

NEFRC

BOARD OF DIRECTORS Meeting



Northeast Florida Regional Council
Hybrid Meeting
Virtual & In-Person



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MEMORANDUM

DATE: JANUARY 9, 2025

TO: NORTHEAST FLORIDA REGIONAL COUNCIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

FROM: ELIZABETH PAYNE, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER 

RE: NEXT BOARD MEETING

The next Board of Directors meeting will be held on **February 6, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.** The meeting will be held as a hybrid meeting, virtual and in-person at the Northeast Florida Regional Council, **Room 219** in the **Jessie Ball DuPont Center, 40 East Adams Street**, Jacksonville, FL 32202.





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Northeast Florida Regional Council

BOARD of DIRECTORS

A G E N D A

Zoom Link: <https://nefrc-org.zoom.us/j/87499770491>

Zoom Dial In #: 1-786-635-1003 (or) 1-470-250-9358

Meeting ID: 874 9977 0491

THURSDAY, JANUARY 9, 2025

10:00 a.m.

(ADDED OR MODIFIED ITEMS IN BOLD)
(*Denotes Action Required)

TAB

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call – President Renninger
3. Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation – President Renninger
4. Welcome New Members – President Renninger
 - Commissioner A.M. Huppmann – Nassau County
 - Commissioner Genece Minshew – City of Fernandina Beach
 - Commissioner Leota Wilkinson – Putnam County
 - Commissioner Krista Joseph – St. Johns County
 - Commissioner Clay Murphy – St. Johns County
 - Council Member Charles Gambaro – City of Palm Coast

5. Invitation to Speak – President Renninger

Members of the public are welcome and encouraged to speak on any item brought before the Council. The public will be recognized during public comments. At that time, virtual attendees who would like to speak will be asked to raise their (electronic) hand and they will be recognized in the order of response.

***6. Consent Agenda**

A. November 7, 2024 Draft Meeting Minutes1



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B. Comprehensive Plan Amendment Review Report	2
• Clay County Transmitted Amendment COMP 24-005	
• City of Jacksonville Beach Adopted Amendment 24-1ESR	
• City of Jacksonville Adopted Amendment 24-1ESR (<i>Alt. Review, Info Only</i>)	
7. <u>Other Reports/Action Items</u>	
A. Presentation: Coordinated Mobility Plan – Eric Houston, Program Manager Strategic and Regional Planning, Jacksonville Transportation Authority	3
*B. October 2024 Financial Report – Ms. Starling	4
*C. November 2024 Financial Report – Ms. Starling	5
*D. Resolutions – Ms. Payne	6
25-01: Commissioner Adamczyk	
25-02: Commissioner Alaimo	
25-03: Vice Mayor Sturges	
25-04: Hon. John Drew	
25-05: Commissioner Whitehurst	
*E. 2025 Legislative Priorities – Ms. Payne	7
*F. NEFRC 2025 Workplan – Ms. Payne	8
G. Community Resiliency Update – Ms. Ilami	9
H. Strategic Regional Policy Plan Review – Mr. Anderson	10
I. 2025 Regional Leadership Academy – Mr. Nolen	11
J. 2024 Regional Awards of Excellence Winners – Mr. Nolen	12
K. Public Comment – <u>LIMITED TO 3 MINUTES PER SPEAKER</u>	
8. Local & Regional Issues Discussion – President Renninger	
9. Ex-Officio Members’ Reports:	
• Florida Department of Commerce – Mr. Register	
• Florida Department of Transportation – Mr. Dixon	
• Florida Department of Environmental Protection – Ms. Craver	
• St. Johns River Water Management District – Mr. Conkey	



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10. Chief Executive Officer's Report – Ms. Payne

11. Upcoming Events:

- Jan. 14, 2025 – Trail Itinerary Development Workshop, Clay County
- Jan. 15, 2025 – Resilient First Coast Steering Committee Meeting, Duval County
- Jan. 16, 2025 – TD Local Coordination Board / Public Hearing, Nassau County
- **Jan. 20, 2025 – MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY – COUNCIL CLOSED**
- Jan. 21, 2025 – Trail Itinerary Development Workshop, Putnam County
- Jan. 22, 2025 – Trail Itinerary Development Workshop, Flagler County
- Jan. 30, 2025 – Trail Itinerary Development Workshop, Baker County
- Feb. 10, 2025 – Trail Itinerary Development Workshop, Duval County
- Feb. 10, 2025 – TD Local Coordination Board / Public Hearing, Putnam County
- Feb. 10, 2025 – TD Local Coordination Board / Public Hearing, Clay County
- Feb. 11, 2025 – TD Local Coordination Board / Public Hearing, St. Johns County
- Feb. 12, 2025 – Trail Itinerary Development Workshop, Nassau County
- Feb. 12, 2025 – TD Local Coordination Board / Public Hearing, Flagler County
- Feb. 18, 2025 – Trail Itinerary Development Workshop, St. Johns County
- Feb. 19, 2025 – Resilient First Coast Collaborative Meeting, Duval County
- Feb. 20, 2025 – TD Local Coordination Board / Public Hearing, Baker County
- Feb. 27, 2025 – TD Local Coordination Board / Public Hearing, Duval County

12. Next Board Meeting:

FEBRUARY 6, 2025
Northeast Florida Regional Council
40 E. Adams Street
Jacksonville, FL 32202

13. Adjournment

(*Denotes Action Required)

Agenda

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NORTHEAST FLORIDA REGIONAL COUNCIL
Board of Directors Meeting
November 7, 2024

MINUTES

The Northeast Florida Regional Council Board of Directors held a meeting at 40 E. Adams Street, Jacksonville, FL on Thursday, November 7, 2024; **President Renninger** called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

Roll call was conducted with the following members present, representing a quorum:

BAKER: Commissioner Anderson
Mr. Griffis
Mr. Register

DUVAL: Councilmember Amaro
Mayor Brown

CLAY: Commissioner Condon
Commissioner Renninger

FLAGLER: Commissioner Dance
Commissioner Sullivan

NASSAU: Commissioner Martin

PUTNAM: Commissioner Harvey

ST. JOHNS: Commissioner Horvath
Commissioner Whitehurst

EX-OFFICIO: Mr. Conkey, SJRWMD
Mr. Dixon, Florida Department of Transportation
Mr. Hart, Florida Department of Commerce

Excused: Commissioner Bennett, Mr. Bourre Mr. Drew, Councilmember Gay,
Mr. Kennedy, Mayor Lynch, Mr. Strong and, Vice-Mayor Sturges

Presenter: Jeremy Norsworthy, Jacksonville Transportation Authority
Fred Jones, Director, Haskell

Guest: Denise Bevan, Allison Kopicki, Dan Rizza, Steve's iPhone, Patrick Moore, et.al.

Staff: Eric Anderson, Donna Starling, Fara Ilami, Robert Jordan, Tyler Nolen, Elizabeth Payne, Leigh Wilsey, Kenajawa Woody, Sheron Forde, et al.

INVITATION TO SPEAK

President Renninger stated that members of the public are welcome to speak on any item before the Board. The public will be recognized during public comment.

*CONSENT AGENDA

The Consent Agenda was unanimously approved by all members present.

OTHER REPORTS/ACTION ITEMS

Mr. Griffis left the meeting.

Presentation: Regional Safe Spaces Action Plan and Coordinated Mobility Plan

Mr. Jeremy Norsworthy, Jacksonville Transit Authority (JTA), and Mr. Fred Jones, Haskell, provided a presentation on a collaborative effort toward achieving Vision Zero, an effort to reduce traffic fatalities to zero in Northeast Florida. They highlighted recent safety analysis results, strategies to eliminating traffic related fatalities and severe injuries, and next steps for implementing key initiatives across the Region. Discussion followed.

*NEFRC Attorney Search

Ms. Payne provided some background information on the need for a contracted attorney, and her communication with two recommended attorneys: Ms. Brenda Ezell and Mr. Jerimiah Blocker. Chair Register added that the Personnel, Budget & Finance Committee discussed this at length and passed a motion to look very strongly at the Douglas Firm.

Chair Register motioned that Ms. Payne enter negotiations with the Douglas Firm to secure a contract for services; seconded by Commissioner Harvey. Discussion followed.

After discussion, **Mr. Register amended the motion to include President Renninger in the negotiations and subsequent approval of a contract. Commissioner Harvey amended his Seconded. By voice vote, the amended motion and second passed unanimously.**

Mr. Griffis returned to the meeting.

*2024 Northeast Florida CEDS Annual Report & Resolution 2024-05

Mr. Shad provided an overview of the 2024 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy's (CEDS) Annual Report and resolution. He shared information on the Economic Development Administration's (EDA) application process and highlighted the activities conducted during 2024, such as, technical assistance with EDA and State grants; projects in support of CEDS goals for regional eco-tourism and trails strategy, and integrating economic development into all areas of government – Cities of Palatka and St. Augustine Vision Plan; economic modeling utilizing REMI for Baker, Clay, Duval and Flagler Counties as well as projects for City of Jacksonville, JEA and JaxUSA; and economic resiliency, which resulted in award of a shrimping market study grant, and developing connections between emergency management, resiliency and economic development. He stated that, as required by the EDA grant, the passing of Resolution 2024-05 will approve the annual report for transmittal to the US Economic Development Administration. A brief discussion followed.

President Renninger called for a motion on 2024 Northeast Florida CEDS Annual Report & Resolution 2024-05. Mr. Register moved approval of Resolution 2024-05 approving the

2024 update of the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy; seconded by Councilmember Amaro. Motion carried.

*Resolution 2024-06: Honoring Commissioner Horvath

Ms. Payne presented Resolution 2024-06 recognizing Commission Horvath for her years of service on the Board and various committees, as well as serving as the President of the Florida Regional Council's Policy Board. The resolution will be presented at Commissioner Horvath's last Board of County Commissioner's meeting in St. Augustine.

Resolution 2024-06 was unanimously approved by all members present.

*Resolution 2024-07: Honoring Commissioner Sullivan

Ms. Payne presented Resolution 2024-07 recognizing Commission Sullivan for his years of service on the Board and various committees during his tenure. The resolution will be presented at Flagler County's next Board of County Commissioner's meeting.

Resolution 2024-06 was unanimously approved by all members present.

*Resolution 2024-08: Honoring Mayor Alfin – Ms. Payne

Ms. Payne presented Resolution 2024-07 recognizing Mayor Alfin for his service on the Board and Legislative Committee during his tenure.

Resolution 2024-06 was unanimously approved by all members present.

*RFP – Virtual Tabletop Exercise Series for HCC Facilities

Ms. Wilsey provided information on a Request For Proposal (RFP) that was issued by the Council for a vendor to provide a series of virtual tabletop exercises for the Healthcare Coalition members. The RFP yielded six responses: All Clear Emergency Management Group, Chloeta, Emergency Educators, LLC., EnviroSafe Consulting, Integrated Solutions Consulting, and Resilience Solutions Consulting. These were reviewed and ranked by a review committee comprised of the Deputy CEO, Healthcare Coalition Program Manager, and Healthcare Coalition Planner. Based on the ranking, All Clear Emergency Management Group was the top vendor. Therefore, staff recommends that the Board approve the selection of All Clear Emergency Management Group and authorize the CEO to negotiate a contract with them. Discussion followed.

President Renninger called for a motion. Commissioner Harvey motioned for the CEO to negotiate a contract with All Clear Emergency Management Group for Virtual Tabletop Exercise Series for Healthcare Facilities; seconded by Commissioner Horvath. Motion carried.

Commissioner Martin left the meeting.

Program Spotlight: Strategic Regional Policy Plan Update

Mr. Anderson informed the Members that every five years Regional Councils are required by state statute to evaluate its Strategic Regional Policy Plan (SRPP) and determine if we want to make updates to align with the vision of Northeast Florida. He provided some background information on what is involved in a review of the SRPP. Based on staff's evaluation of the plan, six items were identified for consideration that will be brought to the Board over the next year: 1) cultivation was added in 2019, i.e., agriculture and silverculture, and there's more work to be done. There are

groups doing things in this area and we plan to convene them, and get more policy oriented guidance from them; 2) emergency preparedness and resilience of developed environment. A lot of work has been done in resilience over the last 5 years. So staff is recommending to take out that baseline information we have just about sea level rise and make it its own standalone element. We would work with the First Coast Collaborative to get some guidance and direction on the things that we should be measuring; 3) First Coast Wellbeing, in partnership with Smart North Florida, provides a data center where people can go and access data, which hasn't been included in the SRPP; health 4 & 5) energy – these two will be reviewed to determine if they are stand alone elements, could be incorporated in another element. In the case of energy, we will review to determine what our role is; 6) the Chamber Foundation and six pillars will be evaluated to determine relevancy for us to align ourselves to. Staff requests approval of the assessments to begin the 2024 SRPP update, which must be completed by March 1, 2026. A brief discussion followed.

President Renninger called for a motion. Commissioner Harvey moved approval of the 2024 Assessment of the Strategic Regional Policy Plan and subsequent update; seconded by Commissioner Anderson. Motion carried.

Presentation: Leveraging FloodVision® to inform Resilience Decision-Making

Mr. Dan Rizza, Director, Program on Sea Level Rise and Ms. Allison Kopicki, FloodVision Outreach & Communications Coordinator of Climate Central provided a presentation on new tools for visualizing, communicating, and assessing sea level rise and coastal flood risk. Discussion followed.

Commissioner Martin left the meeting.

Community Resiliency Update

Ms. Ilami provided an update on recent resiliency activities, such as the Regional Resilience in Action event at WJCT studios produced by the ADAPT program; staff presentation at the Flooding Adaptation Symposium in Orlando; the Regional Resiliency Action Plan – phase one is complete and phase two has begun. She also provided a synopsis of the Flagler County Vulnerability Assessment, and upcoming events. Discussion followed.

Ms. Ilami thanked Commissioner Horvath for her leadership as Chair of Resilient First Coast!

FY 2023-2024 Annual Report

The 2023-2024 Annual Report, our opportunity to show what the Council has done over this past fiscal year, was provided for the Members information.

Public Comment – None

Local and Regional Issues Discussion

Commissioner Sullivan stated Flagler County had a recent groundbreaking for the Florida State Guard training facility, authorized by the Governor; the only one in the State of Florida. He also stated this was his last meeting, thanked everyone for their support, and leaves his role in the hands of Commissioner Dance.

Commissioner Dance thanked Commissioner Sullivan for his service and encouragement in joining this Board. He is very interested in the resiliency projects as Flagler County looks to address many of their own resiliency issues.

Commissioner Anderson stated it was an honor to serve with Commissioner Horvath and Commissioner Sullivan and Mayor Alfin. You made this board a better board and he looks forward to serving with the ones filling your shoes. Godspeed, enjoy your retirement and enjoy your family. It's well deserved.

Everyone present echoed Commissioner Anderson's sentiments.

Commissioner Martin shared that Vice-Mayor Sturges did not win his reelection bid by 19 votes. However, due to the slim margin, there is currently a recount process taking place. Hopefully, it will be in his favor.

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS' REPORT

FloridaCommerce – No report.

Florida Department of Transportation – **Mr. Dixon** shared information about a subsequent public hearing next month about the proposed improvements, for I-95, from I-10 to Beaver Street. The meeting will be from 4:30 to 6:00 pm at the FDOT Urban Training Center in Jacksonville. Virtual attendance is also available at www.nflroads.com. NEFRC staff will be provided the flyer for distribution. This project will include rehabilitation of the deck of Myrtle Bridge Avenue where they will be replacing the deck and adding two 12-foot lanes and will include some access management.

St. Johns River Water Management District – Mr. Conkey shared that four conservation measures in the State passed, one being in Clay County. He also reminded everyone that watering service recently changed from two to one day a week.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

Ms. Payne reminded the Members of the save the date announcement for our regional Awards banquet, which is January 9th and will be held at WJCT. The Board meeting will be in our old boardroom, and the event will be downstairs in Studio A. Also award nominations are due this Friday.

Staff are about to submit a Brownfields Coalition grant, which will serve all seven counties, but our critical partners in it are the city of Palatka, the city of Jacksonville and Nassau County. Two staffers were recently promoted: Robert Jordan and Annie Sieger were both promoted to Senior Regional Planner.

Lastly, the Legislative Committee met virtually on October 31st, chaired by Commissioner Martin. We have asked for priorities from your counties by November 22nd. A virtual meeting will be held prior to the Executive Committee, and we hope to bring the legislative priorities to the Executive Committee in December for approval.

The NEFRC's open house is immediately following this meeting, and we would love to have you; We're excited to show off our new space.

Next Meeting Date: January 9, 2025

Meeting Adjourned: 12:01 p.m.

Jim Renninger
President

Elizabeth Payne
Chief Executive Officer

DRAFT

Agenda

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MEMORANDUM

DATE: JANUARY 6, 2025
TO: NORTHEAST FLORIDA REGIONAL COUNCIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS
THRU: ELIZABETH PAYNE, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER 
FROM: ROBERT JORDAN, SENIOR REGIONAL PLANNER 
RE: LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AMENDMENT REVIEWS

Pursuant to Section 163.3184, Florida Statutes, Council review of transmitted and adopted amendments to local government comprehensive plans is limited to adverse effects on regional resources and facilities identified in the Strategic Regional Policy Plan (SRPP). The review is also limited to extra-jurisdictional impacts that are inconsistent with the comprehensive plan of any local government within the region. Pursuant to Section 163.3184, Florida Statutes, a written report with an impact evaluation should be provided to the local government and the State land planning agency (Florida Commerce) within 30 calendar days of receipt (of the amendment).

A regional map of the listed amendments is provided on the next page, and the site-specific maps and policy texts are provided in the appendix herein. Upon approval of this report by the Northeast Florida Regional Council (NEFRC) Board of Directors for transmittal to the State land planning agency, a copy will be provided to the respective local government. The City of Jacksonville Adopted Amendment 24-1ESR was reviewed and approved through the alternate review process and is provided as information only. The Board's approval is required only for the first two amendments.

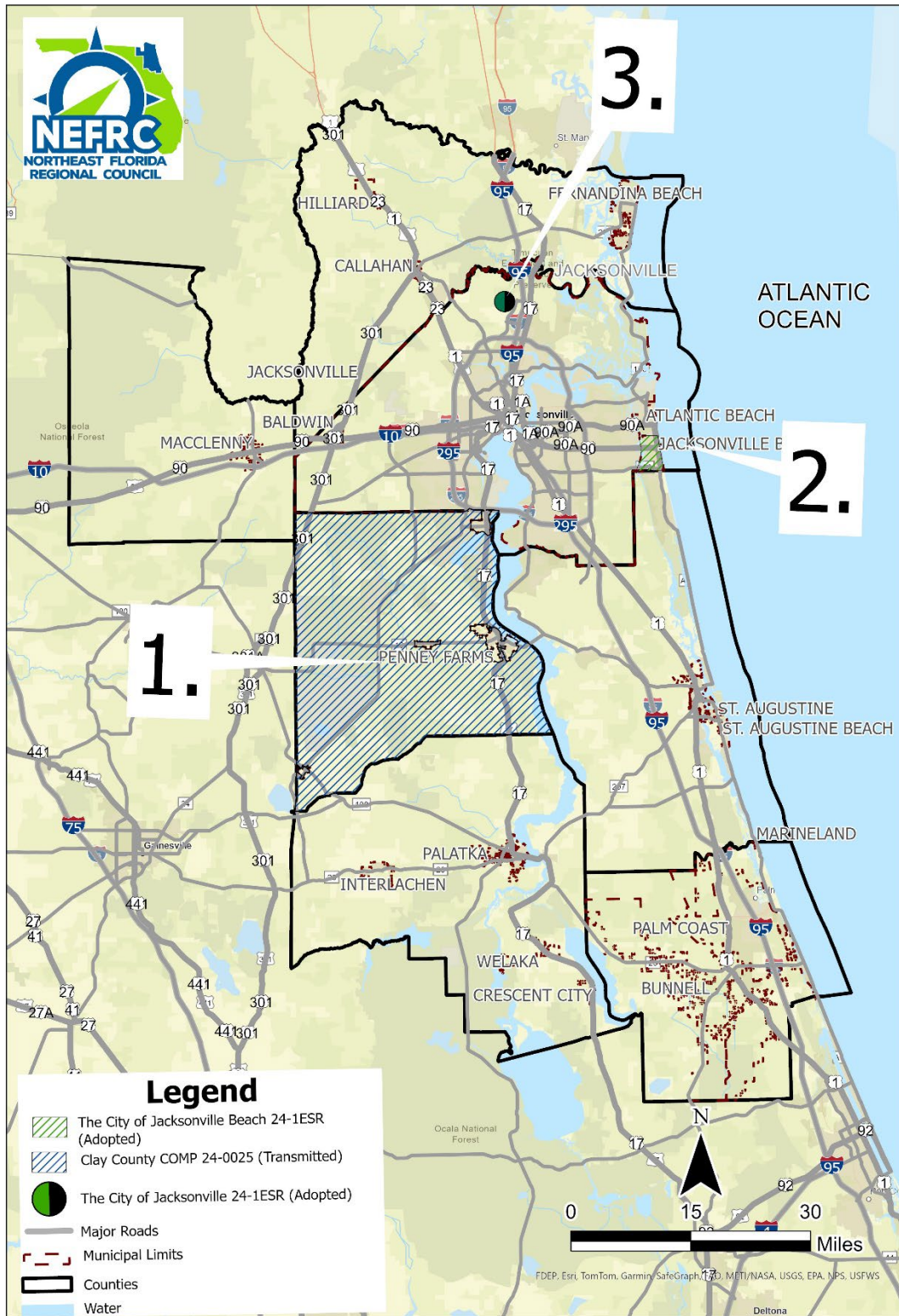
Recommendation

Staff respectfully recommend the NEFRC Board of Directors approve the Clay County Transmitted Amendment COMP 24-0025.

Staff also recommend the NEFRC Board of Directors find the City of Jacksonville Beach Adopted Amendment 24-1ESR consistent with the Strategic Regional Policy Plan (SRPP).

REGIONAL MAP OF AMENDMENT LOCATION SITES

January 2025 Board Review- Comprehensive Plan Amendments



Local Govt. & Plan Amendment	No. on Regional Map	Transmitted	Adopted	County Location	Due Date to be Mailed to Local and State Govt.	Local Govt. Item Number
Clay County COMP 24-005	1	X		Clay	1-10-2025	COMP 24-005

- Type:** Text Amendment
- Issue:** This is a proposed text amendment to the 2040 County Comprehensive Plan. The application would change the Lake Asbury (LA) Future Land Use (FLU) Policy 1.4.1. and LA FLU 1.4.10. concerning the Lake Asbury Interchange Village land use category.
- Background:** The proposed text amendment will amend LA FLU Policy 1.4.10. to increase the percentage of commercial and retail uses permitted within the Lake Asbury Master Plan Interchange Village Centers located at County Road 739, State Road 16, and the First Coast Expressway to 65%. The proposed amendment also corrects a scrivener's omission to identify the type and density of residential use within the Interchange Village Center Land Use Category. The proposed amendment will create no change in intensity or density. The text amendment increases the commercial percentage permitted on all Interchange Village Centers within the Lake Asbury Village Master Plan and increases the potential for commercial uses in both Interchange Village Center locations but does not require the maximum commercial uses to be constructed. Any increase in commercial use under this amendment would be in reaction to the market demand at the time of development; residential use would be reduced or remain the same (min and max are unchanged), also based on the market demand.
- Impacts:** Staff identified no impacts on Resources of Regional Significance or extra-jurisdictional impacts that would be inconsistent with the Comprehensive Plan of an affected local government.
- Recommended Intergovernmental Coordination:** No intergovernmental coordination is needed considering that this is a text amendment.

Local Govt. & Plan Amendment	No. on Regional Map	Transmitted	Adopted	County Location	Due Date to be Mailed to Local and State Govt.	Local Govt. Item Number
City of Jacksonville Beach 24-1ESR	2		X	Duval	1-10-2025	Ordinance 2024-8214

- **Type:** Update and Replacement
- **Issue:** The City of Jacksonville Beach 2050 Comprehensive Plan was an update and replacement of the City's former 2030 Comprehensive Plan. The planning timeframes for the 2050 Comprehensive Plan are six years for the short term (2024-2030), and 20 years for the long term (2030 -2050).
- **Background:** In 2022, the City began updating the 2030 Comprehensive Plan and outdated Land Development Code to follow the progress made in creating organizational Core Values, and a city-wide Vision, Mission, and Strategic Plan. The City staff had been working with a project team from Kimley-Horn as a consultant to the project. During the remainder of 2023, the project team completed the updated required data and analysis sections of each element of the Comprehensive Plan and completed work to update all required and relevant maps and tables. Finally, the goals, objectives, and policies in the Comprehensive Plan were updated and edited into Visions, Intentions, and Strategies to modernize the document and better align it with the City's Vision, Mission, and Strategic Plan. During the discussion with the consultant, new strategies were drafted for the City Council's consideration. This includes collaboration and coordination with Duval County Public Schools (DCPS) to address the needs of existing and future populations through joint workshop sessions with DCPS and the municipal state twice per year.

The City received no objections to the transmitted 2050 Comprehensive Plan. However, it did receive technical assistance comments from Florida Commerce, which were addressed in the adoption package. These changes included the following:

1. The repeating of the Level of Service (LOS) Standards of each element within the Capital Improvements Element,
 2. Dates to referenced plans, maps, and studies, and
 3. The data and analysis document during the transmittal phase was adopted by reference within the plan.
- **Impacts:** Staff identified no impacts on Resources of Regional Significance or extra-jurisdictional impacts that would be inconsistent with the Comprehensive Plan of an affected local government.
 - **Recommended Intergovernmental Coordination:** No intergovernmental coordination is needed considering that this is a text amendment.

Local Govt. & Plan Amendment	No. on Regional Map	Transmitted	Adopted	County Location	Due Date to be Mailed to Local and State Govt.	Local Govt. Item Number
City of Jacksonville 24-1ESR [Info Only]	3		X	Duval	1-3-2025	Ordinance 2024-716-E

- **Type:** Future Land Use Map
- **Issue:** This amendment to the Comprehensive Plan Future Land Use Map (FLUM) encompasses 229.01 acres. The subject site is located between Arnold Road and Jacksonville International Airport. The property was designated as Agriculture (AGR) and Public Buildings and Facilities (PBF). The applicant requested a map change to Light Industrial (LI) to facilitate light industrial development.

- **Background:** The 229.01 acres subject site is located south of Arnold Road and north of Jacksonville International Airport (JIA) off Pecan Park Road. While the site has an Arnold Road address, the site does not abut Arnold Road; a small portion of the site abuts Pecan Park Road. According to the City’s Functional Highways Classification Map, this segment of Arnold Road to the north of the site is a minor arterial roadway and Pecan Park Road is a collector roadway. The subject site currently includes undeveloped land. The applicant sought an amendment to the Future Land Use Map series (FLUMs) of the Future Land Use Element (FLUE) of the 2045 Comprehensive Plan from Agriculture (AGR) and Public Buildings and Facilities (PBF) in the Suburban Development Area to Light Industrial (LI) to allow for industrial uses. The companion rezoning is filed concurrently with this application. It proposes a change from Industrial Light (IL), Public Buildings and Facilities-2 (PBF-2), and Public Buildings and Facilities-3 (PBF-3) to Planned Unit Development (PUD) with Ordinance 2024-717.

The City of Jacksonville received comments from the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT). FDOT anticipated concerns with potential adverse impacts on State Road 243 and I-95 near the project site. FDOT required the applicant to conduct a Multimodal Transportation Impact Analysis to assess those impacts. In a letter dated August 9, 2024, FDOT indicated that the Traffic Impact Assessment and Signal Warrant Analysis by the applicant was reviewed and FDOT concurred with the findings of the report that a significant impact is not expected on State Road 243 or I-95 and additional signalization is not needed. Please see Maps 1 and 2 in the Appendix for additional information.

