



2001 Annual Report
Northeast Florida Regional Planning Council
Bringing Communities Together

AGENCY PROFILE

The Northeast Florida Regional Planning Council (NEFRPC) is a regional government agency serving 7 counties—Baker, Clay, Duval, Flagler, Putnam, Nassau and St. Johns—and their 27 municipalities. Formed in 1977 by an interlocal agreement pursuant to Florida Statutes, Chapter 186, it is one of 11 regional planning councils statewide.

The NEFRPC is governed by a 35-member board, 2/3 elected officials and 1/3 gubernatorial appointees.

It provides a wide scope of services and programs, including strategic planning, Development of Regional Impact reviews, economic development, human services, regional transportation, natural resources, affordable housing, emergency preparedness, and technical assistance.

The Council is committed to continuing its regional initiatives in support of shared visions, values and goals.



The Council is pleased and fortunate to have purchased its own office building in 2001. The move will allow us to expand services more easily and to reduce operating costs.

*To provide 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.*

OUR MISSION



CONTENTS

- 2 ACHIEVING A BETTER TOMORROW
From the Chair's Perspective
 - 3 CHARTING THE REGION'S COURSE
Land Use & Development
 - 6 MEETING OUR HUMAN NEEDS
Human Services
 - 10 INVESTING IN OUR COMMUNITIES
Economic Development
 - 12 ENSURING OUR CITIZENS' SAFETY
Emergency Preparedness
 - 14 PAVING THE WAY TO MOBILITY
Transportation Planning
 - 16 PRESERVING NATURAL RESOURCES
The Environment
 - 18 PROVIDING VALUE-ADDED SERVICES
Data & Government Services
 - 21 OPERATING WITH FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY
Funding Sources
 - 22 THE REGION
 - 23 COUNCIL BOARD
 - 24 COUNCIL STAFF AND AFFILIATES
-

Achieving

ACHIEVING A BETTER TOMORROW

It has been an extremely satisfying year for me as Council chairman. Regionalism is at its strongest in Northeast Florida. It is embraced in all sectors—public, private, and civic. And that is due in no small part to the Northeast Florida Regional Planning Council.

Since its beginning in 1977, the Council has tried to create a culture that fosters regional initiatives for the common good of the region as a whole. Many of the activities you will read about in this report were centered on that goal, such as:

- **Purchase of our own office building** to allow us to grow with the region in a fiscally responsible manner.
- **Economic Development Designation** being sought for the region
- **Reception for Elected Officials**, a social event to expand the regional dialogue.
- **Regional Cooperation Summit** and **DCA's Regional Assessment Meeting** to identify and find solutions to regional issues and concerns.
- **MomCare**, adopted statewide after being piloted by our Healthy Start Coalition.
- **The Center for Research, Data Management, and Evaluation**, a new Council subsidiary.
- **St. Johns Eco-Heritage Corridor**, an American Heritage River Initiative, which staff has assisted for the past two years.



The only limit to our realization of tomorrow will be our doubts of today.

Franklin D. Roosevelt

I am reminded of a quote by Franklin D. Roosevelt: "The only limit to our realization of tomorrow will be our doubts of today." Let there be no doubts that when we stand together, we are indeed stronger and ready to meet any challenge. And with the Strategic Regional Policy Plan as our Compass, the Council, under our 2001-02 Chairman, The Honorable Glenn R. Lassiter, will continue to chart a course toward that regional vision.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Linda D. Myers".

The Honorable Linda D. Myers
Chairman 2000-2001

Charting

CHARTING THE REGION'S COURSE

GROWTH MANAGEMENT

Through the planning process, the Council works with state and local governments to manage land use and development. Staff hosted or participated in a number of meetings and activities dealing with growth management. Among them:

- A Growth Management Workshop sponsored by the Jacksonville Community Council, Inc., at which staff presented a detailed overview of regional growth issues.
- Quarterly meetings hosted for the region's planning directors to provide a forum for discussing topics of interest. In July, staff conducted a half-day workshop on telecommunications issues with Ted Kreines, an expert in the field.
- Four Interlocal Issues Forums facilitated by staff on growth management issues in the fast-growing area of southwest Duval County and northwest Clay County. Jacksonville Councilwoman Alberta Hippias and Clay County Commissioner Pat McGovern organized the workshops.
- The fourth Annual Regional Cooperation Summit sponsored with St. Johns County and St. Johns River Water Management District. Water issues—conservation and supply—were the topics of this year's summit held at the World Golf Village.
- A Regional Assessment meeting held with Florida's Department of Community Affairs to help identify issues for DCA's expanding technical assistance role.

The Council continues to be a cornerstone in shaping and directing the region's quality of life.

STRATEGIC PLANNING

Pursuant to Florida Statutes, each regional planning council must assess the successes or failures of its Strategic Regional Policy Plan (SRPP). After a series of workshops with the region's stakeholders, staff presented the Board with the Evaluation and Appraisal

Report (EAR) for *Strategic Directions*, Northeast Florida's SRPP. The Board adopted the EAR and forwarded it to the Governor's Office for review. After comments are received from the state, the Council will draft EAR-based amendments to the SRPP. Staff also updated and revised Northeast Florida's Future Land Use Map 2020, which includes a new town/mixed-use category.

LOCAL COMPREHENSIVE PLANS

The Council continued its statutory responsibility for reviewing local government comprehensive plans and plan amendments for consistency with the SRPP and state planning requirements.

During Fiscal Year 2000-2001, the Council reviewed 55 small-scale amendments, 17 transmitted amendments, and 19 adopted amendments. These included transmitted and adopted semi-annual amendments as well as amendments for Developments of Regional Impacts (DRIs),

which are not subject to the semi-annual amendment time frames.

Comprehensive plan activities included:

- Developing a Comprehensive Plan Citizen Information List to help local governments in meeting reporting requirements.
- Assisting the Town of Welaka with annexation and related comprehensive plan amendments.
- Working with Putnam County on EAR-based amendments and related maps.
- Contracting with Baker County to update the data and analysis portion of its comprehensive plan.
- Assisting the Town of Pomona Park with plan amendments addressing Florida Department of Transportation roadway classifications.
- Presenting an Overview of Planning and Zoning Concepts (previously Planning 101) to the Town of Welaka Zoning Board, City of Flagler Beach Board of Adjustment, and Town of Beverly Beach.

FLAGLER ESTATES

Staff completed a study for the Flagler Estates Road and Water Control District on Flagler Estates, a residential development located in both St. Johns and Flagler counties. The Flagler side, with 1,935 lots, is undeveloped due to the county's inability to provide services and infrastructure since there is no access through Flagler County. The study, mandated by the Florida Legislature, addressed the feasibility and cost-effectiveness of developing an interlocal agreement between the counties to provide services (e.g. fire, police, roads).

WHITE PAPERS

The Council initiated a new publication, *White Paper*, that highlights trends and conditions in the region. The first issue presented population changes from the 2000 census; the second looked at annexation and local government comprehensive plans.



The Council brought in expert Ted Kreines for a regionwide telecommunications workshop.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

One of the most valuable resources offered by the Council is technical assistance. Last year, that assistance ranged from data analysis to Internet mapping.

The GIS (Geographic Information Systems) completed two major projects: A 15 map project for a special Jacksonville City Council committee studying transportation services for senior citizens, and an interactive Internet map and web site for the Commission for Children with Special Needs.

