Apalachee Regional Planning Council

FULL COUNCIL BOARD MEETING

Thursday – March 22, 2018
10:00 a.m. ET / 9:00 a.m. CT

303rd Public Meeting

UF IFAS / North FL Research & Education Center
155 Research Road
Quincy, Florida 32351
www.thearpc.com

The Apalachee Regional Planning Council serves its citizens and local governments by providing technical assistance and a forum for communication and collaboration, to preserve and enhance the economic, natural, and social environments of the Apalachee Region.
APALACHEE REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL BOARD

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Randy Merritt, Chairman (Wakulla) • John Jones, Past Chairman (Monticello)
Nancy Miller, Vice-Chairwoman (Tallahassee) • Wes Johnston, Secretary/Treasurer (Altha)
FRCA Policy Board Members: Kristin Dozier, Lisa Miller and Gene Wright

FULL COUNCIL

Calhoun County
Gene Bailey
Wes Johnston
Don Stephens
County Commissioner
Mayor, Town of Altha
Governor's Appointee

Franklin County
Ricky Jones
Brenda LaPaz
Vacant
County Commissioner
Mayor, City of Carrabelle
Governor's Appointee

Gadsden County
Brenda Holt
Vacant
Henry Grant
County Commissioner
Municipal Representative
Governor's Appointee

Gulf County
Ward McDaniel
Charlie Pettis
Michael Hammond
County Commissioner
Commissioner, City of Wewahitchka
Governor's Appointee

Jackson County
Jim Peacock
Gene Wright
Vacant
County Commissioner
Mayor, Town of Malone
Governor's Appointee

Jefferson County
Stephen Walker
John Jones
Vacant
County Commissioner
Councilman, City of Monticello
Governor's Appointee

Leon County
Kristin Dozier
Nancy Miller
Lisa Miller
County Commissioner
Commissioner, City of Tallahassee
Governor's Appointee

Liberty County
Dexter Barber
Woody Stewart
Davis Stoutamire
County Commissioner
Councilman, City of Bristol
Governor's Appointee

Wakulla County
Randy Merritt
Gail Gilman
Vacant
County Commissioner
Mayor, City of St. Marks
Governor's Appointee

Ex-Officio Members
Michael Fuller
Christina Coger
Virgie Bowen
Diane Scholz
FL Dept. of Environmental Protection
NW FL Water Management District
FL Dept. of Transportation
Enterprise Florida
APALACHEE REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL
BOARD MEETING

UF/IFAS North FL Research & Education Center
155 Research Road – Quincy, FL

THURSDAY – MARCH 22, 2018
10:00 AM Eastern Time / 9:00 AM Central Time

DRAFT AGENDA

1. **Call to Order and Introductions**

2. **Approval of Agenda**

3. **Approval of Minutes – January 18, 2018 Regular Board Meeting**

4. **FL Chamber Foundation Presentation**
   Dr. Jerry Parrish, Chief Economist and Director of Research

5. **Apalachicola River & Bay Litigation Update and Conference Report**
   Joe Crozier, ARPC Environmental Planner

6. **Executive Director’s Report**
   Chris Rietow, ARPC Executive Director
   
   A. **Financial Report**
   B. **Staff Program Reports**
      1. Economic Development & Community Planning
      2. Emergency Planning
      3. Revolving Loan Fund
      4. Transportation Planning
      5. Environmental Planning
      6. Correspondence and Items of Interest
   C. **Joint Participation Agreement with the CRTPA**

7. **Board Member Reports / Local & Regional Issues Discussion**

8. **Ex-Officio Member Updates**

9. **Public Comment**

10. **Adjournment** – *(Buffet Lunch will be served immediately following the meeting)*

11. Next ARPC Board Meeting – May 17, 2018

*Items Requiring Board Action*
APALACHEE REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL
UF IFAS - N. FL Research & Development Center
155 Research Road – Quincy, FL

BOARD MEETING MINUTES – January 18, 2018

Item 1: Call to Order and Roll Call
Chairman Merritt called the meeting to order at 10:00 am and asked all in attendance to introduce themselves for the Roll Call.

ARPC Board Members in Attendance:
Calhoun County  Gene Bailey  County Commissioner
Calhoun County  Wes Johnston  Mayor, Town of Altha
Calhoun County  Don Stephens  Governor’s Appointee
Franklin County  Ricky Jones  County Commissioner
Franklin County  Brenda LaPaz  Mayor, City of Carrabelle
Gadsden County  Brenda Holt  County Commissioner
Gadsden County  Henry Grant  Governor’s Appointee
Gulf County  Ward McDaniel  County Commissioner
Gulf County  Michael Hammond  Governor’s Appointee
Jefferson County  Stephen Walker  County Commissioner
Jefferson County  John Jones  Councilman, City of Monticello
Leon County  Kristin Dozier  County Commissioner
Liberty County  Dexter Barber  County Commissioner
Wakulla County  Randy Merritt  County Commissioner

Ex-Officio Members in Attendance
Michael Fuller  FL Dept. of Environmental Protection
Christina Coger  NW FL Water Management District

ARPC Staff in Attendance
Chris Rietow  Executive Director
Joe Crozier  Regional Planner / Environmental
Kwentin Eastberg  Regional Planner / Transportation
Richard Fetchick  Regional Planner / Economic Development
Denise Imbler  Director of Emergency Planning Programs
Janice Watson  Finance Director/ Loan Coordinator

Others in Attendance
Lance Watson – Senator Bill Nelson
Susan Poplin – Tallahassee/Leon Planning
Caitlin Brongel – NW FL WMD
Ulysses Jenkins – Gadsden Co. Staff
Rudy Maloy – Congressman Al Lawson
Al Latimer – Office of Economic Vitality
Decorkus Allen – Havana Commissioner

ARPC Board Meeting Minutes
January 18, 2018
Chairman Merritt led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance. He asked all in attendance to introduce themselves, welcomed the ARPC guests, and asked that the records show a quorum of the Apalachee Regional Planning Council (ARPC) was in attendance.

**Item 2: Approval of the Agenda**

A motion was made by Councilman John Jones to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Henry Grant. A vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

**Item 3: Approval of the Minutes**

A motion was made by Kristin Dozier to approve the Minutes of the November 16, 2017 ARPC Full Council Board Meeting as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Stephen Walker. A vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

**Item 4: Board Orientation: ARPC Core Programs**

**Economic Development / GIS Services:** Richard Fetchick reviewed the various Economic Development responsibilities of the ARPC highlighting the details of the ARPC Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). Mr. Fetchick reported that the US Economic Development Administration (EDA) had formally accepted the 2018-2022 CEDS and the final version could be found on the ARPC website. Chairman Merritt led the extended discussion on economic development and encouraged ARPC staff to coordinate with the Triumph funding process and possibly write a letter of support for the Region’s projects at an applicable time. Henry Grant questioned how well the Region was poised with adequate infrastructure if a large manufacture wanted to locate in the Region. Commissioner Gene Bailey encouraged ARPC staff to become familiar with the continued efforts to develop the Port of Port St. Joe and the mega-site in Jackson County.

Mr. Fetchick reported that ARPC staff was available to assist local governments through the application process for public works projects funded through EDA. Additionally, Mr. Fetchick reviewed the Geographic Information System (GIS) services currently being provided to Wakulla and Gadsden Counties. He encouraged the Board to contact ARPC staff about the potential GIS services available through the ARPC. Chairman Merritt noted that the GIS services in progress for Wakulla County had been a great help and he encouraged the other counties to explore the ARPC GIS option as well. Mr. Fetchick briefly described the GIS services currently being provided to Gadsden County. Commissioner Brenda Holt stated that the mapping portion of Gadsden County’s Future Land Use Maps had not been updated in over a decade and reported that Gadsden County was very excited about the availability of ARPC staff to provide this service. Commissioner Ricky Jones stated that Franklin County was also in the process of negotiating an agreement with the ARPC to provide basic GIS services for Franklin County. Mr. Rietow noted that regional councils in other parts of the country had been very successful in developing GIS departments to serve a region of rural local governments. The consensus of the discussion was that it is a needed service, but not necessarily enough work to fund a full-time position in a rural county. Commissioner Kristin Dozier suggested that as the program develops...
the ARPC could eventually become the regional clearinghouse for GIS data which could be used for numerous programs across the Region.

R Revolving Loan Program: Janice Watson reviewed briefly the 30-year history of the ARPC RLF program. Ms. Watson also reported on the basic criteria for loan eligibility and encouraged the Board to have potential borrowers in their local communities to contact her about the loan application process.

Environmental Programs: Joe Crozier briefly reviewed his work on the Surface Water Improvement and Management (SWIM) Plan, the Chattahoochee to Bristol (C2B) trail feasibility study and his active work as the Coordinator of the Riparian County Stakeholder Coalition (RCSC). Mr. Crozier reported that he had been very busy working on “The Endangered Apalachicola – A National River Conference” a science and policy conference being sponsored by the RCSC and to be held in Tallahassee, March 14-16, 2018. He encouraged the Board to attend the conference and noted that he would be attending future county commission meetings in the six Apalachicola River riparian counties to promote the conference and answer any questions the commissions might have.

Mr. Crozier also reported on the work in progress by ARPC staff work in completing the required Small Quantity Generator (SQG) Inventory and Education program for the rural counties of the ARPC Region. He explained that it is not an enforcement but instead an educational program to assist SQG business owners in implementing best or better practices and to assist them in being adequately prepared for a future code enforcement inspection by the US Environmental Protection Agency. Mr. Rietow explained that for many years the ARPC had performed this service for several of the Region’s counties on a fee-for-service basis, which averaged $3,000 annually, but in 2014 the ARPC had secured a five-year grant from the FL Dept. of Environmental Protection (FDEP) to provide the service at no cost to the counties.

Mr. Crozier reported that his work continued on the Brownfields grant assessment and inventory project which involved a detailed prioritization of projects and ultimately a determination of the maximum effectiveness of Brownfield funding for eligible future projects. Mr. Crozier closed by stating that he was also working on an application to the FDEP for the establishment of a living shoreline along the coastal counties of the Region.

Transportation Program: Kwentin Eastberg reviewed his role as the ARPC Transportation Planner, outlining the focus of his position which is the coordination of all the transportation partners funding and providing services for the transportation disadvantaged of the Region. Mr. Eastberg explained that the ARPC is tasked with the oversight for the FL Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged to ensure that services are being provided as efficiently and economically as possible.

Mr. Eastberg also reviewed his work on the development of the Freight Logistics Zone covering the rail corridor from Gulf to Gadsden counties. Mr. Eastberg stated that he continued to review regional FDOT projects and was also working on the development of a partnership with
Commuter Services of North Florida. Mr. Eastberg and Mr. Rietow discussed the long-range plans for the development of a Regional Transportation Planning Organization (RTPO) in addition to future Transportation Regional Incentive Program (TRIP) grant applications. Commissioner Brenda Holt stated that Gadsden County would appreciate any assistance that could be provided by ARPC staff in obtaining funding for continued and expanded commuter service between Gadsden County and Tallahassee.

Emergency Planning Program: Denise Imbler reviewed the many facets of the ARPC Emergency Planning Program. Ms. Imbler gave specific details on the ARPC Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) and highlighted its responsibilities which included public awareness of hazardous chemicals stored in the communities of the Region and the implementation of plans and best practices for reducing the negative impacts of the release. Ms. Imbler also reviewed in detail the ARPC’s coordination of the North FL Medical Reserve Corps (NFMRC) and the process of recruiting and maintaining the group of medical professional volunteers that serve as the NFMRC. She reported that the ARPC currently has 50 active volunteers and described the type of situation that they might be activated for and noted that the program was funded by the FL Dept. of Health.

Ms. Imbler also reported on the ARPC staff work for the FL Dept. of Agriculture (FDACS) as the State Animal Response Team (SART) Planner. She explained that the SART program was tasked with the coordination of pet sheltering, animal disease outbreak response, and food recall and noted that ARPC staff assisted FDACS with meeting facilitation, planning exercises and training conferences. Ms. Imbler closed by briefly reviewing the many other emergency planning programs handled by ARPC staff which included: emergency management evacuation tool-kits, post disaster redevelopment plans, sea level rise planning, continuity of operation plans, emergency planning exercises, local mitigation strategies, domestic security exercises and food safety exercises.

Chairman Merritt stated that upon ARPC staff completion of the National Flood Insurance Program Community Ratings System (CRS) map update for Wakulla County he would report back on whether the updated classification and mapping project provided any significant financial savings for Wakulla County. Ms. Imbler stated that upon completion of the project, she and Mr. Eastberg would make a presentation to the Board on the final work product.