- **Impacts:** The site abuts the Jacksonville International Airport to the south. A portion of the site is located in the 0-foot Height Restriction Zone for the Jacksonville International Airport (JIA). Section 656.1005.1 would require a maximum height of 0 feet unless approved by the Jacksonville Aviation Authority (JAA) or the Federal Aviation Administration. This portion of the Height Restriction Zone for JIA was put into place with the anticipation of a future runway for the airport. According to the JAA, plans for a future runway in this location have been changed allowing for compatible development north of the JIA. JAA does not object to the development of the property with Light Industrial uses as long as the height restrictions under the Title 14 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 77 are adhered to for the property and wildlife hazard management practices are reasonably implemented. According to the JAA Height Limit Zone pursuant to Title 14 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 77, the property has a 180’ MSL (Mean Sea Level) height restriction. The applicant provided an analysis indicating that 180’ MSL is equivalent to a 156-foot maximum height of development on the property. No adverse impacts to Resources of Regional Significance within the Strategic Regional Policy Plan were identified.

- **Recommended Intergovernmental Coordination:** No intergovernmental coordination is recommended.

Appendix

Exhibit 1: City of Jacksonville 24-1ESR (Location Map)

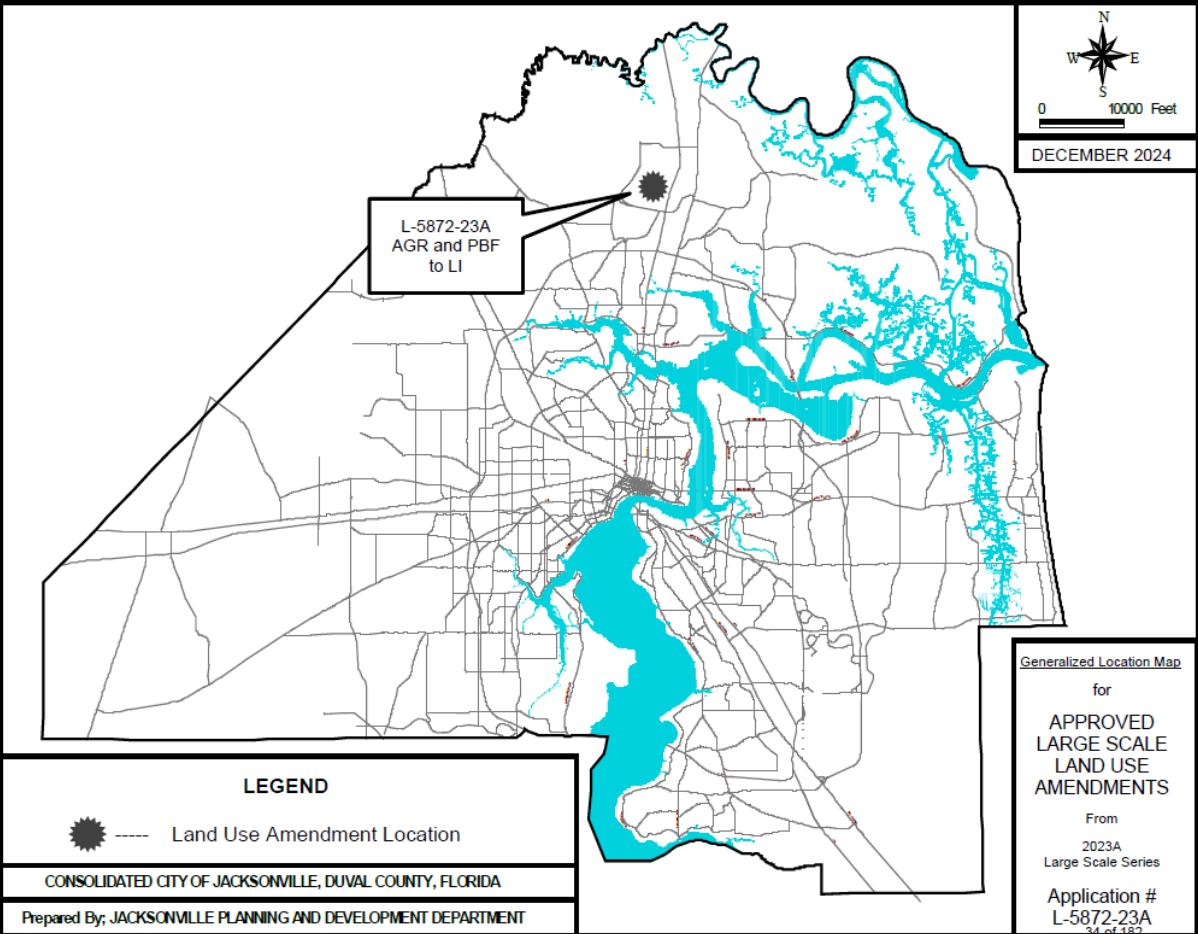
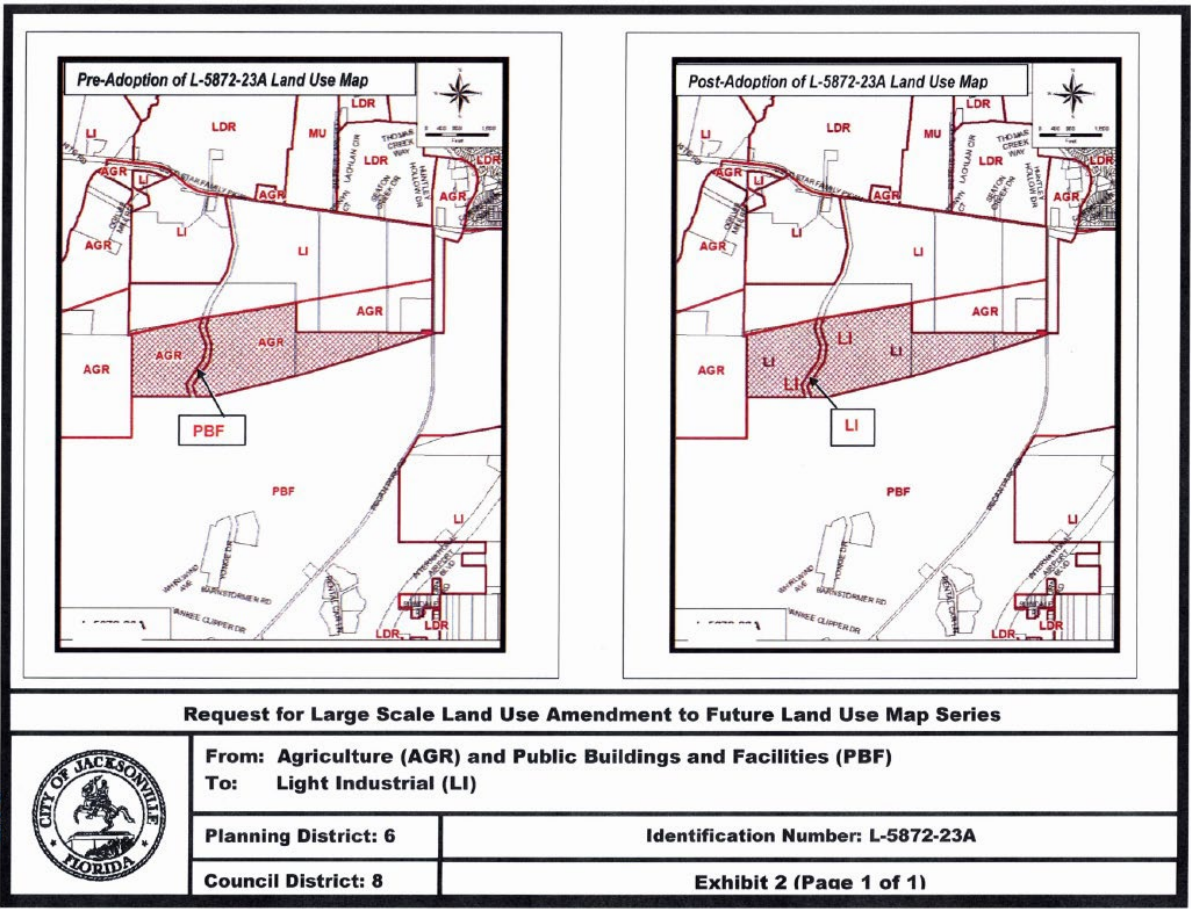


Exhibit 2: The City of Jacksonville 24-1ESR (Existing and Proposed Future Land Use Map)



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MEMORANDUM

DATE: DECEMBER 30, 2024

TO: NORTHEAST FLORIDA REGIONAL COUNCIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

THRU: ELIZABETH PAYNE, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER 

FROM: SUMMER JONES, TRANSPORTATION DISADVANTAGED COORDINATOR *sj*

RE: NORTHEAST FLORIDA COORDINATED MOBILITY PLAN

A Coordinated Mobility Plan has been developed to improve mobility throughout the Region. Mr. Eric Houston, with the Jacksonville Transportation Authority, will provide a presentation on the 2024 Coordinated Mobility Plan goals, strategies, and implementation plan.

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EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

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MEMORANDUM

DATE: DECEMBER 30, 2024

TO: NORTHEAST FLORIDA REGIONAL COUNCIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

THRU: ELIZABETH PAYNE, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER 

FROM: ^{DS}
DONNA STARLING, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

RE: OCTOBER 2024 FINANCIAL REPORT

The Northeast Florida Regional Council posted a Net Income of \$7,921 for the month of October and a Year-to-Date Net Income of \$7,921.



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Regional Council - Agencywide	Adopted Budget 24/25	October 2024	YTD	Represents 8% of Fiscal Year	Budget Variance
Revenues					
County Dues	\$ 694,757	57,896	57,896	8%	0%
Local Government Technical Assistance	\$ 416,296	18,009	18,009	4%	-4%
Transportation Disadvantaged (TD)	\$ 182,895	23,427	23,427	13%	5%
Hazardous Analysis	\$ 14,077	-	-	0%	-8%
Local Emergency Preparedness Committee (LEPC)	\$ 80,000	10,864	10,864	14%	6%
Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness (HMEP) Program	\$ 79,000	-	-	0%	-8%
Small Quantity Generator (SQG) Program	\$ 5,000	-	-	0%	-8%
Florida Department of Health	\$ 5,000	-	-	0%	-8%
Healthcare Coalition	\$ 748,712	31,564	31,564	4%	-4%
CDBG North Florida Resiliency Plan	\$ 120,000	11,266	11,266	9%	1%
CDBG Mitigation Assessment and Planning	\$ 159,852	9,414	9,414	6%	-2%
Military Installation Resilience Review (MIRR)	\$ 700,000	1,248	1,248	0%	-8%
National Coastal Resilience Program	\$ 55,566	1,277	1,277	0%	-8%
Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP)	\$ 150,000	-	-	0%	-8%
Florida Department of Commerce	\$ -	5,139	5,139	0%	-8%
Economic Development Administration (EDA)	\$ 70,000	4,804	4,804	7%	-1%
Disaster Recovery Coordinator	\$ 82,513	7,354	7,354	9%	1%
Regional Leadership Academy (RLA)	\$ 4,900	-	-	0%	-8%
Other Revenue	\$ 15,950	1,324	1,324	8%	0%
TOTAL REVENUES	\$ 3,584,518	\$ 183,586	\$ 183,586	5%	
TRANSFER FROM GENERAL FUND	\$ -	\$ (7,921)	\$ (7,921)		
TOTAL REVENUE/GENERAL FUND	\$ 3,584,518	\$ 175,665	\$ 175,665	5%	
Expenses					
Salaries and Fringe	\$ 1,848,213	146,686	146,686	8%	0%
Contract/Grant Direct Expenses	\$ 1,264,351	4,186	4,186	0%	-8%
Indirect - Allocated Expenses*	\$ 234,425	15,723	15,723	7%	-1%
General Fund Expense*	\$ 237,529	9,070	9,070	4%	-4%
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 3,584,518	\$ 175,665	\$ 175,665	5%	
Net Income (loss)	\$ -	7,921	\$ 7,921		

Northeast Florida Regional Council
 Balance Sheet
 October 2024

	FY 22/23	FY 23/24
	October 2023	October 2024
ASSETS		
Cash	2,430,628	2,105,273
Accounts Receivable	416,347	683,368
Pension Deferred Outflows	439,576	425,550
WJCT Security Deposit	7,400	-
Total Current Assets	<u>3,293,951</u>	<u>3,214,191</u>
Property and Equipment:		
Office Furniture and Equipment	<u>243,214</u>	<u>261,430</u>
Less Accumulated Depreciation	<u>190,870</u>	<u>157,154</u>
Total Property and Equipment, net	<u>52,344</u>	<u>104,277</u>
Total Assets	<u><u>3,346,295</u></u>	<u><u>3,318,467</u></u>
LIABILITIES		
Accounts Payable	11,465	52,770
Accrued Salaries and Leave	102,765	114,977
Deferred Revenue	226,977	78,137
Pension Liability	1,087,234	1,355,550
Pension Deferred Inflows	56,671	49,234
Total Liabilities	<u><u>1,485,113</u></u>	<u><u>1,650,667</u></u>
EQUITY		
Equity and Other Credits:		
Retained Earnings	1,861,183	1,667,800
Total Equity and Other Credits	<u>1,861,183</u>	<u>1,667,800</u>
Total Liabilities, Equity and Other Credits	<u><u>3,346,295</u></u>	<u><u>3,318,467</u></u>





YTD Comparison

	23/24	24/25	23/24	24/25
	Net Income (Loss)	Net Income (Loss)	Cash Balance	Cash Balance

AGENCYWIDE

October	\$ 9,014	\$ 7,921	\$ 2,430,628	\$ 2,105,273
November	\$ 28,148		\$ 2,442,307	
December	\$ 46,934		\$ 2,254,171	
January	\$ 54,754		\$ 2,330,658	
February	\$ 70,318		\$ 2,188,836	
March	\$ 86,943		\$ 2,021,882	
April	\$ 79,901		\$ 2,077,251	
May	\$ 91,660		\$ 2,136,499	
June	\$ 105,330		\$ 1,780,669	
July	\$ 117,153		\$ 1,940,218	
August	\$ 120,255		\$ 1,876,280	
September	\$ 82,616		\$ 2,013,847	




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BRINGING COMMUNITIES TOGETHER

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MEMORANDUM

DATE: NOVEMBER 25, 2024
TO: NORTHEAST FLORIDA REGIONAL COUNCIL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
THRU: ELIZABETH PAYNE, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER 
FROM: ^{DS} DONNA STARLING, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER
RE: OCTOBER 2024 INVESTMENT REPORT

Bank Account Interest	<u>FY 23/24</u>	<u>FY 24/25</u>
October Interest	\$ 1,410	\$ 1,406
Year to Date Interest	\$ 1,410	\$ 1,406
 Florida Local Government Investment Trust		
	<u>FY 23/24</u>	<u>FY 24/25</u>
Current Balance	\$18,193	\$19,364



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BRINGING COMMUNITIES TOGETHER

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MEMORANDUM

DATE: DECEMBER 30, 2024

TO: NORTHEAST FLORIDA REGIONAL COUNCIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

THRU: ELIZABETH PAYNE, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER 

FROM: ^{DS} DONNA STARLING, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

RE: NOVEMBER 2024 FINANCIAL REPORT

The Northeast Florida Regional Council posted a Net Loss of \$17,941 for the month of November and a Year-to-Date Net Loss of \$10,020.

The loss is attributed to payment of Florida Regional Council Association (FRCA) dues, expenditures for the open house, office signage and installation of additional cubicles.



WWW.NEFCR.ORG/SUBSCRIBE-TO-OUR-MAILING-LIST

Regional Council - Agencywide	Adopted Budget 24/25	November 2024	YTD	Represents 17% of Fiscal Year	Budget Variance
Revenues					
County Dues	\$ 694,757	57,896	115,793	17%	0%
Local Government Technical Assistance	\$ 416,296	21,886	39,895	10%	-7%
Transportation Disadvantaged (TD)	\$ 182,895	22,128	45,555	25%	8%
Hazardous Analysis	\$ 14,077	236	236	2%	-15%
Local Emergency Preparedness Committee (LEPC)	\$ 80,000	8,409	19,273	24%	7%
Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness (HMEP) Program	\$ 79,000	-	-	0%	-17%
Small Quantity Generator (SQG) Program	\$ 5,000	-	-	0%	-17%
Florida Department of Health	\$ 5,000	-	-	0%	-17%
Healthcare Coalition	\$ 748,712	64,580	96,144	13%	-4%
CDBG North Florida Resiliency Plan	\$ 120,000	5,990	17,256	14%	-3%
CDBG Mitigation Assessment and Planning	\$ 159,852	8,575	17,989	11%	-6%
Military Installation Resilience Review (MIRR)	\$ 700,000	4,360	5,607	1%	-16%
National Coastal Resilience Program	\$ 55,566	1,707	2,984	0%	-17%
Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP)	\$ 150,000	-	-	0%	-17%
Florida Department of Commerce	\$ -	5,145	10,284	0%	-17%
Economic Development Administration (EDA)	\$ 70,000	3,828	8,632	12%	-5%
Disaster Recovery Coordinator	\$ 82,513	8,716	16,070	19%	2%
Regional Leadership Academy (RLA)	\$ 4,900	-	-	0%	-17%
Other Revenue	\$ 15,950	1,398	2,722	17%	0%
TOTAL REVENUES	\$ 3,584,518	\$ 214,855	\$ 398,441	11%	
TRANSFER FROM GENERAL FUND	\$ -	\$ 17,941	\$ 10,020		
TOTAL REVENUE/GENERAL FUND	\$ 3,584,518	\$ 232,796	\$ 408,461	11%	
Expenses					
Salaries and Fringe	\$ 1,848,213	135,163	281,848	15%	-2%
Contract/Grant Direct Expenses	\$ 1,264,351	38,894	43,080	3%	-14%
Indirect - Allocated Expenses*	\$ 234,425	26,053	41,776	18%	1%
General Fund Expense*	\$ 237,529	32,686	41,756	18%	1%
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 3,584,518	\$ 232,796	\$ 408,461	11%	
Net Income (loss)	\$ -	(17,941)	\$ (10,020)		

Northeast Florida Regional Council
 Balance Sheet
 November 2024

	FY 22/23	FY 23/24
	<u>November 2023</u>	<u>November 2024</u>
ASSETS		
Cash	2,442,307	2,091,118
Accounts Receivable	393,428	631,347
Pension Deferred Outflows	439,576	425,550
WJCT Security Deposit	7,400	-
Total Current Assets	<u>3,282,711</u>	<u>3,148,015</u>
Property and Equipment:		
Office Furniture and Equipment	<u>306,039</u>	<u>261,430</u>
Less Accumulated Depreciation	<u>194,210</u>	<u>159,553</u>
Total Property and Equipment, net	<u>111,829</u>	<u>101,877</u>
Total Assets	<u><u>3,394,540</u></u>	<u><u>3,249,892</u></u>
LIABILITIES		
Accounts Payable	12,792	6,084
Accrued Salaries and Leave	104,065	124,311
Deferred Revenue	253,461	64,854
Pension Liability	1,087,234	1,355,550
Pension Deferred Inflows	56,671	49,234
Total Liabilities	<u><u>1,514,223</u></u>	<u><u>1,600,033</u></u>
EQUITY		
Equity and Other Credits:		
Retained Earnings	<u>1,880,317</u>	<u>1,649,859</u>
Total Equity and Other Credits	<u>1,880,317</u>	<u>1,649,859</u>
Total Liabilities, Equity and Other Credits	<u><u>3,394,540</u></u>	<u><u>3,249,892</u></u>

YTD Comparison

	23/24	24/25	23/24	24/25
	Net Income (Loss)	Net Income (Loss)	Cash Balance	Cash Balance

AGENCYWIDE

October	\$ 9,014	\$ 7,921	\$ 2,430,628	\$ 2,105,273
November	\$ 28,148	\$ (10,020)	\$ 2,442,307	\$ 2,091,118
December	\$ 46,934		\$ 2,254,171	
January	\$ 54,754		\$ 2,330,658	
February	\$ 70,318		\$ 2,188,836	
March	\$ 86,943		\$ 2,021,882	
April	\$ 79,901		\$ 2,077,251	
May	\$ 91,660		\$ 2,136,499	
June	\$ 105,330		\$ 1,780,669	
July	\$ 117,153		\$ 1,940,218	
August	\$ 120,255		\$ 1,876,280	
September	\$ 82,616		\$ 2,013,847	



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MEMORANDUM

DATE: DECEMBER 30, 2024

TO: NORTHEAST FLORIDA REGIONAL COUNCIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

THRU: ELIZABETH PAYNE, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER 

FROM: ^{DS} DONNA STARLING, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

RE: NOVEMBER 2024 INVESTMENT REPORT

Bank Account Interest	<u>FY 23/24</u>	<u>FY 24/25</u>
November Interest	\$ 1,323	\$ 1,317
Year to Date Interest	\$ 2,733	\$ 2,722
Florida Local Government Investment Trust		
	<u>FY 23/24</u>	<u>FY 24/25</u>
Current Balance	\$18,382	\$19,445



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MEMORANDUM

DATE: DECEMBER 30, 2024

TO: NORTHEAST FLORIDA REGIONAL COUNCIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

FROM: ELIZABETH PAYNE, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER 

RE: BOARD MEMBER RESOLUTIONS

Please find attached five (5) resolutions for Members who have recently completed their service/term on the Northeast Florida Regional Council Board of Directors. Their service to the Council, and the Northeast Florida Region is greatly appreciated.



Resolution

Northeast Florida Regional Council

2025-01

Honoring

The Honorable Paul Adamczyk

WHEREAS, the Honorable Paul Adamczyk, County Commissioner, was appointed in January, 2023, by the Putnam County Board of County Commissioners to serve as a representative on the Northeast Florida Regional Council Board of Directors; and

WHEREAS, Commissioner Adamczyk served the Council and Northeast Florida citizens with great distinction, devotion, and dedication; and

WHEREAS, his efforts on behalf of the Council and Northeast Florida are greatly appreciated and will be missed.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the policy body of the Northeast Florida Regional Council hereby commends Commissioner Adamczyk for his efforts and contributions during his tenure and expresses its sincere appreciation for his service.

Unanimously adopted by the Northeast Florida Regional Council in a regular meeting assembled in the City of Jacksonville, on the ninth day of January, 2025.

Jim Renninger

President

Elizabeth Payne

CEO

Resolution

Northeast Florida Regional Council

2025-02

Honoring

The Honorable Roy Alaimo

WHEREAS, the Honorable Roy Alaimo, County Commissioner, was appointed in February, 2024, by the St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners to serve as a representative on the Northeast Florida Regional Council Board of Directors; and

WHEREAS, Commissioner Alaimo served the Council and Northeast Florida citizens with great distinction, devotion, and dedication; and

WHEREAS, his efforts on behalf of the Council and Northeast Florida is greatly appreciated and will be missed.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the policy body of the Northeast Florida Regional Council hereby commends Commissioner Alaimo for his efforts and contributions during his tenure and expresses its sincere appreciation for his service.

Unanimously adopted by the Northeast Florida Regional Council in a regular meeting assembled in the City of Jacksonville, on the ninth day of January, 2025.

Jim Renninger
President

Elizabeth Payne
CEO

Resolution

Northeast Florida Regional Council

2025-03

Honoring

The Honorable David Sturges

WHEREAS, the Honorable David Sturges, Vice-Mayor, was appointed in March, 2023, by the Nassau County Board of County Commissioners to serve as a municipal representative on the Northeast Florida Regional Council Board of Directors; and

WHEREAS, Vice-Mayor Sturges served as a member of the Personnel, Budget & Finance Policy Committee; and

WHEREAS, Vice-Mayor Sturges served the Council and Northeast Florida citizens with great distinction, devotion, and dedication; and

WHEREAS, his efforts on behalf of the Council and Northeast Florida is greatly appreciated and will be missed.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the policy body of the Northeast Florida Regional Council hereby commends Vice-Mayor Sturges for his efforts and contributions during his tenure and expresses its sincere appreciation for his service.

Unanimously adopted by the Northeast Florida Regional Council in a regular meeting assembled in the City of Jacksonville, on the ninth day of January, 2025.

Jim Renninger

President

Elizabeth Payne

CEO

Resolution

Northeast Florida Regional Council

2025-04

Honoring

The Honorable John Drew

WHEREAS, the Honorable John Drew, Nassau County Tax Collector, was appointed in January, 2016 to serve as a Gubernatorial representative on the Northeast Florida Regional Council Board of Directors; and

WHEREAS, following his Gubernatorial appointment, Mr. Drew was appointed in December 2020 by the Nassau County Board of County Commissioners to serve as a Citizen representative of the County on the Northeast Florida Regional Council Board of Directors; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Drew served on the Executive Committee, and Chaired the Legislative Policy Committee; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Drew served as a representative on the Florida Regional Councils Association's Policy Board; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Drew has served the Council and Northeast Florida citizens with great distinction, devotion, and dedication; and

WHEREAS, his efforts on behalf of the Council and Northeast Florida will be missed.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the policy body of the Northeast Florida Regional Council hereby commends Mr. Drew for his efforts and contributions during his tenure and expresses its sincere appreciation for his service.

Unanimously adopted by the Northeast Florida Regional Council in a special meeting assembled in the City of Jacksonville, on the ninth day of January 2025.

Jim Renninger
President

Elizabeth Payne
CEO

Resolution

Northeast Florida Regional Council

2025-05

Honoring

The Honorable Christian Whitehurst

WHEREAS, the Honorable Christian Whitehurst, St. Johns County Commissioner, was appointed in May, 2021 by the St. Johns County Board of County Commission to serve as a representative on the Northeast Florida Regional Council Board of Directors; and

WHEREAS, Commissioner Whitehurst stepped in to the role of President early and served a longer term than normally required and was eager to do so and chaired each meeting with enthusiasm and a positive spirit;

WHEREAS, Commissioner Whitehurst also served as 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President, and chaired the Executive Committee of the Northeast Florida Regional Council; and

WHEREAS, Commissioner Whitehurst served on the Personnel, Budget and Finance Policy Committee, the Legislative Policy Committee, and as a representative on the Florida Regional Councils Association's Policy Board; and

WHEREAS, Commissioner Whitehurst, during his tenure, provided leadership, guidance, and direction and served as a steadfast advocate for the work of the Regional Council; and

WHEREAS, Commissioner Whitehurst supported regional projects, including resiliency and the efforts of the Regional Council on Trails & Ecotourism across Northeast Florida; and

WHEREAS, Commissioner Whitehurst has served the Council and Northeast Florida citizens with great distinction, devotion, and dedication; and

WHEREAS, his efforts on behalf of the Council and Northeast Florida will be missed.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the policy body of the Northeast Florida Regional Council hereby commends Commissioner Whitehurst for his efforts and contributions during his tenure and expresses its sincere appreciation for his service.

Unanimously adopted by the Northeast Florida Regional Council in a regular meeting of the Board of Directors on the ninth day of January 2025.

Jim Renninger

President

Elizabeth Payne

CEO

Agenda Item

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MEMORANDUM

DATE: DECEMBER 30, 2024
TO: NORTHEAST FLORIDA REGIONAL COUNCIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS
FROM: ELIZABETH PAYNE, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER 
RE: 2025 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

The Legislative Policy Committee met on Monday, December 9th, to review and assemble the Legislative Priorities for the 2025 Session. A recommendation will be presented for approval by the Board of Directors.

The 2025 Legislative Priorities for consideration include Infrastructure, Resiliency, Housing and Public Sleeping & Camping.



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MEMORANDUM

DATE: DECEMBER 30, 2024
TO: NORTHEAST FLORIDA REGIONAL COUNCIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS
FROM: ELIZABETH PAYNE, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER 
RE: 2025 WORKPLAN

Each year, programs and work opportunities are discussed for NEFRC staff to pursue over the next calendar year. In recent years, work plan items have included resiliency, affordable housing, opioid epidemic and most recently the regional ecotourism and trails project. Staff will provide a potential 2025 initiative that focuses on solid waste, for consideration by the Board.