In other examples of technical assistance, staff

- Assisted the City of Flagler Beach with reviews of a proposed annexation, ordinance changes, and commercial/residential site plans. Staff also helped revise and update the city's Future Land Use and Zoning maps.
- Continued as a planning consultant to the Town of Interlachen.
- Participated in the Town of Bunnell's visioning process.
- Provided grant-writing services for the Towns of Interlachen and Pomona Park.
- Provided mapping services for the Jacksonville Children's Commission, Nassau Oaks Volunteer Fire Department, Polk County Healthy Start Coalition, and United Way.

REVIEWS

Developments of Regional Impact

The Council is charged by the state with coordinating the review of developments that could impact on the health, safety, or welfare of citizens in more than one county to ensure growth is consistent with the region's strategic plan.



Developer Ben Carter presents plans to the Council for the proposed Deerwood Town Center in Duval County.

During 2000-2001, the Council issued recommendation reports on the following DRIs:

1. Deerwood Town Center—The proposed 207-acre, \$320 million open-air mall project near Butler Boulevard and St. Johns Bluff Road in Jacksonville calls for residential housing, office space and hotel units.

2. Nocatee—Upon completion, projected in 2025, this proposed “New Town” in St. Johns County and Jacksonville will consist of a mix of residential and non-residential development on 13,233 acres.

3. Freedom Commerce Centre Substantial Deviation—This project, located in southern Jacksonville, is an expansion of an existing DRI.

Other DRI developments that continue under review include Eastbourne and Westbourne in St. Johns County (now known as Durbin Crossings and Aberdeen), and the JIA Technology Center in Jacksonville. In addition, staff reviewed changes to existing DRIs, including Bartram Park (Duval/St. Johns counties), Summer Beach (Nassau County), Grand Haven (Flagler County), and the Crossings at Fleming Island (Clay County).

In November 2001, staff conducted a pre-application meeting for the proposed Palm Coast Town Center DRI in the City of Palm Coast, Flagler County.



Regional Cooperation Summit attendees included concerned citizens Louise Thrower and Ellen Whitmer and Marianne Marshall, Nassau County Commissioner and Council Board member.

Ten-Year Site Plans

As required by Florida Statutes, the Council reviewed Ten-Year Site Plans for the following electric utilities: Jacksonville Electric Authority, Florida Power and Light, Florida Municipal Power Agency, and Seminole Electric Cooperative, Inc. All were approved and transmitted to the Florida Public Service Commission.

IC&R Process

Under the Intergovernmental Coordination and Review process, the Council reviews federal grant applications and proposals for consistency with the SRPP. Staff reviewed 132 projects for funding requests totaling \$286,669,534. ■



Thomas J. Beck of DCA's staff conducts the Northeast Florida Regional Assessment meeting in February 2001.

Meeting

MEETING OUR HUMAN NEEDS

HEALTHY START

The big news for the Northeast Florida Healthy Start, Inc. was the continuation of federal funding for its Magnolia Project. The project will receive \$925,000 annually for four years from the federal Healthy Start program. The coalition is part of the state-wide Healthy Start Initiative to provide maternal and child health services and care coordination to all at-risk pregnant women and infants.



More than 7,760 pregnant women and 4,750 infants received Healthy Start services in Northeast Florida during the 2000-01 fiscal year. The Northeast Florida Healthy Start Coalition allocated more than \$3.1 million to health departments in Baker, Clay, Duval, Nassau and St. Johns counties, and other agencies—including Shands Jacksonville, the Childbirth Education Association, University of North Florida and Healthy Families Jacksonville—to implement Healthy Start programs.

The coalition launched three new programs—Healthy Start Plus, Community Action Outreach, and MomCare—aimed at reaching the highest-risk pregnant women and infants.

Healthy Start Plus

Healthy Start Plus, a new case management initiative designed to provide services to the highest-risk pregnant women and infants, kicked off in the fall of 2001 with funding from a new state Medicaid waiver. The initiative is in response to a review of infant deaths by the coalition's FIMR (Fetal and Infant Mortality Review) project that revealed most pregnant women who have a poor birth outcome are never involved with Healthy Start.

The Council concentrated on improving maternal/child health and assisting citizens obtain affordable housing.

In Duval County, the initiative includes specialized teams to serve public housing communities, incarcerated women, substance-involved families, and pregnant women seeking care at the Shands emergency room. Coordinated by the Duval County Health Department, community teams are staffed by Shands Jacksonville, River Region Human Services, the Childbirth Education Association, and Gateway Community Services. Additional staff was also added to Healthy Start programs in Baker, Clay, Nassau, and St. Johns counties to reduce caseloads and facilitate outreach to pregnant women and infants at highest-risk of a poor birth outcome.

Community Outreach

Because many of the hard-to-reach women are outside the traditional care system, a new Community Action Team was organized to take FIMR recommendations to the street. Using some innovative approaches, the team found new ways to educate women about risk factors that impact on their health and the health of their babies.

2000-2001 Healthy Start Agencies Funding & Participants			
County/Agency	2000-01 Budget	Participants	
		Pregnant Women	Infants
Baker Co. Health Dept.	\$102,348	243	47
Clay Co. Health Dept.	\$238,126	391	496
Duval Co. Health Dept.	\$2.06 Million	6347*	3785*
Shands Jacksonville	\$145,516		
Childbirth Education Assoc.	\$105,000		
Healthy Families Jacksonville	\$11,825		
Nassau Co. Health Dept.	\$149,343	240	72
St. Johns Co. Health Dept.	\$177,209	542	390
UNF	\$10,000		
Healthy Start Coaliton	\$112,500		
TOTAL	\$3.14 Million	7,763	4,760
* Includes participants served by all agencies in county			

Unique strategies include a 24-hour toll-free hotline (1-866-U-R-WOMAN) to link women and families with needed health services, distribution of cards with hotline information by the Jacksonville Sheriff's Department in high-risk communities, and public awareness and health screenings at local nightclubs.

The team also developed and distributed information on "crib death" for older caregivers in response to increasing SIDS deaths in the black community.

MomCare

A new counseling and education program for pregnant women insured by Medicaid, MomCare was implemented by the coalition in October 2001 as part of a new state Medicaid waiver. Women enrolled in the program are contacted to ensure they are receiving prenatal care appropriate to their needs, as well as Healthy Start and other services such as WIC.

Implementation of MomCare also enables eligible pregnant women statewide to obtain Medicaid coverage using a simplified, one-page, mail-in application form. The Northeast Florida Coalition successfully piloted the new form, which was implemented statewide July 1. The average monthly caseload for MomCare is about 1,200.



The Magnolia Project

The Magnolia Project, a special federally funded Healthy Start initiative, received four additional years of funding



to continue its work to reduce black infant mortality rates in Jacksonville. Magnolia was created to address

the disparity in birth outcomes by race in Northeast Florida, a disparity that continued during the past year.

The Magnolia Project is unique in that it focuses on improving the health of women *before* pregnancy. Since opening in January 2000, it has provided services to nearly 600 at-risk women. The project met 10 of the 14 objectives set for its first grant period, and participants rated services and staff highly.

During the past year, Magnolia organized a Community Council to ensure it meets the needs of women and their families. The council organized "Among Sisters," a women's health support group, and began a consumer newsletter.

