Regional tourism efforts were fast-tracked during the year.

When the Council brought together a consortium of Northeast Florida tourism representatives, the Northeast Florida Eco/Heritage Tourism Committee was born. The Council staffs the committee, is developing a data base of regional tourist sites, and is

HIGHLIGHTS

April-June 1998

Tourism Group Born

Formation of Northeast Florida Eco/Heritage Tourism Committee boosts regional tourism marketing plans.

Regional Summit

St. Johns County holds first Regional Cooperation Summit in June with Council assistance.

planning an Eco/Heritage Tourism Summit in 1999. (See Natural Resources chapter.)

In conjunction with its counterparts in South Carolina and Georgia, the Council embarked on a tourist development project involving the Coastal Heritage Corridor (US 17/SR A1A) from Charleston to St. Augustine. After collecting information on activities along this route, the group will meet with local chambers and tourism groups to discuss a cooperative marketing promotion.

ECONOMIC MODELING

The Board approved the purchase of an economic impact model from Regional Economic Models, Inc. to assist local governments and the private sector. The computer software, designed for Northeast Florida, can forecast and simulate economic trends, and will be used to develop feasibility studies on potential projects.

SMALL BUSINESS HELP

New and emerging businesses are key to job creation. Well over one-half of new jobs in the U.S. during the last five years have been created by firms engaged in business less than five years. The Business Development Corporation of Northeast Florida, Inc., a certified development company (CDC) of the U.S. Small Business Administration, continues to be a major economic development player in the region.

During 1997-98, its fourth year of operation, BDC linked 17 projects with funding through the SBA 504 loan program. Total project costs were \$18.8 million.

BDC has brought added value to the region through a positive return on the Council's investment and a positive impact on the region's economic development.

Since its beginning in 1994, BDC has had 62 loans approved by SBA. For every \$1 invested



Bank of America's Howie Hodges (left) and Tim Smith accept Soforenko award. Holding the award is Renee Soforenko, daughter of the late Meyer Soforenko whom the award honors.

HIGHLIGHTS

April-June 1998

Economic Summit

Council supports regional approach to economic development at Jacksonville Economic Summit.

Accredited Lender

SBA grants BDC Accredited Lender designation for 504 loan program.

Web Site

Council goes online with home page at www.nefrpc.org.

by the Council, the region's local governments received the benefit of \$126 in private dollars for commercial real estate projects and \$2.32 in new property taxes.

Other BDC Accomplishments

■ Designated an Accredited Lender for SBA 504 loan program. The designation, which allows expedited loan approvals, is granted only to CDCs in whom SBA has a high level of confidence.

■ Approved as intermediary for SBA's Pre-Qualification Pilot Loan Program for women and minority-owned businesses. Assisted first Pre-Qual borrower, an Orange Park spa, in late 1998.

■ Named as top CDC lender in the SBA's North Florida District for first quarter of fiscal year 1997-98. Ranked 6th in Southeast region and 24th in nation.

■ Established Soforenko Credit Reinvestment Award in memory of the late

BDC LOANS BY COUNTY 1994-98

Nassau	15
Volusia	13
St. Johns	12
Clay	6
Flagler	6
Putnam	5
Baker	2
Duval	2
Seminole	1
Lake	None

BDC PORTFOLIO

	1997-98	1994-98
Loans	17	62
Project Costs	\$18,806,000	\$55,045,700
New Jobs	113	683
New Property Taxes	\$298,521	\$1,012,513
Economic impact	\$4,213,125	\$25,559,625

Meyer O. "Bill" Soforenko, a BDC founding member and long-time Council Board member. The plaque was presented in February 1998 to Bank of America for "exhibiting outstanding efforts in economic and community development, along with a willingness to consider loan projects with special circumstances."

■ Received National Association of Development Companies award for "greatest increase in SBA 504 loans approved for portfolios under \$10 million."

WORKFORCE

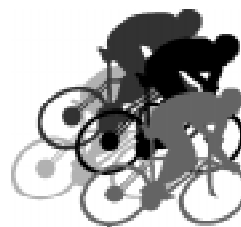
Ensuring the region has an adequate and qualified work force is a responsibility of the First Coast Workforce Development, Inc. The Council provided offices for and administrative services to FCWD through Dec. 31, 1998, when FCWD became a totally independent agency. (See Human Services chapter.) ■

HIGHLIGHTS

April-June 1998

Bikeways

Florida Department of Transportation awards grant to Council to develop bike route and facilities maps for seven-county Northeast Florida region.



Significant milestones were achieved in human and community services, particularly in maternal and child health, employment and housing.

HEALTHY START

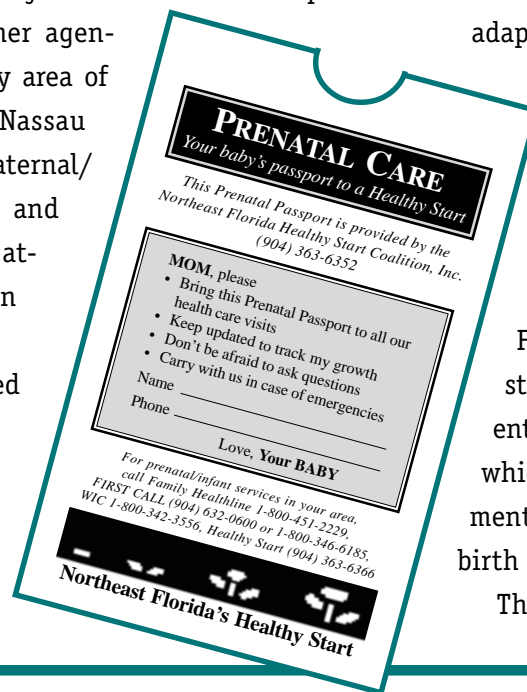
The Northeast Florida Healthy Start (HS) Coalition, staffed by the Council, is part of the statewide initiative to improve the health of mothers and babies. It contracts with local county health departments and other agencies in its five-county area of Baker, Clay, Duval, Nassau and St. Johns for maternal/child health services and care coordination to at-risk pregnant women and families.