NEFRC

2025 Proposed Workplan

*Tackling the Trash Together:
Innovative Solutions to Solid Waste Management*

Challenging Issue: Solid Waste

Solid waste management holds challenges to each county in Northeast Florida – from costs, availability of services, capacity, expansion and integration of new technologies.





Tackling the Trash Together: Innovative Solutions to Solid Waste Management

Work Phases:

1. Identify and Engage Stakeholders
2. Research and Data Collection
 - a. Current Practices
 - b. Innovations
 - c. Best Practices
3. Convene Stakeholders
4. Develop Collaborative Strategies
5. Documentation

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MEMORANDUM

DATE: DECEMBER 30, 2024

TO: NORTHEAST FLORIDA REGIONAL COUNCIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

VIA: ELIZABETH PAYNE, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER 

FROM: FARA ILAMI, REGIONAL RESILIENCY MANAGER 

RE: COMMUNITY RESILIENCE UPDATE

Staff will provide a brief overview of the NEFRC Resiliency Program and an update on community resilience efforts being facilitated across Northeast Florida, including the Resilient First Coast Collaborative. This update will include highlights from the Coastal Inundation Community of Practice meeting in Seattle, Washington, where NEFRC was represented by staff; announcement of the FY 2024-2025 Regional Resilience Entity Grant from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Resilient Florida Program; and progress towards the Northeast Florida Military Installation Resilience Review.





Community Resiliency Update

NORTHEAST FLORIDA 2024-25 DEVELOPMENTS

1

NEFRC Resiliency Program: What is it?



Resilience is the ability to adapt and thrive in the face of acute shocks and chronic stresses brought about by climate change and related threats.

These **threats** may include:

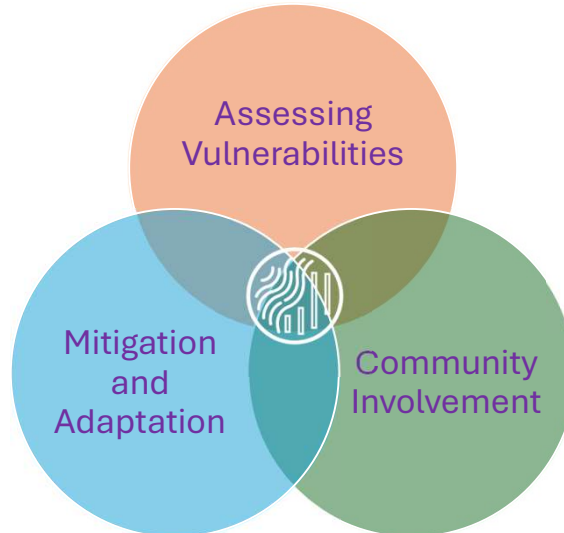
- Sea level rise
- Increased storm frequency
- Flooding
- Extreme heat

Adaptations may include:

- Nature-based solutions
- Hardened infrastructure
- Safer housing
- Workforce training

2

NEFRC Resiliency Program: Spheres of Action



3

Resilient First Coast



What is this?

Partnership of local governments, businesses, non-profit organizations, academia, and federal/ state agencies, working together to improve the resilience of the region

What are we working on?

Regional Resiliency Action Plan

When are the meetings?

Steering Committee to meet January 15, 2025

Full Collaborative to meet February 19, 2025

4

NEFRC Resiliency Program: Current Projects



- Regional Resilience Entity Project
- Local Government Vulnerability Assessments
- Local Government Adaptation Plans
- Multiregional Resilience Project
- Healthcare Resilience Project
- Climate Pollution Reduction Grant
- Military Installation Resilience Review
- South Atlantic Salt Marsh Initiative

5

Regional Resilience Entity Project (2024-2025)

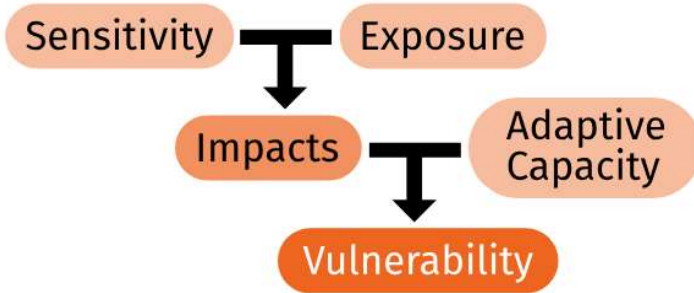
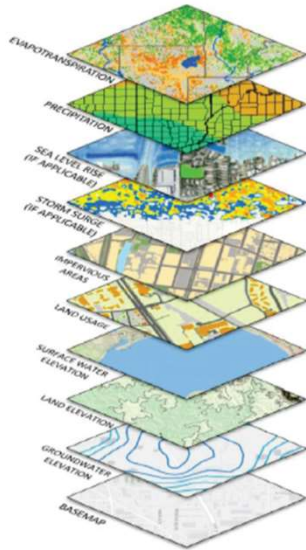
What is this project?

- Regional Resiliency Action Plan, Phase II
- Technical Assistance for local government resiliency planning
- Regional compilation of Vulnerability Assessments

6

Local Government Vulnerability Assessments



7

Local Government Adaptation Plans

- Prioritization of adaptation needs
- Identification of adaptation strategies
- List of prioritized projects



8

Climate Pollution Reduction Grant



<https://cleanairnortheastflorida.com/>



9

Military Installation Resilience Review



What is this project?

- Base and Community Engagement
- Vulnerability Assessment
- Emergency Preparedness Exercise
- Recommendations and Implementation Plan to Address Risks

Which installations will be included?

- Naval Air Station Jacksonville
- Naval Station Mayport
- Marine Corps Support Facility Blount Island
- Camp Blanding Military Training Base
- Naval Outlying Field Whitehouse

10

Multi-Regional Efforts:

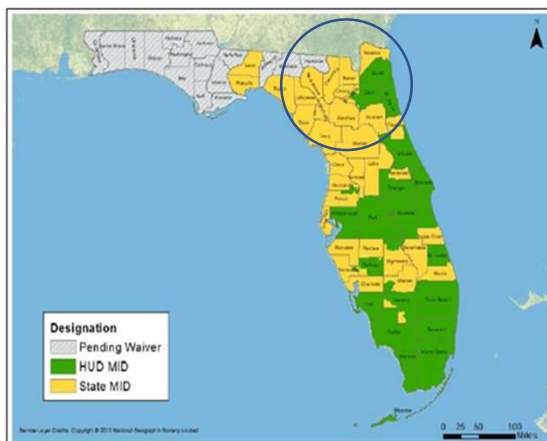


What is this project?

- Future Extreme Rainfall Modeling
- Needs Assessment
- Small Area Adaptation Plans in Priority Areas
- Interactive Best Practice Application
- Stakeholder Engagement

11

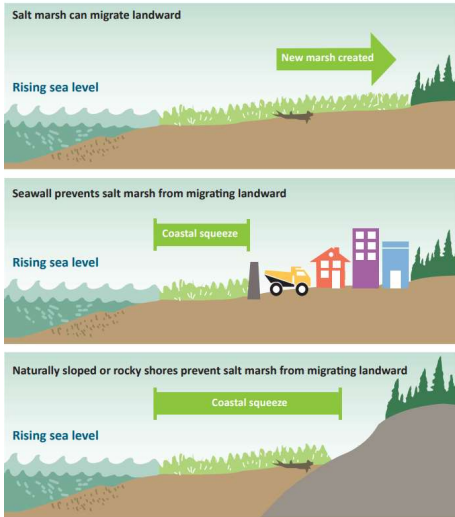
Multi-Regional Efforts: Healthcare Resilience Project



Purpose: By focusing specifically on improving health care infrastructure resilience, this framework aims to help a broad range of health care facilities and organizations **improve their ability to function in the face of climate change and extreme weather events** such as tropical cyclones, flooding, and severe storms.

12

Multi-Regional Efforts: SASMI



Community Capacity Building and Planning in Vulnerable Communities of the South Atlantic Salt Marsh Initiative

Purpose: to create a set of salt marsh resilience projects that highlight the connections between sites, set clear resilience goals for each location, and work with the county and state to ensure culturally appropriate adaptation solutions are reflected in plans and policies

13



Coastal Inundation Community of Practice

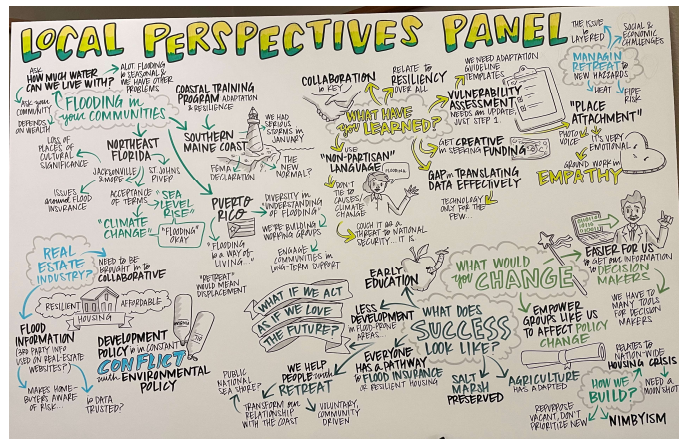
AMERICAN SOCIETY OF ADAPTATION PROFESSIONALS



Sea Grant

NEFRC participation:

- Represented Florida on the Local Perspectives Panel
- Collaborated with Climate Central on use of FloodVision®
- Led national discussion on Compound Flooding Analysis



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MEMORANDUM

DATE: DECEMBER 30, 2025

TO: NORTHEAST FLORIDA REGIONAL COUNCIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

THRU: ELIZABETH PAYNE, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER *EP*

FROM: ERIC ANDERSON, DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER *Eric B. Anderson*

RE: STRATEGIC REGIONAL POLICY PLAN – INITIAL REVIEW AND FEEDBACK PART I

Pursuant to the State and Regional Planning Act, the Northeast Florida Regional Council maintains a Strategic Regional Policy Plan (SRPP) that addresses the five required issue areas: Affordable Housing, Economic Development, Emergency Preparedness, Natural Resources of Regional Significance, and Regional Transportation. The SRPP also contains four regional issue areas: Health, Energy, Cultivation, and Demographics and Equity.

At the November 2024 meeting, the Northeast Florida Regional Council Board of Directors approved the 2024 Northeast Florida Strategic Regional Policy Plan Assessment and authorized staff to begin the SRPP five-year update. As such, staff has prepared an initial draft of four (issue areas) for review and feedback. Additional SRPP Elements will be reviewed at future Board meetings in 2025.

This is meant to be an initial step to highlight changes and trends in data, validate or amend regionally significant issue areas, and provide a general state of the region. A formal draft will be returned before the Board at the June 5, 2025, meeting.

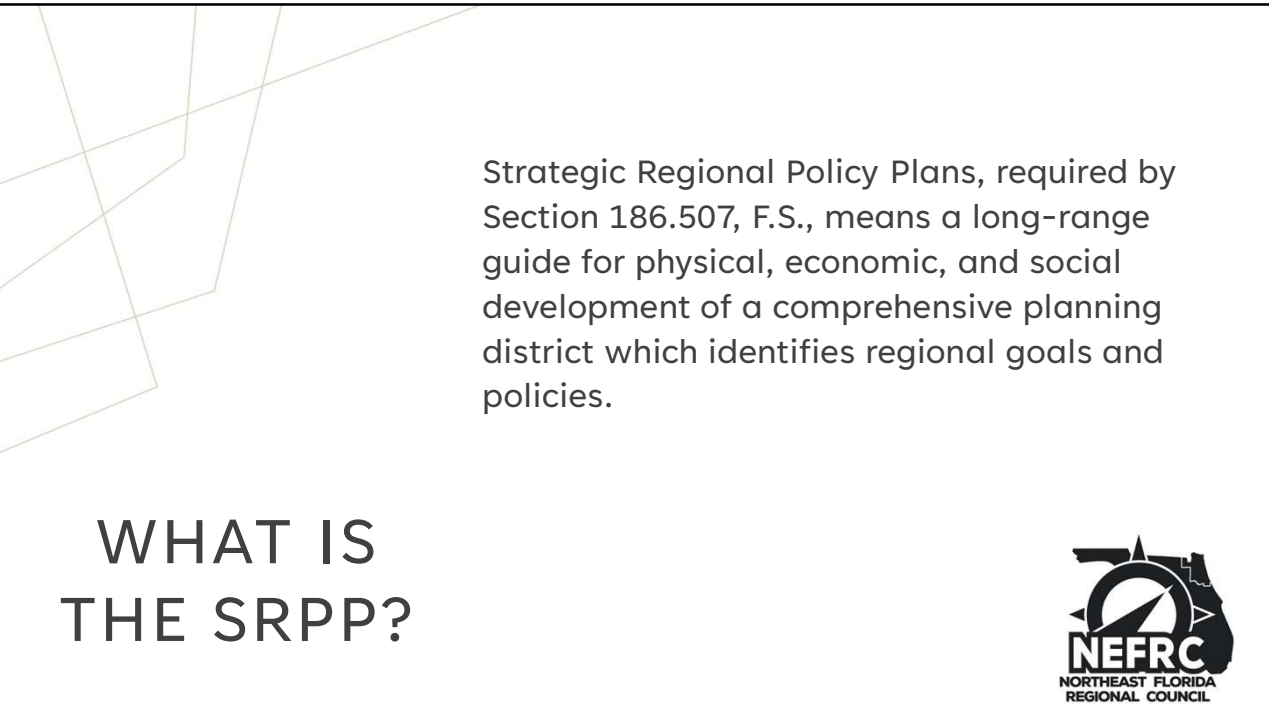
The drafts show track changes, with red deletions and blue additions. Draft maps have been included but will be updated for formal adoption.

- **Demographics and Equity Element**—The State Statute does not require this element, and staff recommends deleting it.
- **Communities and Affordable Housing Element**
- **Economic Development Element** – The draft has been updated except for two data points: Unemployment and tourism development revenue. Data is being collected.
- **Emergency Preparedness and Resiliency Element**—Staff has deleted aspects associated with Resiliency, as they will create a standalone Resilience Element in 2025.




STRATEGIC REGIONAL POLICY PLAN (SRPP) UPDATE

1



Strategic Regional Policy Plans, required by Section 186.507, F.S., means a long-range guide for physical, economic, and social development of a comprehensive planning district which identifies regional goals and policies.

WHAT IS THE SRPP?



2

WHAT IS THE SRPP?

The SRPP **shall contain regional goals and policies** that address:

- 1) affordable housing
- 2) economic development
- 3) emergency preparedness
- 4) natural resources of regional significance
- 5) regional transportation

And **other regional goals and policies** as deemed appropriate by the council.

- 6) Health
- 7) Energy
- 8) Cultivation
- 9) Demographics and Equity

3

SRPP ASSESSMENT IN NOVEMBER 2024



- Reviewed Nine (9) Subject Areas/Elements

4

2024 SRPP ASSESSMENT

NEFRC Board approved the following updates:

1. Update and expand the Cultivation Element
2. Create a standalone Resilience Element, separating it from the Emergency Preparedness and Resiliency Element
3. Add the First Coast Wellbeing Index
4. Consider removing the Health Element
5. Consider removing the Energy Element
6. Consider removing SRPP alignment with the Florida Chamber Foundation’s Six Pillars

5

SRPP WORKPLAN & TIMELINE

November 7, 2024	Board: SRPP Process Review and Plan Evaluation
January 9, 2025	Board: SRPP Review #1 (1st half) & suggested updates
February 6, 2025	Board: SRPP Review #2 (2nd half) & suggested updates
Jan - Feb of 2025	Public Workshops: Consider policy guidance for Cultivation and Resilience elements
April 3, 2025	Board: Review draft Cultivation & Resilience elements
April 10, 2025	Kickoff Meeting & Online Public Input: SRPP Update Process & Start of Public Input
April of 2025	3 Public Meetings: SRPP Update Process & Public Input
June 5, 2025	Board Approval: To release the Draft update
June - Aug 2025	Collect Feedback on Draft SRPP from local governments & make updates
October 2, 2025	Board Approval: Proposed SRPP Released to the State, then allow 60 days for Review.
Dec 2025 & Jan 2026	Collect Feedback on Proposed SRPP from state review agencies and local governments, then make updates
February 5, 2026	Board Approval: Adopt Final SRPP ***Rulemaking Begins***

6

SRPP REVIEW 1ST FOUR ELEMENTS

The drafts show track changes, with **RED** deletions and **BLUE** additions. Draft maps have been included but will be updated for formal adoption.



7

- 1) This is not a required SRPP Element in the State Statute.
- 2) While this Element contains population data points, this data could be incorporated into the First Coast Wellbeing Index, a living database already managed by NEFRC.

Staff recommendation is to delete this optional Element

DEMOGRAPHICS AND EQUITY ELEMENT



8

- 1) Updated the standardized data points.
- 2) Removed references to Elevate Northeast Florida and the NEFRC Housing Needs Plan, as they are outdated.
- 3) Added information on the State’s “Live Local Act.”
- 4) Added information on the First Coast Wellbeing Index.
- 5) Maintained the current Goals, Objectives, & Policies.

COMMUNITIES AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING ELEMENT



9

- 1) Updated the standardized data points.
 - Still need to update Unemployment & Tourism Development Revenue
- 2) Removed references to Elevate Northeast Florida.
- 3) Removed references to the Florida Chamber’s Six Pillars.
- 4) Small changes to the current Goals, Objectives, & Policies.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ELEMENT



10

- 1) Staff has deleted aspects associated with Resiliency, as NEFRC will create a standalone Resilience Element in 2025.
- 2) Updated the standardized data points.
- 3) General cleanup of the current Goals, Objectives, & Policies.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND RESILIENCY ELEMENT



11

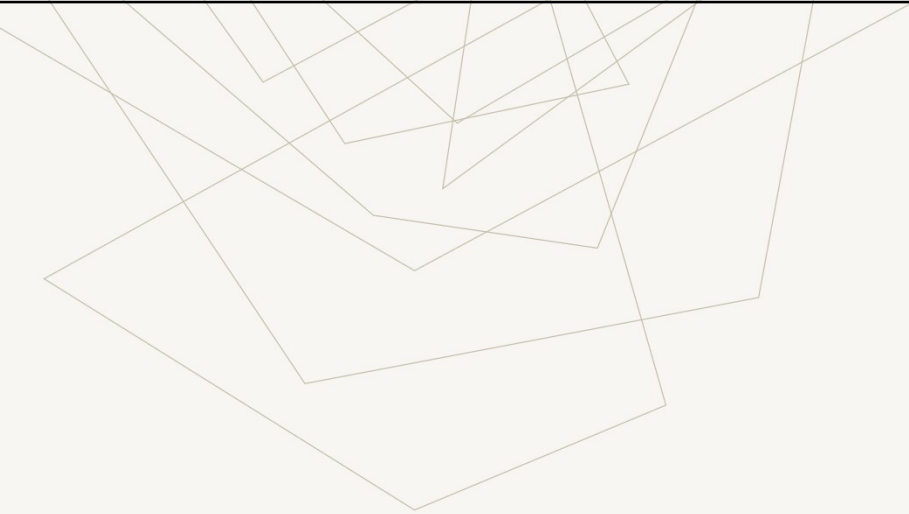
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WHAT IS NEXT?


- Energy Element**
- Regional Health Element**
- Natural Resources of Regional Significance Element
- Regional Transportation Element

**=Optional Elements

12



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STRATEGIC REGIONAL POLICY PLAN UPDATE

Element: Demographics and Equity



Demographics and Equity

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DEMOGRAPHICS AND EQUITY TRENDS AND CONDITIONS

This section is aligned with the Elevate Northeast Florida and the 2019 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy.

Population Growth

Northeast Florida is home to nearly 1.7 million residents. Since 2010, the metropolitan area’s population has grown by more than 173,000 individuals, an increase of 11.4%. During this period, the population of Northeast Florida increased at a faster pace than the national average and several benchmark regions, including Atlanta, Tampa, Indianapolis, and Virginia Beach.

Figure 1: Northeast Florida Population

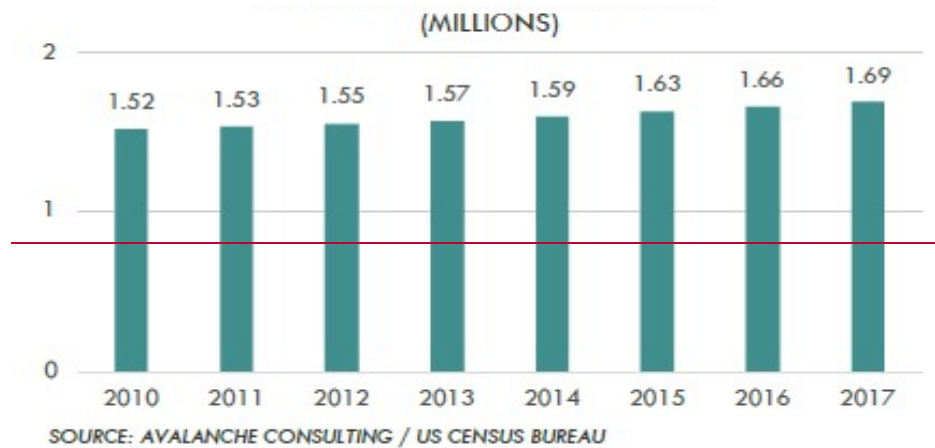
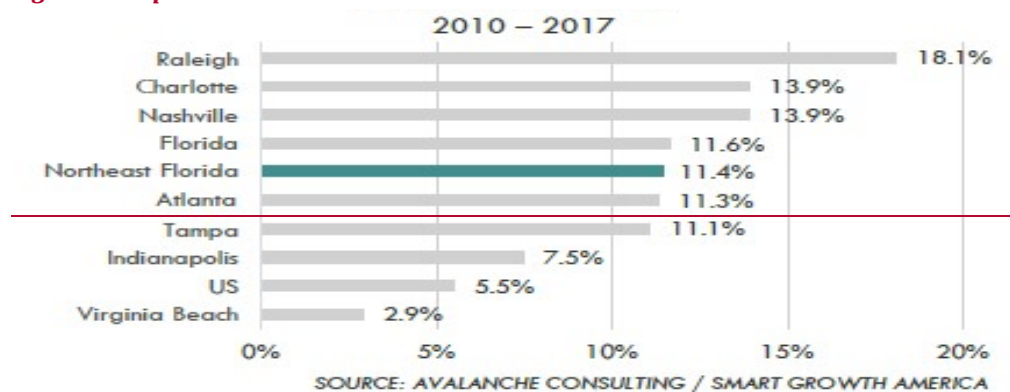


Figure 2: Population Growth



Population Age

At approximately 39 years, Northeast Florida’s median age is slightly older than the national figure but younger relative to the statewide median. Young professionals (people who are 25-39 years old) represent 20% of Northeast Florida’s population, and this percentage is growing.

Figure 3: % Young Professionals (Resident Age 25-39)

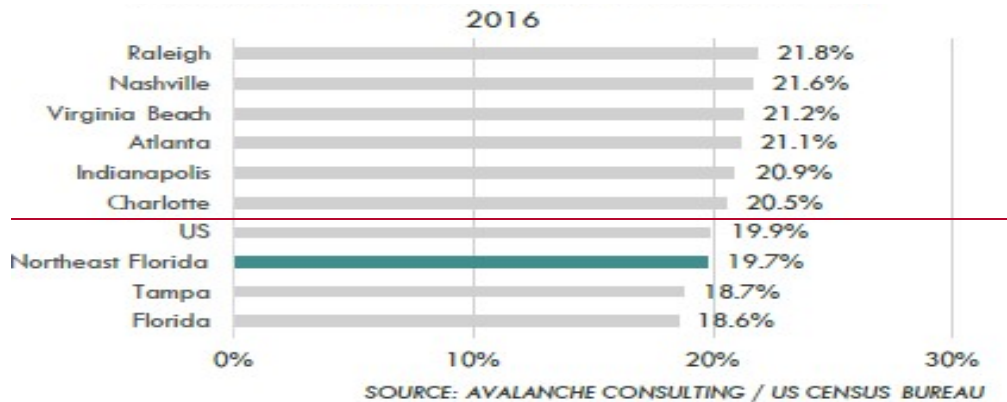
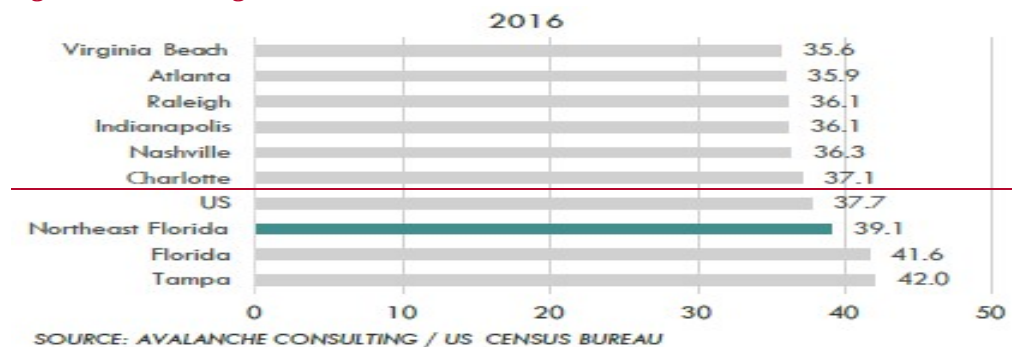
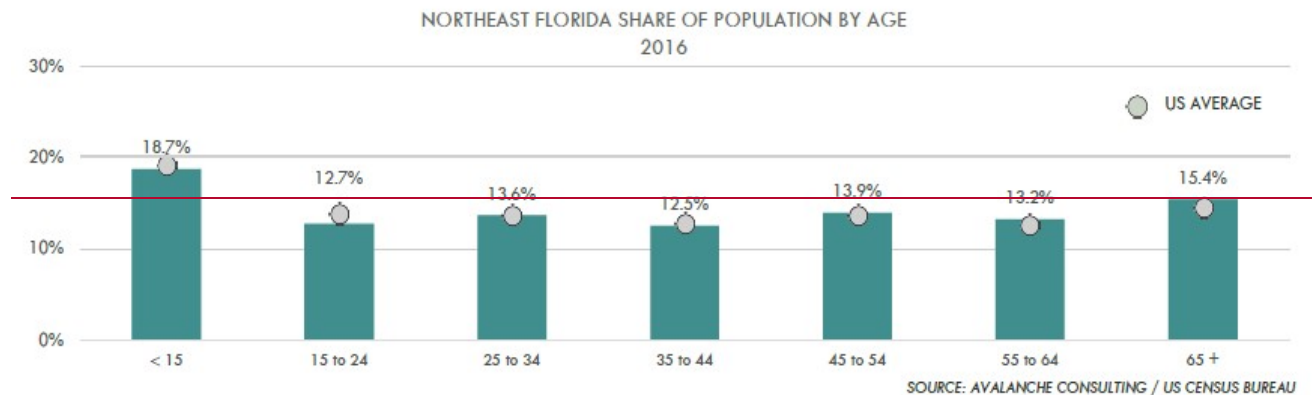


Figure 4: Median Age



Young professionals (residents aged 25 to 39 years old) are a critical workforce for companies seeking to hire people with the latest skills and knowledge. Recruiting and retaining residents in this age cohort helps a region ensure a growing labor force for companies.