National and international groups are taking notice of The Magnolia Project. It was featured at the annual meeting of federal Healthy Start grantees and at the National Maternal and Child Health Epidemiology Conference sponsored by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control. The Magnolia Project was visited this year by a

medical delegation from Murmansk, Russia, exploring innovative community initiatives in women's health, and by the incoming president and other representatives of the American Medical Association.

Magnolia Project partners include the Duval County Health Department, Northeast Florida KidCare, UNF Center for Community Initiatives, and St. Matthew Baptist Church.



Magnolia participant Terest James (left) talks with Case Manager Katrina Buckner during a home visit.

Other activities

The federal Center for Substance Abuse Prevention awarded the coalition a planning grant to integrate substance abuse and HIV prevention with health services for at-risk women during their childbearing years. The grant will be implemented during 2002. The grant was sought by the Coalition to continue efforts initiated last spring as part of a community workshop and strategic planning meeting featuring Ira Chasnoff, M.D., a nationally recognized expert in perinatal substance abuse. The Minority AIDS Coalition and the River Region Human Services are collaborating partners.

The coalition continued to work with St. Matthew Church and other community partners to organize Hold Out the Lifeline, a faith-based outreach, education, and awareness campaign aimed at reducing infant mortality in the black community. The initiative held a poignant kickoff ceremony in June, with 117 empty baby strollers in a community park off Moncrief Road in Jacksonville. The strollers memorialized babies who had died during the previous year before their first birthdays. Hold Out

the Lifeline was also a finalist for the 2001 Excellence in Health Care Awards sponsored by KPMG.

The CJ Foundation for the Prevention of SIDS and March of Dimes awarded grants to the coalition for SIDS education activities.

KIDCARE

Northeast Florida KidCare, also staffed by the Council, saw significant growth in enrollment over the past year, growing 15.4 percent from September 2000 to September 2001. KidCare is the state's free or low-cost health insurance for uninsured children and teens. The Northeast Florida office serves Baker, Clay, Duval, Nassau, and St. Johns counties.

As of September 30, 2001, Northeast Florida's enrollment was 75,068 in the four KidCare insurance components (1,293 in MediKids; 9,488 in Healthy Kids; 208 in Children's Medical Services Network; and 63,553 in Medicaid) that cover children birth through age 18.

While KidCare has been successful in insuring thousands of children, the number of uninsured children in the region is still estimated to be about 27,000.

Regional outreach continued to focus on low-income working families and communities where children are least likely to be insured. In June, Northeast Florida KidCare received a Florida Department of Health grant to focus on families with low reading skills. Staff is working with Learn To Read, Inc. and the Center for Adult Learning at the Jacksonville Library System to develop outreach materials for these families.

Other KidCare highlights:

- Clay, Duval and Nassau counties have been designated as having uninsured children rates at less than 10 percent and Baker and St. Johns as having medium uninsured rates at less than 15.9 percent.
- Northeast Florida KidCare co-sponsored a regional uninsured conference with the Northeast Florida Health Planning Council that drew 123 participants.
- The region's Outreach Partner Management Program was selected by the state Department of Health to be implemented statewide. Staff also participated in training statewide KidCare staff on the program.



It was a full house at the Putnam County SHIP's Homebuyer's Class in October.

SHIP — AFFORDABLE HOUSING

The Council is involved in meeting affordable housing needs through its administration of the State Housing Initiatives Partnership (SHIP) programs for Nassau and Putnam counties, as well as three weatherization programs for Nassau County. The programs assist very low-, low-, and moderate-income households.

Through these programs, the Council has helped bring affordable housing funds of more than \$4 million to Putnam and \$3 million to Nassau at no direct cost to the counties. These funds, in turn, have leveraged nearly \$17 million for Putnam and \$13 million for Nassau from other private/public sources.

Putnam County

Putnam County SHIP received \$924,939 during the SHIP Fiscal Year 2000-2001 (July-June). The total includes \$800,131 from the Florida Housing Finance Corporation, \$83,148 in program income from the county's Loan Trust Fund, and \$41,660 in recaptured funds.

Projects completed or obligated during this period total 47 units, including 20 home purchases and 27 emergency repairs. Since its inception in 1992 through June 2001, Putnam SHIP has assisted 484 households.



Putnam SHIP - 1992 through June 2001

Total Households Assisted	484
Total Funding	\$4,034,200
Leveraged Funds	\$16,732,501

Nassau County

The Council administers four housing programs for Nassau County: SHIP, Weatherization Assistance Program, Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program, and Low-Income Emergency Home Repair Program.



Nassau County SHIP received \$554,072 during the SHIP fiscal year 2000-2001 (July-June). The total includes \$505,043 from the Florida Housing Finance Corporation, \$20,265 in program income, \$27,590 in recaptured funds, and \$1,174 carryover from the previous year.

The combined housing programs assisted 27 households—16 with down payment assistance and 11 with emergency repairs. Since its inception in 1992 through June 2001, Nassau SHIP has assisted 432 households.

Through the Council's Business Development Corporation, Nassau County provides a mortgage instrument by which low-interest SHIP loans are collected (approximately \$315,000 to date) and recycled into the county's SHIP program, ensuring ongoing funding for home purchases and dwelling unit improvements. BDC closed 10 SHIP loans during its fiscal year (ending September 30, 2001) for a total of \$135,000, bringing its portfolio to 105 loans. ■

Nassau SHIP - 1992 through June 2001

Total Households Assisted	432
Total Funding	\$3,062,402
Leveraged Funds	\$12,956,504

Investing

INVESTING IN OUR COMMUNITIES

ECONOMIC DISTRICT DESIGNATION

Designation of Northeast Florida as an Economic Development District by the federal Economic Development Administration (EDA) became a top priority of the Council's Economic Committee, which was awarded a \$25,000 grant from EDA to support the effort.

The grant will be used during the coming year to develop a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy for the region, a required first step in seeking the designation. Such a designation would facilitate job creation and economic development by making it easier for the region's counties to qualify for EDA grants.

The committee moved to assume a stronger, more visible role in the region's economic development, developing a mission statement and setting the following objectives to guide its efforts:

1. Provide information and data to support local and other economic development activities.
2. Identify issues and trends impacting economic development.
3. Implement an Affordable Housing Task Force.
4. Foster inter-county cooperation to enhance the quality of the economic environment.

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

The Business Development Corporation of Northeast Florida, Inc. remains one of the Council's main economic initiatives. A Certified Development Company for the U.S. Small Business Administration's 504 Loan Program, BDC continues to impact the region's economic development and growth through its small business loans. BDC serves the seven counties of the Council's region plus Lake, Seminole and Volusia in central Florida.

Contributing to regional prosperity is a major focus of the Council's economic development efforts.

Since its inception in August 1994, BDC has brought added value to the region through its positive return on the Council's investment and its positive impact on the region's economic prosperity. As of fiscal year end (September 30, 2001), it has received SBA approval for 105 loans with project costs totaling more than \$100 million. In addition, the estimated job creation and retention from these projects is 1,266.

BDC's servicing portfolio (which includes only loans closed, funded, and currently being serviced) topped 67 loans with total project costs of nearly \$75 million. This year's highlights:

- 18 loans approved by SBA—up from 12 the previous year—with total project costs of \$19.8 million and an estimated 432 new jobs.

