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THE POLICY BOARD

APALACHEE REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL
Honorable Kristin Dozier, Leon County
Ms. Lisa Miller, Gubernatorial Appointee
Honorable Gene Wright, Town of Malone

CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL
Honorable W. Patrick “Pat” Huff, City of Bartow
Honorable Juril “Buddy” Mansfield, DeSoto County
Ms. Jacqueline Tucker, Gubernatorial Appointee

EAST CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL
Honorable Lee Constantine, Seminole County
Mr. John Lesman, Gubernatorial Appointee
Honorable Leigh Matusick, City of DeLand

NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL
Honorable Rick Davis, Madison County
Ms. Lorene Thomas, Gubernatorial Appointee
Honorable Robert Wilford, City of Alachua

NORTHEAST FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL
Honorable Roxanne Horvath, City of St. Augustine
Mr. Darryl Register, Gubernatorial Appointee

SOUTH FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL
Mr. Mario Bailey, Gubernatorial Appointee
Honorable Franklin Caplan, City of Key Biscayne
Ms. Sandy Walters, Gubernatorial Appointee

SOUTHWEST FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL
Honorable Forrest Banks, City of Ft. Myers
Honorable Jim Burch, City of Cape Coral
Mr. Tommy Perry, Gubernatorial Appointee

TAMPA BAY REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL
Honorable Scott Black, City of Dade City
Honorable Robin DiSabatino, Manatee County
Ms. Barbara Sheen Todd, Gubernatorial Appointee

TREASURE COAST REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL
Honorable Tod Mowery, St. Lucie County
Mr. Reece Parrish, Gubernatorial Appointee
Honorable Doug Smith, Martin County

WEST FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL
Honorable Kasey Cuchens, City of Freeport
Honorable Kurvin Qualls, Town of Jay
Mr. J.D. Smith, Gubernatorial Appointee
In a year that saw the return of major hurricanes, the term “emergency preparedness” has never been higher on the minds of Floridians and in the plans and programs of Florida’s regional planning councils. As the planners for the Regional Statewide Evacuation Studies, the staff to all Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPC), assessing post disaster impacts, and developing economic post disaster recovery strategies, our RPCs are partners with state, federal, and local government agencies.

Serving as Economic Development Districts, all regional planning councils in Florida cooperate in updating the five-year Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) for each region. This statewide coordination assures that each region is reporting on uniform performance measures and coordinating with the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA), the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO), and the Florida Chamber Foundation.

Our Councils have continued to convene our communities in important conversations through workshops, summits, charrettes, and other forums. Topics for these have included multi-modal transportation including complete streets, urban and rural transit, transportation disadvantaged, passenger rail, and freight and logistics. Others involved quality of life issues such as affordable housing, challenges of infrastructure and sea level rise, economic development challenges in downtowns and in rural areas, and regional recognition for the leaders who guide us through these issues.

The Florida Regional Council’s Association (FRCA) works together to ensure statewide cooperation and effectiveness in the delivery of services to all our regions. In this spirit, we wish to thank our Immediate Past President Barbara Sheen Todd for moving our organization forward to pursue our mission of building a strong economy and improving the lives of all Floridians.

Honorable Tod Mowery
President

Honorable Roxanne Horvath
1st Vice-President

Ms. Sandy Walters
2nd Vice-President

Ms. Barbara Sheen Todd
Immediate Past President

FRCA is governed by a Policy Board that meets twice a year to discuss issues affecting the RPCs. Each RPC selects two elected officials and one gubernatorial appointee to serve on the FRCA Policy Board. Each of the 10 RPCs is represented by an Executive Director and they, collectively, serve as an advisory body to the FRCA Policy Board.
The Florida Regional Councils Association (FRCA) is an alliance of Florida’s 10 Regional Planning Councils (RPCs) and serves to enhance regional collaboration throughout the state. Planning Councils are multi-purpose entities comprised of local governments that solve problems at the regional level and help communities grow.