The age distribution of a population can help community leaders better understand where to prioritize investments. Age distribution data may highlight strengths in workforce availability, such as the important young professional workforce. Data may also identify populations with distinct needs—such as children and the elderly

Figure 5: Northeast Florida Share of Population by Age

Racial Composition

The racial and ethnic composition of Northeast Florida differs slightly from the national average. White, non-Hispanic individuals represent approximately 64% of Northeast Florida's population, slightly higher than the US as a whole. Black/African-American individuals comprise approximately 21% of Northeast Florida's population (compared to 12% at the national level). Fewer than 9% of Northeast Florida's residents are Hispanic, less than half the US average. During the past five years, Hispanics were among the fastest growing racial/ethnic groups in Northeast Florida. Since 2011, the region's Hispanic population has increased nearly 31%. In contrast, between 2011 and 2016 Northeast Florida's White and Black/African-American populations increased 4% and 6% respectively.

The racial and ethnic diversity of a community is affected by local geography, history, industry trends, and culture. Research shows that a diverse population and inclusive policies are correlated with a stronger economy.

Figure 6: Northeast Florida Racial & Ethnic Diversity

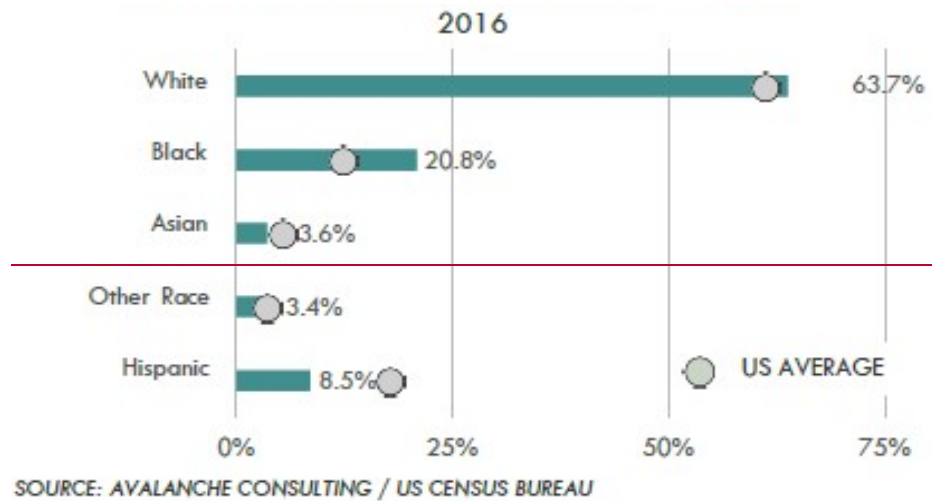
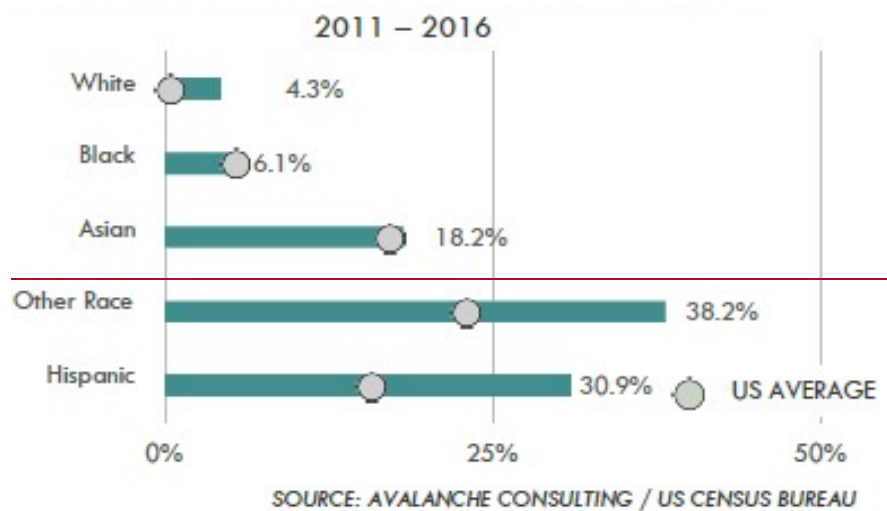


Figure 7: Northeast Florida Growth by Race & Ethnicity



Median income for Black/African American households in the five-county Jacksonville metro is approximately 60% of median household income for White, Non-Hispanic households in the region. Median income for Hispanic households in Jacksonville is more than 81% of median household income for White, Non-Hispanic households in the region. While these disparities are less pronounced in the Jacksonville area compared to other regions, they remain significant. Median income for White, Non-Hispanic households in Jacksonville is \$24,000 higher than Black/African American households and \$11,000 higher than Hispanic households. (Note, wage disparity data is only available for the five-

county MSA — labeled “Jacksonville” in the charts below — not the seven-county Northeast Florida study area.)

Income gaps among demographic groups in a community are indicators of economic mobility. Regions that have economic mobility also tend to have greater long-term resiliency.

Figure 8: Ratio of Hispanic Household Income to White, Non-Hispanic, Median Household Income

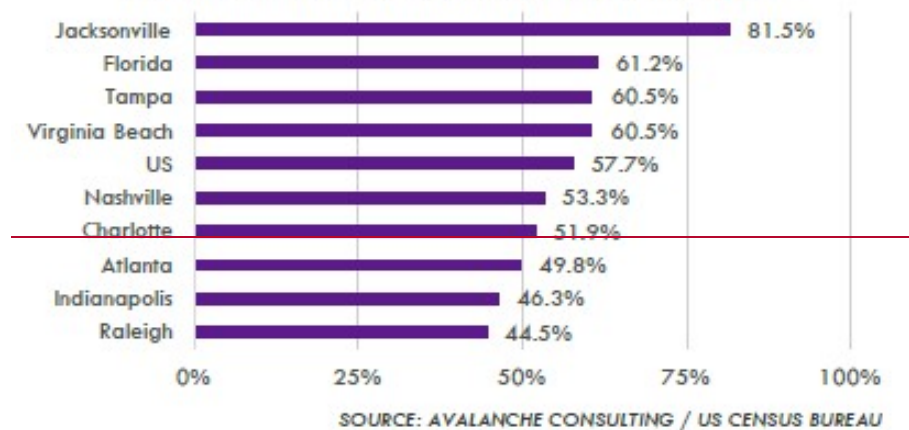
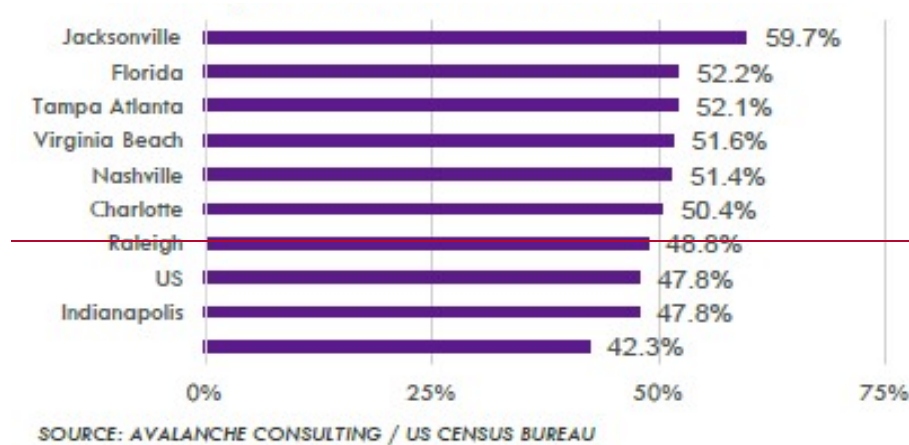


Figure 9: Ratio of Black/African-American Household Income to White, Non-Hispanic, Median Household Income



Poverty

Poverty in Northeast Florida has declined during the past two years. In 2016, Northeast Florida’s overall poverty rate dipped below 15% for the first time since 2012. That said, poverty levels vary among Northeast Florida’s counties. Putnam (27.0%), Baker (18.5%),

and Duval (16.6%) Counties exceed the national and state averages, while St. Johns (9.0%), Clay (10.2%), Nassau (12.7%), and Flagler (12.7%) are much lower.

Poverty levels indicate whether residents have incomes and access to jobs that allow them to prosper and support their families. High poverty levels often reflect limited job opportunities or low educational attainment in a community and put heavy demands on social services.

Figure 10: Poverty Rate

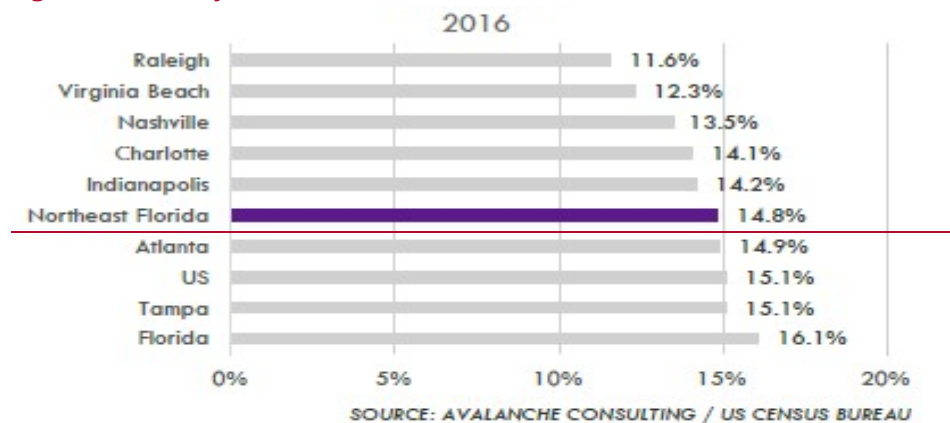
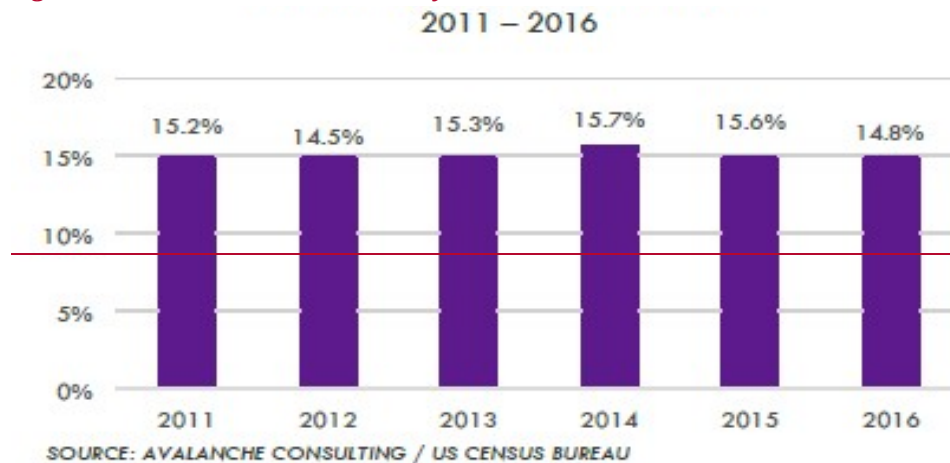


Figure 11: Northeast Florida Poverty Rate



GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES

Goal: Progress toward achieving our goals should have a positive impact on the ability of all of Counties in the Region to prosper and all of the residents in the Region to achieve their personal goals. We will look for residents of modest means to spend less of their incomes on housing and transportation, and for mobility for all to access jobs and those things that impact quality of life.

Pillar: All Six

OBJECTIVE: A REGION WHERE ALL PEOPLE CAN THRIVE

Policies

Policy 1: The Region promotes the use of partnerships and non-traditional methods to engage all residents.

Policy 2: The Region will support its local governments and share best practices as they develop ways to gather public input from citizens in all parts of the Region.

Policy 3: The Region will measure its success by evaluating not simply overall measures but will measure the success of all income, age, and racial groups.

Policy 4: Non-compact development patterns and limited mobility options are a barrier to success for all, and have a greater impact on low-income residents, seniors and those with disabilities or health challenges. The Region supports more compact development connected by transportation corridors.

Pillar: Quality of Life and Quality Places, SCP: 187.201(19)(a)F.S.

STRATEGIC REGIONAL POLICY PLAN UPDATE

Element: Communities and Affordable Housing



Communities and Affordable Housing

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AFFORDABLE HOUSING TRENDS AND CONDITIONS

~~This section is aligned with the Elevate Northeast Florida, the 2019 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy, and the 2019 NEFRC Affordable Housing Needs Plan. It must be noted that the Action Item in First Coast Vision that advocates the transition of the region to an “all voucher” system as the single means to provide affordable housing other than for special needs or senior populations is no longer supported and does not guide NEFRC policy.~~

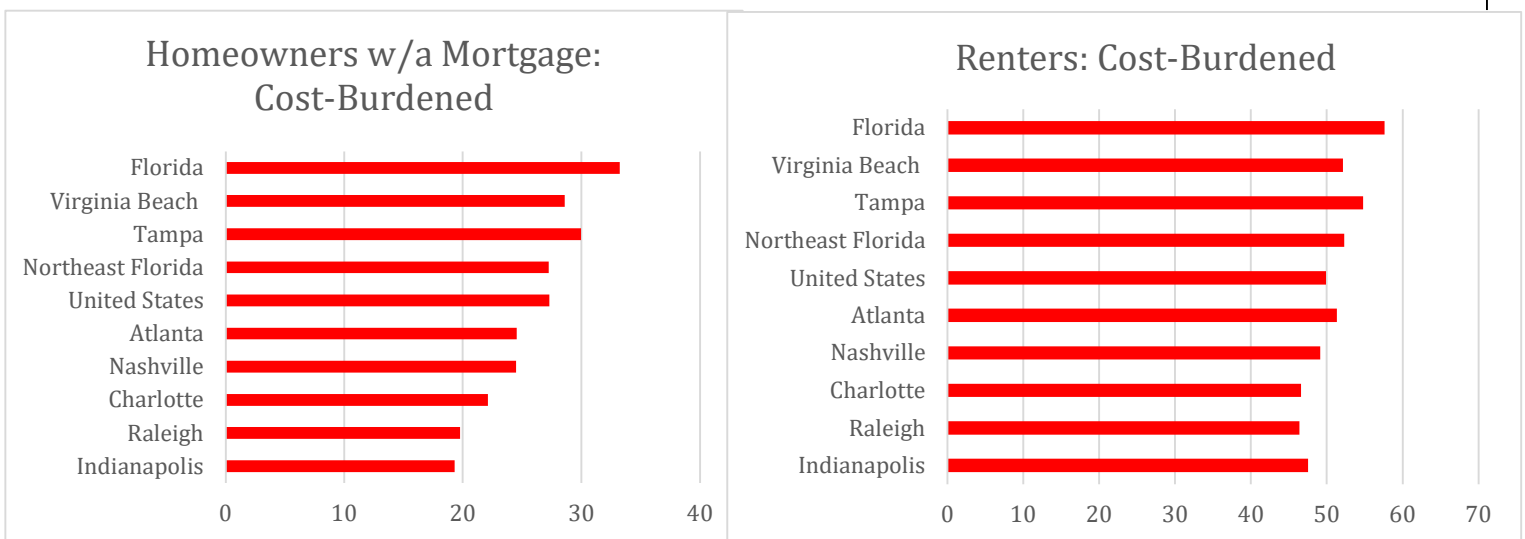
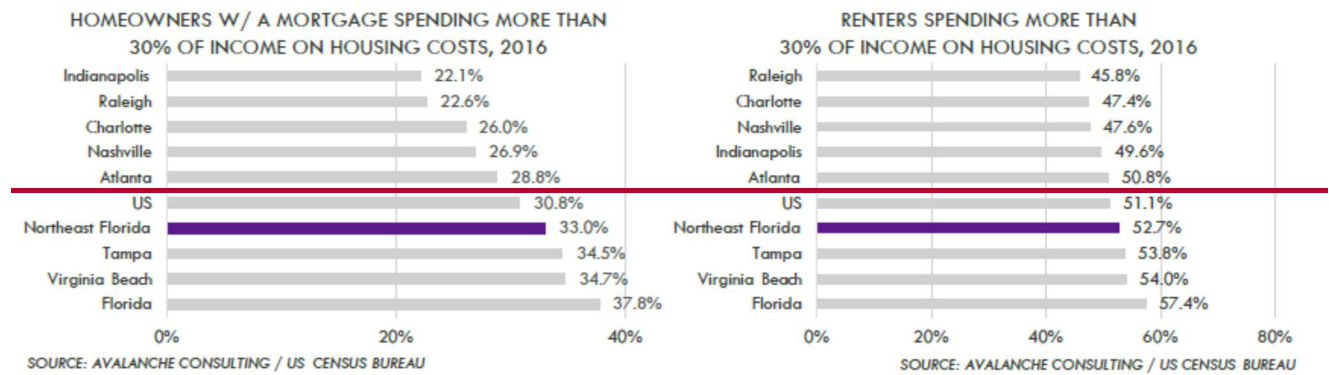
STRATEGIC ISSUE: HOUSING COSTS

Cost Burden of Housing: Households with Rent/Cost to Income Ratio of 30% or more

A household is considered to be “housing cost-burdened” if more than 30% of its gross household income is spent on housing, which is defined as rent or mortgage costs. A household is considered “severely cost-burdened” if more than 50% of gross household income is spent on housing. The number of cost-burdened and severely cost-burdened households is an indicator of [the](#) affordable housing supply.

Although [the](#) cost of living is a frequently cited regional advantage, some residents feel pressure on their pocketbooks, especially related to housing costs. ~~While income levels have barely budged, home prices have increased by more than 75% since 2012. Over 30% of homeowners in the metro now spend more than 30% of their income on their mortgage payment each month. More than 50% of renters are cost-burdened, spending greater than 30% of their income on rent. However, even though the percentage of homeowners with a mortgage being considered ‘housing considered cost-burdened’ is below national and state percentages, the regional percentages of cost-burdened renters are higher than the national average.~~

Figure 1: Homeowners / Renters Spending More than >30% of Income on Housing Costs



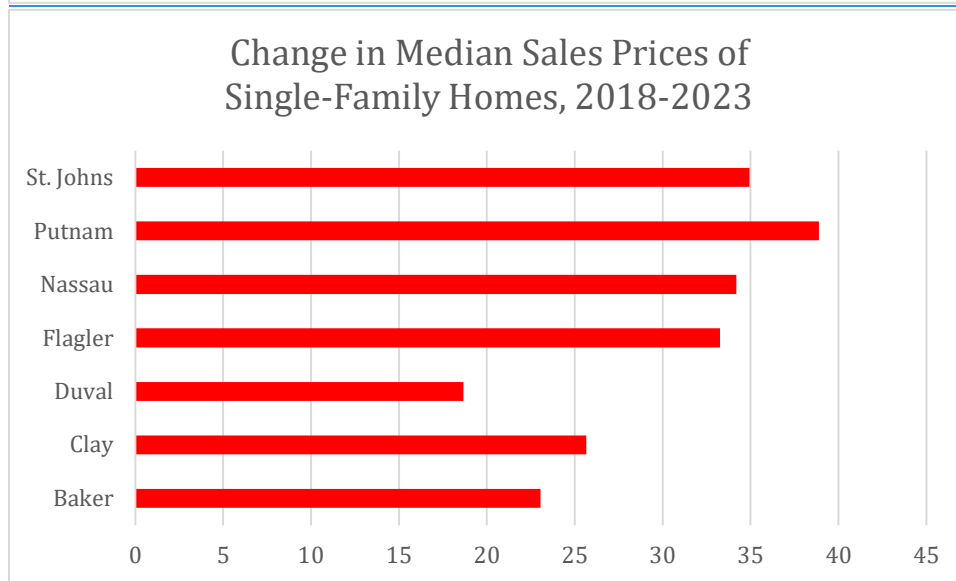
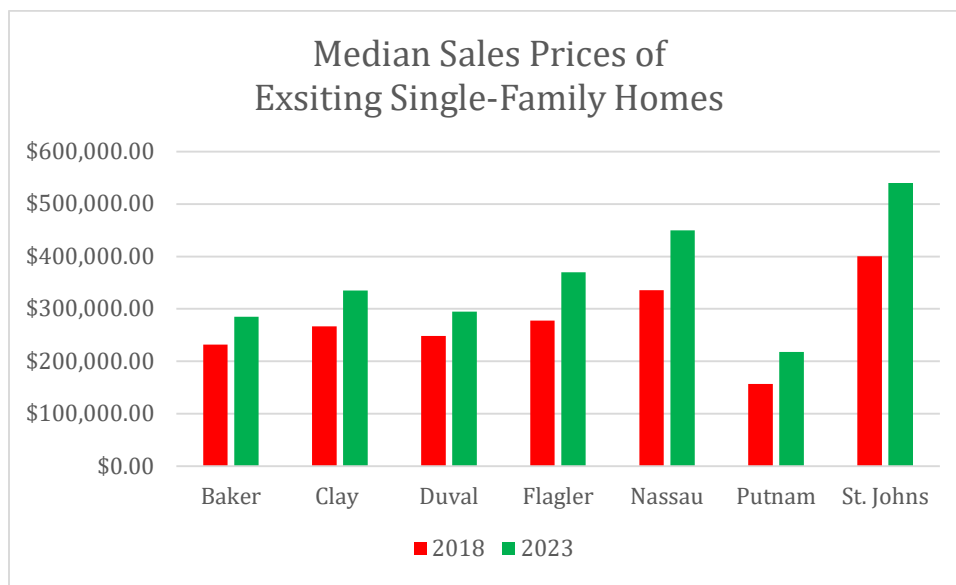
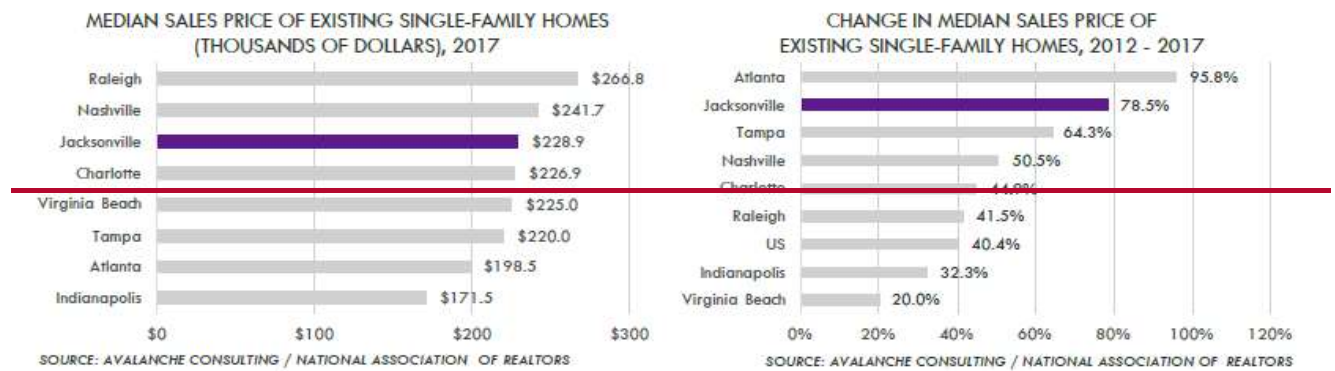
Source: American Community Survey, 2018-2022

Median Home Sales Price Northeast Florida

Median home sales are an indicator of housing affordability ~~as well as~~ and economic stability.

In recent years, housing costs in the ~~five-county Jacksonville metro~~ Region have become significantly more expensive. Between ~~2012 and 2017~~ 2008 and 2023, the median sales price of existing single-family homes increased ~~by nearly 80%~~ between 19% and 39% within the Region on a non-adjusted basis. ~~At \$228,900, the median sales price of an existing single-family home is now greater in the metro than in all other benchmark regions except Nashville and Raleigh.~~ (Note, home price data is only included for the five-county MSA — labeled “Jacksonville” in the charts below — not the seven-county Northeast Florida study area.) The largest increase was in Putnam County, resulting in a median value for a single-family home at \$217,800.

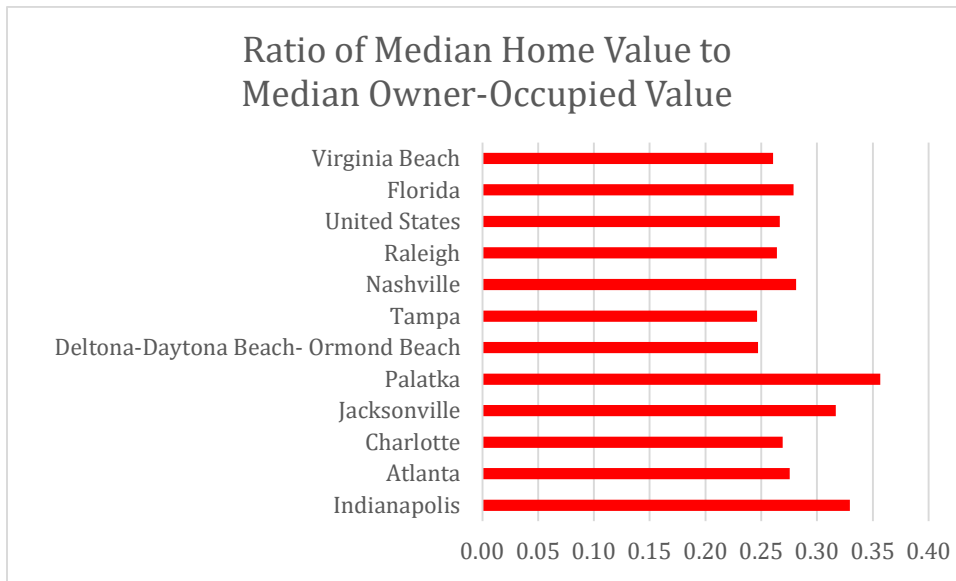
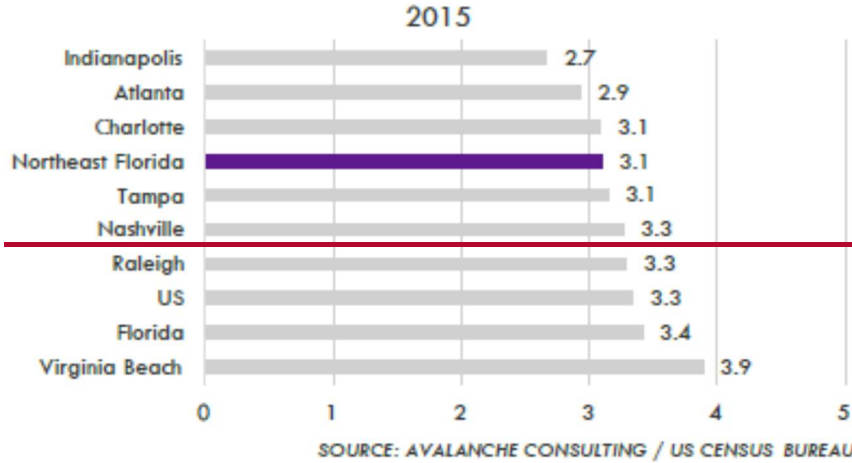
Figure 2: Median/Change in Median Sales Price of Existing Single-Family Homes



Source: University of Florida Shimberg Center

The ratio of Median Home Value to Median Household Income shows that Northeast Florida does an average job compared to benchmark cities in providing ~~housing affordable~~ affordable housing to families earning the median area income.