BDC Loans Approved by SBA	
Fiscal Years 1994-2001	
Baker	3
Clay	7
Duval	12
Flagler	7
Nassau	16
Putnam	12
St. Johns	27
Lake	3
Seminole	1
Volusia	17
TOTAL	105

BDC Servicing Portfolio (67 loans)			
Loans closed, funded, being serviced as of Sept. 30, 2001			
County	Total Project	504 Balance	New Property Taxes Estimate
Baker	\$2,707,800	\$858,890	\$39,000
Clay	4,064,064	1,428,969	62,052
Duval	2,442,000	911,338	31,332
Flagler	6,930,172	2,088,988	107,150
Lake	1,938,349	553,421	25,292
Nassau	16,925,888	5,660,070	247,415
Putnam	3,128,660	1,082,066	37,552
St. Johns	22,912,890	7,047,234	340,233
Volusia	13,559,500	3,276,923	199,794
TOTAL	\$74,609,323	\$22,907,899	\$1,089,823

- For the first time, BDC ended the fiscal year with a positive cash flow. The Council had estimated it would take 5 to 7 years for the start-up corporation to reach this point, and BDC is right on schedule.

- The First Coast Micro Loan Inc. (FCML) Board asked BDC to re-establish its loan program, which was formed in 1998 to provide services to micro-businesses, which are underserved by traditional financing and located in targeted low- to moderate-economic areas within Florida's First Coast. The program made only three loans during 2000

due to lack of funds in its loan pool. The Council received a \$40,000 grant from the City of Jacksonville to support the effort. One loan was made last year and BDC has applied for additional SBA dollars to increase the program's loan pool.

- BDC closed on 10 SHIP (State Housing Initiatives Partnership) loans through the second mortgage program it services for Nassau County, bringing its portfolio to 105 loans.



Mike Balanky, president of the First Coast Micro Loan Board, conducts a board meeting as board member Janice Donaldson listens.

TOURISM DEVELOPMENT

A joint effort continued between the Council and its sister organizations in Georgia and South Carolina to develop a Tri-State Coastal Heritage Corridor along U.S.17/A1A. The endeavor aims to stimulate economic development in the rural areas along the route by capitalizing on their local character, history, nature, and customs. (Read more about the effort in the "Preserving Natural Resources" section.)

OTHER INITIATIVES

Economic Modeling. The Council continued to provide economic impact modeling using the Northeast Florida Regional Economic Model, Inc.® (NEFREMI). Designed specifically for Northeast Florida, the model is utilized to assist local governments and economic development practitioners to assess economic and demographic impacts of proposed projects.

During 2001, the Council provided four scenarios for two new projects for Flagler County, and completed an economic analysis for St. Johns County on ConAgra Foods, the largest food supplier in the country, which subsequently announced plans to build a \$17 million warehouse in St. Augustine Industrial Park.

Employment and Wage Comparison. Staff also completed an employment and wage comparison of manufacturing jobs in Duval County and the First Coast for the First Coast Manufacturers Association. ■

Ensuring

ENSURING OUR CITIZENS' SAFETY

TERRORISM RESPONSE PLANS

Months before the September 11 terrorist incidents in New York City, Washington, D.C., and western Pennsylvania, the Regional Planning Council was busy developing Terrorism Annexes for the Comprehensive Emergency Management Plans of two of the region's counties: Clay and St. Johns.

An annex is a "response" plan to a terrorist incident at the local level. It provides a guide to dealing with the consequences of such an action, defining the role of each county agency and identifying coordination procedures with other local, state and federal agencies.

Staff helped develop and conduct a full-scale exercise of the process in Clay County. Almost 250 people from 7 county agencies (from school officials to SWAT teams to television crews) took part in the exercise, a mock school-shooting situation at Middleburg High School. It was the largest emergency preparedness drill in Florida in more than a decade. Staff also prepared an evaluation report of the exercise.

A tabletop exercise was also developed for St. Johns County to test its response procedures. The exercise, held in November 2001, included two terrorist scenarios: 1) high yield explosives detonated in a truck driven onto a National Guard compound, and 2) the release of hazardous materials in a shopping mall. A full-scale exercise is being planned for the coming year.

Disaster planning included terrorism response plans and hazardous materials response training.

Also in 2002, the Council will be working with Putnam and Flagler counties to prepare Terrorism Annexes for their Emergency Management Plans. A Council planner also serves on the Emergency Management Committee of the Regional Domestic Security Task Force.

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS PLANNING

The Northeast Florida Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC), District 4, is a state-appointed committee staffed by the Council. The committee is charged with facilitating regional hazardous materials (HAZMAT) emergency response and compliance with hazardous materials reporting laws under the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act.



LEPC is also a public access repository for annual inventory reports submitted by facilities that deal with hazardous chemicals, and assists companies in complying with the law.

LEPC was very active during the 2001 training year, sponsoring a variety of courses geared to HAZMAT awareness, technical level training, and incident commander training. The year closed out with 4,248 hours of training provided to local emergency responders, utilizing Hazardous Materials Education Program (HMEP) Training funds of \$18,348 with training costs per hour at \$4.32.

Among other LEPC activities:

- Assisted in conducting a test of Clay County's terrorism annex (see above) that involved a hazardous materials release scenario.
- Sponsored four Hazardous Materials Training courses for 78 emergency responders, and emergency preparedness software training for 33 responders.
- Provided funds for 6 responders to attend specialty-training courses.
- Sponsored 3 attendees to the International HAZMAT Response Team Conference held in Maryland.
- Completed Hazardous Materials Analysis Plans for 2001 for Putnam, Baker, Clay, Nassau, and St. Johns counties as per its contracted agreement with the Florida Department of Community Affairs. The Council has again entered into agreement with these counties to complete their 2002 plans.

Staff also attends quarterly State Emergency Response Committee meetings to keep abreast of changes in implementing and administering emergency response and planning in Florida.



Seven county agencies took part in a full-scale terrorism exercise held in Clay County to test the county's emergency response to a mock school-shooting situation.

LOCAL MITIGATION STRATEGIES

Baker, Clay, Nassau, Putnam, and St. Johns counties and their municipalities adopted the Local Mitigation Strategy (LMS) plans that the Council previously helped develop during 2000. The plans identify hazards, inventory critical facilities, and address ways to reduce or eliminate risks to people and property

from natural and man-made hazards.

The Council has also signed contracts with Baker, Clay, and St. Johns counties to maintain the adopted LMS and to facilitate quarterly LMS meetings. Meetings will be held quarterly with the local LMS Task Force, and the LMS will continually be updated, keeping current with the identification of hazards and vulnerabilities, inventory of critical facilities, and identification and ranking of proposed mitigation projects. ■

Hazardous Materials Training Hours		
County	Hours	Attendees
Baker	200	5
Clay	960	35
Duval	2,792	81
Nassau	144	4
Flagler	24	1
Out of region	128	4
Total	4,248	130

Paving

PAVING THE WAY TO MOBILITY

TRAFFIC PLANNING

The Council's Transportation Committee and staff work closely with the First Coast Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), Florida Department of Transportation, Jacksonville Port Authority, Jacksonville Transportation Authority, local governments, and the private sector to ensure an efficient, well-planned regional transportation system.

Under an ongoing agreement with Clay County, the Council reviewed and/or prepared 14 traffic studies to meet concurrency requirements for the county, bringing to 111 the total studies reviewed and prepared since the advent of the contract in 1992.

Staff also completed the Traffic Circulation Element of the EAR-based (Evaluation and Appraisal Report) amendments of Putnam County's Comprehensive Plan. A member of the staff serves on the MPO Technical Coordinating Committee and as an ex-officio member of the Clay County Transit Committee.