In our large and diverse state, there are challenges. Where others see obstacles, we see opportunities. FRCA, through the RPCs, leverages resources and expertise – based on more than 50 years of experience – to help small businesses, local governments and citizens address challenges and make the most of opportunities. RPCs play many roles. They are consensus builders and problem solvers, serving as regional conveners by helping to articulate and resolve multi-jurisdictional issues and by delivering proven programs and services.
By the numbers, from 2005 to 2015

The RPCs focus on:
- Economic Development
- Transportation
- Emergency Preparedness
- Quality of Life
- Serving as Regional Conveners

FRCA encourages and promotes opportunities for RPCs to become partners in state programs and initiatives, while promoting the unique themes of each region within the state and legislative environments.

FRCA also monitors substantive state and federal legislative issues for the benefit of its members, and promotes mutually-supportive policy positions among the RPCs.

Through RPCs, the U.S. EDA* Invested:
- $74.9M in 39 projects
- 5.6K jobs created
- 10K+ jobs retained

RPCs Contributed:
- $42.0M via loan funds
  To grow and retain Florida businesses and jobs

RPCs Trained:
- 38,000 first responders
  And other emergency management personnel

RPCs Reviewed:
- 12,600+ projects
  Under the Federal Consistency Review Program
  Equals hundreds of millions of investment dollars

*Economic Development Administration
Leveraging partnerships to build a strong economy and improve the lives of all Floridians ...THAT is the mission of FRCA.
## Regional Planning Councils

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Council</th>
<th>Date Established</th>
<th>2017 Regional Population</th>
<th>Governing Board Size</th>
<th>Staff Size (FTE)</th>
<th>Square Miles</th>
<th>Budget (in millions)</th>
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<td>Aug. 23, 1977</td>
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<td>8,660</td>
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<td><strong>Northeast Florida</strong></td>
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<td>1,661,055</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>5,097</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>South Florida</strong></td>
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1Source: Florida Estimates of Population, 2017, Table 1, Bureau of Economic and Business Research, University of Florida, 2017.
2FTE means Full-Time Equivalent.
3Total land and water area. Source: Bureau of Economic and Business Research, University of Florida.
Apalachee RPC Revolving Loan Fund

In the fall of 2016, the Apalachee RPC, using its Revolving Loan Fund program, invested in the expansion of Pretty Girlz, a small women’s clothing boutique in Blountstown located in Calhoun County. Loan proceeds allowed the owner to purchase and renovate a long-time vacant downtown building and more than double its capacity for inventory as well as the creation of four new full-time jobs.

Despite the high-risk nature of retail businesses in rural communities, Pretty Girlz is thriving in its new location and since the expansion gross sales have tripled. Through the use of a creative social media marketing campaign, the owner continues to draw clientele from over a 50-mile radius and has been a torch-bearer for the downtown improvement initiatives of the Blountstown Main Street program. Bay County’s prestigious Holly Fair held annually in November, has announced that it will be featuring Pretty Girlz of Blountstown as its top new business at the 2017 event.

Communities in Central Florida Benefit from Competitive Florida Grants

In 2016-17, the Central Florida RPC (CFRPC) facilitated the designation of the City of Frostproof and Polk City as Competitive Florida Communities through the Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO). Through this program, the CFRPC has been able to assist these municipalities to identify strategies to build and enhance their local economies while staying true to what makes them unique and give them a competitive advantage.

The City of Frostproof launched Frostproof on the Move, a collaborative effort that enabled the City to identify key community assets and set goals to implement an economic vision and strategy for the City. Through community conversations, surveys, and a public workshop, information was collected from citizens, local businesses, and service organizations to shape the economic vision and strategy.

In Polk City, a mini-grant was awarded to further implement the recently adopted Polk City Vision Plan using innovative planning tools to enhance the local economy. A comprehensive GIS mapping database of all developed and developable commercial and industrial properties as well as an inventory of all vacant developable lands in the City was created. A familiarization tour was also hosted to gather input from local and regional business leaders to create an economic development information package. And, in June 2017, the CFRPC and Polk City facilitated the first WaterWise Expo to inform the community on best practices in water conservation and low impact development. The expo had a special focus on the Green Swamp Area of Critical State Concern as the City is located in this important water resource area.