Item 5: Apalachicola River and Bay Litigation Update

Chairman Merritt asked for Board approval to table the Apalachicola River and Bay Litigation Update to the next meeting due to the lengthy and informative discussion of Agenda Item 4. The Board by general consensus approved moving the item to the next meeting. Mr. Rietow noted that at the next meeting Mr. Crozier would also be able to report on the National River Conference scheduled for March 14th – March 16th.
Item 6: Executive Director’s Report


A motion was made by Don Stephens to approve the financial reports for November 2017 and December 2017 as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Stephen Walker. A vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

6B – Staff Reports: Mr. Rietow stated that detailed staff reports had been giving during the Board Orientation portion of the agenda and he presented the following action and general informational items.

6B.3 – Revolving Loan Fund: Mr. Rietow stated that ARPC staff had prepared an application to the US Dept. of Agriculture Rural Development (USDA-RD) for additional funds to re-capitalize the ARPC revolving loan fund which required Board approval for submission.

A motion was made by Henry Grant to approve the submission of the application to the USDA-RD for the recapitalization and expansion of the ARPC Revolving Loan Fund. The motion was seconded by Michael Hammond. A vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

6B.4 – Rural Transportation Planning Organization (RTPO): Mr. Rietow reviewed the Board action at the last meeting authorizing ARPC staff to pursue the development of a RTPO for the Apalachicola Region. He reported that ARPC staff would be postponing plans to pursue the establishment of a RTPO until the completion of a study of the rural areas recently commissioned by the FL Dept. of Transportation (FDOT) to assess how the rural areas are being served by FDOT. The Board suggested that upon completion of the study, FDOT could be contacted about making a presentation to the Board on the results and recommendations of the study.

6B.6 – Other Items of Interest: Mr. Rietow directed the Board to the articles and items of interest included in the Board package beginning on page 35 which included: FL Regional Councils Association (FRCA) newsletters for November and December, updated articles on: the Florida/Georgia water wars, Wakulla County Airport plans, Carrabelle City Hall & Park Plans, Triumph Application Updates for Gulf and Franklin Counties, the Eastern Dry Dock project in Gulf County, and a recent Gadsden County Apprenticeship Forum.

6C – Florida Regional Councils Association (FRCA) Update: Mr. Rietow briefly reviewed the function of the FRCA and noted that Commissioner Kristin Dozier and Mayor Gene Wright had attended the FRCA Policy Board meeting earlier in the month on behalf of the ARPC. Mr. Rietow stated that the FRCA Policy Board met semi-annually and was made up of three board members from each of the ten regional planning councils in Florida. Mr. Rietow reported that the FRCA Policy Board determined not to pursue any statewide funding during the 2018
Legislative Session. Commissioner Kristin Dozier reported that the FRCA Policy Board agreed that resiliency should be an area of focus for the coming year. Mr. Rietow added that in years past the annual state appropriation was for regional growth management responsibilities which have since been eliminated. He explained that in order to re-establish an annual state appropriation for Florida’s regional planning councils, a new initiative would need to be determined and the general consensus of the FRCA was to focus on resiliency efforts.

6D – 2017 ARPC Goals Evaluation and Proposed 2018 ARPC Goals: Mr. Rietow reviewed the evaluation of the 2017 ARPC Goals included in the board package on page 55. He noted that progress continued in many areas as ARPC staff worked to return financial stability to the ARPC, to educate and market the ARPC’s services and capabilities to the member counties/ municipalities and to grow and expand the capabilities of the ARPC. Mr. Rietow presented and discussed with the Board a proposed list of 2018 ARPC Goals, which included the addition of expanding the ARPC’s Geographic Information System (GIS) capabilities to better serve member local governments. The Board discussed the Proposed 2018 Goals and encouraged ARPC staff to focus on the number one goal for 2018 of returning financial stability to the ARPC by continuing to work on growing the ARPC reserves to cover three months of operating capital. Mr. Rietow reported that the entire ARPC staff continued to apply for and bring in additional revenue for the ARPC while timely completing tasks and deliverables for existing contracts. By general consensus the Board approved the 2018 ARPC Goals as presented. A copy of the 2018 ARPC Goals is included to these minutes as Attachment “A”.

Item 7: Board Member Reports / Local & Regional Issues Discussion

Commissioner Kristin Dozier reported that she had met informally with the Dean of the University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS) to discuss the potential partnership opportunities between IFAS and regional planning councils (RPCs), noting that she was very encouraged by the interest expressed by the Dean. She noted that a more formal in-person meeting would be held in April, tentatively at the ARPC office, to develop a new and more creative partnership between the two organizations. During the discussion, Dr. Henry Grant, retired IFAS Extension Director and Gadsden County ARPC Governor’s Appointee, offered his assistance in any way needed to help further the establishment of the partnership and success of the meeting. Chairman Merritt thanked Dr. Grant for his assistance in securing the IFAS meeting facility for today’s ARPC meeting and asked for the Board’s approval to continuing holding the ARPC bi-monthly meetings at the Gadsden County location. By unanimous general consensus, the Board approved continuing to hold the ARPC Board Meetings at the UF IFAS / North FL Research & Education Center in Quincy.

Commissioner Dozier encouraged the Board to continue to look for more strategic ways to do regional economic development. She stated that with a quality CEDS in place the Board could now use it as a launching point for expanding the economic development programs of the ARPC. Commissioner Brenda Holt suggested that some type of regional clearinghouse of potential development sites could be developed to assist in marketing all of the sites in the Region and offering companies options within the Region. This clearinghouse would help in
cases when the initial county of interest was not a good fit, another county within the Region could secure the location of the company. Commissioner Holt stressed that any and all new companies locating in the Region would bring benefits to the entire Region. Richard Fetchick added that Opportunity Florida which covered a large portion of the Apalachee Region had already made great strides in developing the potential sites list. Michael Hammond suggested that County Economic Development Council staff or leadership could be invited to future ARPC Board meetings to provide them with the opportunity to hear about current and future ARPC economic development programs. The Board discussed possibly holding a workshop in the future for economic development staff of the Region for the purpose of program education and to determine ways to partner and encourage regional economic development.

Chairman Merritt suggested that a letter be sent to Gadsden County asking them to re-appoint a municipal appointee to the Apalachee Regional Planning Council to replace Karen Bass who no longer served on the Havana Town Council.

The Board discussed numerous items of interest on the agenda of the 2018 Florida Legislative session, included proposed changes to the voting processes of the Capital Regional Transportation Agency (CRTPA) and the emphasis on vocational education for Florida High Schools.

Chairman Merritt asked for any further Board or public comments and there were none. He announced that the next ARPC Board meeting would be held on March 22, 2018.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 12:30 pm.

APPROVED BY: THE APALACHEE REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL MEETING IN REGULAR SESSION ON MARCH 22, 2018

SIGNED: ATTEST:

Randy Merritt Chris Rietow
Chairman Executive Director

ARPC Board Meeting Minutes
January 18, 2018
2018 Apalachee Regional Planning Council Goals

I. Return financial stability to the Council
   a. Restore the Operating Budget to the historical level of $60,000 in reserves

II. Educate and market the Council's services and capabilities to member counties and municipalities
   a. Create an annual report that summarizes the programs and the accomplishments of the Council
   b. Prepare and distribute a Regional Directory which includes all of the Region's local governments and other regional partners

III. Grow and expand the capabilities of the Council
   a. Establish a Rural Transportation Planning Organization for the rural counties within the Region not represented by the CRTPA
   b. Expand the Revolving Loan Fund Program by increasing the principal base available for lending with USDA funds
   c. Expand the Council's Geographic Information Systems (GIS) capabilities to better serve member local governments that are without access to GIS assistance
AGENDA ITEM 6

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT – Chris Rietow

The following items will be reported and discussed with the Board:

A. *Financial Report:* On the following pages are the following financial reports.
   - Budget Report for the month ending January 31, 2018
   - Budget Report for the month ending February 28, 2018

B. *Staff Reports:* Staff Program Reports are included on the following pages. Staff will be present at the meeting to answer any questions and report on any additional program updates.

C. *Joint Participation Agreement between the ARPC and the Capital Regional Transportation Planning Agency (CRTPA):* The CRTPA is renewing its Intergovernmental Coordination and Review and Public Transportation Coordination Joint Participation Agreement. The agreement must describe the means by which activities will be coordinated and specify how transportation planning and programming will be part of the comprehensively planned development of the Metropolitan Planning Area. The ARPC has specific intergovernmental coordination and dispute resolution responsibilities.

**ACTIONS NEEDED**

*Motion to accept Financial Reports for the periods ending January 31, 2018 and February 28, 2018.*

*Motion to approve the Joint Participation Agreement between the ARPC and the Capital Regional Transportation Planning Agency (CRTPA).*
## Apalachee Regional Planning Council

### Budget Report as of 1/31/18

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**TOTAL REVENUE**: $819,210

### General Expenses

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**TOTAL EXPENSES**: $819,210

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### Apalachee Regional Planning Council

**Budget Report as of 2/28/18**

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**TOTAL REVENUE**

|                    | 819,210         | 161,480.05    | 623,610.02               | 195,599.98     |

**General Expenses**

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**TOTAL EXPENSES**

|                    | 819,210         | 133,026.95    | 573,652.64               | 245,557.36     |

**Bal. 2/28/18**

| Operating Acct. Balance 2/28/18 | 69,454.89 |

| Bal. 1/31/18 | 41,001.79 |
| Bal. 9/30/17 | 19,497.51 |
AGENDA ITEM 6–B-1
ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
Richard Fetchick

2018-2022 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Update: ARPC staff continues to coordinate with regional partners and implement objectives from the Council’s regional economic strategy.

2018 CEDS Project Workshop #1 – ARPC staff hosted Economic Development practitioners from Tallahassee Community, North Florida Economic Development Partnership, and the City of Tallahassee for a learning and brainstorming workshop at the ARPC office. Greg Vaday of EDA presented 2018 funding options and the group developed local project ideas toward application readiness.

- **Objective 1.2: Increase Employee and Business Resilience:** ARPC staff collaborated with Franklin TDC and Gulf & Franklin counties to submit applications to EDA Disaster Supplemental and Florida Resilient Coastlines Program. Both applications deal with assessing impacts of industry change and sea level rise on existing industries and infrastructure and will assist in integrating new language into the Comprehensive Plan that meets statutory requirements and help communities better manage assets for recovery and reuse.

- **Objective 1.5: Promote Apalachee Outdoor Recreation:** ARPC staff provided data analysis and map making services for RiverWay South, the regional outdoor tourism promotion group. Through a travel scholarship from RiverWay South, ARPC staff represented RiverWay South at the Chicago RV trade show in February, which resulted in hundreds of positive impressions for the tourism assets of the Apalachee Region.

- **Objective 2.9 Connect Entrepreneurs to Funding:** Staff finalized and submitted a USDA Rural Business Development Grant to add $125,000 to Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) small business loan capital. Additionally, staff initiated a partnership with Envision Credit Union in Chattahoochee in hopes of increasing small business RLF loan referrals.

**ARPC GIS Services:**

- **Gadsden** – ARPC GIS Intern Sarah Hibbard is currently updating the Gadsden County Future Land Use Map, Boundary Annexation Survey, and Local Update of Census Addresses.
Northwest Florida Forward (NWFF): ARPC staff continues to organize meetings and help coordinate activities for the NWFF Quality of Place Council. The main activities include tracking the development of Triumph Incorporated funds and a webinar series:

- **February 2018** – ARPC staff hosted Dominick Ard’s of DOMI Incubator in Tallahassee to present on the ACT House project and its impacts.
- **March 2018** – ARPC staff participated and presented at the 1-year anniversary event of FORWARD, the Northwest Florida Forward Regional Strategy, reinforcing the importance of high quality places within a complete economic development paradigm.

**Other Technical Assistance:** ARPC ED staff continues to assist regional partners with Comprehensive Planning, Intergovernmental Coordination and other tasks.

- **Land Development Regulations (LDR):** ARPC staff developed a preliminary review of the Sophchoppy LDRs in order to assist the City with a potential update.
- **Economic Analysis:** ARPC staff completed a simple counter-factual analysis of the Apalachicola River for presentation at the Apalachicola River National Conference. A project impact study was performed for City of Carrabelle to describe job and GDP impacts that could be anticipated from two Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc. funding requests. ARPC staff will be conducting an impact analysis for Tallahassee Community College (TCC) covering its Wakulla Environmental Institute, “Center of Excellence” project proposal.
- **Digital Data Catalog:** ARPC Staff gathered and analyzed data to create a “digital data catalog” for the City of Stuart to fulfill a Competitive Florida contract deliverable. The site can be viewed at: [https://tsarno29.wixsite.com/stuartdata](https://tsarno29.wixsite.com/stuartdata)

**Regional Coordination:** ARPC staff participated in the following events.

- **Economic Vitality Competitiveness Committee (EVCC):** ARPC staff attended the Office of Economic Vitality(OEV) EVCC meeting at the TCC Downtown Center after meeting with OEV staff about regional economic development activities. One outcome was emerging interest in a site selection consultant to assist Leon County in identifying key properties.
- **Gadsden County Development Council:** ARPC staff participated in the monthly board meeting of the GCDC, which included discussion of Opportunity Zones in the County.
- **Havana Main Street, Economic Development Meeting:** ARPC staff attended and provided input during the Havana Main Street Economic Development session. The session was part of a larger technical assistance grant provided by Main Street National.
- **Calhoun Chamber of Commerce** – ARPC staff participated in the monthly Calhoun County Chamber “lunch and learn”, discussing ongoing Main Street projects with Chamber Director Kristy Terry and Altha Mayor/ARPC Board Member, Wes Johnston.

