



# NEWSLETTER

May 2026 - Bringing Communities Together Since 1977



The Northeast Florida Regional Council is proud to welcome Commissioner Jimmy Anderson of Baker County as our new Board President and Commissioner Betsy Condon of Clay County as Secretary/Treasurer. Their leadership reflects a continued commitment to regional collaboration, strong local partnerships, and service to the communities of Northeast Florida.

We look forward to working alongside President Anderson and Secretary/Treasurer Condon as we continue advancing initiatives that strengthen our region and support the communities we serve.



Thank you for subscribing to our newsletter. We hope you find it informative and useful. Please share it with others, and encourage them to subscribe to stay up-to-date with all the exciting developments happening in the Northeast Florida Region. Together, we can continue to make the Region a better place for everyone.

# Transportation Disadvantaged Program: Ride-Along Evaluations

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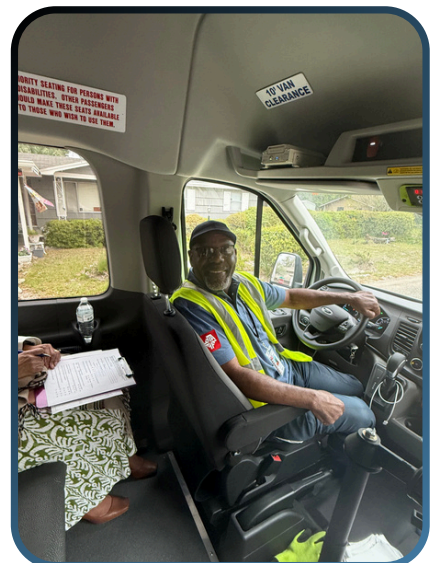


**Transportation  
Disadvantaged**

As part of the Transportation Disadvantaged Program, NEFRC conducts Ride-Along Evaluations annually to ensure that transportation services remain safe, reliable, and compliant for riders across the Region. These evaluations are completed in coordination with the Community Transportation Coordinator (CTC), who serves Baker, Clay, Duval, Flagler, Putnam, Nassau, and St. Johns Counties. The evaluation process includes reviewing route information, observing operations in real time, and gathering feedback directly from riders about their

experience. During each ride along, staff assess vehicle safety, confirm that required policies and procedures are in place, and ensure riders have access to important resources, such as grievance information. These evaluations also provide valuable insight into the day-to-day responsibilities of transportation providers. Drivers demonstrated a strong commitment to safety, timeliness, and customer care—taking careful measures to secure riders and ensure they arrive at their destinations safely.

Overall, the program continues to provide a high level of service, reinforcing its important role in supporting mobility and access for residents throughout Northeast Florida.



# Local Emergency Planning Committee: Strengthening Regional Preparedness



The Northeast Florida Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) plays a critical role in helping communities prepare for and respond to hazardous materials incidents. By bringing together emergency responders, industry partners, and local governments, the LEPC strengthens coordination, supports planning efforts, and provides training opportunities that enhance regional safety and preparedness.

This quarter, the LEPC program delivered several key training initiatives to build local response capabilities, including:

- Hazardous Materials Symposium with 53 participants
- Maritime Hazardous Materials Course with 12 participants
- 160-Hour Hazardous Materials Technician Course with 17 participants
- Advanced HazMat Life Support Course with 6 participants



These trainings equip responders with the knowledge and hands-on experience needed to safely and effectively manage hazardous materials incidents across a variety of environments.



Looking ahead, additional opportunities are planned, including Advanced HazMat Life Support, a 16-hour Hazardous Materials Safety Officer course, and UAS (drone) Response for Hazardous Materials Incidents. Through these ongoing efforts, NEFRC continues to support a well-trained, coordinated network of partners dedicated to protecting communities throughout Northeast Florida.

# Regional Leadership Academy 2026 Cohort



Another exciting year is underway for the Northeast Florida Regional Leadership Academy as we welcome the Class of 2026. Each cohort brings together leaders from across the Region who share a commitment to service and strengthening Northeast Florida through collaboration.

The program kicked off in Baker County with a full day of learning and connection at the Baker County Fire and Rescue Headquarters. Participants received updates on local economic activity and opportunities, toured key sites including M&R Specialty Trailers and Trucks and Heritage Park, and engaged in networking with fellow regional leaders.

Since then, the class has continued its regional exploration with visits to Putnam County and Nassau County, and Flagler County. Through each session, participants gain valuable insight into the unique assets, challenges, and opportunities that shape our region.