Economic Development Activities of the RPCs:

- Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)
- Collaboration with Economic Development Organizations
- Economic Impact Analyses
- Modeling (REMI)
- Post Disaster Redevelopment Planning
- Revolving Loan Funds
Regional Conveners Activities of the RPCs:

- Affordable Housing
- Census Participation
- Clean Energy
- Economic Development
- Emergency Management
- Hazardous Materials Planning
- Infrastructure Priorities
- Mobility Planning
- Transportation
- Resiliency

RPCs lead community and regional vision efforts, engage the public in a variety of plans and programs, and maintain Strategic Regional Policy Plans. In 2016-2017 RPCs across Florida hosted and convened meetings on topics including:

Tampa Bay RPC Hosts 25th Annual Future Region Awards

For the past 25 years the Tampa Bay RPC has hosted an annual spring awards event to honor innovative planning and to recognize notable achievement in resource planning and management in the six-county region comprised of Citrus, Hernando, Hillsborough, Manatee, Pasco and Pinellas Counties. The Council’s mission in recognizing excellence is to encourage future vision and cooperation within the community. The two highest honors of the competition include the The Herman Goldner Award for Regional Leadership and The One Bay McIntosh Award of Distinction. Twenty-eight applications were received this year in five separate categories.

Original Florida Tourism Task Force

In many rural communities in North Central Florida, tourism is a primary component of economic activity. The Original Florida Tourism Task Force markets the 12-county “Natural North Florida” region by promoting the development of nature-, culture-, and heritage-based tourism. The Task Force comprises representatives from each of the participating counties in the region to support and direct the regional tourism development effort.

The North Central Florida RPC provides staffing to the Task Force to maintain the www.VisitNaturalNorthFlorida.com website; coordinate consumer travel show participation; and create proactive publicity campaigns. Funding from a Rural Regional Development Grant from the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity, as well as grants from VisitFlorida, has helped implement its marketing plan to build capacity in the rural communities. Recently, the Task Force also completed the launch of an updated mobile device friendly website and started the quarterly distribution of an e-newsletter. In partnership with VisitFlorida, the Task Force attended several international and domestic travel trade shows.

Regional Conveners Activities of the RPCs:

Federal Clearinghouse Review | Strategic Regional Policy Plan | Visioning and Sustainable Regional Plan Initiatives
Developments of Regional Impact | Dispute Resolution | Regional Leadership | Public Engagement
Ciclovía Pensacola

Ciclovía (seek-low-vi-a), also known as Open Streets, was derived from an event held in Bogotá, Colombia in the 1970s. The initial event had grown into a worldwide practice by the 90s and made its way into the heart of Pensacola on March 25, 2017. Promising a unique opportunity to enjoy community space while taking part in special activities, Ciclovía was met with enthusiasm in the downtown areas that hosted Pensacola’s first Open Streets event.

Based on the simple concept of closing streets to motor vehicles and opening them to biking, skating, skateboarding, walking, dancing and any activities that promote health and community, local resident, Sally Rosenthal, launched and organized the Pensacola event. Pensacola joined the global movement by closing five miles of downtown streets with an invitation from Mayor Ashton Hayward to “everyone with a heartbeat” to attend and enjoy the streets safely.

More than 10,000 people attended the overwhelming successful inaugural event. The West Florida RPC played a significant role in planning, promoting and hosting the event. During the event, the planning council staffed a free bicycle helmet-fitting and distribution booth to promote bicycle safety. This ensured a safe experience for attendees who were able to rent bicycles onsite and participate in the "slow ride" during the event.

*During the event, the West Florida RPC staffed a free bicycle helmet-fitting and distribution booth to promote bicycle safety.*
South Florida RPC Hosts Meeting on Tri-Rail Coastal Link Project

Over 200 county leaders, regional stakeholders, and interested parties met in December 2016 for a project update and conversation about the Tri-Rail Coastal Link Project. Hosted by the South Florida RPC, participants left with a shared understanding of the Tri-Rail Coastal Link Project including status of the project and information and action needed to move the project forward.