**ACTION NEEDED**

None
Leaders Across Region Move Forward Together to
Transform Northwest Florida’s Economy

~ Event Marks 1 Year Anniversary Launch of Northwest Florida FORWARD Initiative ~

Niceville — Last week, nearly 100 leaders from across Northwest Florida came together to mark the progress made on the Northwest Florida FORWARD strategic initiative which was launched one year ago. The regional strategy provides a roadmap to help create a diverse and vibrant economy for Northwest Florida and its 13 counties, providing greater opportunities for residents and businesses alike.

“The foundation of Northwest Florida’s economy was built upon the military and tourism,” said Allan Bense, president and partner of GAC Contractors. In addition, Bense is a member of the Board of Directors of Triumph Gulf Coast, which is responsible for overseeing the $1.5 billion in funding for the economic recovery, diversification and enhancement of Northwest Florida as a result of the Deepwater Horizon disaster. “If we are to grow and transform our region, we must add another key pillar, industry such as manufacturing. With Triumph, I am looking to support programs that generate jobs for our Northwest Florida families.”

The Triumph Gulf Coast Board has stipulated that applications for Triumph funds that are aligned with the Northwest Florida FORWARD regional strategy may receive discretionary priority. Although the FORWARD strategy covers 13 counties in the Panhandle, Triumph dollars could help kick start strategic initiatives in the eight disproportionately affected counties or potentially serve as partial funds for regional programs. Northwest Florida FORWARD is a strategic plan based on research and insight provided by nearly 900 business, government, educational, and community leaders. It was developed over an 18-month period and launched on February 27, 2017. On the campus of Northwest Florida State College, regional leaders discussed progress made toward implementing the plan and outlined steps to continue moving forward.

The group looked toward best practices including North Carolina’s Research Triangle Park and Mississippi’s Golden Triangle which underscore a need for leaders to work together at the right time to make progress and witness significant accomplishments. In both examples, it took more than 10 years before truly meaningful results took shape and their economies secured.
"Regional transformation does not happen overnight," said Bruce Vredenburg, market president of Northwest Florida for Hancock and Whitney Bank, and board chairman of Florida’s Great Northwest. "We are running a team marathon, not an individual sprint. We need everyone's help over the long-term to get across the finish line."

In addition, updates were presented on what volunteer leaders from across the region were tackling within the five FORWARD councils, which include helping existing companies grow and attracting new industry to the region; providing the workforce businesses need now and in the future; ensuring the infrastructure is in place to move products, people and ideas efficiently; helping entrepreneurs be successful; and creating an even better environment where people want to live.

"It is amazing what can happen when you develop the foundation and put a mechanism in place to encourage increased communication and collaboration across county lines," said Kim Wilmes, president and CEO of Florida’s Great Northwest. "Although Florida’s Great Northwest has been a key driver of the FORWARD initiative, it has truly been a grassroots effort. Leaders of the region have taken ownership of implementing the strategy and are moving toward building long-term prosperity for Northwest Florida."
AGENDA ITEM 6 – B – 2

EMERGENCY PLANNING PROGRAM
Denise Imbler - Zach Annett – Elise Fisher

Regional Hazardous Materials Program
The ARPC staffs the Apalachee Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) which is responsible for implementing the federal Emergency Planning and the Community Right-To-Know Act for the ARPC Region. The four primary activities of the Apalachee LEPC are hazardous materials planning, training, emergency exercises and public outreach.

Quarterly Meetings
The most recent quarterly meeting of the Apalachee LEPC was held on February 21, 2018, at the Capital Area Chapter of the American Red Cross. Major Shawn Wood with Gadsden County Emergency Management gave a presentation on a recent response to a train derailment involving hazardous materials. ARPC staff is currently preparing for the next LEPC meeting which is tentatively scheduled for May at the Capital Area Chapter of the American Red Cross. ARPC staff will be attending the next quarterly meetings of the State Emergency Response Commission for Hazardous Materials being held on April 12-13, 2018 in St. Augustine.

Hazardous Materials Training
ARPC staff coordinated the following courses during the quarter to train first responders and officials who play a role in hazardous materials incidents:

- 4-hour Awareness Course – February 17, 2018 (Franklin County)
- 3-hour Gasoline Tanker Response courses – April 9 - 11, 2018 (Leon County)

ARPC staff also coordinated four 4-hour awareness courses to train close to 100 employees with Leon County EMS and classes are continuing to be scheduled. Additionally, staff has coordinated four 8-hour Technician Level Refresher Courses for the City of Tallahassee to train roughly 150 individuals. All training opportunities and registration links are posted on the ARPC website at www.thearpc.com.

Annual Exercises
ARPC staff continues to work with FSU faculty and staff to develop a tabletop exercise for the National High Magnetic Field Lab. The ARPC’s role includes serving on the planning team, assisting with scenario development and exercise documentation, and serving as lead facilitator during the exercise. The exercise is scheduled for April 24, 2018.
2018 Planning Project
ARPC staff will facilitate a comprehensive hazardous materials tabletop exercise as the 2018 planning project. The exercise will be multi-jurisdictional in scope and will exercise two functional areas of the Apalachee LEPC Response Plan. Planning for the exercise will begin in May.

Outreach
ARPC staff provided a presentation outlining the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act and the Florida LEPC program to the Tallahassee Safety Alliance for Excellence. The presentation took place on January 12th. Additionally, the Apalachee LEPC was asked to set up the Shelter-in-Place demonstration model at the FL Dept. of Education’s Safety Fair and the Leon County Build-Your-Bucket event.

Wakulla County Community Rating System Mapping Project
ARPC staff assisted the Wakulla County Planning Department by updating the following maps related to its Community Rating System (CRS) program:

- Historical/Nuisance Flooding
- Repetitive Loss Properties
- Open Space
- Drainage Ditches

Implementation of the CRS program provides savings on flood insurance policies for residents.

North Florida Medical Reserve Corps
ARPC staff continues to serve as the Coordinator for the North Florida Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) which includes an eight-county region in the Big Bend.

A North Florida MRC Orientation was held on January 31st, and another one will be scheduled in March. Staff is working closely with the Department of Health in Leon County to explore additional volunteer and training opportunities for MRC volunteers.

State Agricultural Response Team
ARPC staff provides planning support to the FL Dept. of Agriculture and Consumer Services State Agricultural Response Team (SART). ARPC staff assists with planning and documentation of monthly meetings as well as any additional SART activities. During January and February, ARPC staff assisted with tracking volunteer hours, reviewed an After-Action Report for the response to Hurricane Irma, updated the SART Standard Operating Guide and developed a workshop for the incident management teams.
The SART Incident Management Team workshop will use e-ISuite, a software program used by the Florida Forest Services (FFS) to manage incident resources. Training on e-ISuite and the workshop will be conducted with FFS personnel. ARPC staff will facilitate the workshop and assist with setting up an FDACS Incident Command Post, performing incident/resource check-ins, practicing the use of the “Planning P” during an operational cycle, preparing an Incident Action Plan, performing briefings and conducting a Hot Wash. The e-ISuite training is scheduled for April 3-5, 2018 and the IMT workshop is scheduled for April 18-19, 2018.

Regional Evacuation Zones
ARPC staff continues to work with county emergency management agencies to update county evacuation zones and regional evacuation plans following Hurricane Irma. ARPC staff will meet with emergency management directors after each LEPC meeting for continued coordination.

Hurricane Irma After Action Report/Improvement Plan
ARPC staff worked with the Florida Division of Emergency Management for the past three months to write the After Action Report/Improvement Plan (AAR/IP) for the State Emergency Response Team’s (SERT) response to Hurricane Irma. Staff facilitated a series of nine meetings with SERT staff to document strengths and areas for improvement. The information was then compiled and used to develop a list of recommended corrective actions to improve future responses.

ACTION NEEDED
None
AGENDA ITEM 6 – B – 4

TRANSPORTATION PLANNING PROGRAM – Kwentin Eastberg

Transportation Disadvantaged (TD) Program
ARPC staff is currently completing 3rd Quarter deliverables on the FY 2017/18 TD Planning Grant from the Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged (CTD).

The TD Local Coordinating Boards (LCB) with the Community Transportation Coordinators (CTCs) for all eight counties met for their 3rd Quarter TD-LCB meetings throughout the month of February. The TD-LCB meetings are open to the public and all interested parties are invited and encouraged to attend. The 3rd quarter meetings included the annual evaluation of each CTC along with standard board meeting items. Fortunately, there were no major findings for any of the CTCs serving the Apalachee Region during the evaluation process. Meeting dates for the 4th Quarter TD-LCB Meetings can be found on the following calendar. Agenda items include updating the Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plans and setting the meeting calendar for the next fiscal year.

In February, ARPC staff attended the CTD Board Meeting in Tallahassee on February 13, 2018. At the February 13th meeting, ARPC staff made the following recommendations to the CTD based on ARPC findings through a careful review of the responses to the RFQ:

- JTrans should remain the CTC in Jackson County for a 5-year designation.
- Big Bend Transit should remain the CTC in Jefferson County for a 5-year designation.

Both recommendations were passed unanimously by the CTD Commission. Congratulations to both JTrans and Big Bend Transit for their continued service to Jackson and Jefferson counties.

ARPC staff also participated in the Transportation Disadvantaged Legislative Awareness Day at the Capitol on February 14, 2018. It was a very well attended public event that featured transportation disadvantaged providers from around the state. The annual event continues to be a great success and serves as a valuable tool to educate both the public and legislators about the importance of the Transportation Disadvantaged program.

TD Legislative Awareness Day at the Capitol
General Transportation Planning
ARPC staff was invited to attend the quarterly meeting of the Florida Bicycle Pedestrian Partnership Council (BPPC) in Tallahassee. The program brings together both private and public partners to look at the Cultural Change, Completing the System, Health, and Safety impacts of bicycle and pedestrian facilities across the state. Partners include FDOT, FHWA, FPTA, FAC, DEO, DEA, DEP, DOH, MPOAC, and many others.

ARPC staff is enthusiastic about being asked to serve on the BPPC Board and is looking forward to learning more about the group and how it can benefit the Region as well as the State.

Other Items of Interest
ARPC staff continues to search for ways to further assist the Region and is working with several funding agencies to apply for pertinent grant funding as opportunities become available.

ACTION NEEDED
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Shoreline Habitats and Resilient Coasts (SHaRC) Analysis Grant Awarded
The Apalachee Regional Planning Council was awarded a grant to perform a “SHaRC Analysis” of the Franklin County Coastline by the Florida Coastal Management Program. The ARPC submission was ranked highest of all submissions. ARPC staff will complete a coastal resiliency and restoration analysis of the Apalachicola Bay shoreline. The analysis was designed to systematically develop a prioritized list of estuarine areas within the bay that are best suited (i.e., from an environmental, anthropogenic, and cost efficiency standpoint) for shoreline restoration/stabilization projects which upon implementation, will improve sustainability and protect vulnerable infrastructure and the communities that depend on it.

The Endangered Apalachicola – A National River Conference
The Apalachee Regional Planning Council and the ARPC staffed Riparian County Stakeholder Coalition were both partial sponsors of the Most Endangered River Conference in Tallahassee on March 14 - 16th at Doak Campbell Stadium's University Center. The conference was held in order to bring renewed attention to the ecological, cultural and economic importance of the Apalachicola River, Floodplain and Bay and strengthen efforts to ensure the sustainability of this resource for current and future generations.

* A copy of the conference agenda is included for reference under separate cover.
Resilient Apalachee Community Enhancement
ARPC staff submitted a grant to the Florida Resilience Coastline Program to develop Peril of Flood Language to be added to the Franklin County, Gulf County, and City of Carrabelle Comprehensive Plans. The coastal Apalachee counties have yet to incorporate this new language into their plans. Gulf, Franklin, and Wakulla counties all found in their 2016 Evaluation and Appraisal Reports (EAR) that no changes were required, despite the Peril of Flood legislation being adopted in the interim of the 2008 and 2016/17 EAR cycle. To that effect, this project will take important steps toward facilitating local government resiliency as defined under the Coastal Management Element and Adaptation Action Area Statute.