In 1998, it allocated more than \$2.9 million in 1998-99 service delivery dollars to the various agencies.

Prenatal Passport Campaign

Healthy Start's biggest and most visible project during the year was the Prenatal Passport Campaign. The passport was developed by a statewide "Help Them Thrive, Birth to Five" public awareness campaign and

adapted for use in Northeast Florida's ongoing prenatal care awareness effort. The Coalition chose this project because Northeast Florida falls below the state average in early entry to prenatal care which has been documented to impact healthy birth outcomes positively. The late Florida Gover-



HIGHLIGHTS

July-September 1998

Economic Trends

Board approves purchase of economic impact model to track trends and assist economic development decisions.

Maternal/Infant Care

Healthy Start allocates \$2.9 million for 1998-99 healthy start services.

nor Lawton Chiles, who left a legacy of children's programs including Healthy Start, joined Jacksonville Jaguar family Bryan (punter) and Leah Barker and their newborn daughter, Kilty, for the campaign kickoff in February 1998.

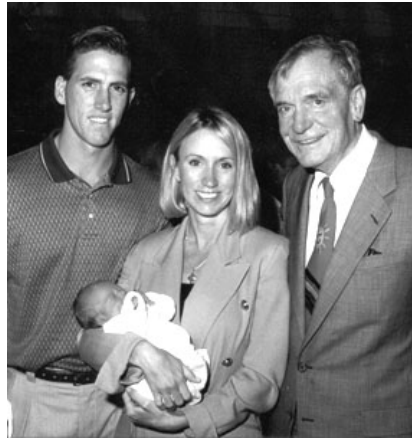
The Coalition promoted the passport with TV public service announcements featuring the Barkers, billboards, bus advertisements, and a local hotline. Corporate sponsor Winn-Dixie Stores, Inc. provided prenatal and infant incentive packages to women using the passport.

Centerpiece of the campaign is a passport-size medical record which helps women track their care. The passport is being distributed by all maternity care providers in the five-county area. More than 10,000 were given out last year, and the Coalition has approved funding to continue the successful project into 1998-99.

The campaign has received notable recognition. It was highlighted in the national publication of the National Fetal and Infant

Mortality Review program. The Florida Public Health Association presented its Outstanding Television Station Award to

WJXT-TV 4's Rebecca Wu for her report on the campaign kickoff. Bryan Barker was also chosen one of three Fathers of the Year by the Florida Commission on Responsible Fatherhood for his support of family initiatives.



Gov. Lawton Chiles joined Bryan and Leah Barker with their daughter, Kilty, at Prenatal Passport kickoff.

SIDS Awareness

A second major community education campaign was spearheaded by Healthy Start's Fetal and Infant Mortality Review

(FIMR) group, which targeted SIDS (Sudden Infant Death Syndrome), the leading cause of postneonatal death in Northeast Florida. The region's infant death rate has exceeded the state's for the last three years.

The SIDS initiative is based on the nationally recognized Back-to-Sleep campaign. Its goal is to increase provider and consumer awareness of SIDS risk factors and strategies to reduce them.

HIGHLIGHTS

July-September 1998

Hurricane Atlas

The Storm Surge Atlas, part of Hurricane Study, released in July 1998.

State Committee

Executive director and Board member appointed to State Transportation and Land Use Study Committee.

Marshall Creek DRI

Board approves DRI for multi-use 1,540-acre project in St. Johns County.

Other SIDS activities:

■ The Coalition teamed with SIDS expert Bunny Hamer, R.N., and the Northeast Florida Area Health Education Center to produce a self-study training video on infant sleep position for health care professionals and a presentation for child care workers and parents. Jacksonville University nursing students helped design and are helping to implement both programs.

■ Consumer Back-to-Sleep brochures are being distributed by physicians and hospitals.

■ In collaboration with the Florida SIDS Alliance, the Coalition sponsored a SIDS booth at the Southern Women's Show in October 1998.

■ The Duval County Medical Society

Alliance has selected SIDS awareness as its project for the coming year. Working with the Coalition, the alliance plans to distribute newborn T-shirts with the Back-to-Sleep logo to more than 3,500 infants during 1999.