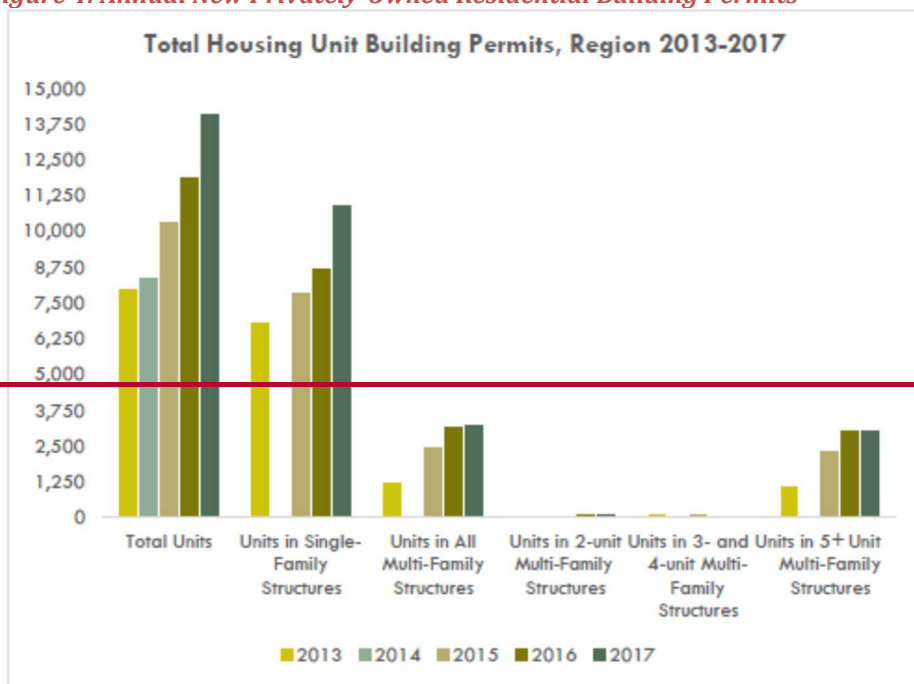
Figure 3: Ratio of Median Home Value to Median Household Income



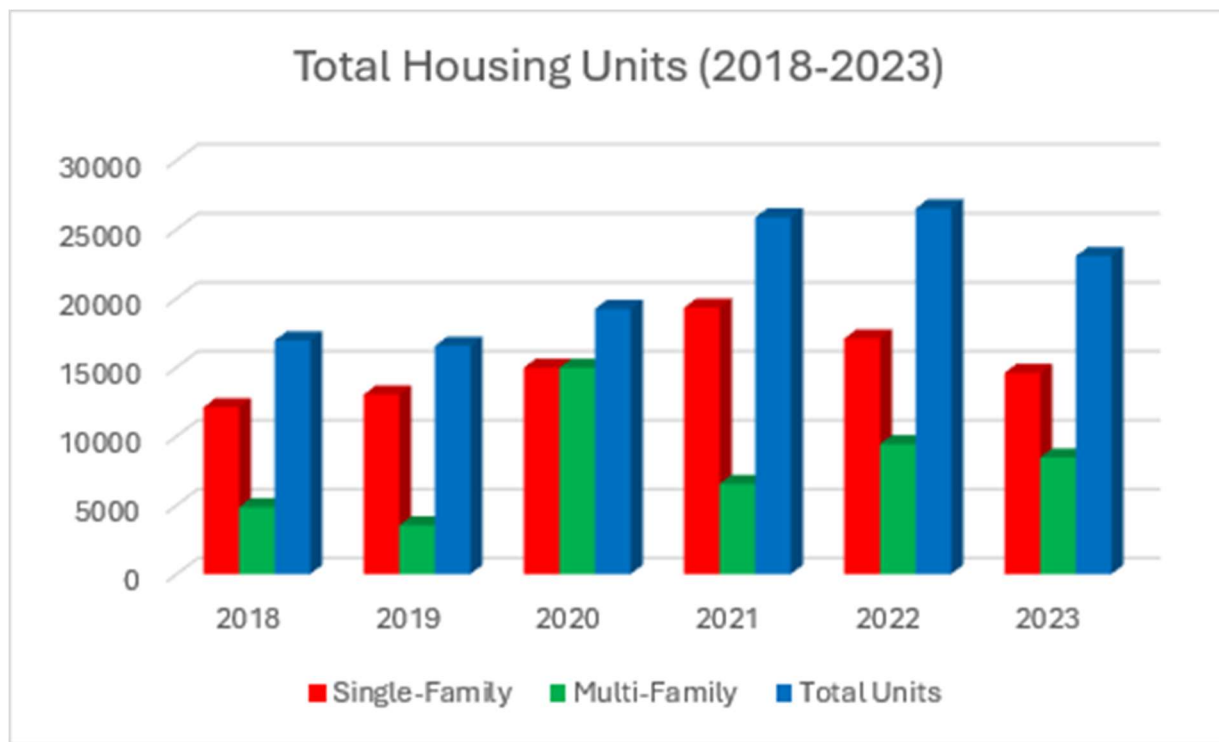
Source: American Community Survey

As the region’s population grows, housing production must keep pace, or affordability issues will ~~become worse~~ worsen. The following chart shows residential building permits issued from 2018~~3~~ to 2023~~17~~. Most housing production was in single-family structures, with a significant number of large multi-family structures as well. ~~Very few two to four-unit multi-family buildings are being built. Since these units are often appropriate for older, mixed-use neighborhoods, this could indicate a missing element in housing production.~~

Figure 4: Annual New Privately-Owned Residential Building Permits



Source: US Census Bureau, Annual New Privately-Owned Residential Building Permits, Total Units, for Counties in Florida <https://cortata.census.gov/bbda/bldgperm.html>, <https://socialhousing.gov/permits/index.html>

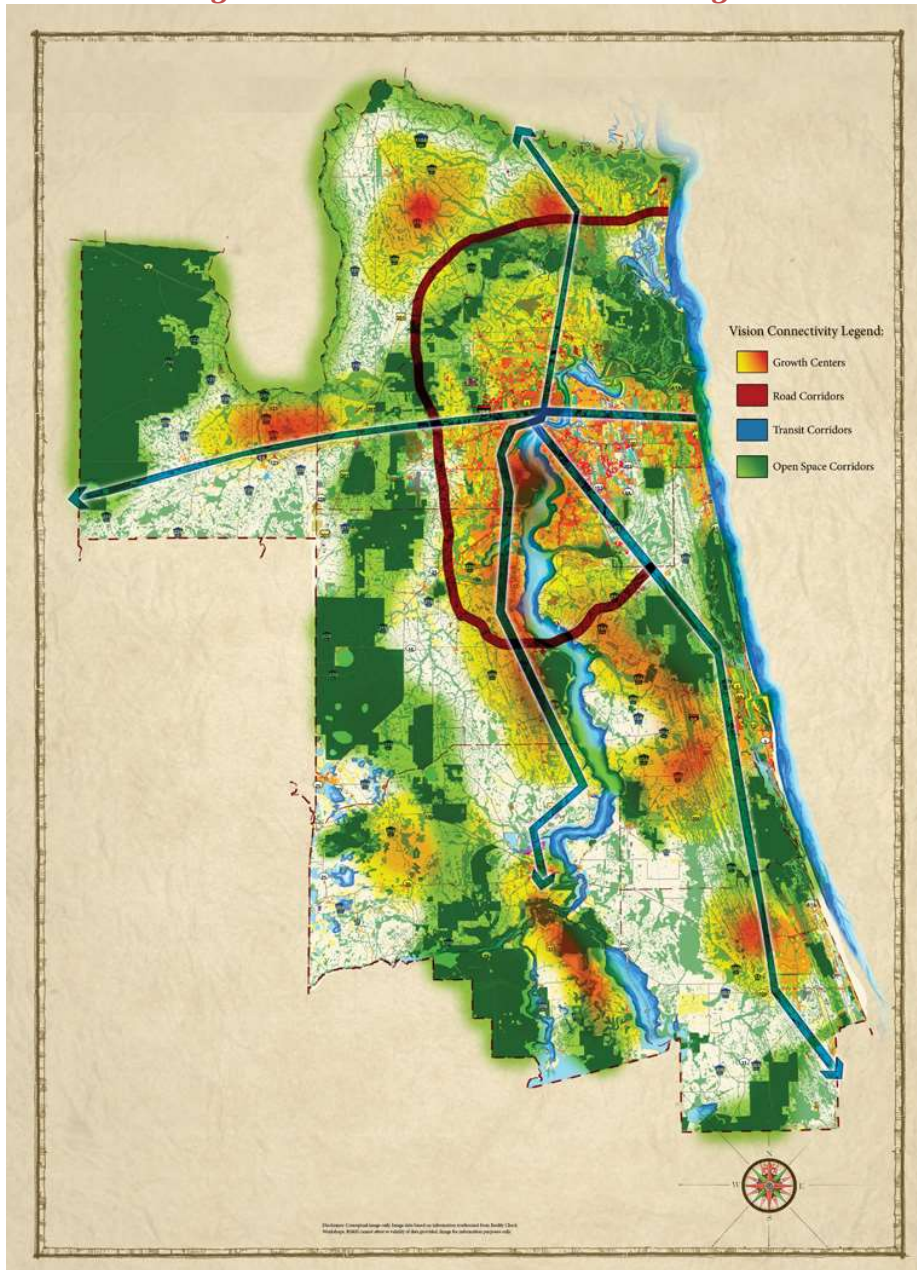


Source: US Census Bureau

Community Conditions

Good urban design can lead to attractive and prosperous communities which sustain natural resources, encourage pleasant human interaction, inspire beautiful buildings and landscapes, reduce premature development pressure on farmland, enhance the quality of life, encourage healthy people and neighborhoods, provide for an efficient transportation system and increase the amount of affordable housing. Through the community engagement of First Coast Vision, Northeast Florida considered the four growth patterns created at Reality Check First Coast and, based on extensive polling, chose multiple growth centers as the pattern that was preferred for growth in the Region in the next 50 years. This Strategic Regional Policy Plan encourages local governments to consider where they believe growth should go in their jurisdictions, also taking into account the Regional corridors map Figure 8 in the Transportation ~~Chapter~~[Element](#). By considering corridors, they increase the likelihood that growth centers will be accessible to other centers, thereby providing access to jobs and housing choice for residents. First Coast Vision includes the image included below, which provides an example of where growth might be expected to locate in the Region by 2060. Ultimately, communities are encouraged to decide for themselves, and then keep focus on these centers so that development there increases in value to its owners and the community and infrastructure investments are directed towards support of the centers.

Figure 5: First Coast Vision 2060 Image



Source: The firm RS & H created this image in response to the First Coast Vision Design Challenge.

STRATEGIC ISSUE: AFFORDABLE HOUSING NEEDS PLAN

Affordable housing continues to be a major issue at all levels of government. Due to the increasing need for affordable housing in recent years, the State of Florida adopted and enacted the Live Local Act. The Live Local Act is a comprehensive, statewide, attainable housing strategy designed to increase the availability of affordable housing opportunities for Florida's residents who desire to live within the communities they serve. This framework provides historic recurring funding for housing very-low to moderate-income households. In addition to many new programs, incentives, and opportunities, this legislation focuses Florida's housing strategy on ways to make housing more attainable.

~~The NEFRC Affordable Housing Needs Plan includes what its Affordable Housing Committee believes is needed to achieve the affordable housing goal, what metrics will help us determine success, and how leadership will be provided to guide implementation. They began with a concern that affordable housing is a purely local issue, and ended with a focus on the regional gaps that may be filled to make it easier for localities to provide affordable housing. They address the range of affordable housing, as does the goal: "affordable options for all income, age and ability groups", and so address the full spectrum of income levels, from extreme poverty to 120% of area median income. The affordable/available rental analysis included with the metrics at the end of this plan estimate that there is a deficit of more than 29,000 units regionally needed by households making up to 30% of average median income, more than 30,000 units needed for those making up to 50% of average median income and more than 17,000 units needed for those making up to 80% of average median income. Ultimately, the prosperity of the residents and businesses in Northeast Florida depends on overcoming challenges at both the local and regional levels, and it is only in partnership that we will succeed.~~

STRATEGIC ISSUE: ECONOMIC AND FISCAL BENEFITS TO THE COMMUNITY

Affordable housing has short and long term benefits that are often overlooked or misunderstood. According to the Planning Commissioners Journal in 2011¹, not only are there short term benefits of building or rehabilitation affordable units as seen in the building construction field, but they estimate 100 affordable units will generate 120 jobs during the construction phase. The misunderstanding comes in with units once they are occupied. Those 100 units generate approximately 30 jobs, which is similar to the job generation of

¹ Cohen, Rebecca and Wardrip, Keith, *The Economic and Fiscal Benefits of Affordable Housing*, Planning Commissioner Journal Number 83 Summer 2011

market rate units. According to a Chattanooga, Tennessee example cited in The Urban Land Institute’s “Ten Principles for Developing Affordable Housing,” affordable housing provides jobs, tax revenues and local business income well beyond a 1.65 multiplier to the affordable housing developer’s direct investment². Like market rate units, affordable units generate one-time revenue for local governments, in the form of permit, impact and utility fees. This factor provides an opportunity to support affordable housing without spending local government funds, as waiving of such fees can be an option in the “toolbox” of local governments. Another area of misunderstanding is the effect of affordable housing on nearby property values. Affordable housing that is well designed, built, managed and maintained is most likely to have a neutral or positive impact on nearby property values. Affordable development in areas that are “taking off” or “revitalizing” are positive factors that add to and speed up overall success. Another misunderstanding is that affordable housing costs communities more money than market rate housing because lower income families tend to have more children, and this costs money for schools. Overall, the average number of children per household has been falling for many years, and there is only a small difference in the number of children per household when comparing income levels. Affordable and moderate –income purchasers have a lower risk of delinquency and foreclosure than buyers with prime or sub-prime loans. In addition, taking advantage of homes in foreclosure for affordable housing programs saves communities costs in maintenance, and also reduces the risk that nearby homes will experience loss in property value, and local governments in tax revenue, that occur when vacancies exist near occupied homes.

STRATEGIC ISSUE: ECONOMIC AND FISCAL BENEFITS TO THE BUSINESS SECTOR

The cited Planning Commissioners Journal article further notes that in a national survey of 300 companies, 55% of the largest respondents cited an insufficient level of affordable housing in their proximity, and 2/3rds of the same respondents believed that the shortage negatively affected their ability to hold onto qualified employees. From this perspective, [the](#) lack of affordable housing becomes a competitive disadvantage for Northeast Florida. Living in affordable housing also increases the residual income that those households have to spend, and this increased buying power allows businesses to gain additional business.

² Bach, Alexa, Prema Katari Gupta, Richard Haughey, George Kelly, Michael Pawlukiewicz, and Michael Pitchford. *Ten Principles for Developing Affordable Housing*. Washington, D.C.:ULI—the Urban Land Institute, 2007

STRATEGIC ISSUE: VALUE COMMUNITY ASSETS

The Region’s local communities are the base and foundation upon which the entire Region stands. Every County in the Region has special attributes that make it special, from historic St. Augustine and Fernandina Beach to the agricultural areas of St. Johns and Putnam Counties to the urban downtown of Jacksonville.

The inventory and preservation of historic resources ~~is~~ are essential to the historic heritage of the Region. Preservation and reuse of old buildings often ~~make~~ s economic and environmental sense.

Reuse of land as development and infill sites makes sense, as they make use of existing infrastructure. “Brownfield” sites are abandoned industrial and commercial facilities that are available for redevelopment, ~~and~~ are perceived to raise environmental issues. Local governments in the Region are using existing federal and state programs to determine if there is cleanup required on these sites, to implement their clean-up if necessary and to put them back into constructive use. NEFRC may help local governments in these efforts in the future.

STRATEGIC ISSUE: HOUSING FOR THE LONG-TERM

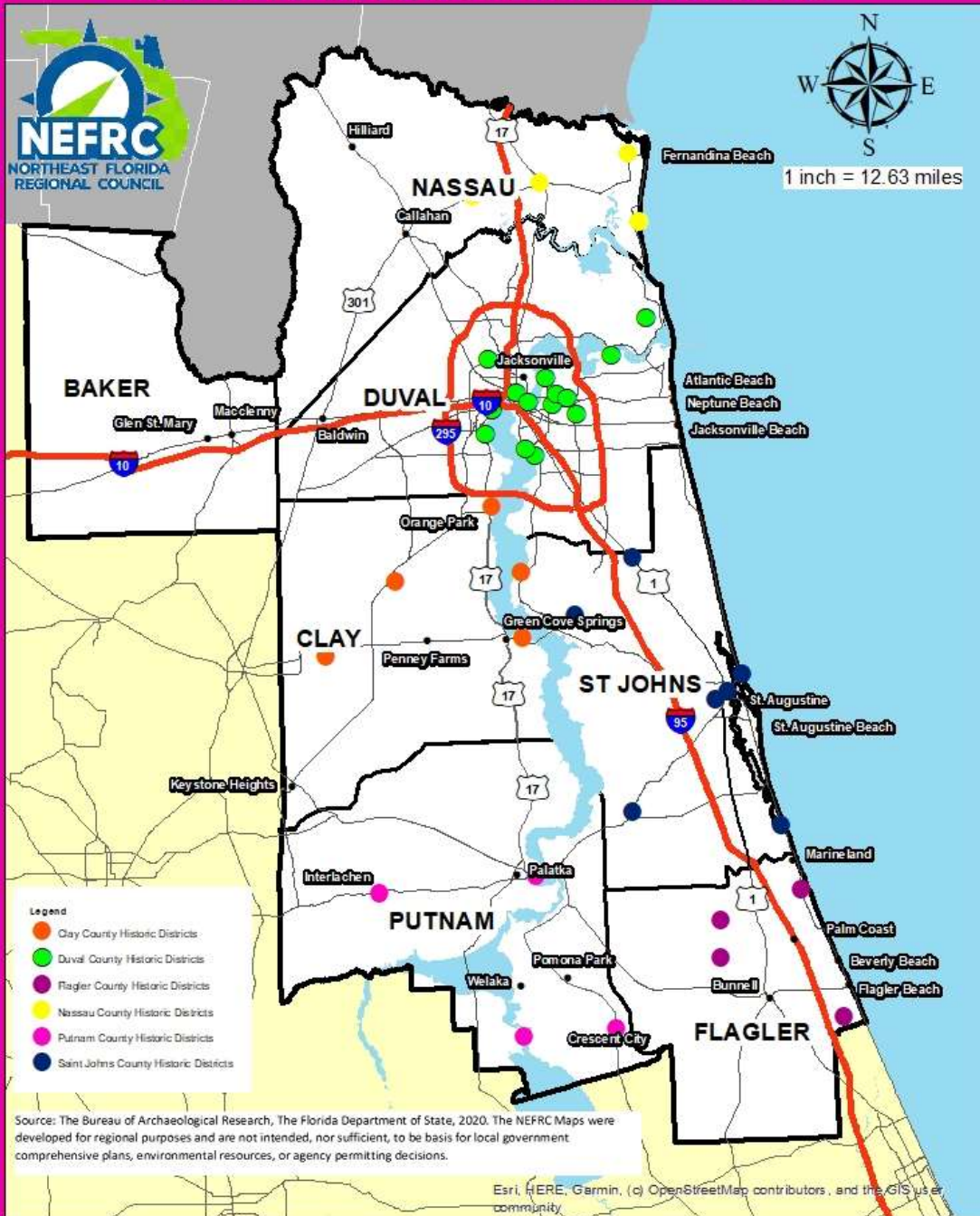
To create housing for the long-term, homes need to be designed with everyone in mind, ~~;~~ : young, old, and disabled. A term for this is universal design. Universal design ~~is a design that~~ allows accessibility to homes for the widest range of people (able-bodied and physically challenged) operating in the widest range of situations without special or separate design. Examples of universal design include wide interior doors and hallways, ground-~~l~~ l-level entrances with no stairs, and handles for doors and drawers that require no gripping or twisting to operate. Resiliency is also a feature that should also be considered in the construction and retrofit of homes.

REGIONALLY SIGNIFICANT RESOURCES AND FACILITIES

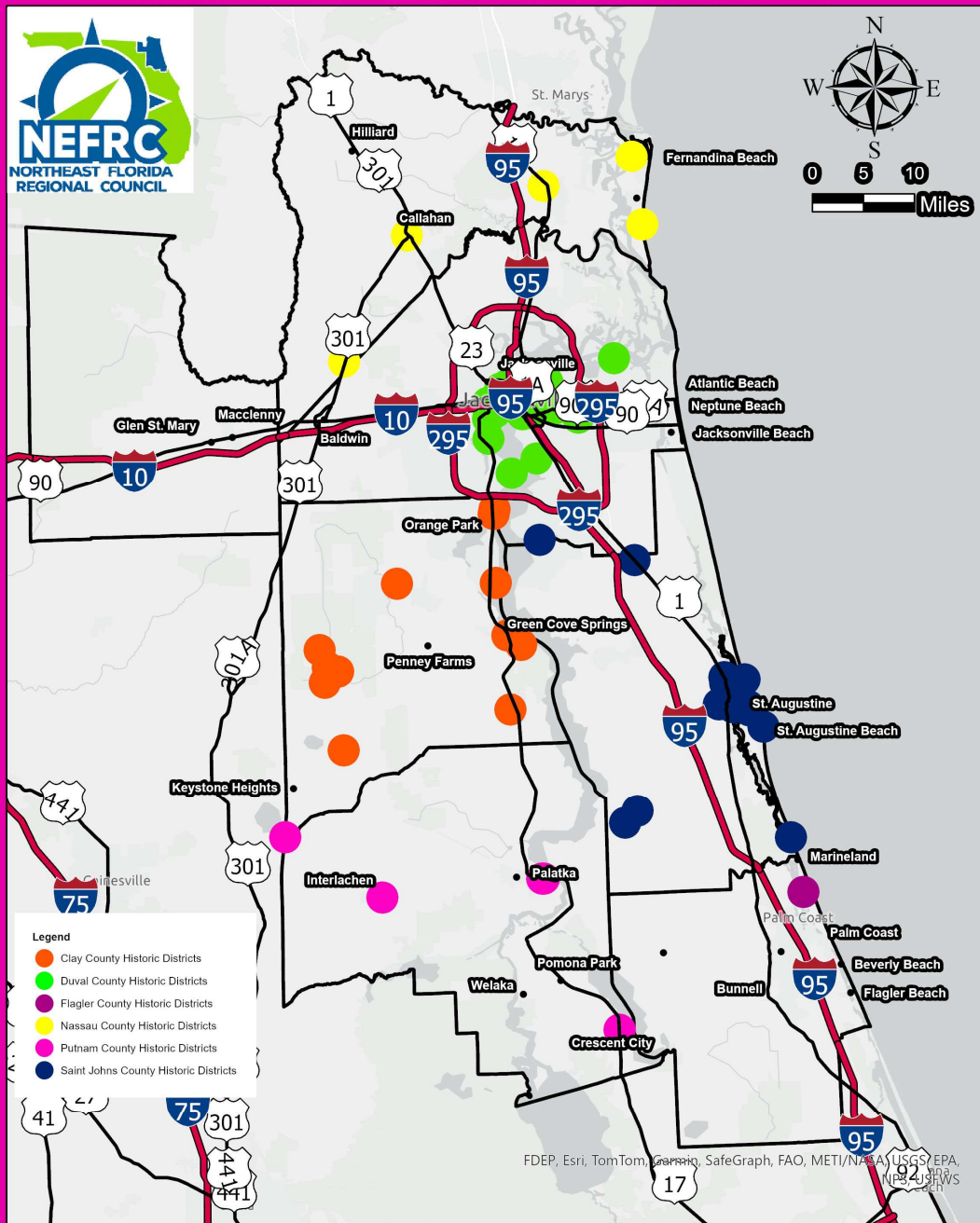
Northeast Florida’s historic communities are significant resources for tourism, economic development, and quality of life. The Figure below shows the Florida Department of State Division of Historic Resources-designated historic districts in the Region. The map is just an illustration and may not include all such resources or facilities.

Resources of Regional Significance: Communities ~~And~~ Affordable Housing

Communities and Affordable Housing
Resources of Regional Significance
Historic Districts and National Monuments



Communities and Affordable Housing Resources of Regional Significance Historic Districts and National Monuments



Source: Florida Division of Historic Resources (Mapped by the UF Geoplan Center), 2024

GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES

Goal: Each local government is encouraged to take the lessons learned from visioning, the public preference for multiple growth centers, the opportunities and challenges raised by resources of regional significance, and the desires of their residents and determine where new growth should go, ideally in locations allowing it to take advantage of existing infrastructure, be mixed use, compact and connected to other centers. These mixed use growth and redevelopment centers are supported in all seven Counties and have the potential to increase transit ridership, reduce car dependency, maintain water and air quality and conserve water. Once these locations are chosen, governments should do all they can to support quality development there that will appreciate in value and achieve multiple community and economic goals.

Goal: A safe, sanitary, efficient and resilient housing supply that provides lifestyle choice (agricultural, rural, suburban, and urban) and affordable options for all income, age and ability groups, equitably placed in vibrant, viable and accessible communities throughout the region.

Pillar: ~~Quality of Life and Quality Places, Business Climate and Competitiveness~~

OBJECTIVE: IMPROVE QUALITY OF LIFE AND PROVIDE QUALITY PLACES IN NORTHEAST FLORIDA

Policy 1: NEFRC gathers best practices and connects communities with strategies and practitioners that can help address their issues within the context of the aspirational goals of First Coast Vision. Convening to share experiences and discuss solutions is an important part of this approach.

Pillar: ~~Quality of Life and Quality Places~~, SCP: 187.201(4)(a)F.S.

OBJECTIVE: CONSISTENCY WITH THE STRATEGIC REGIONAL POLICY PLAN

Policy 2: NEFRC considers impacts to resources of regional significance and extra jurisdictional impacts as it reviews consistency with the SRPP. Local governments and proposers of projects should include best available data gathered using professionally acceptable methodology in support of their proposals, sufficient to determine impacts. Where mitigation is proposed, using strategies outlined in local government policies or plans, the SRPP, or a combination, is encouraged.

Pillar: ~~Infrastructure and Growth Leadership~~, SCP: 187.201(15)(a)

COMMUNITIES AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING MEASURES

ALICE is an acronym for Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed. It is the approach taken by United Way to address households that earn more ~~that the Federal Poverty Level,~~ [than the Federal Poverty Level](#) but less than the basic cost of living. It has been embraced in Northeast Florida as a more useful measure ~~then~~ [than](#) the traditional measures of poverty.