TRANSPORTATION DISADVANTAGED

The Council serves as the Designated Official Planning Agency for the Transportation Disadvantaged (TD) Program in six of the region's seven counties—Baker, Clay, Flagler, Nassau, Putnam, and St. Johns—where it is estimated more than 40,000 “transportation disadvantaged” persons reside.



Staff works closely with transportation professionals and government officials to plan for transportation needs.

The statewide program provides transportation services to individuals “who because of physical or mental disability, income status, or age are unable to transport themselves or to purchase transportation and are dependent upon others to obtain access to health care, employment, education, shopping, social activities, or other life-sustaining activities.”

As the official TD planning agency, the Council 1) recommends local community transportation coordinators to the state TD Commission that oversees the program, 2) performs annual coordinator evaluations, and 3) appoints and staffs local coordinating boards.

Highlights of TD's 2000-2001 program year:

Trips. The program furnished 535,410 one-way passenger trips in rural Northeast Florida with more than 54 percent of the trips provided by Putnam and St. Johns TD systems. The primary purpose of all trips was medical (33.5%) and educational/job training (26.3%).

Expenses. Expenses increased 13.7 percent to approximately \$5.6 million, continuing a multi-year trend attributed to increases in the price of fuel, maintenance, insurance, and labor. The



Baker County Judge Joseph Williams addresses a forum for Community Transportation Coordinators of Northeast Florida's Transportation Disadvantaged Program.

average cost per trip also increased and remained more than \$10 per trip for the second consecutive year. The average cost per trip remained the highest in Baker County at \$20.28, and the lowest in Flagler County at \$7.89.

Revenues. Funding, which comes from federal, state, and local sources, grew to \$5.7 million, an increase of 7.8 percent from 1999-2000.

Several changes in funding streams occurred. Florida Department of Transportation funds nearly doubled to more than \$1 million, due in large part to the funding of several service development grant projects in the region. Revenues, however, dropped by \$57,000 (17.5%) from the Department of Elderly Affairs and by more

than \$30,000 (3.4%) from the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged (CTD). This was the third straight year for a decrease in the commission's funding. Total revenues from the CTD were just over \$850,000. Local funding, particularly from local governments, rose for an unprecedented seventh year in a row, topping the \$1 million mark for the first time.

State Recognition. Two of the region's systems earned statewide recognition from the Florida CTD.

Baker County's program received the "Innovation of the Year" award for its creativity in identifying local sources of matching revenues for its B-Line Express service. The county utilized vehicle sponsorship and was the first TD program in the state to secure funding from the local judicial system.

The St. Johns County program was named "Rural Community Transportation Coordinator of the Year" for its overall service to its citizens. The system was noted for its successful "Sunshine Bus Company" service development project, staff leadership, fiscal management, and support from the county commission.

Regional Forum. The first annual forum for Community Transportation Coordinators and elected officials of our six-county TD region was held in January 2001 to discuss topics related to TD services and funding. Keynote speaker Baker County Judge Joseph Williams explained the unique method used by the county's courts to provide financial assistance to the county's TD program. ■

Transportation Disadvantaged Performance Data 2000-2001					
County	Coordinator	Trips	Miles	Expenses	Revenues
Baker	Baker Co. Council on Aging	24,720	356,119	\$501,211	\$480,563
Clay	Clay Co. Council on Aging	86,458	783,390	\$981,544	\$959,498
Flagler	Flagler Co. Senior Services	77,883	574,794	\$614,516	\$775,528
Nassau	Nassau Co. Council on Aging	56,656	444,443	\$675,411	\$678,527
Putnam	Ride Solution Inc.	135,922	972,561	\$1,387,480	\$1,352,822
St. Johns	St. Johns Co. Council on Aging	153,771	949,850	\$1,461,658	\$1,470,819
	TOTAL	535,410	4,081,157	\$5,621,820	\$5,717,757

Preserving

PRESERVING NATURAL RESOURCES

NATURE'S MYSTERY, FLORIDA'S HISTORY

The Council won a \$99,500 two-year grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to assist the promotion of the eco-heritage corridor portion of the St. Johns American Heritage River Initiative. The grant funded staff assistance to the river's Eco-Heritage Planning Committee in developing an informational and marketing plan to promote tourism and protect natural resources along the river.

The Council has been working for the past two years with communities and agencies along 310 miles of the St. Johns on this "keystone project" of the St. Johns American Heritage River Initiative. In fall 2001, the project launched a web site (www.floridariver.org) and brochure with the tagline, "Nature's Mystery, Florida's History." The corridor features nature, adventure, historical, and cultural sites.

The St. Johns is one of 14 rivers in the U.S. designated as an American Heritage River, a federal program that aims

to assist river communities make more efficient and effective use of existing federal resources.



The Council has always seen itself as a steward of and strong advocate for the region's environment.

U.S.17/A1A HERITAGE CORRIDOR

Another cooperative tourism/development venture, the U.S.17/A1A Coastal Heritage Corridor, took a

big leap toward reality with a major push toward creating strategic and action plans during three tri-state meetings held in 2001. The effort, which aims to promote nature-based and heritage activities along the 130-mile corridor, is expected to become more visible in 2002 with the naming of the corridor, establishment of a common identity, and production of marketing materials.

The Council banded together in 1998 with three of its sister regional planning agencies in South Carolina and Georgia to investigate the viability of such a corridor. In the fall of 2000, the effort finally took off with a \$50,000 grant from the federal Economic Development Administration to help develop a plan.

The partners (Northeast Florida Regional Planning Council, Coastal Georgia Regional Development Council, Lowcountry Council of Governments, Berkley-Charleston-Dorchester Council



Mark Smith, Florida Park Service, speaks to the U.S.17/A1A corridor group at the St. Augustine meeting.

of Governments) have since contributed matching funds, and are working with a fifth partner, the Carl Vinson Institute of Local Governments at the University of Georgia, to give an identity to the route, which connects 18 counties and more than 30 cities.

An average of 60-75 participants attended each of the tri-state meetings held in Charleston, St. Augustine,

and St. Simons Island. The Council hosted the St. Augustine meeting and also a state meeting for the Florida contingent at Fernandina Beach. The tri-state tourism/development effort—believed to be the only multi-state initiative in the country that encompasses three states—has also hired professional consultants to help guide the development of the strategic plan.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Clay County Grant. Staff also assisted Clay County in preparing a Florida Forever Grant application to the Florida Communities Trust Program to acquire property along Black Creek in order to protect its resources and to provide additional recreational opportunities in an area that lacks them.

Wildlife Group. The Council hosted and facilitated a workshop for some 20 persons involved in wildlife rehabilitation to discuss mutual issues and ways to supplement their funding sources. ■



The Florida contingent of the U.S.17/A1A Heritage Corridor initiative does some brainstorming in a breakout session at the tri-state meeting held in St. Augustine in June.

Providing

PROVIDING VALUE-ADDED SERVICES

RETURN ON INVESTMENT

Among the tangible benefits reaped by member governments was a \$59/1 return on their county dues investment. Following is a breakdown of selected services for the Council's seven-county region:

- Yielded a \$27,216,063 direct/indirect return on investment for dues of \$461,460 by member counties, a 59/1 ratio.
- Supported economic development with small business loans totaling \$19,241,000 through the Business Development Corporation, adding new jobs and more than \$864,734 in new ad valorem taxes.
- Provided \$4,155,430 in contract monies to member county agencies and organizations for maternal/infant health care.
- Approved for funding consideration \$286,669,534 in federal/state/local government and private monies for 132 regional programs and projects.