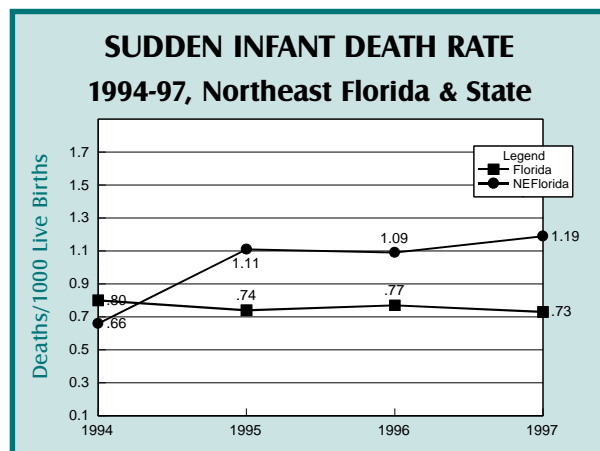
■ Volunteers manned WTLV-TV12's community phone bank last May to provide information on prenatal care and SIDS. The station also featured a story on Healthy Start's Prenatal Passport during the phonathon.

Healthy Start accomplishments through 1998 also included:

Screening rates increased. More mothers/babies in Northeast Florida were screened for Healthy Start, a first step in linking them with needed services. Coalition outreach efforts to health care providers boosted prenatal screen rates to 55 percent, above the state's 53 percent. Infant screen rates exceeded 90 percent, compared to 72 percent statewide.

10,000 received services. With Healthy Start funds, county health departments, Healthy Families Jacksonville, and other community agencies provided services to 4,200 pregnant women and 5,800 infants, improving their chance for a healthy outcome.

Special low birthweight project funded. To address specific needs in Duval County,



HIGHLIGHTS

July-September 1998

Mitigation Strategy

Four counties—Baker, Clay, Putnam and St. Johns—ask Council to facilitate development of their Local Mitigation Strategies.

Special Projects

Council creates new post to direct agency strategic planning and development activities and to coordinate special projects.

the Coalition awarded \$100,000 to University Medical Center for a special project targeting low birthweight.

Florida KidCare gets underway. Healthy Start is leading outreach efforts in Northeast Florida for Florida KidCare, the state's new, low-cost health insurance program for uninsured children. The state is providing \$200,000 (through Duval County Health Department) to implement the plan to enroll 50,000 eligible children.

Kicks Count. A "Kicks Count" refrigerator magnet, featuring a bear kicking a football, was designed for educating about fetal movement monitoring. The March of Dimes funded production of 15,000 magnets to cover every birth in the region. The magnets are being distributed through physicians and clinics. They were developed in response to a FIMR finding that many women were unaware that changes in fetal movement could indicate a problem.

Baby Shower. The Healthy Start booth was a popular stop at the annual Jacksonville's Biggest Baby Shower sponsored by the American Lung Association.



Responsible Fatherhood. The Florida Commission on Responsible Fatherhood approved a \$50,000 grant request from Healthy Start for a responsible fatherhood initiative with the Jacksonville Urban League Head Start Program. The funds are being used to expand the Head Start's T.I.M.E. (Together Involved, Men Evolve) program in Healthy Start's five-counties. The First Coast

WAGES Coalition approved a \$25,000 grant to Healthy Start to help expand the support groups into Putnam County.

HEALTHY FAMILIES JACKSONVILLE

Healthy Families Jacksonville continues to thrive since its beginning as a collabora-

tive partnership by Healthy Start, Jacksonville Children's Commission and Duval County Health Department in 1995. Healthy Families Jacksonville is administratively staffed and maintains offices at the Council. It is the largest Healthy Families America site in the nation.

The in-home family support and education

HIGHLIGHTS

July-September 1998

Mass Transit

Council facilitates meeting on mass transit system for St. Johns County.

Bi-county Meeting

Council chair hosts meeting for officials/staff of St. Johns County and Jacksonville to discuss mutual issues.

Clay Sector Plan

Council supports Clay County bid to become one of DCA's five Sector Plan demonstration projects.

program for pregnant women and children up to age 5:

- Grew by 9 new zip codes in 1998, and now covers 18 targeted zip codes.
- Served a total of 5,682 families (with 2,512 receiving intensive home visitation).
- Received a \$650,000 grant from Healthy Families Florida to expand its services, and implemented a federal grant from the Community Integrated Services System that funded a community liaison position and social marketing materials.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

The Council administers SHIP (State Housing Initiatives Partnership) programs for Nassau and Putnam counties, and three weatherization programs for Nassau. Through these programs, the Council has helped bring affordable housing funds of \$2.5 million to Putnam and \$2 million to Nassau at no direct cost to the counties.

These funds, in turn, have leveraged \$5.8 million and \$3.8 million, respectively, from other private/public sources.

Putnam SHIP

During the fiscal year, Putnam County SHIP generated \$483,158 for affordable hous-

ing activities and completed 43 purchases and rehabilitation projects.

Another 69 are in process, and 109 projects and purchases are planned for 1998-99.

Through an innovative public/private partnership, SHIP allocated a \$215,000 grant to support construction of a 60-unit affordable housing apartment complex in Palatka. The funds assisted a developer in obtaining a commitment for \$5 million through the Florida Housing Finance Agency for the project. In another unique aspect, the apartments will be used as a training site for the renters to become homeowners under the SHIP program.

Since inception of the Putnam County SHIP in 1992, purchase or repair work assistance has been completed for 196 households.

Nassau SHIP

The Council administers four housing programs for Nassau County: SHIP and three weatherization programs (Weather Assistance Program, Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program, Low Income Emergency Home Repair Program). The four programs generated \$410,943 for affordable housing activities in Nassau County during the year.