City of Carrabelle Land Management Plan
ARPC staff collaborated with the City of Carrabelle to submit an additional proposal to the Florida Resilience Coastline Program to develop a Land Management Program for McKissack Beach. The City leases the 360+ acre property from the State of Florida. A requirement associated with the lease is the obligation to develop strategies for numerous aspects of the property including infrastructure, historical resources, water resources and protected species. ARPC staff would be responsible for the development of the plan and associated recommendations brought forward by the community during the process.

The area illustrated in orange is associated with the McKissack Beach Lease.
AGENDA ITEM 6 – B – 6

CORRESPONDENCE / ITEMS OF INTEREST

1. Mayor Gene Wright heads up Jackson Ethics Training – January 2018
2. Apalachicola National Forrest Timber Harvesting – January 2018
3. ARPC meets in Gadsden County – January 2018
4. FL Chamber Presentation at Gadsden EDC – February 2018
5. Eastern Dry Dock Project / Gulf County – February 2018
6. Triumph Board Update – February 2018
7. Liberty County Paving Grant Award – February 2018
8. Tribute to former ARPC Board Member/Leon Commissioner Jane Sauls – February 2018
9. New Four Star Freightliner opens in Midway – March 2018
10. FL Regional Councils Association Newsletters – January & February 2018
Northwest Florida League of Florida Cities presents Ethics Training

Malone Mayor Gene Wright and Executive Director Jenny Anderson

Jackson County Commissioners Clint Pate, Jim Peacock, Malone councilman Ken Campbell and Kurvin Qualls Mayor of Jay Florida

By Sheila Mader

Malone Mayor Gene Wright strives to keep Jackson County ‘in the loop’ with up to date training and information that could be valuable to city and county officials as they carry out their job. After a very successful and well attended ethics training last year, Wright immediately began working to ensure that there would be another meeting this year. As with most things Wright sets out to do, the mission was once again accomplished.

Thursday, January 18, the Northwest Florida League of Cities is holding a free training opportunity in Marianna at the Jackson County Extension office. This is as a result of a 2014 Florida Legislature mandated four hours of ethics training for all municipal constitutional officers every calendar year (January 1- December 31).

Mayor Wright encourages everyone to take advantage of this opportunity for their mandated training but also for interaction with constitutional officers, mayors, and representatives from surrounding cities and towns, “This is a great opportunity for everyone to receive free training and a great time to exchange ideas. The best part of it is, it’s free.”

To reserve your place at the training, call Jenny Anderson of the Northwest League of Cities at (850-487-1870) or email her at janderson@nwfcl.com.
New ANF District Ranger wants to increase timber harvesting

by Teresa Eubanks, Journal Editor

Members gathered for Monday night’s annual Liberty County Chamber of Commerce meeting got some good news for a county filled with timber cutters, sawmill workers and truck drivers: The new Apalachicola National Forest (ANF) District Ranger wants to increase timber harvesting.

Ranger Clint Davis, who works out of the district office in Crawfordville, let the gathering know that he grew up in the timber industry in his home state of Arkansas.

“I’m from a logging family,” he said, and told the group, “My grandfather is one of the best cross-cut saw workers in the area where I grew up.”

He shared his experiences of when he first started with the forest service on Aug. 12, 1991, which began with taking tests on firefighting his first day on the job. “On the third day, I was on the side of a mountain in California fighting a fire.” He described his first few days as a little frightening as well as fun, adding, “That was my welcome to the forest service and it’s been a great career.”

Now, his focus is on the four counties that make up the national forest. Forty-seven percent of the land in Liberty County is national forest. The forest covers 44 percent of Wakulla County land. In Leon County, the percentage of forest land is 23, with just 12 percent in Franklin County.

In 2010, the forest service took over a 1,000 acre site in Calhoun County which was being managed as an experimental forest through the Southern Forest Experiment Station.

See LIBERTY CHAMBER continued inside on page 13

ABOVE: New ANF District Ranger outlined his thoughts on harvesting more timber from the national forest. BELOW: Approximately 85 people attended Monday’s Annual Chamber Meeting, which was catered by T.J.’s Country Store.

JOHNNY EUBANKS PHOTOS
It is being used to improve habitat for wildlife (including the gopher tortoise), restore longleaf pine to the predominantly sand and slash pine forest, and to provide a family hunt area, according to a USDA.gov website.

"One of the things I found fascinating is that of the 573,000 acres we've got in the forest, 27,000 acres of that is water - lakes and streams," Davis said, and noted, "You don't find a lot of forests like that."

Figures compiled by retired forest officer Mac McConnell of Tallahassee show that only 1.1 million cubic feet (five percent) of the forest's growth is harvested each year. According to McConnell, more timber dies naturally (3.8 million cubic square feet) in the forest each year than is harvested. The forest has about 23 million cubic feet gross annual growth, with the net estimated at 19 million cubic feet.

With the national forest covering nearly half of Liberty County's lands, many have long thought it should be opened up more intensive management to maintain forest health and to benefit the area's economy by providing wood for local mills and jobs for local workers.

Davis said the forest service is looking to do more stewardship work with environmental groups and local logging interests in hopes of bringing in more jobs.

Helping the community will also help the forest, he told chamber members. "If we can possibly bring more jobs in here and help industry, that helps us and we can spend more money on our roads and recreation areas in the forest."

One of the things we need is some stewardship agreements, some contracts, we've met with some of the purchasers and the Nature Conservancy," he said. "We're looking to do more of that - the stewardship part - to get more work done on the ground."

The biggest hurdle, of course, is the legal process and paperwork, he explained. "It takes a lot of surveying, going through the process, letting all of our constituents - you folks on the ground - look at what we're doing."

He added, "One of the things that's really important to me is our timber management on the forest. We can help out all four counties."
APALACHEE REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL IS PARTNERING WITH GADSDEN COUNTY

A vital and important regional council has made Quincy, Florida its new meeting location. Better access to the interstate and modernized accommodations were the focal points of the Apalachee Regional Planning Council (ARPC) when it selected the University of Florida Research & Education Center to host its bimonthly meetings. Current Gadsden County Board Chairperson, Commissioner Brenda Holt and Dr. Henry Grant, former director of Gadsden County Extension Services, represent Gadsden County on the ARPC’s full council.

Randy Merritt, Chairman of the Board for ARPC, states, “The ARPC will be hosting its bimonthly board meetings in Gadsden County at the IFAS North Florida Research & Education Center. The IFAS facility in Quincy is central to the ARPC’s nine-county region and is an excellent venue. The ARPC discusses local and regional issues and the public is always welcome to attend.”

The ARPC provides technical assistance to member local governments primarily in the areas of economic development, emergency planning, transportation and quality of life. This includes the member counties of Calhoun, Franklin, Gadsden, Gulf, Jackson, Jefferson, Leon, Liberty, Wakulla and their municipalities. The Council often takes on additional state/local programs and projects as necessary to meet the needs of the Region. In an effort to update the Comprehensive Plan, the Gadsden County Board of Commissioners recently approved the solicitation of assistance from ARPC at the request of the County’s Department of Planning and Community Development.

“The ARPC continues to serve its member local governments by providing technical assistance in the areas of economic development, emergency preparedness, transportation and environmental planning. ARPC staff recently began providing Geographic Information System (GIS) mapping assistance to Gadsden County. The Council is working to expand this assistance to other local governments as one of its established goals for 2018”, stated ARPC Executive Director Chris Rietow.

The Board of County Commissioners have been working extremely diligently to provide the proper environment to spur economic development in Gadsden County. Land use regulations, which determines the process by which lands are evaluated and assessed to become a basis for decisions involving land disposition and utilization, are vital parts to preparing for economic development.
“Having ARPC in our county can provide several resources that we should take full advantage of to improve quality of life in this region, which includes Gadsden County. Dr. Grant did an outstanding job bringing this council to Gadsden County, you will not find an individual that cares more about Gadsden than Dr. Grant”, stated Commissioner Holt.

The ARPC is a multi-purpose agency of the state that was created on August 23, 1977. The ARPC is one of ten Regional Planning Councils in the State of Florida. Future meeting dates for 2018 Full Council meetings are March 22nd, May 17th, July 19th, September 20th and November 15th at 10:00 a.m.

###

**Picture Caption:** ARPC holds its first of many Full Council Meetings in Quincy, FL at the IFAS Research Center.
BUSINESS

Expert stresses promoting entrepreneurship at Gadsden County’s economic development retreat

By Weston Williams
mail@prioritynews.net

Jerry D. Parrish, chief economist and director of research for the Florida Chamber Foundation, told the Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners at an Economic Development Retreat Monday that the key to creating economic development in Gadsden County is to promote entrepreneurship.

"I'm big on entrepreneurship; I think that's how we can save this country," Parrish said. "Starting your own business is the highest probability way to wealth. Let's be clear here, there's lots of opportunities outside of going to college. They are going to create jobs, even if not directly."

The meeting was organized by the County Commission at Tri-Eagle Sales in Midway to discuss the economic future of Gadsden County.

Citizens and political leaders from all throughout Gadsden County, including the mayor and city manager of Midway, and the entire Board of County Commissioners, gathered to learn about the statistics that describe the future of Gadsden County — from high school graduation rates to affordable housing data.

"Less than half of Florida's counties have more jobs now than they did in 2007," Parrish said.

However, Parrish said Gadsden County is a net winner when calculating how much income the county loses/gains from surrounding counties.

According to Parrish, he told the crowd that Gadsden County is already doing well in creating an easy environment to start a small business.

"I've talked to business owners and asked them how it was opening a business here," Parrish said. "Compared to opening a business in Leon County, they said it was awesome."

However, Parrish said, the next step for the county is to bring more people into the county to increase the amount of small businesses and the size of the market.

"When you're thinking about your economic development efforts here, you've got to get people moving in because people and jobs correlate by nearly 100 percent," Parrish said. "We've got to get people involved in the community so when business people are looking for where they should put their money, they care about this place and put money back into it."

After studying how other counties have approached this problem, Parrish concluded that the greatest thing Gadsden County can do to bring people in is to create affordable housing.

"The number one issue when you boil it down when people are talking about the future of Florida is affordable housing," Parrish said. "Housing permits are one of my top leading indicators of how Florida will do in the next six months. We call it attainable workforce housing. Where do you put your law enforcement? Where do you put your school teachers? If they can drive here easily, that's a win."

After Parrish, who teaches part-time at Florida State University, finished his lecture, the floor was opened for discussion between those in attendance.

According to County Commission Chair Brenda Holt, this part of the meeting was the most important.

"We need progress," Holt said. "The worst thing we can do is keep having retreats that don't do anything. We need to be able to organize these changes."

Photo by Weston Williams
Dry dock projects moves ahead to Triumph application

By Tim Croft
The Port St. Joe Star | 850-227-7827
@PSJStar | tcroft@starfl.com

A project to construct a dry dock facility off the former paper mill site bulkhead, took the next step in the process of securing Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc. funding this week.

The Triumph board received staff recommendations on nearly 120 pre-applications and the project to build a dry dock to facilitate expansion of Eastern Shipbuilding into Gulf County was among those deemed eligible to move forward to a full application.

At the same time the ownership dynamics, a source of much discussion in Gulf County, became a more crucial part of the process.

According to a report from the Panama City News Herald, Triumph staff deemed private companies ineligible for Triumph funds, which stem from the fines levied after the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill.

That led to questions whether a $20 million project related to Eastern's Coast Guard manufacturing program, submitted by pre-application by Eastern, was eligible or not.

The staff attempted to dissuade Eastern from submitting an application.

The board's attorney is awaiting a legal opinion from the Florida Legislature on whether private entities are eligible for the funding.

Eastern, according to the report, still intended to

See TRIUMPH, A6
submit a full application, attorney William Harrison quoted as saying the project conforms to the Triumph edict of transformational projects.

"This is the first quarter of the game," Harrison told the News Herald. "They’ve pitched it. We’ve caught it and are moving up the field for good field position to score."

Harrison added that the Eastern Coast Guard cutter project is "a poster child for what this legislation is intended to do."

"This is a monumental economic opportunity not only for Bay County and Gulf County but for the counties that border us," Harrison told the News Herald.

Gulf County officials for much of the past year have contended the dry dock project is the quickest way to jump-start development at the Port of Port St. Joe.

Regional economic leaders have pointed to the port as the key to unlocking the region’s economic development.

A rail study completed last year identified the port as one of the crucial infrastructure elements for increasing regional rail activity.

In the past year, the primary focus at the port has moved from dredging the federally-authorized shipping channel to the Eastern project.

The project is different from the one in Bay County in that the county is to have ownership of the dry dock upon completion, with Eastern operating the facility under a lease agreement.

Ownership by the public has been central to the county’s championing of the dry dock.

In its pre-application, the Board of County Commissioners emphasized the dry dock was the sole project the county was submitting for first-year funding; the county has roughly $15 million as a direct allocation and is seeking $28 million.

"That is totally an estimate," said Warren Yeager, executive director of the county Economic Development Coalition.