Counties' Return On Investment

Baker	\$74/1
Clay	\$33/1
Duval	\$49/1
Flagler	\$14/1
Nassau	\$67/1
Putnam	\$98/1
St. Johns	\$145/1
REGION	\$59/1

DATA CENTER

During 2001, the Council established a new subsidiary—The Center for Research, Data Management, and Evaluation, Inc. More commonly known as The Data Center, it is a multi-faceted agency that serves both the Council's and outside programs.

As an advocate of regionalism, the Council provides tangible and intangible benefits to its member governments.

The center's services include—but are not limited to—conceptualization, design, and operationalization of databases; data input; design of survey instruments; statistical analysis; social science research; and program evaluation. Through the center, the Council has maintained its partnership with the Jacksonville Children's Commission (JCC), which contracts for a

component of the Healthy Families Florida/Healthy Families Jacksonville program.

The center designed and operationalized databases for a variety of clients during the past year, including the Department of Children and Families, The Magnolia Project, Northeast Florida Healthy Start Coalition, and Northeast Florida KidCare. Staff has also been involved in survey questionnaires and statistical analysis for Hold Out the Lifeline and the Northeast Florida Healthy Start Coalition. The Council is pursuing several grants in the social science research area that, if funded, will position the center to become a major regional research institution.

INFORMATION SERVICES

As Northeast Florida's official Census Data Center, the Council is an invaluable resource for economic, demographic, social, and development data in both statistical and GIS (Geographic

Information Systems) form. The Council has access to data from the University of Florida and various state agencies. Staff responds to an average of 30-50 information requests per month from local citizens, member governments, media, and other organizations. The Council also offers a grant writing service and maintains a planning library open to the public.

STAFF TO LOCAL BOARDS

In addition to its own board, the Council lends its expertise to the following 14 boards or committees by providing staffing and other services:

- Business Development Corporation of Northeast Florida, Inc.
- First Coast Micro Loan Inc.
- Northeast Florida Healthy Start Coalition, Inc.
- Northeast Florida Local Emergency Planning Committee.
- Six Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Boards (Baker, Clay, Flagler, Nassau, Putnam, and St. Johns counties).
- Northeast Florida KidCare Oversight Committee.
- Nassau County Local Housing Partnership.
- Putnam County Affordable Housing Committee.
- East Palatka Community Development Block Grant Advisory Committee.

REGIONAL ADVOCACY

In the spirit of intergovernmental cooperation and communication, the Council brought various groups together and assisted others in a number of activities that addressed regional issues.

Honoring Elected Officials

The inaugural reception celebrating Northeast Florida's elected officials in November 2000 was such a success that the Council's Board decided to oblige the many requests to "do it again." The second annual "meet and mingle" reception was held at The Outpost of the Ponte

Vedra Inn in November 2001. Ginger Barber, the Council's 2001-02 first vice chairman, welcomed 175 officials and friends, noting that the success of the event "is testimony to the fact that we are engaged in our regional community."

Sponsors who helped make the evening a success were **Title sponsor**—Bartram Park Ltd.; **Federal level sponsors**—World Golf Village; Davidson Development Inc.; **State level sponsors**—The PARC Group; England, Thims & Miller Inc.; Hutson Land Company Inc.; Reinhold Corporation; Robinson Engineering Group; **Local level sponsors**—Bessent, Hammack & Ruckman; CopyFax; Ghyabi, Lassiter & Associates, Inc.; Miller, Sellen, Cummer & Walsh, Inc.; Pappas Metcalf Jenks & Miller; Raymond James Financial Services, Inc.; SouthStar Development Partners; Abercrombie Insurance Agency; CIT Small Business Lending; Coffman, Coleman, Andrews & Grogan P.A.; Fleet & Associates; PGA Tour, Inc.; Reynolds, Smith & Hills Inc.; Lewis, Longman & Walker.



Ginger Barber, Council 2001-02 first vice chairman and Baker County representative, visits with City of St. Augustine Commissioner Raymond Connor at the elected officials reception in November 2001.

Workshops and Meetings

Regional Summit. The Council, St. Johns County, and St. Johns River Water Management District hosted the fourth annual Re-

gional Cooperation Summit. This year's theme was water issues. Council Board Chairman Linda D. Myers and St. Johns County Commission Chairman Marc Jacalone welcomed more than 80 participants to the summit, which was held at the World Golf Village. Keynote Speaker Don Feaster, executive director of the Volusia Water Alliance, spoke on that region's cooperation in dealing with water concerns.

Regional Assessment. In cooperation with the Department of Community Affairs, the Council hosted a meeting to gather public input on how DCA could better provide technical assistance to local governments. The top three issues identified by Northeast Florida were 1) Help find and write grants, and simplify the process, 2) Trust local governments to manage their own growth,



Celebrating Northeast Florida's Elected Officials Reception, November 2001

(Top left) Title Sponsors Tom and Jean Dodson of Bartram Park Ltd., left, with Council Board member Mary Louise Dungey and husband Jerry. (Top right) Jacksonville Beach Commissioner Arthur Graham, Jud Spence, Neptune Beach Mayor Dick Brown and wife Elaine Brown, Jacksonville City Councilwoman.



(Middle) Nassau County Commissioner Vickie Samus and husband Joe. (Below left) Don Bowles, Green Cove Springs city manager and Mozelle Thomas, Orange Park postmaster. (Below middle) Pomona Park Councilman Nathaniel Mead Sr. talks with sponsors Andy Dance and Mike Saylor of Bessent Hammack & Ruckman. (Below right) Council Board member Robert Sgroi, Flagler County, and wife Barbara.



and 3) Simplify large-scale comprehensive plan amendment requirements to speed up economic development.

Interlocal Issues Forum. Staff facilitated four meetings for county officials to gain citizen input on the fast-growing northwest Clay/southwest Duval County area.

Telecommunications Workshop. The Council hosted this educational workshop conducted by Ted Kreines, a wireless planning expert from California, who has prepared wireless master plans and telecommunications ordinances for many Florida localities.

TD workshop. The Council sponsored a Transportation Disadvantaged forum for Community Transportation Coordinators and elected officials.

Staff also assisted the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged in scheduling its quar-

terly meeting that was held in St. Augustine.

Quarterly meetings. Under Council auspices, the Northeast Florida's chief administrative officers, planning directors, and GIS (Geographic Information System) users all continued to hold their quarterly meetings to share information and discuss issues of mutual interest. The GIS Users Group celebrated its third anniversary with the introduction of a web site www.neflgis.org.