The planned Tri-Rail Coastal Link service on the Florida East Coast (FEC) railway is a strategic investment for Miami-Dade, Broward, and Palm Beach Counties. The project is expected to enhance regional mobility, spur economic development, provide opportunities for transit-oriented development, and contribute to the long-term economic competitiveness of the region. Meeting participants were provided information on the regional context of the project, a project overview and update, and important project issues that must be addressed to move the Coastal Link Project forward in Broward County.

“We need to be prepared to leverage these and other transportation investments to provide greater mobility options for residents within Broward County and throughout the region,” said SFRPC member and Broward County Vice-Mayor Quentin “Beam” Furr.
## Regional Planning Council Program Matrix

### Emergency Preparedness

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<th>CRPC</th>
<th>ECRPC</th>
<th>NCRPC</th>
<th>NFRPC</th>
<th>SRPC</th>
<th>SWRPC</th>
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<td>Emergency Management and Disaster-Related Training Exercises</td>
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### Transportation Planning

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### Environmental & Natural Resource Planning

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Treasure Coast RPC Hosts Full-Scale Terrorism and Mass Casualty Exercise

In April 2017, the Treasure Coast RPC hosted Operation Troubled Waters, a full-scale terrorism and mass casualty exercise which was jointly planned, conducted and funded through the Region 5 Regional Domestic Security Task Force and the Treasure Coast Local Emergency Planning Committee. The exercise encompassed Indian River, Martin and St. Lucie Counties and included ten active incident response sites. Thirty-four federal, state and local agencies participated and 250 volunteers provided support.

Through a series of regional planning meetings, the exercise committee developed common incident response goals and objectives. The committee then designed a risk driven scenario engaging current response capabilities. The exercise scenario centered around a violent agricultural activist group with stolen toxic chemicals attempting to poison an irrigation water supply. The Florida National Guard/48th Civil Support Team landed a six-man special operations hazardous materials response team by Blackhawk helicopter. Incident sites included Florida Atlantic University Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute, Tradition Irrigation Water Plant, Witham Field, Emergency Operations Centers, Lawnwood Regional Medical Center, and Martin Health Systems Hospitals.

Operation Troubled Waters supported the public safety mission by exercising multi-jurisdictional communication and coordination, responder mutual aid, and resource management. It enhanced regional efforts to prevent, protect, mitigate and respond to acts of terrorism and other catastrophic events.

Tampa Bay RPC Workshop Helps Cities and Counties to Comply with State’s Peril of Flood Act

On March 3, 2017, the Tampa Bay RPC held its first Peril of Flood workshop at the organization’s conference facility in Pinellas Park. Workshop participants heard a presentation from TBRPC staff about the 2015 Peril of Flood Act requirements for local governments. The Hillsborough County City-County Planning Commission staff presented an overview of the City of Tampa’s sea level rise vulnerability assessment, which was developed to support Tampa’s recently proposed Peril of Flood comprehensive plan amendment.

Participants also engaged in a facilitated discussion to share knowledge about how flood mitigation and adaptation strategies may be incorporated into comprehensive planning goals, objectives, and policies. The event was attended by nearly 60 people, including local government planners, building officials, floodplain managers, other public and private-sector stakeholders, and interested citizens. This event was the first of four TBRPC Peril of Flood workshops held in the spring of 2017.
Northeast Florida Regional Council Hosts Hurricane Matthew Post Storm Forum

In February 2017, a Hurricane Matthew Post Storm Forum was held at the Thrasher Horne Center in Orange Park. The Forum featured the Director of the National Hurricane Center (NHC), Rick Knabb and Storm Surge Lead, Jamie Rhome. Over 75 participants heard the NHC speak on the track, forecast and impacts of Hurricane Matthew as well as new decision-making products in use by the NHC for the upcoming 2017 Hurricane Season. This event was held as the capstone to a year-long planning process for the creation of a Regional Evacuation Plan.