Both cities and the county School Board, at least two of which had projects of interest, signed letters of support identifying the Eastern project as the sole priority.

Given Triumph staff’s decision regarding the Bay County project submitted by Eastern, however, ownership of the dry dock could play an important role in future funding.

The project arrived at the county under a state statute that allows an "unsolicited proposal" to be submitted to a county board of commissioners outside of the public as part of a process to the formulation of a public-private partnership.

At this point only broad parameters of the partnership have been put before the public.

Eastern will fund design and engineering and construct the dry dock which will be owned by the BOCC.

Beyond that little has been made public under confidentiality requirements in the statute.

Deputy county administrator Michael Hammond noted during a BOCC meeting last week that little information had been made public and commissioners scheduled a workshop prior to this month’s meeting to do so.

That would include job-creation requirements, investment levels, lease and ownership details.

As to the ownership issue, the Port St. Joe Port Authority has long sought joint ownership with the county, though no agreement has been formalized.

The Port Authority is pressing for 50 percent ownership, but in the discussion Hammond said details remain to resolve.

"We are not at that point to consider ownership particulars," Hammond said. "But we will get there."

He added, that Eastern, given the amount of money the company may end up putting into the project, could want an ownership piece.

That investment could include a match to Triumph funds.

Yeager noted that the percentage to which Triumph would fund the project is unknown and could be as low as 50 percent.

The "goal," Hammond added, was keeping the dry dock in public hands since public dollars will pay for the design and construction.

The current position of Triumph staff, however, could mean that needs to be more than a goal.
Triumph looks to level the field

By Lois Swoboda
The Apalachicola Times
lswoboda@starfl.com | 850-653-1819

The Triumph board is getting down to business and talking straight about expectations for viable projects.

But some of the applicants don’t seem to be listening.

On Monday, Jan. 29, Florida’s Triumph board met for the first time in Apalachicola, at the courthouse annex, and while they discussed no specific proposals in depth, board members further clarified their expectations. They said they would withhold funds until they received proposals in keeping with the guidelines mandated by the state legislature.

At the beginning of Monday’s meeting, following a welcome from Commission Chair Smokey Parrish, The Triumph board voted unanimously to compensate Triumph Executive Director Susan Skelton ($104,000) and the law firm of Burke and Blue ($90,000) for time worked before the incorporation of Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc. in June, 2017.

A nonprofit created to oversee the expenditure of 75 percent of all funds recovered by the state for economic damages stemming from the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill, Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc. is required to distribute funds for the recovery, diversification, and enhancement of the eight Northwest Florida counties disproportionately affected by the oil spill - Escambia, Santa Rosa, Okaloosa, Walton, Bay, Gulf, Franklin and Wakulla.

See TRIUMPH, A7
Chairman Don Gaetz
A resident of Seaside, he served as Florida Senate President, chaired the Okaloosa County School Board and was superintendent of Okaloosa County Schools.
Treasurer Stephen Riggs IV
A licensed CPA, the Destin resident has more than 20 years of experience "delivering accounting services to governmental entities, hospitality companies, and realty associations."
Former Chair Allan Bense
A resident of Panama City, he is president of GAC Contractors, and a partner in companies with interests in road building and marking, health care, insurance, contracting, golf courses and farming. He served in the Florida House from 1998-2006, and was Speaker of the House 2004-06.

Pam Dana
A resident of Destin, she is senior advisor for strategic initiatives at the Institute for Human & Machine Cognition, a Florida-based research institute. From 1999-2007, she was executive director of the Governor's Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development. She holds a doctorate in international development education and economics.

Jason Shaof
A native of Port St. Joe, Shaof studied political science at Florida State University, and was named by the National Association of Realtors magazine as one of the top 30 realtors under the age of 30. He is a vice president of the St. Joe Natural Gas Company.
Stan W. Connolly Jr.
Connelly of Gulf Breeze has been chairman, president and CEO of Gulf Power Company since July 2012.

TRIUMPH

From Page A1

Chairman Don Gaetz announced that Triumph has hired former University of West Florida economics professor Rick Harper, and Cori Henderson, business development director for Enterprise Florida, to oversee the analysis of grant proposals. Gaetz said Harper is the foremost economist in Northwest Florida.

To date, Triumph has received more than 110 pre-applications, 92 of which were deemed eligible for the program. All of Franklin County's applications were deemed eligible.

Triumph board members voted unanimously to accept Harper and Henderson's initial recommendations.

Harper told board members the initial judgment regarding eligibility was based solely on compliance with the Florida statute creating the Triumph fund. Henderson said many projects were eliminated because it was not clear how they would enhance public infrastructure.

Harper said all pre-applicants are free to submit an application, but advised it might be better to investigate the initial eligibility finding and gather more data before doing so.

He asked board members to consider if they are seeing the very best projects and whether some better ideas might be waiting in the sidelines. "Keep your powder dry to spend that dollar at some point down the road," he urged.

"Let's look at the larger picture," said former Triumph Chair Allan Bense, who stepped down in December. "I reviewed all the proposals and in many cases I saw Triumph replacing city and county responsibility. I'm going to be very skeptical of you using money to build infrastructure (that should be funded by a city or county.) I know some folks are probably mad."

Proposals on the initial list not deemed eligible include $20 million for Eastern Shipbuilding in Bay County, to help fund a manufacturing project of Coast Guard patrol cutters; $2.1 million for a "petrochemical clean up company in Escambia County; $1.6 million for a butterfly pavilion in Walton County; $300,000 for repairs to the St. Marks Lighthouse; and $5.75 million for redevelopment of Martin Luther King Boulevard in Port St. Joe.

It is unclear whether Triumph funds can be awarded to private enterprises; Triumph's lawyer Scott Remington is waiting to hear from state legislators.

Harper said Triumph will seek out projects that will benefit the entire region sustainably over time. He said long-term economic development will ultimately raise the regional standard of living, but the mission of Triumph is not to improve quality of life by constructing ballparks and boat ramps.

He said Triumph is looking for ventures that will build a base for economic development by bringing new sources of income to the Panhandle. Triumph will not fund projects which duplicate existing programs especially if they are in competition with existing contributors to the tax base. Projects which take assets off the tax rolls will also receive low ratings.

Triumph money is not for projects with a low match or that could occur without Triumph funding.

"Economic development is all about matching our region's productive assets to the needs of the marketplace," he said.

Henderson said she, Harper and staff want to engage with applicants, and that Enterprise Florida will assist applicants in preparing proposals. She said all pre-applicants will receive a letter informing them of their eligibility status.

"We encourage applicants to take the necessary time to be thoughtful and generate useful data; consider the scope of work and how it can be documented," said Henderson.

Gaetz said it was important smaller counties with less staff to devote to grant writing be treated fairly and given aid to seek funding. "I want to make sure no good idea gets lost in the shuffle because it doesn't come in leather bindings with lots of economic lingo," he said. "If somebody has an idea with promise, I want us to reach out. I don't want this to become a relief act for out-of-town consultants."

Harper said that "we recognize that many entities (that will seek funding) don't have a lot of experience in documenting how projects will generate economic activity in the region."

Shelton said she is looking for ways to facilitate assistance to applicants, and that letters have been sent to all counties eligible for rural infrastructure money.
Job Growth Grants established to encourage economic development

Liberty Co. awarded nearly $1.5 million for turning lane and paving service road

Governor Rick Scott announced Liberty County has been awarded $1,448,831 from the Florida Job Growth Grant Fund during the Florida Governor's annual budget address at the Capitol. The funds will be used for the construction of a turning lane on Hwy. 65 South at the intersection of U.S. Forest Service Road 103, and paving 1.5 miles of the service road to create access to more than 500 acres of property for economic development.

The application by the Liberty County Board of County Commissioners was selected from a pool of more than 225 requests that totaled more than $821 million. Liberty County's grant was one of nine projects statewide to be approved. Together, the grants awarded totaled $35 million. Cissy Proctor, Executive Director of the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO), said each selected proposal has a strong return on investment and a commitment to improving the regional economy.

These proposals were reviewed by DEO, Enterprise Florida (EFI) and chosen by Governor Scott based on their strong return on investment to the state and to meet the demand for a robust workforce or infrastructure needs, according to a news release from the governor's office. Return on investment was calculated to determine the best projects for the state and economic development in the regions.

Senator Bill Montford said he was glad to see funds coming to rural Florida. "Rural Florida is in desperate need of economic development and growth," Senator Montford said.

"Not all areas of the state have recovered from the tough economic times our state has seen over the last decade and I'm glad to see that Governor Scott is dedicated to providing the necessary tools and resources to address those challenges."

He continued, "I have also filed legislation this year that aims to provide more access and more capital for our rural areas. I'm looking forward to working with the Governor and my colleagues in the Senate and the House to provide a much-needed boost to our rural economies."

Liberty County Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Johnny Eubanks said the grant will be used to improve infrastructure that will help additional businesses to locate in the county creating more jobs.

See LIBERTY CO. GRANT continued inside on page 4
Eubanks also said he wanted to thank the many parties that contributed to the success of the application.

"This grant is the result of a lot of people working together for the benefit of the county," Eubanks said. "Thanks to the Board of County Commissioners and the Clerk of the Court for moving quickly to hold a special meeting to move the grant forward, thanks to Opportunity Florida for helping us with the proposal, and thanks to both Enterprise Florida and the Department of Economic Opportunity for the help they gave us during the process. Of course we also want to thank Governor Scott for selecting our proposal from the over 225 submitted."

Richard Williams, Executive Director of Opportunity Florida congratulated Liberty County on the award. "For one of the smallest counties in the state to compete and win from among so many applications is a testament to the officials in Liberty County that worked together to make this happen," Williams said. "Opportunity Florida is proud to have been able to provide technical assistance and we also appreciate the way DEO staff worked with us to make this possible."

The Florida Jobs Growth Grant was created by the Florida Legislature and provides Governor Scott with an $85 million fund to help build the infrastructure Florida needs to help businesses expand and locate in the state. Both Sen. Bill Montford and Rep. Halsey Beshears supported the creation of the fund and provided support for the application.

Eubanks said the chamber will be working extremely hard to find companies willing to create jobs in Liberty County taking advantage of the infrastructure improvements funded by the grant. "This is an example of how elected officials and economic developers working together can make Liberty County a better place to worship, work, and play," he said.
Former Leon County Commissioner Jane Sauls, who spent 20 years advocating for library funding and other enhancements for rural District 2, died late Wednesday. She was 74.

Sauls, known for her soft-spoken demeanor and no-nonsense style, served more than three decades working for the Clerk of Court before launching her political career. She ran for office in 1996 in part to push for a library in Fort Braden. The $1.4 million facility opened in 2004 and was named in her honor in late 2016 as her final term was winding down.

County Commissioner Jimbo Jackson, a longtime friend who succeeded Sauls, said she was a champion for the western district. He noted the county unveiled a new playground Thursday at the Fort Braden Community Park built on recreational fields Sauls helped develop. "She will leave a legacy in this community that will live on for generations," he said. "Jane was always concerned about doing what was right rather than what was popular. She fought for improvements in District 2 that if not for her we would never have had access to."

Sauls, who battled Parkinson’s disease and other health issues, had been in declining health for several years. She is survived by her husband, Marvin Sauls, a son, David Sauls, and a daughter, Lisa Boles, and three grandchildren.

Her career in government spanned decades. For 32 years, she worked for the Clerk of Court and was assigned deputy clerk of the Statewide Grand Jury. She also worked for two years in the State Attorney’s Office.

In addition to her work getting the library built, she was instrumental in projects including the Fort Braden Community Center, the Woodville branch library and the Public Safety Complex. She also was a lifelong member of the NAACP.

Considered a peacemaker among her colleagues, Sauls avoided commission infighting and appeared to rise above political frays. She was elected chairman of the board three times and vice chairman four times.
"When we had some pretty raucous board meetings, she was often the adult in the room," said former County Commissioner Bob Rackleff, who attended Florida High with Sauls before she transferred to Leon High.

She was a longtime supporter of the Tallahassee Museum, served on its board for more than a decade and was honored by the Florida Association of Museums in 2012 with an Outstanding Public Official Award. She helped the museum open its popular zip lines and aerial adventures. During its annual pioneer breakfast, she'd come out with her husband to stir grits, said Russell Daws, president and CEO of the museum. "She was such a wonderful person," Daws said. "She advocated for us at the County Commission passionately. It's hard to say enough good things about Jane. She wasn't a person who played politics. She truly wanted to do the best for her district."

Sauls' official portrait will be displayed in the County Courthouse Rotunda as part of county protocol, said County Administrator Vince Long, who called her "a beloved member of the Leon County family."

Linda Summerlin, who served as Sauls' aide throughout her five terms in office, called her a "quiet force on the commission" who accomplished much. "She loved District 2 and did her very best for those she represented and the entire community," she said. "Her door was always open to anyone who wanted to see her. And she really listened to people's views. To me she was what a public servant should be."