County	Households in Poverty	ALICE Households	Percent of Households Struggling
Baker	13 5%	27%	4 2 0%
Clay	9 8%	27 8 %	3 6 7%
Duval	13%	29 7 %	42 0 %
Flagler	9 10%	32%	41 2 %
Nassau	6 11%	17 2 4%	28 3 1%
Putnam	22 18%	35 3 1%	49 5 8%
St. Johns	7 6%	19 2 7%	26 3 3%

Source: -ALICE: A Study of Financial Hardship in Florida, Live United/United Way, ~~2018~~2024

Additional Community Data: First Coast Wellbeing Index (FCWI)

[The FCWI was released to the public in 2023 and is meant to be a dynamic online tool that continuously evolves as community needs and policy discussions change. The FWCI incorporates a mix of standard metrics on population and mobility alongside other unique data points. It serves as a benchmark and a guiding framework for the region, ensuring that Northeast Florida remains committed to a collaborative, informed approach to future challenges and opportunities.](#)

[The First Coast Wellbeing Index and associated data are on the agency’s website at www.nefrc.org.](#)

STRATEGIC REGIONAL POLICY PLAN UPDATE

Element: Economic Development



Economic Development

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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TRENDS AND CONDITIONS

~~The theme of strong economic momentum alongside potential growth-related challenges surfaces throughout the recently completed Community Economic Development Strategy, titled Elevate Northeast Florida. That report contains the foundation of research on which this plan of action for the next five years has been established. From the data analysis and to-date input, it is clear that the region will need an intentional and strategic approach to maintaining progress.~~

EMPLOYMENT

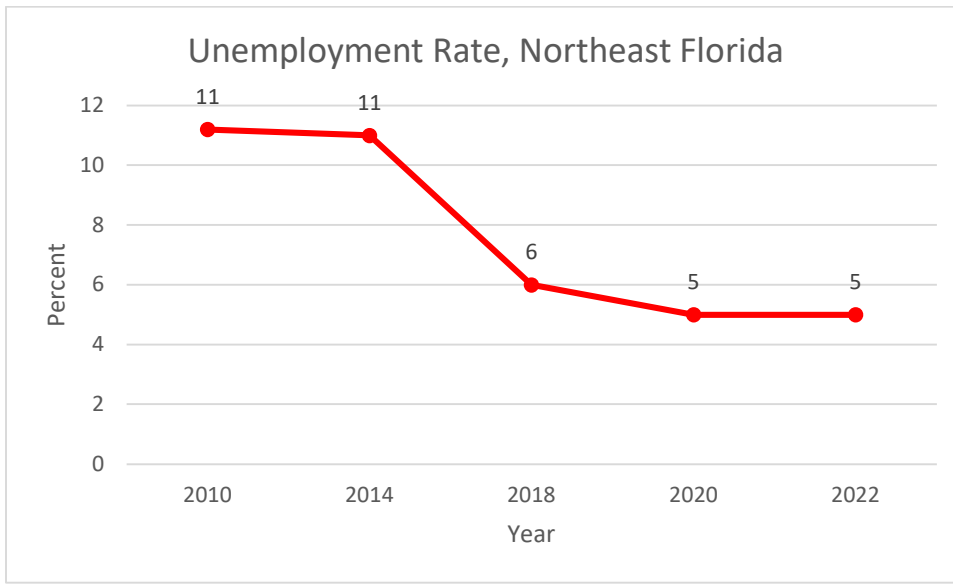
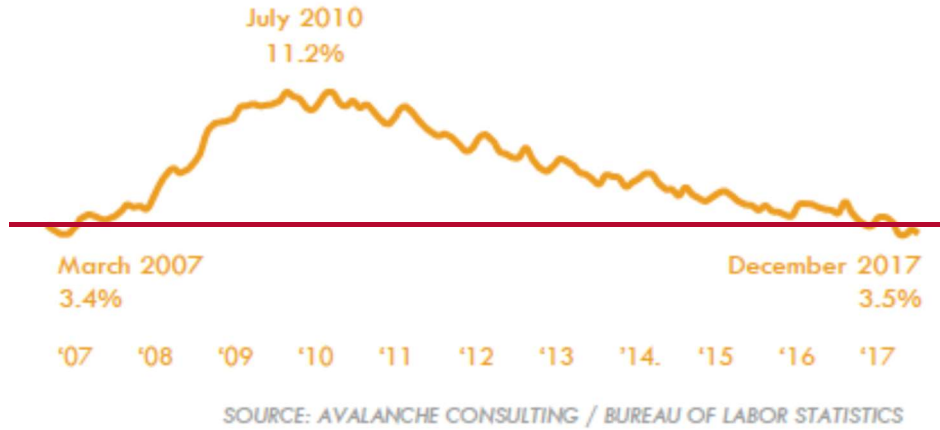
Northeast Florida has experienced a strong wave of growth in recent years. The seven-county region has increased employment ~~6~~14.5% since ~~2012–2014~~ and added ~~165,404~~100,000 new jobs in the past ~~eight~~ seven years. Since 2010 – the lowest point in the recession – Northeast Florida has enjoyed nearly uninterrupted growth across nearly all of its industries. Job creation has occurred at a pace that is more than 50% higher than the US average.

The pace of regional job growth is accelerating. Between ~~2016–2014~~ and ~~2017~~2018, employment in Northeast Florida rose ~~2.4~~5%. ~~Among benchmark regions, only Nashville experienced a greater rate of job growth during this period.~~

Job gains have also contributed to record unemployment levels. Unemployment in Northeast Florida ~~is quickly approaching~~is at a 10- year low, which is positive news for residents but more challenging news for businesses. In focus groups and interviews conducted for this report, some employers expressed concerns about their ability to fill job openings with skilled talent, a concern that mirrors what national employers are feeling.

Northeast Florida's strong job growth, affordability, and quality of life have helped attract college-educated talent into the region. The influx of talent into Northeast Florida is helping the region close educational attainment gaps, and quickly.

Figure 1: Northeast Florida Unemployment Rate

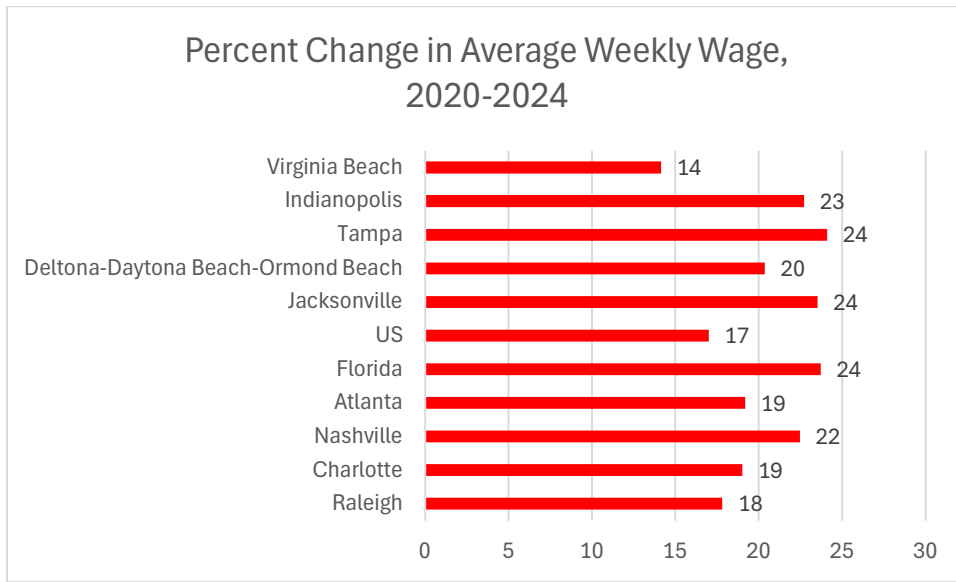
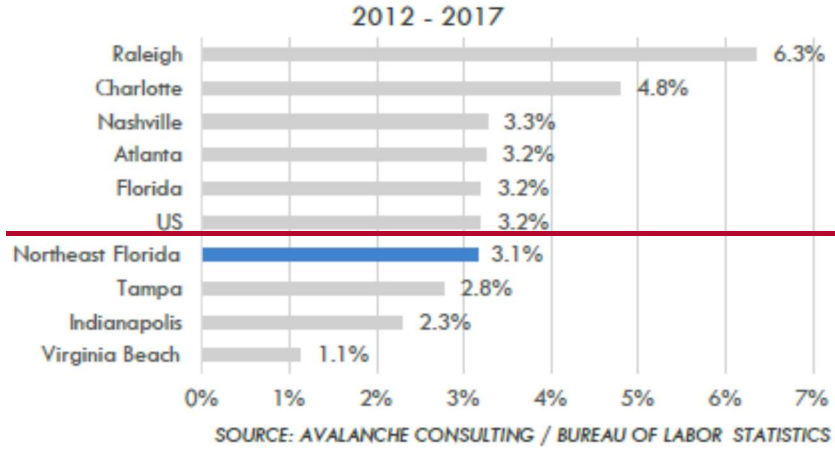


Source: [Five-Year American Community Survey 2014, 2018, 2020, 2022](#)

WAGES

Strong employment and population growth has ~~not~~ translated into significant household income growth. During the past ~~five~~ four years, incomes in the region have increased at a ~~slower~~ faster rate pace than ~~benchmark communities~~ the national average and in parallel to the state average. In addition, income levels vary greatly by demographic segment. On average, Black/African-American residents’ household incomes are 60% the level of White Non-Hispanic household incomes.

Figure 2: Change in Average Weekly Wage (Inflation Adjusted)



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2020-2024

Helping residents increase their incomes and afford quality housing not only depends on growing higher wage jobs in the region, but also connecting residents with viable career pathways. ~~One of the most revealing data points gathered through the Elevate Northeast Florida resident survey is that 42% of those surveyed are not aware of career opportunities or pathways in the region. Getting residents into higher and higher paying jobs will begin with informing them of their options.~~

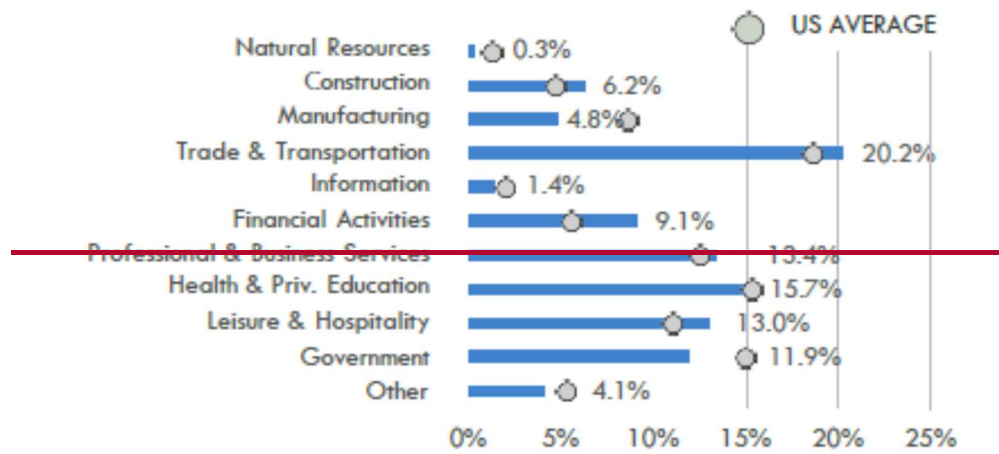
Average salaries vary widely by industry, and Northeast Florida is no exception. ~~Information workers (including data centers) enjoy high wages, with employees annually earning approximately \$95,000 on average. The highest average hourly wages within the~~

Jacksonville Metropolitan Area ranged across management, legal, computer and mathematics, and healthcare practitioners occupational groups. Based on data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the average wage for healthcare support and in forestry, farming and fishing were slightly higher than the national averages. ~~At approximately \$22,000, Leisure & Hospitality workers have the lowest average annual salaries. Beyond these extremes, average salaries in most industries in Northeast Florida range from \$50,000 to \$60,000. On an inflation-adjusted basis, average annual wages in Northeast Florida experienced relatively slow growth (3.1%). Among benchmark communities, only Tampa, Indianapolis, and Virginia Beach workers saw weaker wage growth.~~

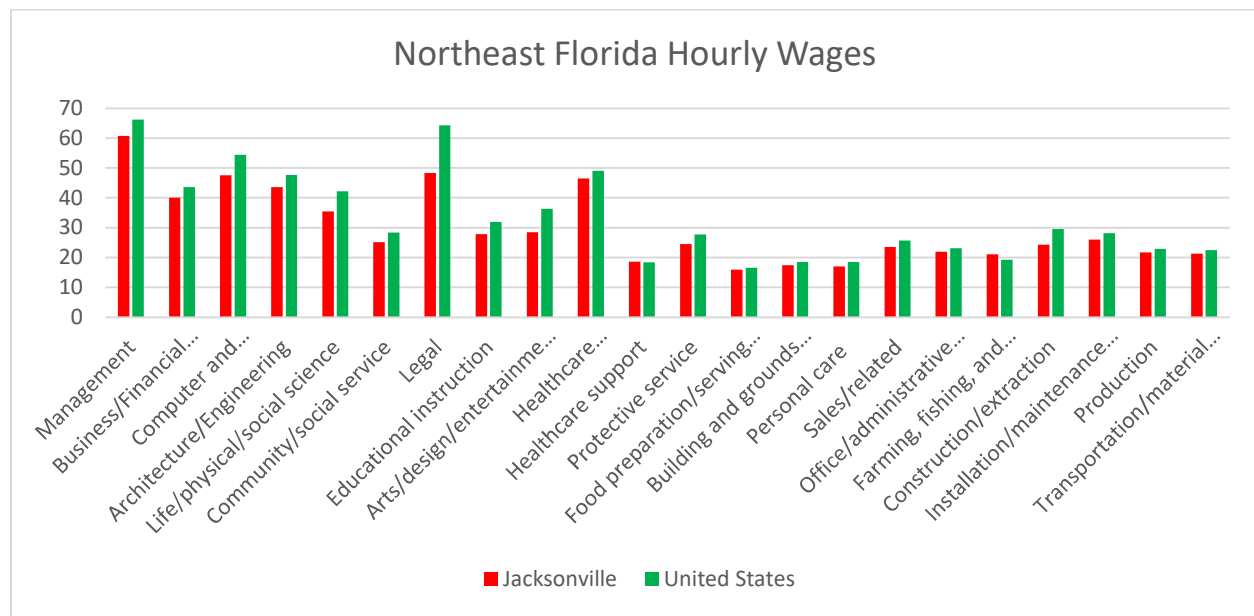
Figure 3: Northeast Florida ~~Hourly Wage by Industry~~ Average Wage



Figure 4: Northeast Florida Employment by Industry



SOURCE: AVALANCHE CONSULTING / EMSI



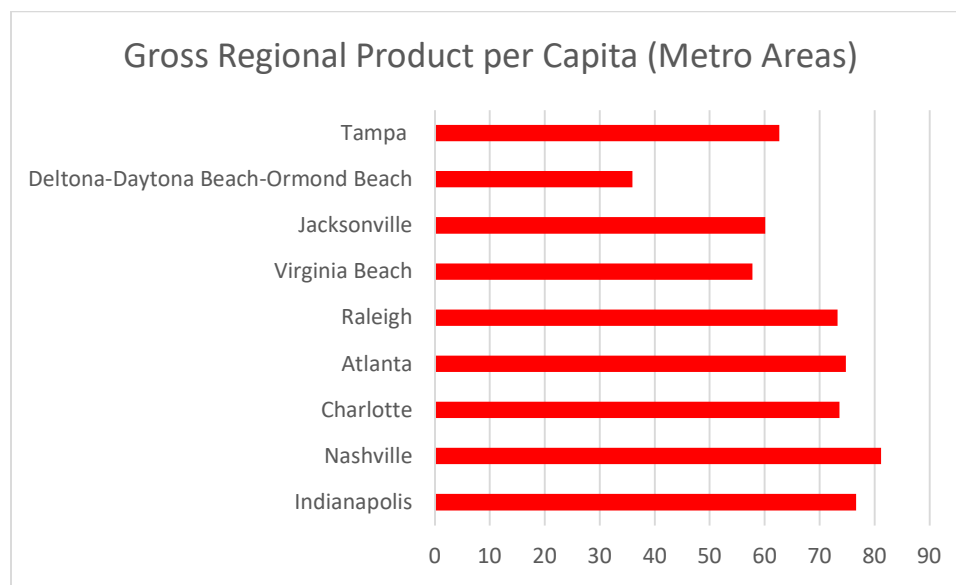
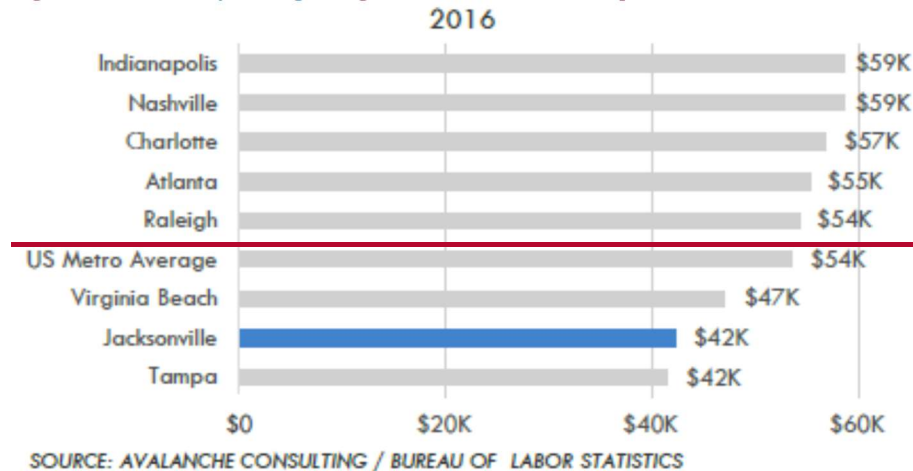
Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2023.

GROSS REGIONAL PRODUCT

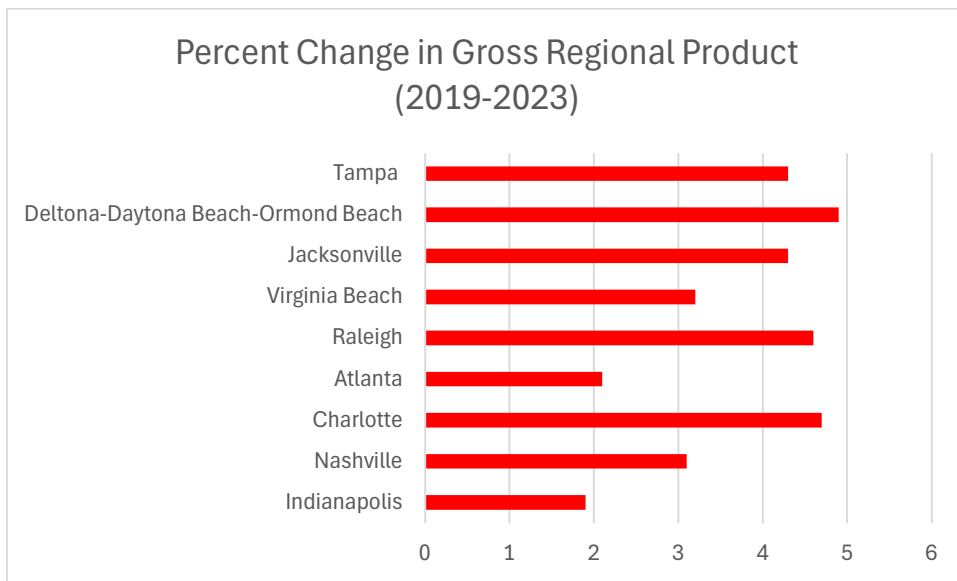
Per capita gross regional product is the primary measure of a region’s overall economic productivity. In turn, higher productivity ultimately supports higher wages. At slightly more than \$42,000, real per capita gross regional product in the five-county Jacksonville metro area is approximately \$11,000 less than the US metropolitan average. Between 2019 and 2023, per capita gross regional product in Jacksonville rose 54% on an inflation

adjusted basis. (Note, GRP data is only available for the five-county MSA – labeled “Jacksonville” in the charts below – not the seven-county Northeast Florida study area.)

Figure 445: Gross/Change Regional Product Per Capita

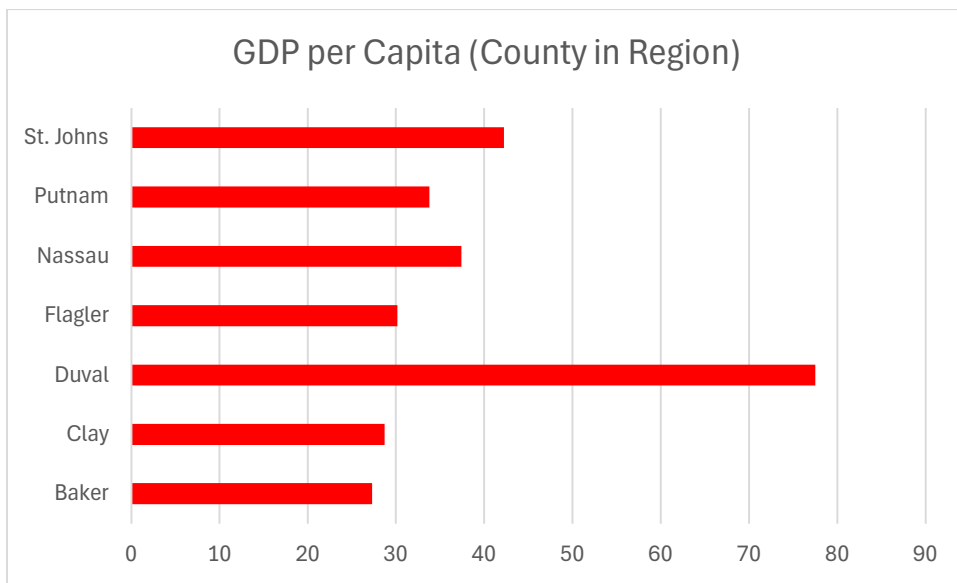


Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, 2023



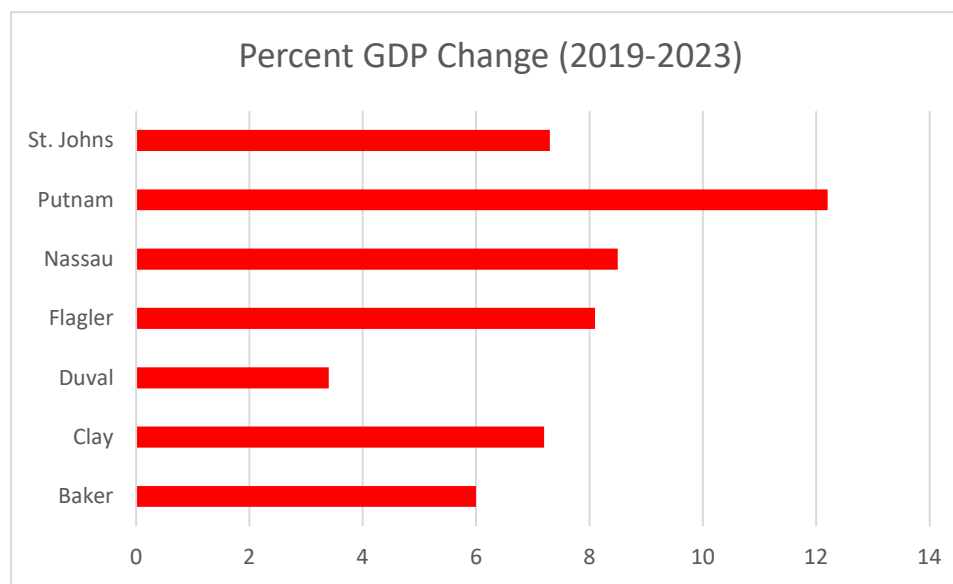
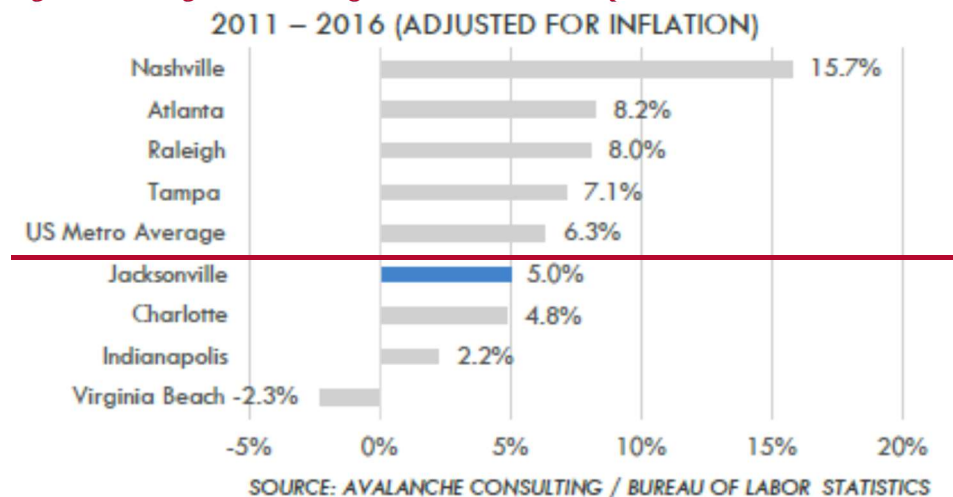
Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, 2023

Figure 56: Northeast Florida County Gross/Change Domestic Product



Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, 2023

Figure 6: Change in Gross Regional Product Per Capita

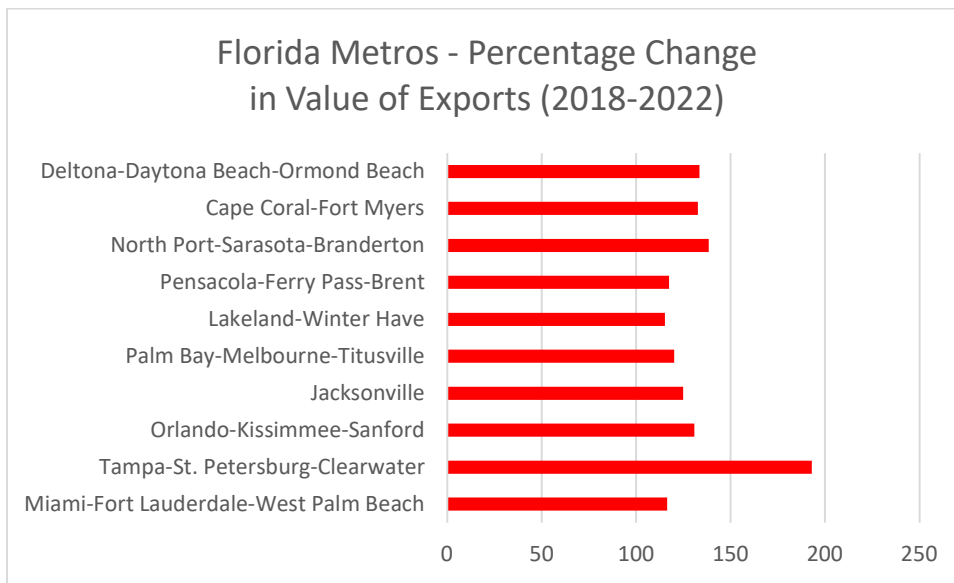
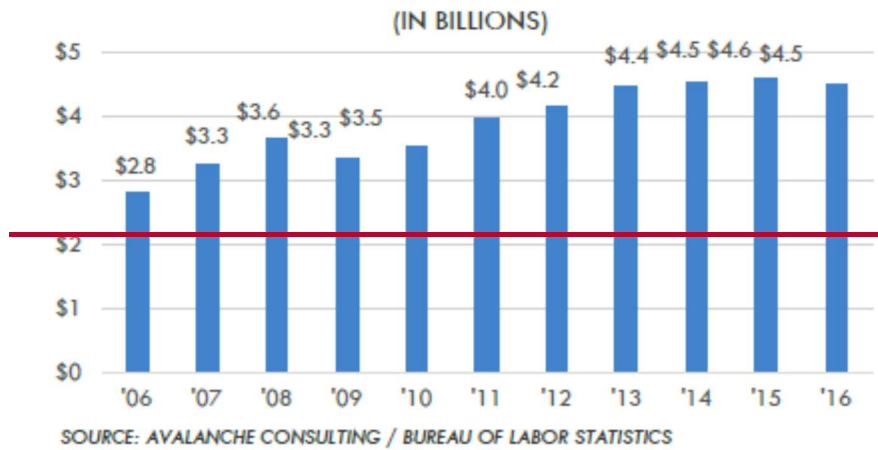


Source: [U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, 2023](#)

EXPORTS

On a per job basis, the five-county Jacksonville metro's export activity is relatively modest. Exports from the metro have also remained steady during the past several years. In [2016-2018](#), the region generated approximately \$7,100 in exports for every worker. In 2016, total export activity in the Jacksonville metro reached \$4.5 billion, a slight decline compared to 2015 levels, but virtually identical to 2014 activity. [Additionally, the Jacksonville MSA reported a 125% increase in the value of its exports from 2018 to 2022.](#) (Note, export data is only available for the five-county MSA – labeled “Jacksonville” in the charts below – not the seven-county Northeast Florida study area.)

Figure 567: Value of Exports



Source: [Select Florida, 2024](#)

TOURISM

Duval County welcomed more than 6.2 million overnight visitors in 2017. Since 2013, the number of overnight visitors to Duval County has risen approximately 17%. During this same period, tourist visits to Florida increased more than 18%. In a recent survey of planning meeting professionals prepared for Visit Jacksonville, the region ranked highly on logistical factors such as the “willingness to provide concessions” and “moderate lodging costs.” Jacksonville’s weather was also highly rated.