The combined programs assisted 29 house-

HIGHLIGHTS

July-September 1998

Baker Industrial Parks

Under a state rural economic development pilot program, staff assists Baker County Development Commission with Industrial Park sites, preparing comprehensive plan

amendments, developing industrial covenants criteria, and creating marketing publications and Web site.

holds, including 4 with down payment assistance and 25 with emergency repairs. From its inception in 1992, Nassau County SHIP has assisted 205 households.

Through the Council's Business Development Corporation, Nassau provides a mortgage instrument by which low-interest SHIP loans are collected (over \$90,000 to date) and recycled back into the county's SHIP program, ensuring ongoing funding for home purchases and dwelling unit improvements. BDC closed 13 SHIP loans during the fiscal year, bringing its portfolio to 73 completed loans.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

The Council has been involved with workforce development since 1983. During the past two years, First Coast Workforce Development, Inc. contracted with the Council for fiscal/administrative services and office space. Prior to that, the Council was grant recipient and administrative entity (from 1983-1996) for one of FCWD's predecessor agencies, the Northeast Florida Private Industry Council.

FCWD provides oversight and administers education, employment, and training programs for workforce development for the six-county area of Baker, Clay, Duval, Nassau,

Putnam and St. Johns.

Among workforce development's successes during its 1997 program year:

- Federal performance standards were exceeded by all programs.

- A regional Employer Services Center formally opened in Jacksonville in April 1998.

- FCWD transferred all services in its One-Stop career service system to Lockheed Martin IMS, and was the first region in the state to consolidate all One-Stop services under one provider.

- Responsibility was assumed for up-front services for welfare participants.

- FCWD continued to lead the state in reducing welfare rolls, with a 77 percent reduction.

- The Adult Training Program served 631 participants; Economic Dislocation and Worker Adjustment Assistance Act served 546 participants; Summer Youth Employment and Training Program served 924 youth; Year-Round Youth Training Program served 480 youth. And 93 out-of-school youth received services through the One-Stop contract.

As of January 1, 1999, First Coast Workforce Development became a totally independent entity and moved its offices to Orange Park. ■

HIGHLIGHTS

July-September 1998

Insuring Kids' Health

Healthy Start takes leading role in getting Florida KidCare off to running start in Northeast Florida with outreach plan developed with area health departments.

Putnam SHIP

Putnam SHIP leverages \$5 million with \$215,000 grant for affordable housing apartment complex in Paltaka.

Being prepared for disasters, such as hurricanes or hazardous materials incidents is one of the truly regional issues addressed by the Council.

HURRICANE STUDY

If a hurricane strikes Northeast Florida, the area will be better prepared to respond—thanks to the new Hurricane Evacuation Study being prepared by Council planners.

The study is being developed with partial funding—grants of \$375,000—from the Department of Community Affairs, Division of Emergency Management.

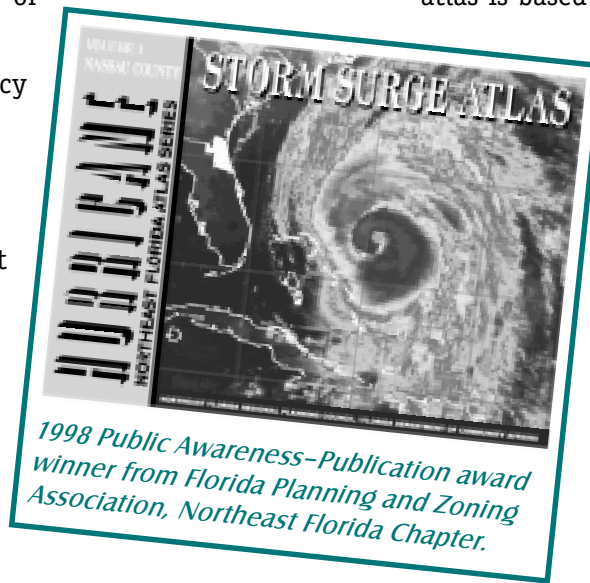
The Council unveiled the Storm Surge Atlas—the first part of the study to be completed—to high praise during a formal presentation in July to elected officials, emergency

management officials, and local meteorologists.

Frank Koutnik, policy and planning administrator for the Florida Division of Emergency Management, called the atlas “some of the best maps in the state of Florida. . .”

Nearly two years in the making, the atlas is based on the latest

computer modeling technology and encompasses four volumes. The full-color maps show heights of storm surge and flooding from hurricanes of five intensities.



HIGHLIGHTS

October-December 1998

Clean Cities

Region seeks federal Clean Cities Coalition designation with North Central and Withlacoochee Regional Planning Councils.

Leadership Tour

Ad-hoc sports committee joins Jacksonville Chamber's annual leadership tour to visit Arizona baseball complex similar to one sought here.

The maps were developed by Council planners from data provided by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Tropical Prediction Center, Natural Hurricane Center.

The GIS (Geographical Information Systems) Department played an integral role in creating



(Above) Emergency medical technicians and (left) local meteorologists listen attentively during Hurricane Atlas presentation.

the atlas plates. GIS also created maps identifying shelter locations for each of the region's counties.

Other parts of the Hurricane Study released in 1998 included the behavioral and transportation analyses. The full study, with population, shelter, hazards, and vulnerability data, will be completed in 1999.

The study is being used by local, regional,

state, and other emergency management personnel to update local hurricane evacuation plans. In addition, meteorologists, regional businesses, and the public are using

the atlas to develop corporate and personal hurricane preparedness plans.