**Former colleagues remember Sauls**

**County Commission Chairman Nick Maddox**: "When she served on the board, she was a symbol of steadfastness and commitment to our community. She will forever be an inspiration for elected officials and public servants everywhere."

**Commissioner Mary Ann Lindley**: "She led with grace and kindness and was very much a leader, who, when she spoke, we listened carefully and respectful of her deep knowledge of her district and our community."

**County Commissioner Bryan Desloge**: "What a loss for Leon County. I've known Jane since the late '80s and she was the consummate public servant. She will be missed!"

**City Commissioner Gil Ziffer**: "A true public servant that will be missed. Jane served for all the right reasons."

**Former County Commissioner Gary Yordon**: "She was very special. She brought sweet and smart to every meeting."

**Funeral service**

The family will receive friends 6-8 p.m. Saturday 2/17/18 at Bevis Funeral Home, 200 John Knox Road. The funeral service will be at 2 p.m. Sunday at Generations Church, 3080 W. Tennessee St., with interment immediately following at Oakland Cemetery.
New business comes to Midway

Four Star Freightliner held grand opening of truck dealership last Thursday.

By Randall Lieberman
randall@prioritynews.net

Last Thursday (March 1), the Four Star Freightliner Company celebrated its ribbon cutting and road dedication at its new facility in Midway, right off the Midway exit of Interstate-10.

Four Star Freightliner is a heavy- and medium-duty truck dealership, which is expected to employ 32 people and generate in excess of $5.4 million annually for Gadsden County.

Jerry Kocan, Four Star Freightliner's principal and CEO, is grateful for the leadership in Midway and Gadsden County for helping to make this project a reality.

"There were several people and entities that played essential roles in Four Star opening a permanent home here in Gadsden County," Kocan said. "I want to especially thank Gadsden County Chairperson Brenda Holt for her leadership and Gadsden County Development Council's Executive Director Beth Kirkland for working for more than two years on this project.

"However, none of this would have happened without the support of the people of Gadsden County," Kocan continued.

Kocan went on to say that in addition to opening the new dealership in Midway, the company is excited to be creating a new diesel technician program as part of a partnership with Gadsden Technical Institute in Quincy.

"The average diesel technician with five or more years experience has the potential to make $80,000 a year," Kocan said. "So it's exciting for Four Star Freightliner to be part of helping to grow and develop jobs in this great county."

Antonio Jefferson, chair of the Gadsden County Development Council, congratulated Four Star Freightliner on a beautiful facility and thanked them for their commitment to jobs and job training in the community.

"Economic development is a marathon and not a sprint," Jefferson said. "It is about taking a long-term approach to make your community attractive to investment."

"It can take significant time from the first encounter with a company until a celebration such as today occurs," Jefferson continued. "This project was over two-and-a-half years in the making."

Holt recalled the beginning of this project.

"Two-and-a-half years ago, the Gadsden County Development Council and the Board of County Commissioners had the privilege of meeting Jerry Kocan and his team from Four Star Freightliner for a discussion about building a permanent home in Florida," Holt said. "After a detailed search for the right location, Four Star Freightliner settled on where we are today."

"The Department of Economic Opportunity's partnership with Gadsden County made a desirable location work," Holt continued.

Land owner Devoe Moore had donated the right-of-way for the road leading to the company to the county so that the county could utilize the state's Department of Economic Opportunity Rural Infrastructure Fund program to get Four Star Way built.

Four Star Way connects to Brickyard Road, just west of Highway 90 near the Midway I-10 exit.

The Department of Economic Opportunity grant for the road and utility infrastructure was $465,205.

See Four Star—page A8
Four Star
Continued from page A1

The road and the related utility infrastructure will make an additional 40 acres available for development.

Cissy Proctor, executive director of the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity, said that Four Star Freightliner’s new facility is another sign that Florida’s business-friendly policies are having significant positive impacts on the state’s rural local economies. “We are proud to partner with Gadsden County to provide opportunities that enhance economic development and provide Floridians a chance to live their American dream,” Proctor said.

Wanda Range, mayor of the City of Midway, welcomed Four Star Freightliner to Midway with great enthusiasm.

“Midway is one of six municipalities in Gadsden County,” Range said. “Each of us are committed to bringing in good jobs and job training. Four Star is an exemplary partner on both fronts.” “It is our sincere hope that Four Star’s new and expanded presence will benefit the company and the citizens of Midway and Gadsden County for many years to come,” Range continued.
Tampa Bay RPC Hosts Sea Level Rise and Climate Resilience: A Regional Roundtable Conversation

The Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council hosted a regional conversation regarding *Sea Level Rise and Climate Resilience* on January 8, 2018. Pinellas County Commissioner Janet C. Long, Chair of the Tampa Bay RPC led the three-hour interactive discussion for more than two dozen local elected officials and climate resiliency experts.

Under Commissioner Long’s leadership, the Tampa Bay RPC is convening the region on a pressing issue that is impacting local governments today and will continue to do so in the future. Attendees heard presentations from three experts on sea level rise and climate resilience. The presentations included a discussion of the challenges ahead for local governments, the economic impacts of sea level rise and one community’s response.

Dr. Jennifer Jurado, Chief Resilience Officer for Broward County provided an overview of the Southeast Florida Regional Climate Change Compact initiative. The compact of local governments which was initiated in 2009, hosts an annual summit and has produced a Regional Climate Action Plan to integrate climate adaptation and mitigation...
into existing systems and processes. Tampa Bay RPC Executive Director, Sean Sullivan explained that, "The benefits of this successful regional approach is that it creates a stronger voice, accelerates progressive planning and leverages existing resources. By broadening partnerships and cultivating cooperation among our local governments, access to resources and information is enhanced".

"Our objective at the regional planning council is to assist local governments with viable opportunities for implementing both adaptation strategies that increase the region's resilience to sea level rise and other coastal hazards as well as an emissions reductions plan to avoid further vulnerabilities," stated Long. "A Compact in our region will foster collaboration such as shared sea level rise projections so local governments can better coordinate, develop, and implement appropriate coastal adaptation and implement risk reduction strategies to reduce the drivers of sea level rise with the critical goal of maintaining our region's wonderful quality of life for generations to come."

West Florida LEPC in Action

The West Florida Regional Planning Council serves as staff to the West Florida Local Emergency Planning Committee and one of its main goals is to assist first responders in preparing for hazardous materials related emergencies. In December, the Escambia County Hazardous Materials Response Team and Kraton Chemical in Pensacola, teamed up to hold a joint-small scale exercise at the Kraton Chemical facility. The hazardous materials team members focused on responding to chemicals stored at the facility.

Recently, the West Florida LEPC met in Bay County and reviewed the Training Subcommittee schedule, upcoming classes, the success of the hybrid 160-Hour Technician Level Course and changes in reporting requirements for hazardous materials. Based on the success of the hybrid Technician Level Course, there are plans to host another course for hazardous materials first responders in 2018.
East Central Florida RPC Awarded Grant for Eco-Tourism

The Florida Department of Economic Opportunity recently awarded a grant for the development of the St. Johns River-to-Sea Loop Strategic Plan and Eco-Tourism Resources to the East Central Florida Regional Planning Council. The project is a collaborative effort with the Northeast Florida Regional Council and the St Johns River-to-Sea Loop Alliance. Additional collaborative partners include the five counties and several cities along the trail. To promote eco-tourism opportunities, partners along the Loop are creating a brand and marketing strategies and identifying collaboration opportunities. Through the inclusion of opportunity maps and a resource directory, the Strategic Plan will promote economic development and identify eco-tourism opportunities along the River-to-Sea Loop. A Locally Resourceful Trail Oriented Development Case Study will be produced.

The story maps and resource directory are intended to attract trail visitors to destinations along the trail and market private businesses as well as municipal and county resources. A case study on the Agritourism Corridor through Putnam, Flagler and St Johns counties will transfer lessons learned, knowledge and implementation strategies along the trail, fueling other trail oriented economic development opportunities.

Stakeholder input is of utmost importance and three stakeholder meetings/webinars will be held throughout the process. This will include outreach to review documents, maps and data to ensure accuracy as well as support and inclusiveness of the project deliverables and the future of the Loop. The project is expected to be completed later this year.
MONTHLY ACTIVITY REPORT: January 2018

RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT/CAPACITY BUILDING and OUTREACH

- Organized and distributed the December 2017 Florida Regional Councils Association (FRCA) Newsletter, FRCA Forward. Began collecting articles and formatting the January 2018 Newsletter. Maintained the FRCA Facebook page.

- Continued to work with the Florida Association of Counties regarding the maintenance and enhancement of the FRCA website and newsletter. Updated the email listserv for the more than 2,300 individuals who receive FRCA Forward.

- To enhance partnerships and strengthen the relationship between regional planning councils and their state and federal partners, participated in or attended the following meetings and shared information:
  - Pursued sponsorship of the American Planning Association, Florida 16th Annual Public Policy Workshop scheduled for February 7, 2018 in Tallahassee and the National Association of Regional Councils being held in Orlando, June 4 – 6, 2018.
  - Coordinated with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection on a Community Resilience grant opportunity.

ASSOCIATION MANAGEMENT

- Prepared for and participated in the January 11, 2018, Executive Directors Advisory Council meetings held in Tallahassee.

- Prepared for and participated in the January 12, 2018, FRCA Policy Board meetings including coordinating logistics, securing speakers, developing agendas and distributing meeting materials.

- Prepared for the February 8 -9, 2018, FRCA Executive Directors Advisory Committee and FRCA Partners meetings.

- Assisted with the final production of the 2016-17 FRCA Annual Report.

- Prepared quarterly report to the Department of Economic Opportunity on economic activities in each regional planning council area.

- Distributed legislative updates, grant opportunities and information of interest from state and national organizations.
Regional Planning Councils Host Hurricane Irma Recovery Workshops

The Central Florida, South Florida, Southwest Florida and Tampa Bay RPCs hosted "Economic Recovery and Resiliency Efforts Following Hurricane Irma" workshops during the month of February. Conducted in partnership with the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity, the International Economic Development Council, and the U.S. Economic Development Administration, the workshops provided an opportunity to foster greater agriculture, business, and community resiliency by connecting community leaders with information on state and federal resources available after a disaster. The workshops were especially useful for business or community leaders to learn about their disaster recovery role and how to prioritize actions for short and long-term recovery. Inspiring examples from communities around the country that have experienced and recovered from disasters were reviewed. Continuity strategies and resiliency and financial informational resources available were a major topic of discussion. Workshops were held in the following counties:

- Citrus County, February 16th
- Collier County, February 13th
- Hendry County, February 14th
- Highlands County, February 15th
- Lee County, February 12th
• Monroe County, February 27th
• Polk County, February 15th

Each workshop was tailored to address the priority needs for recovery within the respective communities. Workshops in Hendry, Polk, and Citrus counties focused on programs and resources for agricultural recovery, while the workshops held in Lee and Collier counties especially focused on programs and resources for business recovery. The workshop held in Monroe County centered on needs related to aquaculture, workforce and tourism recovery.

South Florida RPC Plans Economic Development of South Miami-Dade County

Over the past twenty-five years, South Miami-Dade County has been subjected to an unrelenting series of disasters, hardships, and change. In 1992, Hurricane Andrew caused widespread devastation to the area and its economy. In 1993, the Homestead Airforce Base was effectively closed and later realigned, greatly reducing the number of jobs and impacting the economy in the area. In 1994, the North American Free Trade Agreement was signed leading to extreme struggle for the region’s agriculture-dependent economy to survive amidst imported competition. The housing market collapse and "Great Recession" hit the Miami region hard and the South Miami-Dade area even harder with some of the highest rates of foreclosure in the nation. In 2017 the area was struck by Hurricane Irma, causing extensive loss to the agricultural economy and allied businesses. Estimated agricultural losses from Hurricane Irma total nearly $226 million, not accounting for the total losses in okra and avocado crop harvests. Despite all the tribulations and the apparent need, South Miami-Dade County has never had an economic development strategy of its own. Now, in the wake of Hurricane Irma, is the time to ensure that recovery and future development is done in a manner which will strengthen the area and its economy.

Through the leadership of Councilmember and Miami-Dade County Commissioner Daniella Levine Cava and Miami-Dade County Commissioner Dennis Moss, and in partnership with Miami-Dade County staff and key stakeholders from the South Miami-Dade community, the South Florida RPC, in its role as the Economic Development Administration’s (EDA) Economic Development District for South Florida, is spearheading the development and implementation of a South Miami-
Dade County Economic Development Strategy. Council staff is assisting with the preparation of an EDA Economic Development Assistance Program grant proposal to secure funding for this initiative. The South Florida RPC has submitted a preliminary funding request for EDA Disaster Supplemental funding. Total project costs are estimated at $2 million, inclusive of a $1 million in-kind match.