Regional Planning Councils Assist with Statewide Hurricane Exercise

Staff from the North Central Florida RPC and Apalachee RPC assisted the Florida Division of Emergency Management with planning and evaluating the 2017 Statewide Hurricane Exercise which took place May 1 - 4, 2017 at the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC). RPC staff developed the Master Scenario Events List and facilitated coordination between the SEOC and the agencies involved in response and recovery.

Central Florida RPC Drafts Post-Disaster Recovery Regulations

The Central Florida region was significantly impacted by three hurricanes in 2004 including Hurricanes Charley, Frances, and Jeanne and was again impacted by Hurricane Irma in 2017. Thousands of Central Florida residents and businesses were displaced due to the hurricanes, and the situation was exacerbated by existing zoning regulations in which recreational vehicles, manufactured and mobile homes, and manufactured buildings were not permitted uses in several zoning districts for temporary accommodations during recovery periods.

Post-Disaster Recovery Regulations will speed the rebuilding efforts and help to sustain the economic viability of a community after a disaster.

Through a grant from the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity, the Central Florida RPC worked with the five counties of DeSoto, Hardee, Highlands, Okeechobee and Polk and the 25 municipalities within these counties to analyze the existing land development regulations and draft new regulations to address the needs of citizens, businesses, and local governments after a disaster. The Central Florida RPC is currently coordinating with the counties and municipalities throughout the region to amend their respective regulations allowing for temporary accommodations. These efforts will speed the rebuilding efforts, and help to sustain the economic viability of a community after a disaster.
Southwest Florida RPC Hosted a Workshop on Affordable Housing

A workshop was held on April 20, 2017 in Punta Gorda featuring Gladys Cook with the Florida Housing Coalition. Over 70 participants attended the workshop which addressed various housing classifications, offered examples of affordable housing projects in the region as well as provided an overview of housing funding sources.

West Lakes Community Health Impact Assessment

A collaborative effort between Lift Orlando, the East Central Florida RPC, and the Winter Park Health Foundation began in 2016 to discuss the LIFT Orlando Strategic Plan and its focus on health in the built environment. The update of the strategic plan provided an opportunity to conduct a Health Impact Assessment (HIA) for the West Lakes Community.

The West Lakes Community is one rich in African-American history, yet burdened with a high concentration of chronic poverty, unemployment, homelessness and crime. The main goal of a HIA is to assess potential health impacts of a proposed policy, program or project, in specific social and community contexts. The results provide evidence-based recommendations that serve to inform decision-makers, protect and improve community health and, in some cases, address health inequalities. The study also analyzes data and research on health factors, employment, economics, and the built environment. The West Lakes Community HIA aided in identifying gaps and strengthening the Health & Wellness component of the Lift Orlando Strategic Plan. The report aims to be an example for similar communities to follow.

Quality of Life Activities of the RPCs:

Quality of Life Activities of the RPCs:

- Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Mapping
- US Census Data Center
- Grant Writing and Administration
- Visioning and Community Planning
- Health Initiatives
- Brownfields Programs
- Affordable Housing Initiatives
- Natural Resource Coordination Activities
Working together, RPCs conduct cooperative statewide projects such as the award winning statewide Regional Evacuation Study, the Energy Assurance Study, and coastal resiliency planning.

COOPERATIVE RPC PROJECTS

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Update

For the 2017 update of the CEDS, the RPCs agreed to adopt a standard format, and to use uniform performance measures for all the regions’ CEDS in order to provide consistency throughout the documents. Monthly working group conference calls among the EDDs allowed for coordination and mutual assistance.

The goals and objectives of the CEDS align with regional Visioning Plans, the State Strategic Plan for Economic Development, the Chamber Foundation’s Florida 2030, and the Six Pillars of Florida’s Future Economy. The development of the CEDS is guided by a CEDS Committee, which is comprised of members from the public and private sectors. Key issues, opportunities and investments in the region, and target industries are identified. The CEDS evaluates the regional economy through ongoing analysis of economic indicators and creates a roadmap to economic resiliency and diversity through private/public partnerships, investments in the regional economy, and ultimately employment growth.