Housing planners in Northeast Florida formed a regional group and held the first regional SHIP (State Housing Initiatives Partnership) administrators meeting in January, with representatives from 11 counties. The Council hosted the group's second and third quarterly meetings in April and July. ■

Operating

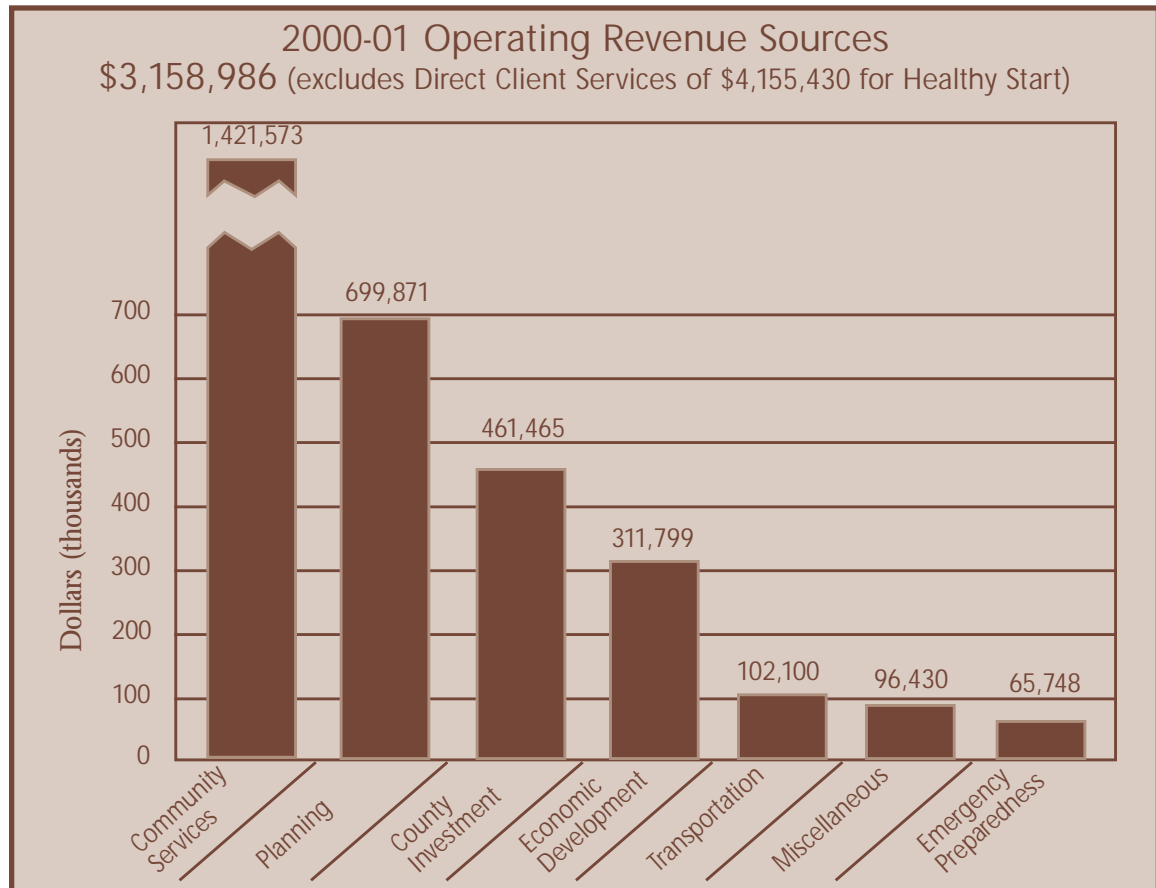
OPERATING WITH FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

Although the Council's financial picture continued to strengthen, it took on a different look during this fiscal year with the purchase and renovations of a building to house Council offices. It is the first time the Council has owned its own building.

The building purchase required the Council to amend its interlocal agreement to allow the issuance of a revenue note to finance the purchase of tax-exempt rates. The member counties unanimously approved the changes to the agreement and praised the Council for its fiscal responsibility. Loan payments are less than our lease agreement, and the building is large enough to allow rental of some office space.

Careful monitoring of the budget kept the financial picture strong, even with the purchase of our own office building.

Through a fiscally conservative philosophy, the Council continues its trend of producing modest increases in retained earnings. The auditing firm Cornelius, Schou, Leone and Matteson conducted the annual audit and issued an unqualified opinion. ■



The Northeast Florida Regional Planning Council, formed in 1977, serves Regional District 4, comprised of 7 counties (Baker, Clay, Duval, Flagler, Nassau, Putnam, and St. Johns) and 27 municipalities.

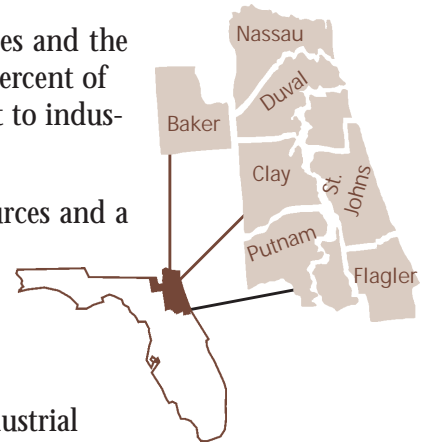
THE REGION

The region's land area covers 4,428 square miles and the population surpasses 1.2 million. Forty-three percent of the region is dedicated to agriculture, 2 percent to industry and commercial use, and 13 percent is urbanized.

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 is the major urban center, with a good mix of industrial manufacturing, transportation, financial services, health care, and military employment. Land-wise, it is the largest city in the U.S.

Surrounding counties are more rural in nature, relying on agriculture and service sectors, and a limited industrial base often focused on a single sector. They are, however, increasing in their rate of urbanization and beginning to develop more economic diversity.



Baker • Clay • Duval • Flagler • Nassau • Putnam • St. Johns

BAKER COUNTY

County Seat: Macclenny

Population: 22,562*

Area (sq. miles): 585

Other Incorporated Communities:

Glen St. Mary

Established: 1861

Named for: James McNair, Confederate States senator and Florida judge

DUVAL COUNTY

County Seat: Jacksonville

Population: 793,898*

Area (sq. miles): 774

Other Incorporated Communities:

Atlantic Beach, Baldwin, Jacksonville Beach, Neptune Beach

Established: 1822

Named for: William Pope DuVal, first territorial governor of Florida

Other Incorporated Communities:

Callahan, Hilliard

Established: 1824

Named for: Nassau Sound

PUTNAM COUNTY

County Seat: Palatka

Area (sq. miles): 722

Population: 70,820*

Other Incorporated Communities:

Crescent City, Interlachen, Pomona Park, Welaka

Established: 1849

Named for: Benjamin Alexander Putnam (1801-69), lawyer, soldier, judge, state legislator, first president of the Florida Historical Society

THE COUNTIES

CLAY COUNTY

County Seat: Green Cove Springs

Population: 142,838*

Area (sq. miles): 601

Other Incorporated Communities:

Keystone Heights, Orange Park, Penney Farms

Established: 1858

Named for: Kentuckian Henry Clay, Secretary of State under John Quincy Adams

FLAGLER COUNTY

County Seat: Bunnell

Area (sq. miles): 485

Population: 53,061*

Other Incorporated Communities:

Beverly Beach, Flagler Beach, Marineland, Palm Coast

Established: 1917

Named for: Henry Flagler, developer of the Florida East Coast Railroad

NASSAU COUNTY

County Seat: Fernandina Beach

Area (sq. miles): 652

Population: 59,409*

ST. JOHNS COUNTY

County Seat: St. Augustine, oldest permanent settlement in U.S.

Area (sq. miles): 609

Population: 128,604*

Other Incorporated Communities:

Hastings, St. Augustine Beach

Established: 1821

Named for: St. Johns River

*2001 BEBR Population estimates

All members who served during any portion of the fiscal year (October 1, 2000 through September 30, 2001) and who were appointed by the end of 2001 are listed. Board members as of December 31, 2001 are listed with an asterisk.