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

The Council staffs the Northeast Florida Local Emergency Planning Committee, a state-appointed committee charged with facilitating hazardous materials (hazmat) emergency response planning and compliance with

hazardous materials reporting laws under the Community Right-To-Know Act. The LEPC serves as a public access repository for inventory reports required annually from public/private facilities that use, produce, or store hazardous substances or chemicals.

Among the year's LEPC highlights:

- First annual Hazmat Conference held in November 1998 for nearly 100 public/private

HIGHLIGHTS

October-December 1998

Bravo! Bravo!

Council planning (the Strategic Regional Policy Plan and the Storm Surge Atlas) wins awards from Florida Planning and Zoning Association.

Passport to Healthy Start

Healthy Start billboards and bus signs blanket five-county area to promote Prenatal Care Awareness Campaign and Prenatal Passport.

sector responders. Training was provided by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Florida Department of Community Affairs, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, P.B.&S Chemical Company, and Bonar Engineering.

- 2 awareness level training classes, 1 incident command class, and a 112R compliance class were held.

- 35 hazmat training suits donated to local teams.

- 12 hazmat team members attended State Fire College Hazmat Training through LEPC sponsorship.

- County and district hazmat plans reviewed and updated.



Responders saw equipment demonstrated at the first annual Hazmat Conference.

- 20 land elevation maps from the GIS department helped Division of Forestry and local governments in fighting last summer's wildfires; staff also served on Flagler's rapid response team during the county's evacuation for the fires.

- Technical support provided for SERC (State Emergency Response Commission) meeting in Jacksonville.

MITIGATION STRATEGIES

State dollars were made available to counties and municipalities for a Local Mitigation Strategies (LMS) project to help protect their communities from the impacts of hurricanes and other disasters.

Baker, Clay, Putnam, and St. Johns counties contracted with the Council to coordinate the development of their Local Mitigation Strategies. Task forces were formed in each county to assess current procedures and develop methods to reduce the populations' vulnerability to disasters. Completion of the project is expected in early 2000.

A Council representative also serves on the mitigation task forces of Duval and Flagler counties. ■

HIGHLIGHTS

October-December 1998

Reducing Deaths from SIDS

FIMR (Fetal and Infant Mortality Review) group kicks off SIDS (Sudden Infant Death Syndrome) awareness project in October 1998 based on national "Back-to-Sleep" campaign.



Board members continue to be strong advocates for the protection of Northeast Florida's environment and natural resources.

CLEAN CITIES

As mentioned earlier in this report, the Council, in cooperation with North Central and Withlacoochee Regional Planning Councils, initiated the process to designate a Clean Cities Coalition for Northern Florida. Clean Cities is a locally based, voluntary government/industry partnership, coordinated by the U.S. Department of Energy, to expand the use of alternatives to gasoline and diesel fuel.

Clean Cities builds on local initiatives, and creates local partnerships and nationwide networks.

The Council has coordinated with the statewide *Clean Cities*

facilitator and is working with the Florida Energy Office to initiate the designation process.

ST. JOHNS RIVER

The first ever St. Johns River Summit, held in December 1997, drew local and state elected officials, agency persons, and interested citizens. Sponsored by the City of Jacksonville, the workshop explored ways to protect the region's major natural resource.

The Council's executive director presented a paper on the river's economic value, highlighting the capital savings from the disposal of waste—both domestic



HIGHLIGHTS

October-December 1998

Hazmat Conference

Hazardous Material Conference by Local Emergency Planning Committee draws 100 responders for training

CAOs Meeting

Council resurrects regular meetings of region's Chief Administrative Officers to dialogue common issues.

and industrial—into the river versus land disposal, as well as the economic impact of commercial fisheries and increased value of land adjacent to the river. Staff also facilitated focus groups on protection strategies.

The summit supported successful efforts to have the St. Johns designated an American Heritage River by the federal government, and assisted in obtaining state dollars for cleaning up the river.

ECOTOURISM

Responding to the Council's invitation, representatives from chambers and visitors centers as well as other interested persons met in June to discuss a regional tourism effort. The group formed the Northeast Florida Eco/Heritage Tourism Committee, which the Council is coordinating.

Planning staff continues to assist the group with plans to market the region as an ecotourism destination. The Council is:

- Creating a data base of cultural, historical, heritage and environmental resources that will eventually be mapped.
- Developing a plan to provide protection for eco/heritage sites.
- Planning a Regional Eco/Heritage Tourism Summit for 1999.

BIKE PLAN STUDY

With funding from the Florida Department of Transportation, the Council is preparing Northeast Florida bicycle facilities maps incorporating parks and natural features of interest. The project will encourage the use of bicycles and promote ecotourism. The free maps will be ready by September 1999. (See Transportation chapter.)

CECIL FIELD

Staff continued to work with the Cecil Field Development Commission, St. Johns River Water Management District, and Florida Department of Environmental Protection concerning the natural and recreation corridor proposed as one of the alternate uses for the Cecil Field Naval Air Station, which is scheduled to close in 1999.

MANATEE BOOK

The Museum of Science and History in Jacksonville reprinted the Council's Manatee Coloring Book for its Manatee Awareness Day. The book, published in 1989 as an environmental education activity for school children, has been reprinted by several organizations, including Walt Disney World, in the past three years. ■

HIGHLIGHTS

October-December 1998

HFJ Grows Again

Healthy Families Jacksonville, nation's largest Healthy Families America site, gets \$650,000 grant to expand services.