Northwest Florida Forward

Northwest Florida Forward, begun in 2015, drives economic vitality and growth for the region. Its partners include business, government, educational and community leaders, working together throughout the region to make this a reality. Apalachee RPC and West Florida RPC staff serve as the Co-Chairs for the Quality of Place and Infrastructure Councils in addition to serving on the Steering Committee for this strategic initiative.

Northwest Florida Forward Guiding Principles

• Sustainable and enduring economic base
• Diversified industries and high wage employment growth
• Greater alignment of partner resources through regional collaboration
• Improving the vitality of all areas and populations in the region strengthen beyond traditional economic engine

In 2016, the Florida’s Great Northwest and the University of West Florida received an U.S. Economic Development Administration grant. The Northwest Florida Forward Steering Committee members of the Apalachee RPC, Florida’s Great Northwest, Gulf Power, University of West Florida Haas Center and the West Florida RPC worked closely with more than 860 business, government, educational and community leaders to identify the region’s most promising opportunities for transformative economic growth. The regional strategy is built around five aspirational goals that serve as the key focus areas for economic vitality and growth for the region.

South Florida Avenue (SR 37) Complete Street Charrette and Master Plan

At the request of the City of Lakeland, the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) District One, in partnership with the Central Florida RPC and the Treasure Coast RPC, studied and developed ways to improve mobility, safety, quality of life, and economic vitality along the South Florida Avenue (SR 37) corridor between Ariana Street and Pine Street in Lakeland. A Master Plan was developed through community engagement with coordination from community partners that recommended a road diet to improve pedestrian and vehicle safety while fostering a more business-friendly atmosphere. The Plan includes priority action steps as well as a vision for potential catalyst projects in the corridor.
Through its RPCs, FRCA creates partnerships statewide to support economic growth, improve infrastructure and enhance the quality of life for all Floridians.

FRCA Advisory Committee & Staff

FRCA EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Patricia Steed, Chair
Central Florida RPC

Chris Rietow, Vice-Chair
Apalachee RPC

Brian Teeple, Treasurer
Northeast Florida RC

Michael Busha, Immediate Past Chair
Treasure Coast RPC

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2017 Florida National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) Innovation Awards

Apalachee RPC
- Chattahoochee to Bristol Trail Feasibility Study

Central Florida RPC
- Avon Park Air Force Range Joint Land Use Study Public Awareness Videos
- Greater Auburndale JPA Overlay District Land Development Regulations

East Central Florida RPC
- The Route Condition Tool
- Delivered Justice Full-Scale Exercise
- Kissimmee Medical Arts District Program

North Central Florida RPC
- Experience North Florida by Bicycle

South Florida RPC
- Infrastructure Protection Resources: Improving the Planning Process to Protect Infrastructure Emerging from Coastal Hazards

Treasure Coast RPC
- Village of Tequesta U.S. 1 Master Plan and Complete Streets Project

West Florida RPC
- rideOn Commuter Services
- Emerald Coast Transportation Symposium

2017 Florida National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) Excellence in Transportation Awards

Apalachee RPC
- Strategic Planning for the Gulf to Gadsden Freight Logistics Zone

Central Florida RPC
- Interactive Project Priorities and Long-Range Transportation Plans

West Florida RPC
- Strategic Planning for the Gulf to Gadsden Freight Logistics Zone

2017 Florida Planning and Zoning Association (FPZA) Outstanding Redevelopment Plan Awards

Central Florida RPC
- Greater Auburndale JPA Overlay District
- Sebring Airport Encouragement Zone/Spring Lake Mixed Use Development Area Overlay

Treasure Coast RPC
- Village of Tequesta US 1 Master Plan and Complete Streets Project

2017 America Planning Association (APA) Florida Award of Merit

Treasure Coast RPC
- Village of Tequesta US 1 Master Plan and Complete Streets Project