Tampa Bay RPC Hosts Suncoast APA

On February 20, 2018, the Tampa Bay RPC hosted the Florida Suncoast American Planning Associations circuit rider series to a room packed full of planners, engineers, and elected officials. Joe Minicozzi, AICP, and founder of Urban3 LLC was the keynote speaker for the morning’s agenda. Mr. Minicozzi's cross-training in city planning in the public and private sectors, as well as private sector real estate finance, has allowed him to develop award-winning analytic tools that have garnered national attention. Land use economics is an effective tool to proactively manage growth. It is also a fiscally smart way to use land more wisely. However, few communities consider the important role the value of land plays in land use planning, zoning, place making and capital improvement planning. Mr. Minicozzi led the presentation and guided participants to gain a better understanding of the tie between economic productivity and community vitality through land use.
MONTHLY ACTIVITY REPORT: February 2018

RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT/CAPACITY BUILDING and OUTREACH

- Organized and distributed the January 2018 Florida Regional Councils Association (FRCA) Newsletter, FRCA Forward. Began collecting articles and formatting the February 2018 Newsletter. Maintained the FRCA Facebook page.
- Worked with the Florida Association of Counties to add county and city planning department contacts to the email listserv of individuals who receive FRCA Forward.
- To enhance partnerships and strengthen the relationship between regional planning councils and their state and federal partners, participated in or attended the following meetings and shared information:
  - American Planning Association (APA) Public Policy Workshop, February 7th
  - Rural Economic Development Initiative (REDI) Monthly Meeting, February 16th
  - Florida Coastal Resilience Forum, February 21st
  - Pursued sponsorship of the National Association of Regional Councils being held in Orlando, June 4 – 6, 2018, and the annual APA Conference being held in West Palm Beach, September 11 – 14, 2018.

ASSOCIATION MANAGEMENT

- Prepared for and participated in the February 8 - 9, 2018, Executive Directors Advisory Council and Partners Meetings held in Tallahassee including coordinating logistics, securing speakers, developing agendas and distributing meeting materials.
- Prepared for the March 8 - 9, 2018, FRCA Executive Directors Advisory Committee and FRCA Partners meetings.
- Distributed legislative updates, grant opportunities and information of interest from state and national organizations.
AGENDA ITEM – 6 C

INTERGOVERNMENTAL COORDINATION AND REVIEW AND PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION COORDINATION JOINT PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT

THIS JOINT PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT is made and entered into on this ______ day of ____________ by and between the FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (Department); the CAPITAL REGION TRANSPORTATION PLANNING AGENCY (CRTPA); the APALACHEE REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL (ARPC); STARMETRO (STARMETRO); and TALLAHASSEE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT (TIA).

RECITALS

WHEREAS, the Federal Government, under the authority of Title 23 United States Code Section 134 and Title 49 United States Code (USC) Section 5303 and any subsequent applicable amendments, requires each metropolitan area, as a condition to the receipt of federal capital or operating assistance, to have a continuing, cooperative, and comprehensive transportation planning process in designated urbanized areas to develop and implement plans and programs consistent with the comprehensively planned development of the metropolitan area; and

WHEREAS, Title 23 USC §134, Title 49 USC §5303, and Section 339.175, Florida Statutes (F.S.), provide for the creation of metropolitan planning organizations to develop transportation plans and programs for urbanized areas; and

WHEREAS, Title 23 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) §450 requires that the State, the Metropolitan Planning Organization, and the operators of publicly owned transportation systems shall enter into an agreement clearly identifying the responsibilities for cooperatively carrying out such transportation planning (including multimodal, systems-level corridor and subarea planning studies pursuant to Title 23 CFR §450) and programming; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 20.23, F.S., the Department has been created by the State of Florida, and the Department has the powers and duties relating to transportation, as outlined in Section 334.044, F.S.; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to an Interlocal Agreement dated November 15, 2004, and filed with the Clerk of the Circuit Court of Leon, Gadsden and Wakulla Counties, the CRTPA was established within the revised Planning Area Boundary, with specific transportation planning duties and responsibilities identified therein; and

WHEREAS, on January 12, 2009, the CRTPA Board approved a reapportionment plan in accordance with the revised Planning Area Boundary to include all of Gadsden, Jefferson, Leon and Wakulla counties, which reapportionment plan was subsequently submitted to the Governor for approval; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 339.175(4), Florida Statutes, in a letter dated March 17, 2011, the Governor has agreed to the apportionment plan; and
WHEREAS, pursuant to an amended Interlocal Agreement dated March 13, 2014 and filed with the Clerk of the Circuit Court of Gadsden, Jefferson, Leon and Wakulla Counties, the CRTPA was established with the revised Planning Area Boundary, specific transportation planning duties and responsibilities identified therein; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Chapter 332.08, F.S. Laws of Florida, the TIA was created and established with the purpose of providing commercial air and cargo operations as well as general aviation support to the City of Tallahassee and Capital Region; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Chapter 341,011, F.S. Laws of Florida, STARMETRO was created and established with the purpose of providing transit service to the citizens of Tallahassee, Florida; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 339.175 F.S., the CRTPA shall execute and maintain an agreement with the metropolitan and regional intergovernmental coordination and review agencies serving the Metropolitan Planning Area; and

WHEREAS, the agreement must describe the means by which activities will be coordinated and specify how transportation planning and programming will be part of the comprehensively planned development of the Metropolitan Planning Area; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 186.504, F.S., and Chapter 29L-1, Florida Administrative Code (FAC), the ARPC was established and operates with a primary purpose of intergovernmental coordination and review; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 186.505, F.S., the ARPC is to review plans of metropolitan planning organizations to identify inconsistencies between those agencies' plans and applicable local government comprehensive plans adopted pursuant to Chapter 163, F.S.; and

WHEREAS, the ARPC, pursuant to Section 186.507, F.S., is required to prepare a Strategic Regional Policy Plan, which will contain regional goals and policies that address regional transportation issues; and

WHEREAS, based on the ARPC statutory mandate to identify inconsistencies between plans of metropolitan planning organizations and applicable local government comprehensive plans, and to prepare and adopt a Strategic Regional Policy Plan, the ARPC is appropriately situated to assist in the intergovernmental coordination of the transportation planning process; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 186.509, F.S., and Chapter 29L-7, FAC, the ARPC has adopted a conflict and dispute resolution process; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of the dispute resolution process is to reconcile differences in planning and growth management issues between local governments, regional agencies, and private interests; and

WHEREAS, the parties hereto have determined that the voluntary dispute resolution process can be useful in resolving conflicts and disputes arising in the transportation planning process; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Title 23 CFR §450 and Section 339.175, F.S., the CRTPA must execute and maintain an agreement with the operators of public transportation systems, including transit systems, and airports, describing the means by which activities will be coordinated and
specifying how public transit and aviation (including multimodal, systems-level corridor and subarea planning studies pursuant to 23 CFR §450) and programming will be part of the comprehensively planned development of the Metropolitan Planning Area; and

WHEREAS, it is in the public interest that the CRTPA, operators of public transportation systems, including StarMetro and TIA, jointly pledge their intention to cooperatively participate in the planning and programming of transportation improvements within this Metropolitan Planning Area; and

WHEREAS, the undersigned parties have determined that this Agreement satisfies the requirements of and is consistent with Title 23 CFR §450 and Section 339.175 F.S.; and

WHEREAS, the parties to this Agreement desire to participate cooperatively in the performance, on a continuing basis, of a cooperative, and comprehensive transportation planning process to assure that highway facilities, transit systems, bicycle and pedestrian facilities, rail systems, air transportation and other facilities will be located and developed in relation to the overall plan of community development.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual covenants, promises, and representation herein, the parties desiring to be legally bound, do agree as follows:

**ARTICLE 1**

**RECITALS; DEFINITIONS**

Section 1.01. Recitals. Each and all of the foregoing recitals are incorporated herein and acknowledged to be true and correct. Failure of any of the foregoing recitals to be true and correct shall not operate to invalidate this Agreement.

Section 1.02. Definitions. The following words when used in this Agreement (unless the context shall clearly indicate the contrary) shall have the following meanings:

a) **Agreement** means and refers to this instrument, as may be amended from time to time.

b) **Corridor or Subarea Study** shall mean and refer to studies involving major investment decisions or as otherwise identified in Title 23 CFR §450.

c) **Department** shall mean and refer to the Florida Department of Transportation, an agency of the State of Florida, created pursuant to Section 20.23, F.S.

d) **FHWA** means and refers to the Federal Highway Administration.

e) **Long Range Transportation Plan** is the 20-year transportation planning horizon which identifies transportation facilities; includes a financial plan that demonstrates how the plan can be implemented and assesses capital improvements necessary to preserve the existing metropolitan transportation system and make efficient use of existing transportation facilities; indicates proposed transportation activities; and, in ozone/carbon monoxide nonattainment areas is coordinated with the State Implementation Plan, all as required by Title 23 USC §134, Title 49 USC §5303, Title 23 CFR §450, and Section 339, F.S.

f) **Metropolitan Planning Area** means and refers to the planning area as determined by
g) agreement between the CRTPA and the Governor for the urbanized areas designated by the United States Bureau of the Census as described in 23 USC §134, 49 USC §5303, and Section 339.175, F.S., and including the existing urbanized area and the contiguous area expected to become urbanized within a 20-year forecast period, which shall be subject to the CRTPA's planning authority.

h) CRTPA means and refers to the metropolitan planning organization formed pursuant to the Interlocal Agreement dated March 13, 2014.

i) ARPC means and refers to the APALACHEE REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL created pursuant to Section 186.504, F.S., and identified in Chapter 29L-1, FAC.

j) Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) is the staged multi-year program of transportation improvement projects developed by a metropolitan planning organization consistent with the Long Range Transportation Plan, developed pursuant to Titles 23 USC §134, 49 USC §5303, 23 CFR §450 and Section 339.175, F.S.

k) Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) is a biennial program developed in cooperation with the Department and public transportation providers, that identifies the planning priorities and activities to be carried out within a metropolitan planning area to be undertaken during a 2-year period, together with a complete description thereof and an estimated budget, as required by Title 23 CFR §450, and Section 339.175, F.S.

ARTICLE 2

PURPOSE

Section 2.01. Coordination with public transportation system operators. This Agreement is to provide for cooperation between the CRTPA, the Department, STAR METRO and TIA in the development and preparation of the UPWP, the TIP, the LRTP, and any applicable Corridor or Subarea Studies.

Section 2.02. Intergovernmental coordination; Regional Planning Council. Further, this Agreement is to provide a process through the ARPC for intergovernmental coordination and review and identification of inconsistencies between proposed CRTPA transportation plans and local government comprehensive plans adopted pursuant to Chapter 163, F.S., and reviewed by the Division of Community Development within the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity.

Section 2.03. Dispute resolution. This Agreement also provides a process for conflict and dispute resolution through the ARPC.

ARTICLE 3

COOPERATIVE PROCEDURES FOR PLANNING AND PROGRAMMING WITH OPERATORS OF PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS

Section 3.01. Cooperation with operators of public transportation systems; coordination
with local government approved comprehensive plans.

(a) The CRTPA shall cooperate with STARMETRO and TIA to optimize the planning and programming of an integrated and balanced intermodal transportation system for the Metropolitan Planning Area.

(b) The CRTPA shall implement a continuing, cooperative, and comprehensive transportation planning process that is consistent, to the maximum extent feasible, with aviation master plans, and public transit development plans of the units of local governments whose boundaries are within the Metropolitan Planning Area.

(c) As a means towards achievement of the goals in paragraphs (a) and (b) and in an effort to coordinate intermodal transportation planning and programming, the CRTPA may include, but shall include no later than July 6, 2014 if within a transportation management area, as part of its membership officials of agencies that administer or operate major modes or systems of transportation, including but not limited to transit operators, sponsors of major local airports, and rail operators per Federal regulations. The representatives of the major modes or systems of transportation may be accorded voting or non-voting advisor status. In the Metropolitan Planning Area if authorities or agencies are created by law to perform transportation functions and that are not under the jurisdiction of a general purpose local government represented on the CRTPA, the CRTPA may request the Governor to designate said authority or agency as a voting member of the CRTPA in accordance with the requirements of Section 339.175, F.S. If the new member would significantly alter local government representation in the CRTPA, the CRTPA shall propose a revised apportionment plan to the Governor to ensure voting membership on the CRTPA to be an elected official representing public transit authorities which have been, or may be, created by law.

The CRTPA shall ensure that representatives of StarMetro and TIA are provided membership on the CRTPA Technical Advisory Committee.

Section 3.02. Preparation of transportation related plans.