New Mission/Logo

Council adopts new mission statement and logo as it charts new course for future with emphasis on visionary leadership.

Data and analyses, geographic and mapping services, and other technical assistance are offered through the Community Information and Grants Center.

RETURN ON INVESTMENT

In addition to being a valuable information resource, the Council offers other benefits,

such as intergovernmental cooperation and advocacy with other agencies.

Member governments reaped many measurable, value-added services and (excluding First Coast Workforce Development dollars) earned a \$43/1 return on their county dues investment during 1997-98.

Not including workforce dollars, the Council:

- Yielded \$18,624,791 direct/indirect return on investment for member counties' dues of \$431,958, a 43/1 ratio.
- Supported economic development

with small business loans totaling more than \$6.3 million through the Business Development Corporation, adding 113 new jobs and nearly \$300,000 in new ad

valorem taxes.

■ Provided \$2,739,827 in contract monies to member county agencies and organizations for maternal/infant health care.

■ Approved for funding consideration \$234,935,681 in federal/state/local government and private monies for

programs and projects.

COUNTIES' RETURN ON INVESTMENT

Baker	\$39/1
Clay	\$39/1
Duval	\$10/1
Flagler	\$309/1
Nassau	\$353/1
Putnam	\$33/1
St. Johns	\$37/1

INFORMATION AND MAPPING



s Northeast Florida's official Census Data Center, the Council is a resource for the

HIGHLIGHTS

October-December 1998

GIS Capability Growing

New digital natural resources information and GIS software increase GIS capabilities and services.

Asset Mapping for Jax

GIS staff assists Team Jax in asset mapping two of Mayor's Intensive Care neighborhoods.

most up-to-date land-use maps and regional economic, demographic, social, and development data in both statistical and GIS (Geographical Information Systems) form.

Data

Staff responds to an average of 30 data requests per month from local governments, various organizations, banks, consultants, media, and private citizens. Some examples:

- Extensive socio-economic data on labor, population, jobs, and employment trends in Nassau County for Nassau Economic Development Board.

- Socio-economic data for a major grant proposal for First Coast Workforce Development, Inc.

- Population and tourism statistics for local television news media.

Library

The Council also has an extensive planning library open to local governments, public and private agencies, and the public. The library now boasts the Simons Planning Collection, a gift from Jacksonville University. Simons was a prolific Jacksonville planner who, during his illustrious career, authored plans and studies throughout the country. The Univer-

sity inherited the collection on Simons' death but decided that the Council could provide a more appropriate home for the collection.

Geographical Information Systems

The fast growing trend of electronic communications and technology increased the use of the Council's computer data base which can edit, analyze, and display graphically referenced information. Software capabilities were upgraded with AutoCAD Release 14 and the addition of ArcView 3.1.

The GIS department also obtained digital natural resources information from the St. Johns River Water Management District for the seven-county region. The information, which includes flood plains, soils, wetlands, land cover, and aerials, can be used to create maps and analyze data.

In addition to the hurricane storm surge maps mentioned earlier in this report, other GIS projects included:

- Socio-economic and land-use data maps for Jacksonville and Team Jax.

- Land elevation maps that assisted state/local fire fighting efforts during 1998 wildfires.

- County-wide evacuation zone map for Duval County.

- Data mapping for the Florida East Coast

HIGHLIGHTS

October-December 1998

Hurricane Traffic

Transportation analysis portion of Northeast Florida Hurricane Evacuation Study completed.

1st PreQual Loan

BDC assists first borrower under SBA Pre-Qualification Pilot Loan Program.

KidCare Grant

Healthy Start implements Florida KidCare in Northeast Florida with \$200,000 state grant.

Railroad, a mortgage company, and the Jacksonville Children's Commission.

Web site

The Council's Web site went online in 1998 and continues as a work in progress. There are plans to provide many of the Council's information resources on the site through a special "resource library" which will require a password to access.

STAFF TO 17 BOARDS

Including its own board, the Council provided staffing for 17 boards or committees during the year:

- Business Development Corporation of Northeast Florida, Inc.
- Northeast Florida Healthy Start Coalition, Inc.
- Northeast Florida Local Emergency Planning Committee.

- First Coast Workforce Development, Inc.
- First Coast Workforce Development Consortium.
- Six Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Boards for Baker, Clay, Flagler, Nassau, Putnam and St. Johns counties,
- Healthy Families Jacksonville.
- Florida KidCare Oversight Committee.

■ Nassau County Local Housing Partnership.

■ Putnam County Affordable Housing Advisory Committee.

■ East Palatka Community Development Block Grant Advisory Committee.



INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION

The Council prides itself on being a forum for the exchange of ideas on vital regional issues, often acting as a catalyst in bringing concerns to the fore and creating opportunities for intergovernmental

HIGHLIGHTS

October-December 1998

Regional Tourism

Council developing Eco/Heritage Tourism Plan for regional tourism committee to promote and protect area's natural, historic, cultural assets.

St. Johns County CDBG

CDBG administered by Council and County Department of Public Works for repaving and drainage of Holmes Boulevard completed 25% below estimate.

cooperation. Major efforts this year involved growth management, transportation, tourism, and the environment:

- Co-hosted the first ever Regional Cooperation Summit for Northeast Florida in cooperation with St. Johns County. Over 600 individuals from 41 federal, state, regional, and local governmental entities attended to discuss projects and initiatives that will impact the region's future and to identify priority issues for regional coordination. Topics included growth management, transportation, economic development, environment, and water resources.