COUNCIL BOARD

2000-2001 OFFICERS

Hon. Linda D. Myers, Putnam County, *Chair**
 Hon. Glenn R. Lassiter, Clay County, *1st Vice Chair**
 Hon. Ginger Barber, Baker County, *2nd Vice Chair**
 Mr. Hugh D. Fish Jr., Baker County, *Secretary/Treasurer**

MEMBERS

Baker County

Ms. Ginger Barber, *County Commission Representative**
 Hon. Julie Combs, *County Commission Chair**
 Hon. Tommy Dorman, *County Commissioner*
 Mr. Hugh D. Fish Jr., *Municipal Representative**
 Mr. Charles "Chuck" Prachar, *Gubernatorial Appointee**

Clay County

Mr. Bill Basford, *County Commission Representative**
 Mr. Jesse Benton, *Gubernatorial Appointee**
 Ms. Jennifer Carroll, *Gubernatorial Appointee*
 Hon. Earl Harrington, *Town of Orange Park Mayor**
 Hon. Glenn R. Lassiter, *County Commissioner**



Duval County

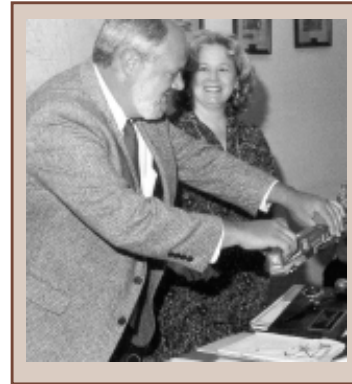
Ms. Mary Louise Dungey, *Gubernatorial Appointee**
 Ms. Rea Fleckenstein, *Gubernatorial Appointee**
 Hon. Jerry Holland, *City of Jacksonville Councilman**
 Hon. Mitch Kinsey, *City of Jacksonville Beach Councilman**
 Hon. Gwen Yates, *City of Jacksonville Councilwoman**

Flagler County

Hon. George Hanns, *County Commissioner**
 Hon. Blair Kanbar, *County Commissioner**
 Hon. Joann B. King, *City of Bunnell Mayor**
 Mr. Robert Sgroi, *Gubernatorial Appointee**

Nassau County

Hon. David Howard, *County Commissioner**
 Hon. Marianne Marshall, *County Commissioner**
 Hon. Robert Rogers, *City of Fernandina Beach Commissioner**
 Mr. Robert Spaeth, *Gubernatorial Appointee**
 Hon. Floyd L. Vanzant, *County Commissioner*



Putnam County

Hon. Charles E. "Skeet" Alford, *County Commissioner*
 Hon. Hernan Azula, *City of Palatka Commissioner*
 Mr. Chip Laibl, *Gubernatorial Appointee**
 Hon. Mary Lawson-Brown, *City of Palatka Commissioner**
 Hon. Linda D. Myers, *County Commissioner**
 Hon. Brad Purcell, *County Commission Chair**

St. Johns County

Ms. Clare Berry, *Gubernatorial Appointee**
 Hon. Raymond Connor, *City of St. Augustine Commissioner**
 Hon. Marc A. Jacalone, *County Commission Chair**
 Hon. Mary Kohnke, *County Commissioner**
 Mr. Harry Maxwell, *Gubernatorial Appointee**

Ex-officio Members

Ms. Linda Burnette, *St. Johns River Water Management District**
 Mr. David Byrd, *Florida Dept. of Transportation**
 Mr. Ernest E. Frey, *Florida Dept. of Environmental Protection**
 Mr. Kraig McLane, *St. Johns River Water Management District*
 Mr. Orien Pass, *Enterprise Florida**
 Mr. Aage G. Schroder III, *Florida Dept. of Transportation*



Brian D. Teeple, AICP, Executive Director

Ed Lehman, *Assistant Executive Director – Planning; Director of Growth Management*

Barbara Rovedo, *Assistant Executive Director – Operations*

Carol Brady, *Assistant Executive Director – Human Services; Director of Northeast Florida
Healthy Start Coalition, Inc.*

COUNCIL STAFF

Jeffrey Alexander, *Director of Planning Programs*

Doris Barletta, APR, *Public Relations Director*

Mike Brown, *Director of Special Projects*

Steve Gutos, *Director of Human Services Outreach*

Janis Weber, Ph.D., *Director of The Center for Research, Data Management & Evaluation, Inc.*

PLANNING

Debbie Balevre, *Housing Program Coordinator*

Kathryn Boer, *Regional Planner*

Walter Fitzwater, *GIS Specialist*

Bruce Ford, *Senior Regional Planner*

Candice Gimbel, *Regional Planner*

Lindsay Haga, *GIS Supervisor/Regional Planner*

Stephen Jones, AICP, *Senior Regional Planner*

Sheri Kelsey, *Housing Program Coordinator*

Ginny Montgomery, *Secretary*

HUMAN SERVICES & OUTREACH

Rhonda Baker, *Magnolia Project Coordinator*

Reginald Bythewood, *KidCare Outreach Specialist*

Dawn Clarke, *Healthy Start Associate Executive Director*

Jenetha Denmark, *Magnolia Project Outreach Specialist*

Beverly Fitzpatrick, *KidCare Outreach Specialist*

Terri Gibson, *MomCare Advisor*

Shelia Glover, *Magnolia Project Outreach Specialist*

Steve Gutos, *KidCare Coordinator*

Satonia Hart, *Magnolia Project Outreach Specialist*

Janice Hawkins, *Magnolia Project Community
Development*

Faye Johnson, *Healthy Start Special Projects Coordinator*

Ellene Jones, *Hold Out the Lifeline Administrative
Assistant*

Laurie Lee, R.N., *Healthy Start FIMR Abstractor*

Judith Lugo, *KidCare Outreach Specialist*

Diane Nolan, *KidCare Assistant Coordinator*

Karen Smithson, *Hold Out the Lifeline Coordinator*

Mavis Youngblood, *Secretary*

OPERATIONS

Chis Bono, *Information Systems Specialist*

Peggy Conrad, *Secretary*

Gwenda Crier, *Receptionist*

Danielle Deverson, *Data Entry Clerk*

Patricia Hilton, *Data Entry Clerk*

Paul Newman, *Desktop Support*

Shirley Orberg, *Agency Clerk*

Wei Li Qian, *Accountant*

Risty Russell, *Contracts Manager*

Donna Starling, *Fiscal Manager*

Cindy Sweat, *Accounting Clerk*

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Michael Calhoun, *Graphic Artist*

Business Development Corporation of Northeast Florida, Inc.

First Coast Micro Loan, Inc.

Northeast Florida Local Emergency Planning Committee

Northeast Florida Healthy Start Coalition, Inc.

Northeast Florida KidCare Oversight Committee

Six Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Boards

(Baker, Clay, Flagler, Nassau, Putnam, St. Johns counties)

The Center for Research, Data Management and Evaluation, Inc.

Nassau County Local Housing Partnership

Putnam County Affordable Housing Advisory Committee

East Palatka Community Development Block Grant Advisory Committee

AFFILIATES



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 problems 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



6850 Belfort Oaks Place • Jacksonville, Florida 32216
(904) 279-0880 • Fax (904) 279-0881 • www.nefrpc.org
Baker • Clay • Duval • Flagler • Nassau • Putnam • St. Johns