(a) Although the adoption or approval of the UPWP, the TIP, and the LRTP is the responsibility of the CRTPA, development of such plans or programs shall be viewed as a cooperative effort involving the Department, STARMETRO and TIA. In developing its plans and programs, the CRTPA shall solicit the comments and recommendations of the parties to this Agreement in the preparation of such plans and programs.

(b) When preparing the UPWP, the TIP, or the LRTP, or preparing other than a minor amendment thereto (as determined by the CRTPA), the CRTPA shall provide notice to the Department, STARMETRO and TIA advising them of the scope of the work to be undertaken and inviting comment and participation in the development process. The CRTPA shall ensure that the chief operating officials of the Department, STARMETRO and TIA shall receive at least 15 days written notice of all public workshops and hearings, or specified number of days per CRTPA bylaws, or public participation plan, relating to the development of such plans and programs.
(c) **Local government comprehensive plans.**

(1) In developing the TIP, the LRTP, or Corridor or Subarea studies, or preparing other than a minor amendment thereto (as determined by the CRTPA), the CRTPA, STARMETRO and TIA shall analyze for each local government in the Metropolitan Planning Area:

(i) each comprehensive plan's future land use element;

(ii) the goals, objectives, and policies of each comprehensive plan; and

(iii) the zoning, of each local government in the Metropolitan Planning Area.

(iv) Based upon the foregoing review and a consideration of other growth management factors, the CRTPA, STARMETRO and TIA shall provide written recommendations to local governments in the Metropolitan Planning Area in the development, amendment, and implementation of their comprehensive plans. A copy of the recommendations shall be sent to the ARPC.

(3) The CRTPA agrees that, to the maximum extent feasible, the LRTP and the projects and project-phases within the TIP shall be consistent with the future land use element and goals, objectives, and policies of each comprehensive plan of the local governments in the Metropolitan Planning Area. If the CRTPA'S TIP is inconsistent with a local government's comprehensive plan, the CRTPA shall so indicate, and the CRTPA shall present, as part of the TIP, justification for including the project in the program.

(d) **Multi-modal transportation agency plans.**

(1) In developing the TIP, the LRTP, or Corridor or Subarea studies, or preparing other than a minor amendment thereto (as determined by the CRTPA, the CRTPA shall analyze the master plans of STARMETRO and TIA). Based upon the foregoing review and a consideration of other transportation-related factors, the CRTPA, shall from time to time and as appropriate, provide recommendations to the parties to this Agreement as well as local governments within the Metropolitan Planning Area, for the development, amendment, and implementation of their master, development, or comprehensive plans.

(2) In developing or revising their respective master, development, or comprehensive plans, the parties to this Agreement shall analyze the draft or approved Unified Planning Work Program, Transportation Improvement Program, Long Range Transportation Plan, or Corridor or Subarea studies, or amendments thereto. Based upon the foregoing review and a consideration of other transportation-related factors, the parties to this Agreement shall from time to time and as appropriate, provide written recommendations to the CRTPA with regard to development, amendment, and implementation of the plans, programs, and studies.

(3) The CRTPA agrees that, to the maximum extent feasible, the Transportation Improvement Program shall be consistent with the affected master plans and
development plans of the parties to this Agreement.

ARTICLE 4
INTERGOVERNMENTAL COORDINATION AND REVIEW

Section 4.01. Coordination with Regional Planning Council. The ARPC shall perform the following tasks:

(a) Within 30 days of receipt, the ARPC shall review the draft TIP, LRTP, Corridor and Subarea studies, or amendments thereto, as requested by the CRTPA, to identify inconsistencies between these plans and programs and applicable local government comprehensive plans adopted pursuant to Chapter 163, F.S., for counties and cities within the Metropolitan Planning Area and the adopted Strategic Regional Policy Plan.

The parties recognize that, pursuant to Florida law, the LRTP and the TIP of the CRTPA must be considered by cities and counties within the Metropolitan Planning Area in the preparation, amendment, and update/revision of their comprehensive plans. Further, the LRTP and the projects and project phases within the TIP are to be consistent with the future land use element and goals, objectives, and policies of the comprehensive plans of local governments in the Metropolitan Planning Area. Upon completion of its review of a draft TIP or LRTP, the ARPC shall advise the CRTPA and each county or city of its findings;

(b) The ARPC shall advise the CRTPA in writing of its concerns and identify those portions of the submittals which need to be reevaluated and potentially modified if the ARPC review identifies inconsistencies between the draft TIP or LRTP and local comprehensive plans; and

(3) Upon final adoption of the proposed Transportation Improvement Program, Long Range Transportation Plan, Corridor and Subarea studies, or amendments thereto, the CRTPA may request that the ARPC consider adoption of regional transportation goals, objectives, and policies in the Strategic Regional Policy Plan implementing the adopted Transportation Improvement Program, Long Range Transportation Plan, Corridor and Subarea studies, or amendments thereto. If the proposed plan, program, or study, or amendments thereto, was the subject of previous adverse comment by the ARPC, the CRTPA will identify the change in the final adopted plan intended to resolve the adverse comment, or alternatively, the CRTPA shall identify the reason for not amending the plan as suggested by the ARPC.

(b) Provide the availability of the conflict and dispute resolution process as set forth in Article 5 below.

ARTICLE 5
CONFLICT AND DISPUTE RESOLUTION PROCESS

Section 5.01. Disputes and conflicts under this Agreement. This process shall apply to conflicts
and disputes relating to matters subject to this Agreement, or conflicts arising from the performance of this Agreement. Except as otherwise provided in this Article 5, only representatives of the agencies with conflicts or disputes shall engage in conflict resolution.

Section 5.02. Initial resolution. The affected parties to this Agreement shall, at a minimum, ensure the attempted early resolution of conflicts relating to such matters. Early resolution shall be handled by direct discussion between the following officials:

Florida Department of Transportation: District Director for Planning and Programs
CRTPA: Executive Director
ARPC: Executive Director
STARMETRO: Transit Planning Administrator
TALLAHASSEE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT: Assistant Director of Aviation

Section 5.03. Resolution by senior agency official. If the conflict remains unresolved, the conflict shall be resolved by the following officials:

Florida Department of Transportation: District Secretary
CRTPA: Chair
ARPC: Chair
STARMETRO: Executive Director
TALLAHASSEE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT: Director of Aviation

Section 5.04. Resolution by the Office of the Governor. If the conflict is not resolved through conflict resolution pursuant to Sections 5.02, 5.03, and 5.04 of this Agreement, the parties shall petition the Executive Office of the Governor for resolution of the conflict pursuant to its procedures. Resolution of the conflict by the Executive Office of the Governor shall be binding on all parties.

ARTICLE 6

MISCELLANEOUS PROVISION

Section 6.01. Constitutional or statutory duties and responsibilities of parties. This Agreement shall not be construed to authorize the delegation of the constitutional or statutory duties of any of the parties. In addition, this Agreement does not relieve any of the parties of an obligation or responsibility imposed upon them by law, except to the extent of actual and timely performance thereof by one or more of the parties to this Agreement or any legal or administrative entity created or authorized by this Agreement, in which case this performance may be offered in satisfaction of the obligation or responsibility.
Section 6.02. Amendment of Agreement. Amendments or modifications of this Agreement may only be made by written agreement signed by all parties hereto with the same formalities as the original Agreement.

Section 6.03. Duration; withdrawal procedure.

(a) Duration. This Agreement shall have a term of (5) years and the parties hereto shall examine the terms hereof and agree to amend the provisions or reaffirm the same in a timely manner. However, the failure to amend or to reaffirm the terms of this Agreement shall not invalidate or otherwise terminate this Agreement.

(b) Withdrawal procedure. Any party may withdraw from this Agreement after presenting in written form a notice of intent to withdraw to the other parties to this Agreement and the CRTPA, at least (90) days prior to the intended date of withdrawal; provided, that financial commitments made prior to withdrawal are effective and binding for their full term and amount regardless of withdrawal.

Section 6.04. Notices. All notices, demands and correspondence required or provided for under this Agreement shall be in writing and delivered in person or dispatched by certified mail, postage prepaid, return receipt requested. Notice is required to be given and shall be addressed as follows:

For the FDOT:
District Secretary
Florida Department of Transportation, District III
Post Office Box 607
Chipley, FL 32428-0607

For the CRTPA:
Executive Director
Capital Region Transportation Planning Agency
300 S. Adams Street
Tallahassee, FL 32301

For the ARPC:
Executive Director
Apalachee Regional Planning Council
2507 Callaway Road, Suite 200
Tallahassee, Florida 32303

For STARMETRO:
Executive Director
City of Tallahassee StarMetro
555 Appleyard Drive
Tallahassee, Florida 32304

For TALLAHASSEE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT:
Director of Aviation  
City of Tallahassee International Airport  
3300 Capital Circle, S.W., Suite 1  
Tallahassee, Florida 32310  

A party may unilaterally change its address or addressee by giving notice in writing to the other parties as provided in this section. Thereafter, notices, demands and other pertinent correspondence shall be addressed and transmitted to the new address.

Section 6.05. Interpretation.

(a) Drafters of Agreement. All parties hereto were each represented by, or afforded the opportunity for representation by legal counsel, and participated in the drafting of this Agreement and in the choice of wording. Consequently, no provision hereof should be more strongly construed against any party as drafter of this Agreement.

(b) Severability. Invalidation of any one of the provisions of this Agreement or any part, clause or word hereof, or the application thereof in specific circumstances, by judgment, court order, or administrative hearing or order shall not affect any other provisions or applications in other circumstances, all of which shall remain in full force and effect; provided, that such remainder would then continue to conform to the terms and requirements of applicable law.

(c) Rules of construction. In interpreting this Agreement, the following rules of construction shall apply unless the context indicates otherwise:

1. The singular of any word or term includes the plural;

2. The masculine gender includes the feminine gender; and

3. The word "shall" is mandatory, and "may" is permissive.

Section 6.06. Attorney's Fees. In the event of any judicial or administrative action to enforce or interpret this Agreement by any party hereto, each party shall bear its own costs and attorney's fees in connection with such proceeding.

Section 6.07. Agreement execution; use of counterpart signature pages. This Agreement, and any amendments hereto, may be simultaneously executed in several counterparts, each of which so executed shall be deemed to be an original, and such counterparts together shall constitute one and the same instrument.

Section 6.08. Effective date. This Agreement shall become effective upon its recording by all parties hereto.

Section 6.09. Other authority. In the event that any election, referendum, approval, permit, notice, or other proceeding or authorization is required under applicable law to enable the parties to enter into this Agreement or to undertake the provisions set forth hereunder, or to observe, assume or carry out any of the provisions of the Agreement, said parties will initiate and consummate, as provided by law, all actions necessary with respect to any such matters as required.

Section 6.10. Parties not obligated to third parties. No party hereto shall be obligated or be liable
hereunder to any party not a signatory to this Agreement. There are no express or intended third party beneficiaries to this Agreement.

Section 6.11. **Rights and remedies not waived.** In no event shall the making by the Department of any payment to the CRTPA constitute or be construed as a waiver by the Department of any breach of covenant or any default which may then exist on the part of the CRTPA, and the making of any such payment by the Department while any such breach or default exists shall in no way impair or prejudice any right or remedy available to the Department in respect of such breach or default.

Section 6.12 **Data, records, reports and other documents.** Subject to the right to claim an exemption from the Florida Public Records Law, Chapter 199, F. S., the parties shall provide to each other such data, reports, records contracts, and other documents in its possession relating to the CRTPA as is requested. Charges are to be in accordance with Chapter 199, F. S.

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IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned parties have executed this Joint Participation Agreement on behalf of the referenced legal entities.

CAPITAL REGION TRANSPORTATION PLANNING AGENCY

BY: ____________________________

CRTPA, CHAIR

(Print Name)

Witness (signature)

Witness (print name)

Witness (signature)

Witness (print name)

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

BY: ____________________________

THORNTON WILLIAMS
GENERAL COUNSEL
Passed and adopted by the Apalachee Regional Planning Council, this ______ day of
__________.

Chairperson, Apalachee Regional Planning Council

ATTEST:
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

BY: ______________________

Witness (signature)

Witness (print name)

Witness (signature)

Witness (print name)
Passed and adopted by the Tallahassee City Commission, this day of

Andrew Gillum, Mayor, City of Tallahassee

ATTEST:
JAMES O. COOKE, IV, TREASURER-CLERK
CITY OF TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA
BY:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:
CITY OF TALLAHASSEE ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

BY:
CASSANDRA JACKSON, ESQ.
Agreed to by the State of Florida Department of Transportation, this ________ day of ________.

Phillip Gainer
FDOT District III Secretary

ATTEST:

BY: EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

APPROVED AS TO FORM:
FDOT DISTRICT III, GENERAL COUNSEL

BY: __________________________
Apalachee Regional Planning Council  
2507 Callaway Road, Suite 200  
Tallahassee, FL 32303  
Phone (850) 488-6211 - Fax (850) 488-1616  
www.thearp.com

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