Florida’s Northeast Tourism region consists of Baker, Clay, Duval, Flagler, Nassau, Putnam, and St. Johns Counties. In addition to the Northeast region, there are seven other Vacation Regions as defined by VISIT FLORIDA. In 2016, Business visitors represented 15% of travelers to Northeast Florida. No other region in Florida has a higher proportion of Business visitors. The leading activities for visitors to Northeast Florida include the Beach/Waterfront (44% of visitors), Visiting Friends & Relatives (30%), and Enjoying Culinary/Dining Experiences (28%).

Figure 6-78: Tourist Development Tax Revenues, 2011-2015

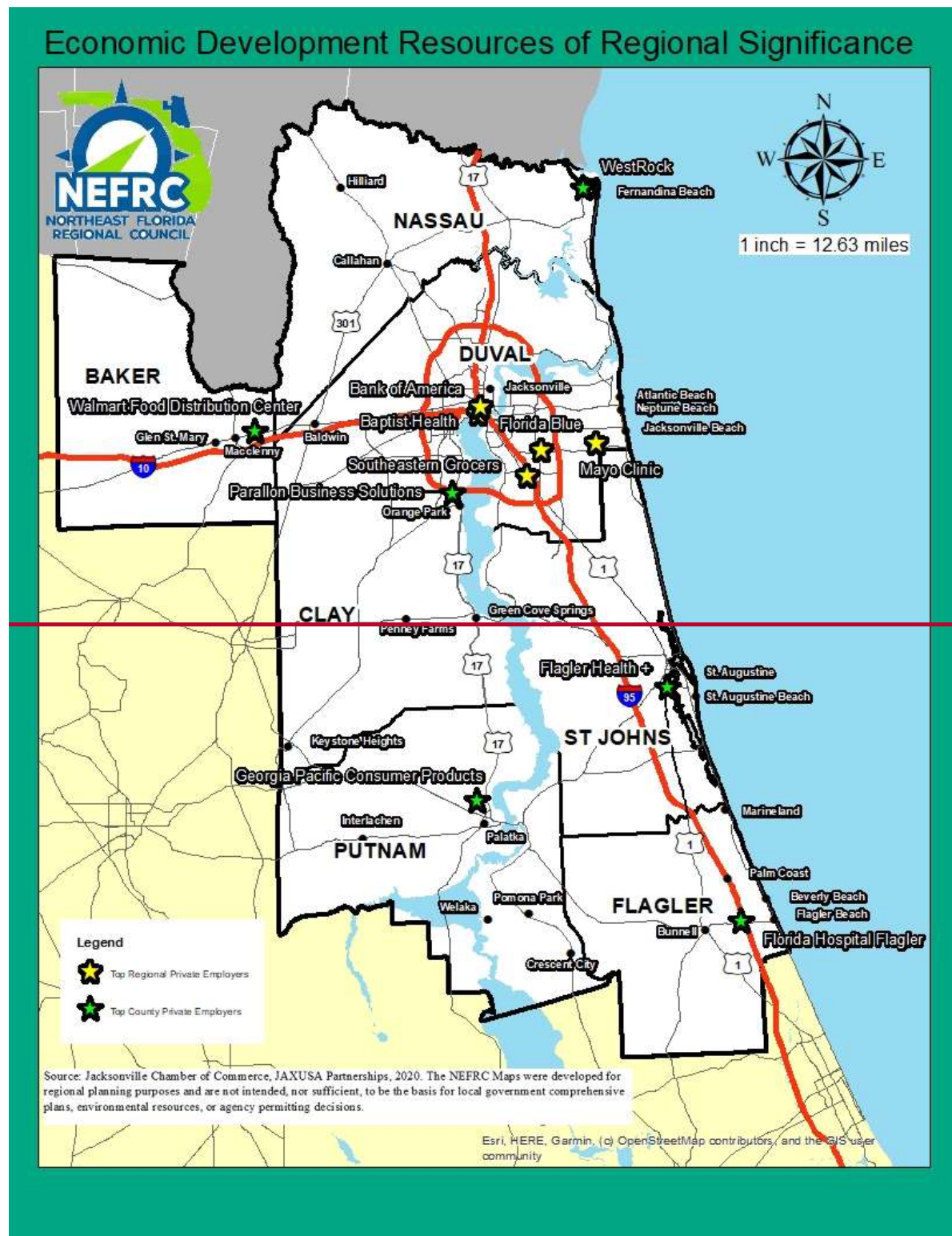
Code 39 Accommodation Taxes	Baker	Clay	Duval	Flagler	Nassau	Putnam	St. Johns
2011	\$17,225.00	\$436,413.00	\$9,683,710.00	\$1,360,177.00	\$2,977,004.00	\$216,218.00	\$6,552,707.00
2012	\$29,999.00	\$470,110.00	\$10,431,448.00	\$1,564,177.00	\$3,121,533.00	\$266,655.00	\$7,117,175.00
2013	\$31,758.00	\$503,258.00	\$10,995,297.00	\$1,685,503.00	\$3,865,593.00	\$264,862.00	\$7,662,836.00
2014	\$29,922.00	\$539,405.00	\$12,384,838.00	\$1,886,962.00	\$4,546,081.00	\$285,329.00	\$8,415,768.00
2015	\$34,719.00	\$599,159.00	\$13,482,136.00	\$2,066,777.00	\$5,073,204.00	\$316,462.00	\$9,577,805.00

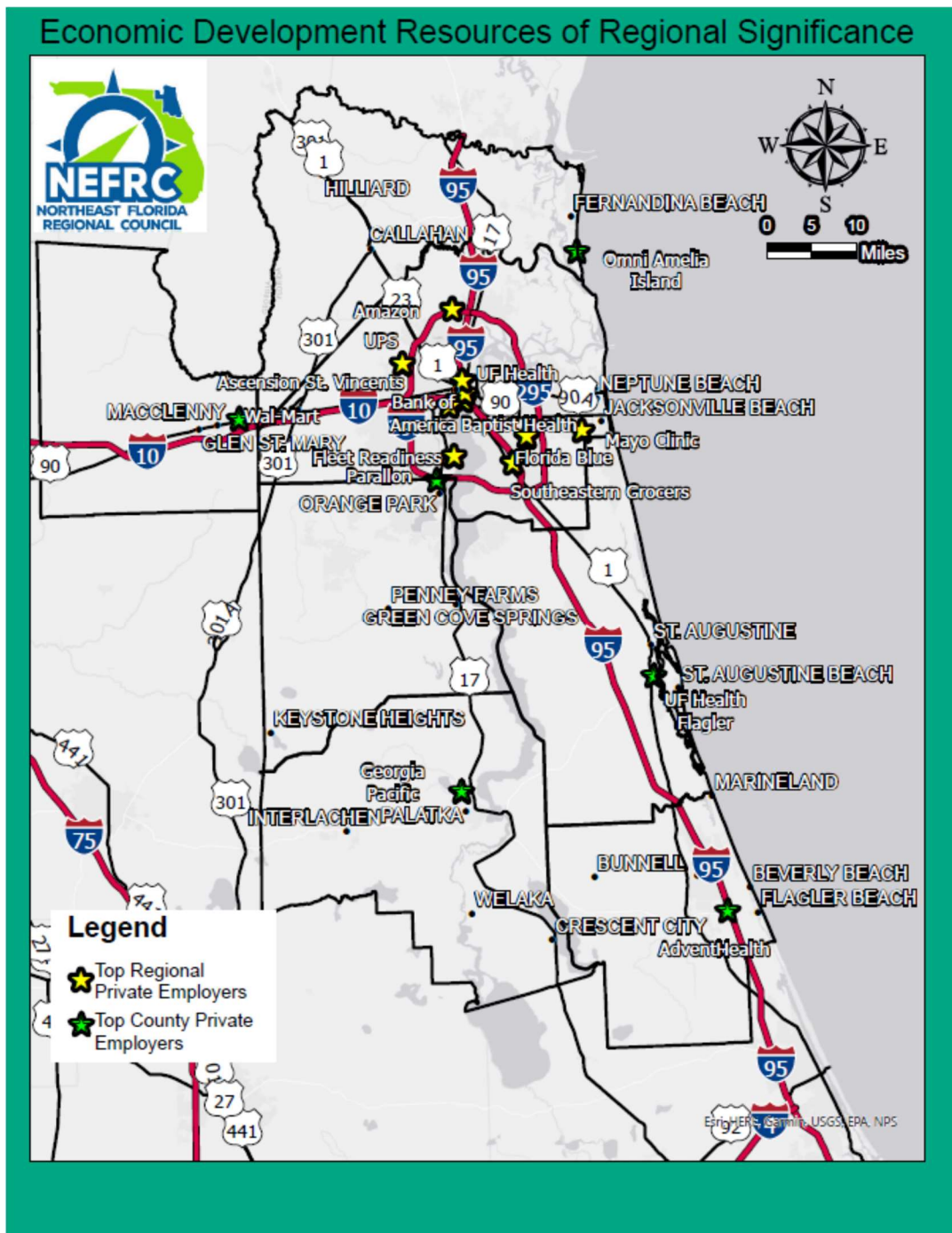
Sources: Visit Florida, Florida Visitor Study 2012, Florida Visitor Study 2014, Florida Visitor Study 2015, Florida Visitor Study 2016

REGIONALLY SIGNIFICANT RESOURCES AND FACILITIES

The facilities depicted on the following map are of regional significance from an economic development perspective. The map is just an illustration and may not include all such resources or facilities. It includes each County's top employer as well as the five largest employers in the Region.

Resources of Regional Significance: Economic Development





Source: JAXUSA Partnership, Large Employers, 2024

GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES

~~In March 2018, the JAXUSA Partnership, Northeast Florida Regional Council, CareerSource Northeast Florida, and other partners initiated a Regional Economic Development Strategy to improve regional competitiveness and collaboration throughout Baker, Clay, Duval, Flagler, Nassau, Putnam, and St. Johns counties.~~

In spring 2022, JAXUSA Partnership launched its most ambitious regional economic development planning process to date. Leadership from across Northeast Florida's seven counties (Baker, Clay, Duval, Flagler, Nassau, Putnam, and St. Johns) recognized that for economic development to be successful, it needed to represent the region as a whole. The result of this planning effort was a regional, people-centric economic development strategy.

The Northeast Florida Regional Council maintains the ~~Elevate Northeast Florida Strategy forms the basis for the~~ region's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) and will serve as a guide for policies, programs, and investments that ensure the region's continued economic dynamism.

According to the US Economic Development Administration, "a CEDS is a strategy-driven plan for regional economic development" that "serves as a means to engage community leaders, leverage the involvement of the private sector, and establish a strategic blueprint for regional collaboration." ~~In the interest of coordination with existing plans, Elevate Northeast Florida also forms the basis for the Economic Development Subject Area of the Strategic Regional Policy Plan, which also requires a "collaborative process that emphasizes consensus and coordination between local governments, regional entities, state and federal agencies, other appropriate organizations, and the public."~~

All of the Economic Development policies in the Strategic Regional Policy Plan are consistent with the Economy Goal of the State Comprehensive Plan:

Florida shall promote an economic climate which provides economic stability, maximizes job opportunities, and increase per capita income for its residents.

SCP: 187.201(21)(a)F.S.

The region's vision is to have the highest-performing economy in the country. This future is attainable. In 2017, the Jacksonville metro had the third highest rate of job growth of all large metros in the US. Intentional investments to support industry growth and advance the region's workforce could improve the region's ranking even more in the future.

Being resilient is critical to achieving the region's vision. While the past five years have seen remarkable economic growth, remaining steady when the economy slows is a matter of

resiliency. Resiliency can be achieved through a focus on the four objectives of this strategy: advancing the region’s workforce, deepening and diversifying industry, strengthening the region’s brand, and becoming a leading smart region that embraces innovation in all that it does.

Goal: Our region is the top destination for opportunity and investments, making it the highest performing economy in the nation.

~~**Goal:** View all policy through the lens of the Six Pillars of Florida’s Future Economy. Each of the policies in this plan and all of the actions of the NEFRC will be reviewed based on their relevance to our future, and this includes a broad definition of the assets that drive our regional economy. We will not create a new plan for economic development, but will join the region in support of the goals and policies identified by Elevate Northeast Florida and the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy.~~

Goal: Northeast Florida’s economic development strategies, consistent with Federal guidelines, are set with partners ~~and new policy is not set by NEFRC. NEFRC’s goal is to ensure that the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy is a five-year strategy that reflects economic development planning on a regional and county level,~~ and NEFRC does not set the new policy. NEFRC’s goal is to ensure that the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy is a five-year strategy that reflects economic development planning on a regional and county level and that the region is always positioned to collaborate to maximize funding opportunities.

Pillar: All Six

OBJECTIVE: EMPOWER PARTNERSHIPS TO ADVANCE EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE.

Building a workforce pipeline through systemic change is among the most important aspects of growing a healthy economy today. Doing so requires a multi-faceted approach that includes aligning education programming with business needs, attracting and retaining skilled talent, assisting residents with completing credentials, and re-engaging people who have dropped out of the workforce. Advancing education and workforce is a top priority. ~~Report 3 of Elevate Northeast Florida includes an in-depth workforce analysis and recommendations, and near-term priorities that require a collective impact approach to implementation.~~

Policies

Policy 1: Increase consistent and coordinated employer engagement, **SCP: 187.201(21)(a)F.S.**

Policy 2: Improve awareness of and participation in career pathways in the region, **SCP: 187.201(21)(a)F.S.**

Policy 3: Strengthen efforts to engage youth and adults in completing their postsecondary credentials of economic value, **SCP: 187.201(21)(a)F.S.**

Pillar: Talent Supply & Education

OBJECTIVE: AMPLIFY OUR LEADERSHIP AS A PREEMINENT SMART REGION

Implementing new smart technologies, starting with downtown JAX and then extending into the greater region, ~~will not only make the downtown a much more vibrant place,~~ will not only make the downtown a much more vibrant place but also connect the region in a way that establishes a global model for what smart region development looks like.

Policy 4: Coordinate investment and partnerships to develop and grow smart infrastructure projects like the Bay Street Innovation Corridor, **SCP: 187.201(21)(a)F.S.**

Policy 5: Activate and accelerate smart region investments, **SCP: 187.201(21)(a)F.S.**

Policy 6: Improve the connectivity and efficiency of regional mobility /transit options, **SCP: 187.201(21)(a)F.S.**

Pillar: Infrastructure & Growth Leadership

Pillar: Civic & Governance Systems

OBJECTIVE: DEEPEN OUR INDUSTRY CLUSTERS AND INTENSIFY SUPPORT.

There is no one-size-fits-all approach to supporting the growth of an industry cluster. Industry clusters are groups of similar firms in a geographic area that share certain assets, such as suppliers, networks, workers, infrastructure, and support services. As regions invest in those assets, they improve the likelihood their clusters will deepen with more firms and more commerce.

In 2013, JAX Chamber completed an Export Plan as part of its participation in Brookings' Global Cities Initiative. Results of the study showed that the region is under-performing on exports and knowledge of foreign markets, with export know-how being a barrier to business growth. The Plan focused on encouraging small- to medium-sized businesses in the seven-county region to consider export opportunities as a pathway to growth. The goal of doubling export activity, as measured by Brookings' Regional Export Index, was established for the five years following the study.

Policy 7: Invest in assets that encourage the growth of the region’s target industries, **SCP: 187.201(21)(a)F.S.**

Policy 8: Create a more vibrant regional entrepreneurial and innovation ecosystem, **SCP: 187.201(21)(a)F.S.**

Policy 9: Strengthen the region’s international connectivity, **SCP: 187.201(21)(a)F.S.**

Pillar: Innovation & Economic Development

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT MEASURES

Northeast Florida Unemployment Rate, 2007–2017~~2023~~

Unemployment Rate	Jacksonville: December 2017 – 3.5% <u>4.3%</u>
Unemployment Rate	Palatka: 3.4%
Unemployment Rate	Deltona-Daytona Beach-Ormond Beach: 2.1%

Source: *Avalanche Consulting* / Bureau of Labor Statistics

Northeast Florida Average Wage, 2017~~2024~~

Average Hourly Wages by Industry	See chart
--	-----------

Source: *Avalanche Consulting* / Bureau of Labor Statistics

Change in Average Wage (Inflation Adjusted), 2012–2017~~2020-2024~~

Change in Average Weekly Wage	See chart
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Source: *Avalanche Consulting* / Bureau of Labor Statistics

Northeast Florida Average Wage, 2017~~2024~~

Average Wages by Industry	See chart
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Source: *Avalanche Consulting* / Bureau of Labor Statistics

Northeast Florida Employment by Industry, 2017~~2024~~

Employment by Industry	See chart
------------------------	-----------

Source: *Avalanche Consulting* / EMSI

Gross Regional Product Per Capita, 2023~~16~~

GRP GDP Per Capita (Jacksonville MSA)	\$42,000 <u>\$60,000</u>
GDP Per Capita (Deltona-Daytona Beach-Ormond Beach MSA)	<u>\$36,000</u>

Source: *Avalanche Consulting* / Bureau of Labor Statistics [U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis](#)

Change in Gross Regional Product Per Capita, 2011–2016~~2019-2022~~

Change in GRP GDP Per Capita (Jacksonville MSA)	4.05 <u>5.0%</u>
Change in GDP Per Capita (Deltona-Daytona Beach-Ormond Beach MSA)	<u>5.0%</u>

Source: *Avalanche Consulting* / Bureau of Labor Statistics [U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis](#)

STRATEGIC REGIONAL POLICY PLAN UPDATE

Element: Emergency Preparedness



Emergency Preparedness *and Resiliency*

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EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS TRENDS AND CONDITIONS

The Northeast Florida Regional Council (NEFRC) provides emergency management support to each of the seven counties while also leading Region-wide emergency management efforts through various programs, projects, and initiatives. Through the efforts of the Council, studies and plans are developed to better understand existing vulnerabilities and to encourage and promote the safety of all residents of Northeast Florida. Post disaster redevelopment and mitigation planning is focused on resiliency of the Region and to promote more sustainable community redevelopment.

In all plans, an ‘all hazards’ approach is taken to ensure the adaptability of the Region to all threats. Inland flooding, tornadoes, wildfire, hurricanes, and disease outbreaks are all major disasters the Region may face. Hazardous material spills and domestic security incidents are also threats for which the Region must be prepared. Training and exercises are key components to preparedness. The NEFRC supports these efforts with emergency management expertise. The Council will plan and facilitate ~~dozens of~~ exercises each year for the counties, the Northeast Florida Region and on a larger scale.

STRATEGIC ISSUE: HAZARD MITIGATION

Hazard mitigation has gained increased attention over the past few years due to the large number of disasters that have occurred in the U.S as well as the world and the rapid rise in the costs associated with post disaster recovery. Money spent prior to a hazardous event to reduce the impacts of a disaster can result in substantial savings in life and property following the event. The cost/benefit ratios are extremely advantageous. As a result, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the State of Florida have developed, respectively, National and State Mitigation Strategies. Funding has become increasingly more available at the state and local levels to help support hazard mitigation efforts. To support this vision, FEMA funds three Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) grant programs.

They are:

- Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)
- Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant (PDM)
- Flood Mitigation Assistance Grant Program (FMA)

HMGP funds are made available to the State of Florida following a Presidential major disaster declaration. The PDM Grant, which FEMA named the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) fund, is designed to assist states, territories, federally recognized tribes, and local communities in implementing a sustained pre-

disaster natural hazard mitigation program. The FMA Grant Program provides funds for planning and projects to reduce or eliminate risk of flood damage to buildings that are insured under the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) on an annual basis.

Additionally, communities may participate in the Community Rating System, a voluntary incentive program that encourages community floodplain management activities that exceed the minimum requirements. Communities can substantially reduce insurance premiums based upon their designated CRS Class Rating. Figure 1 highlights the premium reductions based on CRS Class Rating. Figure 2 highlights the CRS rating for participating counties and municipalities in the region.

Figure 1: CRS Class and Associated Premium Reduction %

CRS Class	Premium Reduction
1	45%
2	40%
3	35%
4	30%
5	25%
6	20%
7	15%
8	10%
9	5%
10	None

Source: FEMA

Figure 2: County Participation in Community Rating System

CRS Class Counties	CRS Class
Baker	N/A
Clay	6 7
Duval	6
Flagler	6
Nassau	7 8
Putnam	8
St. Johns	5

Figure 3: Municipal Participation in Community Rating System

County	CRS Class Municipalities	CRS Class
Duval	Atlantic Beach	7 6
	Jacksonville	6
	Jacksonville Beach	6
	Neptune Beach	7
Flagler	Flagler Beach	6
	Palm Coast	4
Nassau	Fernandina Beach	6
St. Johns	St. Augustine	7 5
	St. Augustine Beach	8

Source: <https://www.floridadisaster.org/dem/mitigation/floodplain/crs/>

In the spring of 1998, the Florida Department of Community Affairs (DCA) initiated the Local Mitigation Strategy (LMS) program to assist local governments in developing plans to reduce or eliminate risks to people and property from natural and manmade hazards.

The LMS program has many advantages including:

- guidance developing pre and post mitigation plans;
- identifying priority projects and programs for funding; and
- increasing the likelihood of state and federal funding for pre and post hazard mitigation projects.

The purpose of the LMS is to explicitly identify and list the natural hazards and vulnerabilities associated with a County and its jurisdictions and to support possible solutions to prevent and lessen the effects in a community-driven, living document that reflects the goal of hazard mitigation. County governments are also required to maintain an LMS project list. This list is designed to rank and prioritize mitigation related projects for the purpose of applying for Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) funds when they are made available.

Additionally, in 2018 [and recently updated in 2023](#), ~~The State of Florida adopted the Florida Enhanced State Hazard Mitigation Plan (SHMP). [The SHMP is designed to reduce death, injuries, and property losses caused by natural hazards in Florida. The plan identifies hazards based on the history of disasters within the state and lists goals, objectives, strategies, and actions for reducing future losses. This plan is approved until 2023 and is intended to reduce death, injuries, and property losses caused by natural hazards in Florida.](#)~~

STRATEGIC ISSUE: EMERGENCY EVACUATION

In 2004 and 2005, Florida experienced an unprecedented level of tropical storm activity. In 2004, Hurricanes Charley, Frances, Ivan, and Jeanne impacted our State. Hurricanes Dennis, Katrina, Rita, and Wilma came ashore in Florida in 2005.

In response to these devastating hurricane seasons, the State of Florida Division of Emergency Management (DEM) obtained grant money through the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Hazard Mitigation Grant Program to conduct regional evacuation studies across the State.

Florida's Regional Planning Councils carried out the Statewide Regional Evacuation Study Program (SRESP), in close collaboration with county emergency management agencies. The Regional Planning Councils facilitated consistent and integrated mapping and analysis of

“all-hazards” evacuation across Florida. In Northeast Florida, this multi-year project resulted in a comprehensive regional evacuation study that encompasses the seven-county Region. Inter-agency cooperation and data sharing ~~was~~-were a vital part of ensuring the success of this regional and state initiative.

Although hurricanes are a prominent concern in the studies, the framework was established for an “all hazards” analysis to support planning efforts to prepare for other types of evacuations ~~as well~~, such as inland flooding or wildfires.

Across the State, the Evacuation Study in each Region contains the Sea Lake Overland Surge from Hurricane (SLOSH) Storm Surge data that defines both the *Coastal High Hazard Area* and the Hurricane Vulnerability Zones for growth management purposes. These designations are used statewide in development review and by local counties in growth management decision-making policies and procedures. It is suggested that growth and development be located away from these identified vulnerable areas. This Study, in conjunction with local Comprehensive Plans ensures appropriate mitigation ~~takes place~~occurs in these areas, if required.

Out of County Clearance Time

“Out of County Clearance Time” is the time necessary to safely evacuate vulnerable residents and visitors to a “point of safety” within the county based on a specific hazard, behavioral assumptions, and evacuation scenario. It is calculated from the point an evacuation order is given to the point in time when the last vehicle assigned an external destination exits the county. Key points for out of county clearance time are:

- The roadway network within the county is clear;
- All out of county trips exit the county, including out of county pass-through trips from adjacent counties; and,
- All in-county trips reach their destination.

Clearance times are another product of the Evacuation Study, which ~~have~~-has many applications across growth management and emergency management. Operationally, clearance times provide a County with an understanding of how long it may take for their County to clear evacuation traffic and for citizens to travel to a safe place in advance of a storm. From a planning perspective, clearance times establish a baseline and serve as a tool to measure future residential development and its potential impacts. The vulnerable population is also determined and ~~gives an idea of~~shows how many citizens may be evacuating from a County.

A new tool was developed as a part of the Statewide Regional Evacuation Study Program called the Transportation Interface for Modeling Evacuations (TIME). TIME gives users a chance to modify an evacuation scenario with additional information and understand the impact of those changes on clearance times, shelter demand and the vulnerable population. It has applications in emergency management, growth management and the transportation field.

As part of the Study, an analysis of available shelters and their capacity was completed. General population shelters, pet-friendly shelters, and special needs shelters were identified throughout the Region. Using the Evacuation Transportation Model, the shelter demand for each County by category of hurricane was derived. Each of these datasets allows a County to ~~have a~~ better understanding of ~~their~~-~~its~~ risk and the protective actions necessary to ensure the safety of the citizens.

Because the Evacuation Study methodology is geared toward an “all hazards” model, the categories have been realigned from the standard Hurricane Categories to an alphabetic categorization.

The ~~2013–2020~~ Statewide Regional Evacuation Study is the most current and accurate study to date. Florida has experienced recent hurricane impacts in 2016 with Hurricanes Hermine and Matthew; 2017 with Hurricane Irma; 2018 with Hurricane Michael; ~~and~~ 2019 with Hurricane Dorian; 2022 with Hurricanes Ian and Nicole; 2023 with Hurricane Idalia; and 2024 with Hurricanes Debby, Helene, and Milton.

As a result of these recent hurricanes, changing demographics, and better data, the State of Florida is preparing to update the Statewide Regional Evacuation Study.

STRATEGIC ISSUE: NATIONAL DISASTER RECOVERY FRAMEWORK (NDRF)

The National Disaster Recovery Framework (NDRF) establishes a common platform and forum for how the whole community builds, sustains, and coordinates the delivery of recovery capabilities. Resilient and sustainable recovery encompasses more than ~~the restoration of~~ restoring a community’s physical structures to pre-disaster conditions. Through effective coordination of partners and resources, we can ensure the continuity of services and support to meet the needs of affected community members who have experienced the hardships of financial, emotional, and/or physical impacts of devastating disasters.

The primary value of the NDRF is its emphasis on preparing for recovery ~~in advance of~~ before disaster. The ability of a community to accelerate the recovery process begins

with its efforts in pre-disaster preparedness, including coordinating with whole community partners, mitigating risks, incorporating continuity planning, identifying resources, and developing capacity to effectively manage the recovery process, and through collaborative and inclusive planning processes. Collaboration across the whole community provides an opportunity to integrate mitigation, resilience, and sustainability into the community's short- and long-term recovery goals.

Key elements of the NDRF since it was first published in 2011 that are significant for all readers are the guiding principles and the Recovery core capabilities. The NDRF is guided by eight principles that, when put into practice, maximize the opportunity for achieving recovery success. The guiding principles remind us of the importance of how we work together to support survivor needs and build resilience:

- Individual and Family Empowerment;
- Leadership and Local Primacy;
- Pre-Disaster Recovery Planning;
- Engaged Partnerships and Inclusiveness;
- Unity of Effort;
- Timeliness and Flexibility;
- Resilience and Sustainability; and
- Psychological and Emotional Recovery.

The NDRF focuses on ensuring that the Nation will be able to achieve recovery following any incident regardless of size or scale, and considers the full spectrum of threats and hazards, including natural, technological/accidental, and adversarial/human-caused. The NDRF helps ensure that all communities can coordinate recovery efforts to address their unique needs, capabilities, demographics, and governing structures. It encourages an inclusive recovery process, engaging traditional and nontraditional whole community partners, and provides a strategic and national approach to lead, manage, and coordinate recovery efforts while increasing the resilience of our communities.

