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## **P R E S S   R E L E A S E**

### **Northeast Florida Regional Council Honored with 2025 Impact Award from the National Association of Development Organizations**

**Jacksonville, FL**— The Northeast Florida Regional Council (NEFRC) has recently been recognized with a 2025 Aliceann Wohlbruck Impact Award from the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) for the **City of Palatka Vision Plan**.

The City of Palatka contracted with the NEFRC to develop a vision to guide future development. To develop the Vision Plan, the NEFRC conducted community public engagement meetings and a visual preference survey from October 2023 - August 2024. The Vision Plan is a narrative that outlines how residents and leadership envision the community will look and function over the next 10-20 years. This Vision Plan will assist the City of Palatka in updating its 2045 Comprehensive Plan.

Presented annually, the NADO Impact Awards honor regional development organizations and their partners for strengthening communities, building regional resilience, and enhancing local economies through innovative approaches to economic and community development. NADO is a Washington, DC-based membership association of regional development organizations that promotes programs and policies that strengthen local governments, communities, and economies. This year's cohort included 90 impactful projects led by 79 organizations across 24 states.

“The Impact Awards are an annual reminder of the creativity and commitment that regional development organizations bring to their communities,” said 2024-2025 NADO President Rick Hunsaker, Executive Director of the Region XII Council of Governments in Iowa. “This year’s awardees show how local and regional partnerships, driven by vision and collaboration, can lead to lasting positive change across our country.”

The Council and its dedicated staff are deeply honored to receive this prestigious award, which embodies the relentless passion and unwavering commitment we have in serving the Northeast Florida region.

The Impact Awards are presented in memory of Aliceann Wohlbruck, NADO’s first executive director, who was a lifelong advocate for regional solutions and rural economic development.

### **About NEFRC**

The Northeast Florida Regional Council (NEFRC) is a dynamic network of local governments addressing issues that transcend jurisdictional boundaries—from emergency preparedness and transportation to economic development and environmental resilience. An independent regional government agency serving Baker, Clay, Duval, Flagler, Putnam, Nassau, and St. Johns Counties,



continues to enhance the quality of life for Northeast Florida residents by addressing economic development, emergency preparedness, resiliency, and community <https://nefrc.org>

### **About NADO**

The National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) promotes public policies that strengthen local governments, communities, and economies through the regional strategies, coordination efforts, and program expertise of the nation's regional development organizations. Learn more about NADO at [www.nado.org](http://www.nado.org).

For more information about the Northeast Florida Regional Council and its initiatives, visit [www.nefrc.org](http://www.nefrc.org).

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