- Sponsored Gridlock II: Beyond 2000, a regional transportation conference. (See Transportation chapter.)

- Initiated a regional tourism effort that led to the formation of the Regional Eco/Heritage Tourism Committee. (See Natural Resources chapter.)

- Participated in the first St. Johns River Summit and presented a paper on the economic impact of the river to the region. (See Natural Resources chapter).

- Originated an ongoing series of meetings between St. Johns County and the City of Jacksonville to discuss mutual transportation and land-use issues in southern Jacksonville

and northern St. Johns County.

- Attended a meeting of county and city Chief Administrative Officers and was enlisted to coordinate future quarterly meetings for the group to share ideas and explore solutions to issues of common interest.

Among other cooperative ventures during 1998, the Council:

- Partnered with Jacksonville University as a planning/informational resource for the university's new Institute of Growth Management and Conflict Resolution.

- Provided technical assistance for the meetings of several state groups in Jacksonville: State Emergency Response Commission, Preservation 2000 Program, State Transportation and Land Use Study Committee, Floridians for Better Transportation, and Florida Transportation Commission.

- Hosted a First Coast Manufacturers Association meeting, and visiting South African government officials interested in regional planning agencies. ■

HIGHLIGHTS

October-December 1998

Kicks Count

Healthy Start partners with March of Dimes to produce a refrigerator magnet that reminds pregnant women to monitor fetal movement.



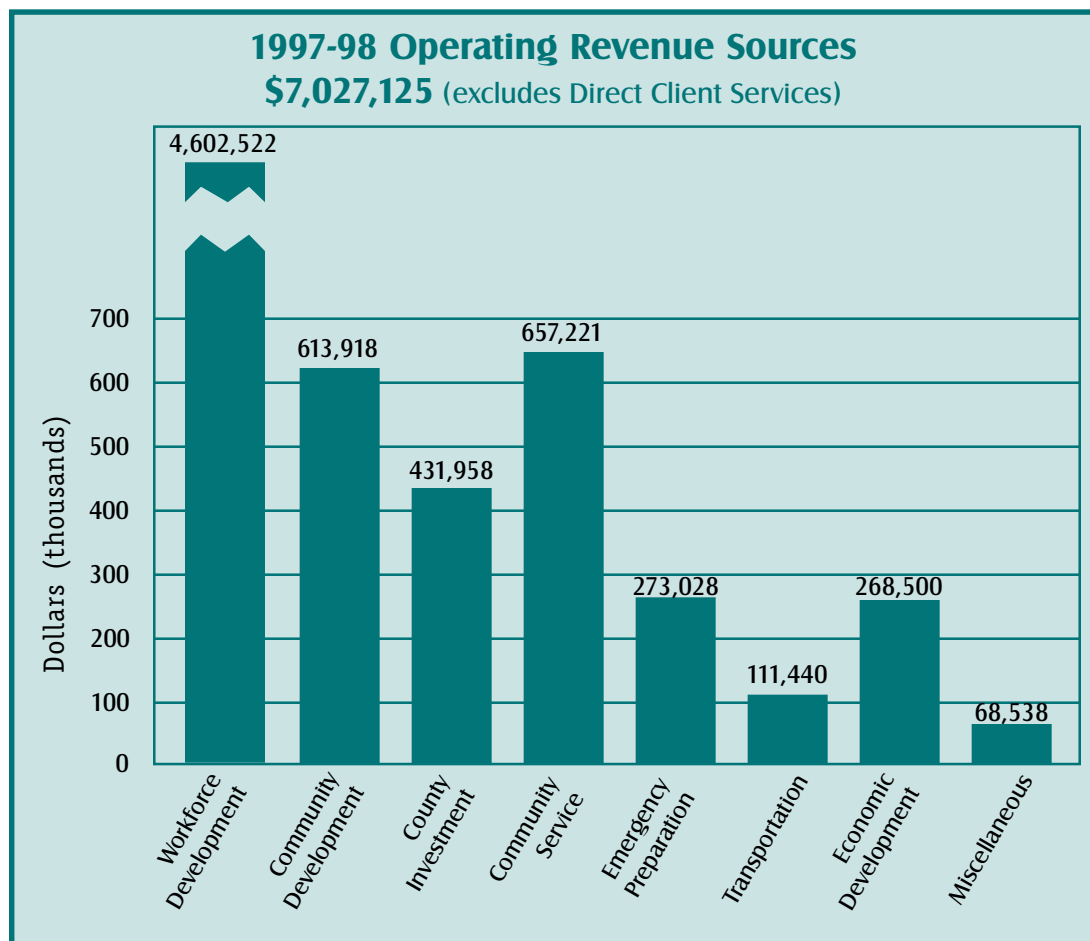
Through careful monitoring of the budget and pursuit of new revenue sources, the Council continues to enhance its fiscal position.

The 1997-98 operating budget totaled \$7,027,125 (excluding Direct Client Services of \$13,382,241).

The Council ended the year with an addition to retained earnings and

received an unqualified opinion in the annual independent audit, conducted by the firm of Masters, Smith & Wisby, P.A.

The graph below depicts operating revenue sources by dollars. ■



THE REGION

*The Northeast Florida Regional Planning Council, formed in 1977,
serves District 4, comprised of 7 counties and 26 municipalities.*

REGION

The region's 4,428 square-mile land area is 43 percent agricultural, 2 percent industrial/commercial, 24 percent conservation/recreational, and 13 percent urban. The population surpasses 1.1 million.

The region is characterized by an abundance of natural resources and a diversity of habitats. Its central feature is the Lower St. Johns River. With 140 miles of coastline and five barrier islands boasting some of the state's most magnificent, pristine beaches, the region is truly "Florida's First Coast."

Jacksonville (Duval County) is the region's major urban center, with a good mix of industrial, manufacturing, transportation, financial services, health care, and military employment.

Surrounding counties are more rural in nature, relying on agriculture and service sectors, with a limited industrial base often focused on a single sector. These counties are increasing in their rate of urbanization and beginning to develop more economic diversity. Flagler is the second fastest growing county in Florida.

COUNTIES

Baker—Established 1861. Named for James McNair Baker (1822-92), Confederate States senator and Florida judge. Population: 21,131.*

Clay—Established 1858. Named for Henry Clay, John Quincy Adams' Secretary of State. Population: 134,534.*

Duval—Established 1822. Named for William Pope DuVal, first territorial governor of Florida. Land-wise, Jacksonville is largest city in U.S. Population: 753,823.*

Flagler—Established 1917. Named for Henry Flagler, developer of Florida East Coast Railroad. Population: 43,441.*

Nassau—Established 1824. Named for the Nassau Sound. Population: 54,538.*

Putnam—Established 1849. Named for Benjamin Alexander Putnam, lawyer, soldier, judge, state legislator, first president of the Florida Historical Society. Population: 71,454.*

St. Johns—Established 1821. One of Florida's original two counties. Named for St. Johns River. St. Augustine is oldest permanent settlement in U.S. Population: 109,894.* ■

* 1998 BEBR Population estimates

1997-98 BOARD

Baker County

Ms. Ginger Barber (G)
Chairman
 Mr. Hugh D. Fish Jr. (C)
*Secretary/Treasurer**
 Hon. Alex Robinson (C)

Clay County

Mr. Bill Basford (C)
 Hon. Charles R. Griffin (C)
 Hon. Earl Harrington (M)
 Mr. James E. Hawkinson (G)
 Ms. Lenore McCullagh, Ph.D. (G)



Duval County

Ms. Betty Burney (G)
 Hon. Marvin E. Godbold Jr. (M)
 Hon. Alberta Hipps (C)
2nd Vice Chairman
 Hon. Richard H. Kravitz (C)
 Mr. Meyer O. Soforenko (G)*



Flagler County

Hon. Michael R. Des Parte (C)
 Hon. Joann B. King (M)
 Ms. Mary Ann Ruzecki (G)
 Hon. Sam Trivett (C)

Nassau County

Hon. Nick Deonas (C)
 Mr. Harry Halley (G)
 Hon. David R. Johnson (M)
 Hon. Chris Kirkland (C)

C = County representative
 G = Gubernatorial appointee
 M = Municipal representative



Putnam County

Hon. Charles E. "Skeet" Alford (C)
 Hon. Ish Edwards (M)
 Hon. Howard Grisham (C)
 Ms. Linda D. Myers (G)

St. Johns County

Hon. Mark Alexander (M)
 Hon. David Bruner (C)
 Mr. Tom Rivers (G)
 Hon. Karen Taylor (C)
 Mr. Harry Waldron (G)
1st Vice Chairman



Ex-officio Members

Mr. Ernest E. Frey, *Dept. of Environmental Protection*
 Mr. Aage G. Schroder III, *Dept. of Transportation*
 Mr. Orien Pass, *Enterprise Florida*

*Mr. Meyer O. Soforenko served as Secretary/Treasurer until his death in Dec. 1997

Administrative Staff (as of Dec. 31, 1998)

Executive Director: Brian D. Teeple, A.I.C.P.

Directors:

Special Projects – Mike Brown
 Planning Programs – Jeffrey Alexander
 Growth Management – Ed Lehman
 Management Services – Barbara Gordon

First Coast Workforce Development – Lynn Grafel
 Business Development Corporation of Northeast Florida – Patricia A. Ferm
 Northeast Florida Healthy Start Coalition – Carol Brady
 Healthy Families Jacksonville – Patricia Davis-Scott
 Public Relations – Doris Barletta, APRP

COUNCIL-AFFILIATED ORGANIZATIONS

Business Development Corporation of Northeast Florida, Inc. ■ Northeast Florida Local Emergency Planning Committee ■ Northeast Florida Healthy Start Coalition, Inc. ■ Healthy Families Jacksonville ■ Florida KidCare Oversight Committee ■ Six Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Boards (Baker, Clay, Flagler, Nassau,

Putnam, St. Johns counties) ■ First Coast Workforce Development, Inc. ■ First Coast Workforce Development Consortium ■ Nassau County Local Housing Partnership ■ Putnam County Affordable Housing Advisory Committee ■ East Palatka Community Development Block Grant Advisory Committee

The Regional Planning Council
is recognized as Florida's only multipurpose regional
entity that is in a position to plan for and coordinate
intergovernmental solutions to growth-related prob-
lems on greater-than-local issues, provide technical
assistance to local governments, and meet other
needs of the communities in each region.

...Florida Statutes 186.502(4)1