There are also programs from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) available to help communities recover from a major disaster or emergencies declared by the President. These programs are the Individual Assistance Program (IA); and the Public

Assistance Grant Program (PA). The IA program is designed to coordinate assistance provided to individuals, households, and businesses recovering from disaster or emergency impacts, and the objective of the PA program is to aid state, tribal, local governments and certain types of private non-profit organizations so that communities can quickly respond to and recover from major disasters.

STRATEGIC ISSUE: REGIONAL DOMESTIC SECURITY

The State's Domestic Security Strategic Plan drives the Northeast Florida regional domestic security initiatives.

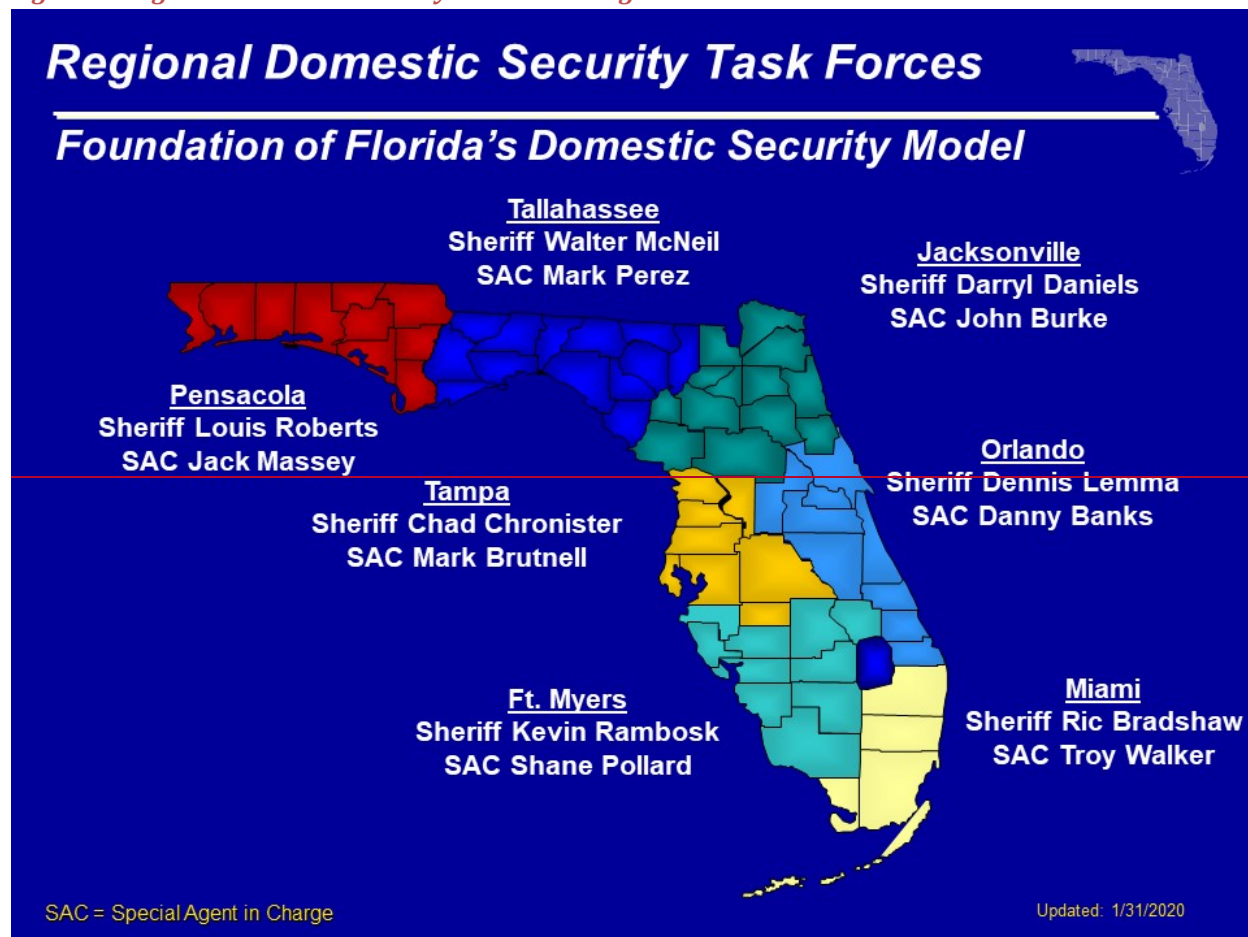
The State plan's vision statement, "a safe, secure, and resilient Florida" and its mission statement, "partnering to strengthen Florida's capability to prepare, prevent, protect, mitigate, respond, and recover from domestic security incidents."

There are seven Regional Domestic Security Task Forces (RDSTFs) within the State of Florida. Each RDSTF consists of local representatives from disciplines involved in prevention and response ~~that include~~, including law enforcement, fire/rescue, emergency medical services, emergency management, hospitals, public health, schools, and businesses. The RDSTFs work together to prepare for, prevent, and respond to terrorist events.

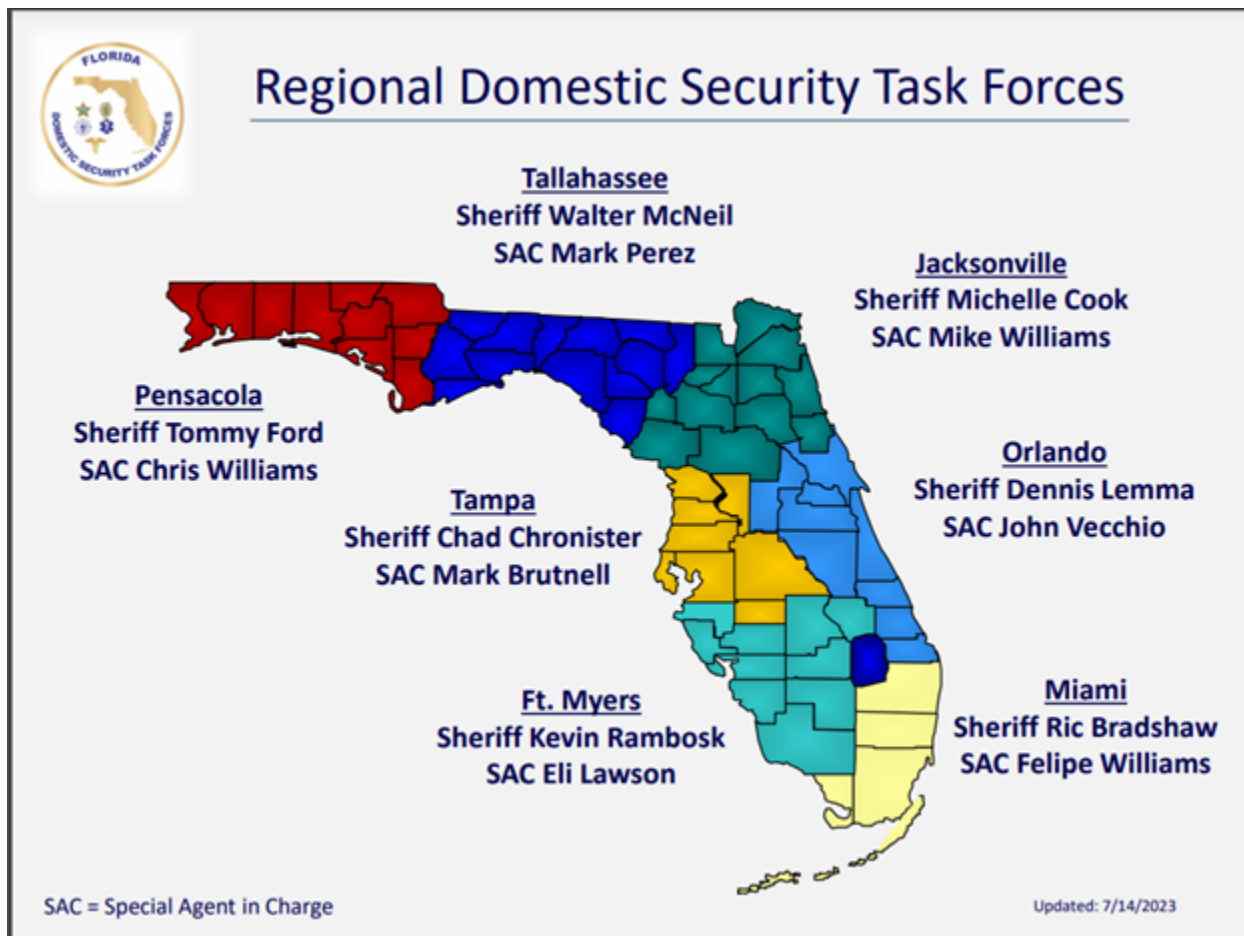
The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and its lead agency for disaster readiness and response, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) have implemented new program initiatives with a holistic approach to ~~both~~ disaster readiness and response and combating terrorism. This approach is supportive of the national concept of "All Hazards Resilience" and the three closely related factors that necessitate development of a holistic, regional approach to all-hazards resilience to engage the broader stakeholder community:

Infrastructure interdependencies, information sharing, and public-private partnering—
together these factors aid in the focus and direction of the RDSTFs.

Figure 4: Regional Domestic Security Task Force Regions



Source: <https://www.fdle.state.fl.us/Domestic-Security/Organization>



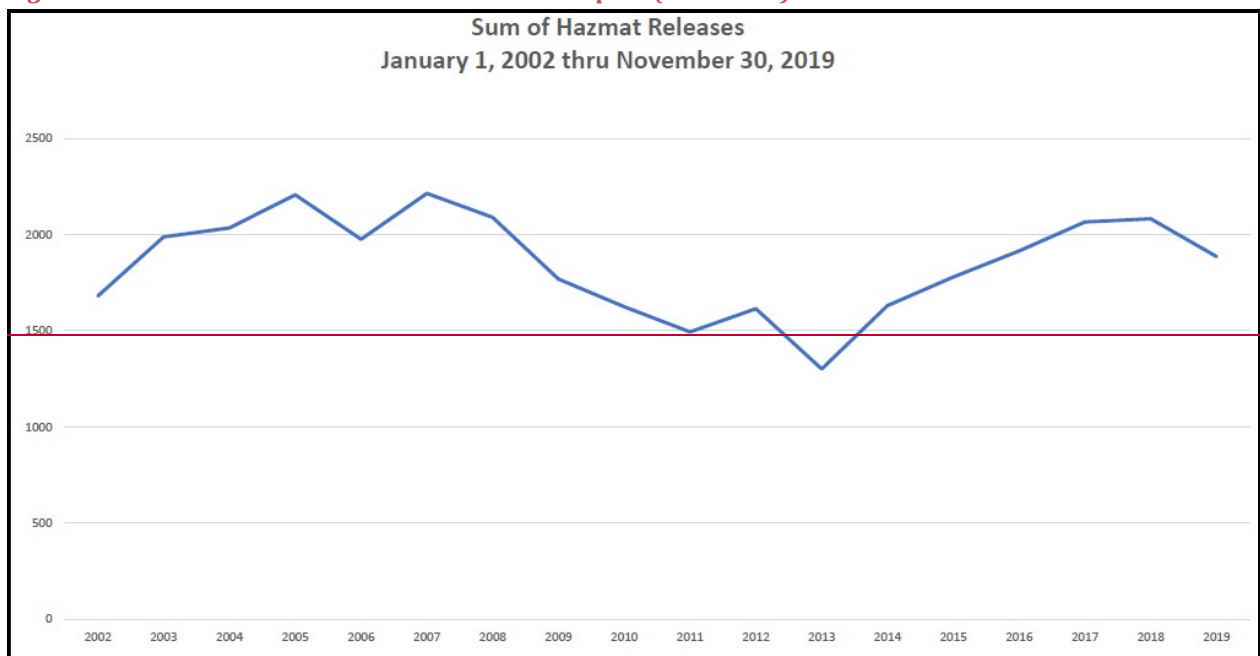
Source: <https://www.fdle.state.fl.us/Domestic-Security/Organization>

STRATEGIC ISSUE: HAZARDOUS MATERIALS EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Growing concerns related to chemical safety led the U.S. Congress to enact Title III of the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA) on October 17, 1986. This Act is commonly referred to as the Emergency Planning and Community Right-To-Know Act (EPCRA).

The purpose of this act is to promote and maintain emergency planning efforts at the local level. This is done through the collection and dissemination of information concerning potential chemical hazards within local communities, including tracking of hazardous material incident reports in the Region. The Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) acts as a local forum for interested parties from the private, public, not-for-profit and other public interest organizations to discuss response to potential chemical accidents and to provide information about possible chemical hazards. Through its efforts, the LEPC works to protect the public and the environment and bring awareness to hazardous materials across the Region.

Figure 5: Florida Hazardous Materials Release Report (Historical)



Month	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
January	129	128	141	125	169	146	178	126	176	212
February	114	131	145	144	144	157	170	128	169	167
March	121	167	178	130	176	166	138	165	187	204
April	119	175	171	129	161	147	141	143	192	187
May	136	146	186	152	181	180	180	152	202	191
June	145	146	182	196	190	192	182	171	208	225
July	162	183	174	186	225	189	206	204	208	233
August	146	167	163	198	196	239	194	218	244	221
September	158	161	150	257	156	138	176	190	273	213
October	142	129	159	201	204	207	171	180	288	236
November	116	134	127	168	143	128	111	153	199	193
December	143	130	139	177	137	163	140	167	192	201
Totals	1631	1779	1915	2066	2082	2049	1847	1997	2538	2483

Source: Division of Emergency Management, Technological Hazards Section. Reference SERC Agenda Packet Archive. (<https://www.floridadisaster.org/dem/response/technological-hazards/serc/>) under the topic of "Hazardous Materials Incident Reports."

The Northeast Florida LEPC (District 4) is comprised of a diverse group of local stakeholders from Baker, Clay, Duval, Flagler, Nassau, Putnam, and St. Johns Counties. Representatives include those from occupational areas associated with state and local elected officials, emergency management, firefighting, first aid, health, law enforcement, the environment, hospitals, transportation, broadcast and print media, community groups, facility owners and operators, non-elected local officials, and interested citizens. This group meets on a quarterly basis.

The LEPC has a Training Task Force subcommittee specifically tasked with identifying and providing chemical-related training opportunities for local first responders. These opportunities are funded by a Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness (HMEP) grant through the U.S. Department of Transportation. These grant funds are renewed, and funding amounts vary on an annual basis.

STRATEGIC ISSUE: RESILIENCE OF THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

This issue includes two areas of focus for Northeast Florida. First, the number of substandard housing units identified in the Community and Affordable Housing Chapter is of concern both from the perspective of provision of safe housing of an acceptable standard and because such units may not be resilient in a severe weather event.

The other issue is related to the vulnerability of Northeast Florida to climate change and the potential for increased weather events and sea level rise that it may bring. NEFRC, through the Regional Community Institute, is currently championing activities to promote resilience for the region.

Through funding from the U.S. Economic Development Administration, the NEFRC launched the Regional Resilience Exposure Tool (R2ET) in 2019 with the goal of educating stakeholders about regional environmental vulnerabilities. The types of data layers presented in the online map resource are FEMA flood hazard zones, storm surge, depth of flood at defined storm occurrence intervals, and sea level rise at defined water levels. The layers can be overlaid on a variety of data to graphically analyze where specific vulnerabilities occur. These data layers include critical facilities, population densities of different demographics, historical resources, as well as “Resilience Hubs” identified by a NFWF and NatureServe in a Coastal Resilience Assessment of the Jacksonville and Lower St. Johns River Watersheds.

In addition to the tool, the NEFRC has developed a community outreach curriculum focused on educating local community stakeholders about a broad range of topics related to resilience. The curriculum covers concepts ranging from business continuity planning and economic resilience, to infrastructure solutions for sea level rise and adaptation strategies for coastal communities. In promoting the utility of the exposure tool resource, each educational presentation includes image captures that highlight the exposure and vulnerability of different assets located throughout the region — ranging from medical facilities and fire stations to military installations and natural habitats.

Moving regional resilience priorities forward, the NEFRC Board of Directors approved a 3-year work plan for Resilient First Coast (RFC) in December of 2019. The objective of RFC will be to build a culture of adaptation into all local industries, promote regional collaboration, and provide a forum for business leaders to shape public policy. RFC will aim to increase community resilience across Northeast Florida by recognizing business leaders for innovations in preparedness, sitting down at the table with employers to find institutional solutions and bringing business leaders together with elected officials to address regional problems.

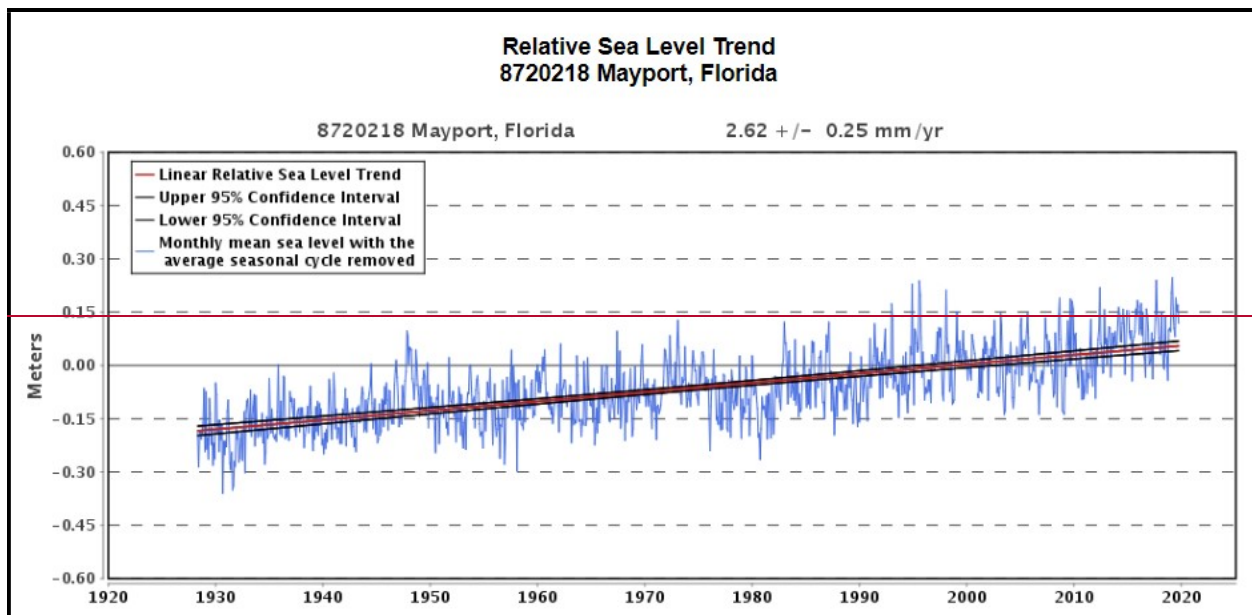
Sea Level Rise

The plots in Figure 5 show the monthly mean sea level as read from tidal gauges in the Region without the regular seasonal fluctuations due to coastal ocean temperatures, salinities, winds, atmospheric pressures, and ocean currents. Results from the Mayport/Bar Pilots Dock location show a steady rise in mean sea level since 1928. The mean sea level trend is 2.40 millimeters/year, which is equivalent to a change of 0.79 feet in 100 years.

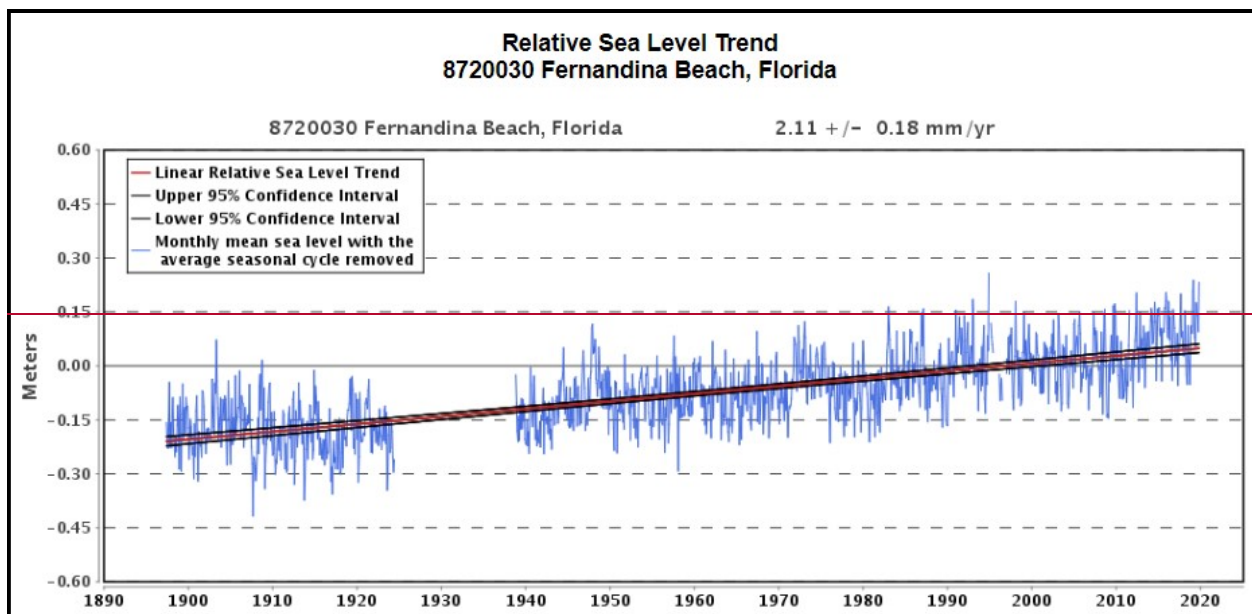
The level has been measured in Mayport since the early 1930s. The mean sea level trend there is 2.62 millimeters per year, which is equivalent to a change of 0.86 feet in 100 years.

The level has been measured in Fernandina Beach since the early 1900s, although not every year. The mean sea level trend there is 2.11 millimeters per year, which is equivalent to a change of 0.6 feet in 100 years.

Figure 6: Tidal Gauge Tracking



Source: NOAA 2020, <https://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov/sltrends/sltrends.html>



Source: NOAA 2020, <https://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov/sltrends/sltrends.html>

STRATEGIC ISSUE: HEALTHCARE PREPAREDNESS (HEALTHCARE COALITIONS)

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR) leads the country in preparing for, responding to, and recovering from the adverse health effects of emergencies and disasters. This is accomplished by supporting the nation's ability to withstand adversity, strengthening health and emergency response systems, and enhancing national health security. ASPR's Hospital Preparedness Program (HPP) enables the health care delivery system to save lives during emergencies and disaster events that exceed the day-to-day capacity and capability of existing health and emergency response systems. HPP is the only source of federal funding for health care delivery system readiness, intended to improve patient outcomes, minimize the need for federal and supplemental state resources during emergencies, and enable rapid recovery. HPP prepares the health care delivery system to save lives through the development of health care coalitions (HCCs) that incentivize diverse and often competitive health care organizations with differing priorities and objectives to work together.

A healthcare coalition (HCC), as defined in the HHS ASPR 2017-2022 Health Care Preparedness and Response Capabilities, is a group of individual healthcare and response organizations (e.g., hospitals, emergency medical services [EMS], emergency management organizations, and public health agencies) in a defined geographic location that play a critical role in developing healthcare system preparedness and response capabilities.

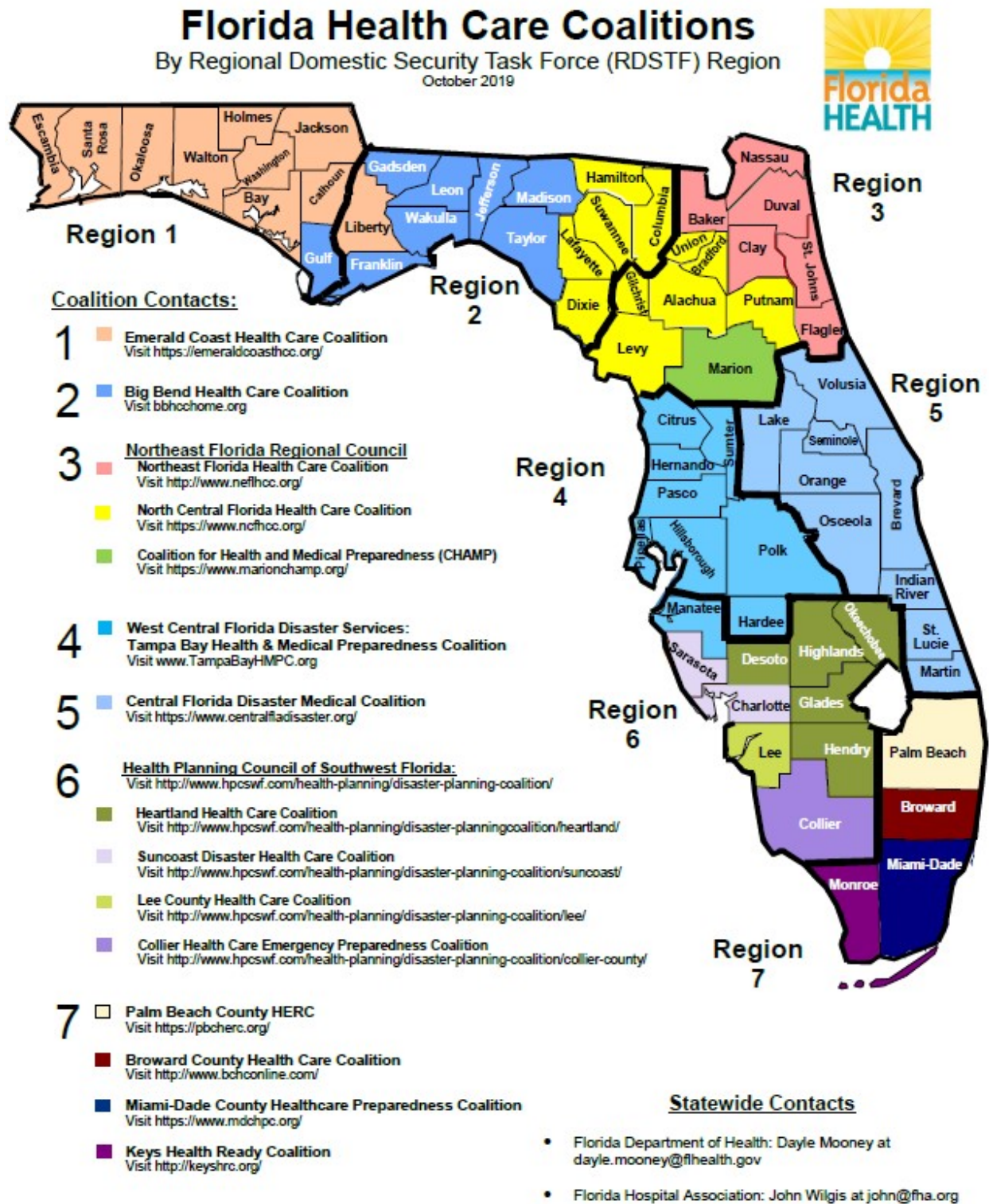
A Healthcare Coalition (HCC) is a collaborative network of healthcare organizations and their respective public and private sector response partners. Together, they serve as a multi-agency coordination group to assist Emergency Management, through ESF-8, with preparedness, response and recovery activities related to health and medical disaster operations. Healthcare Coalitions help improve medical surge capacity and capability, further enhancing a community's health system preparedness for disasters and public health emergencies. A Healthcare Coalition also augments local operational readiness to meet the health and medical challenges posed by a catastrophic incident or event. This is achieved by engaging and empowering all parts of the healthcare community, and by strengthening the existing relationships to understand and meet the actual health and medical needs of the whole community.

Florida Health Care Coalitions have different geographical boundaries than other regional organizations. Counties in Northeast Florida are served by two healthcare coalition. They are:

- North Central Florida HealthCare Coalition

- Northeast Florida Healthcare Coalition

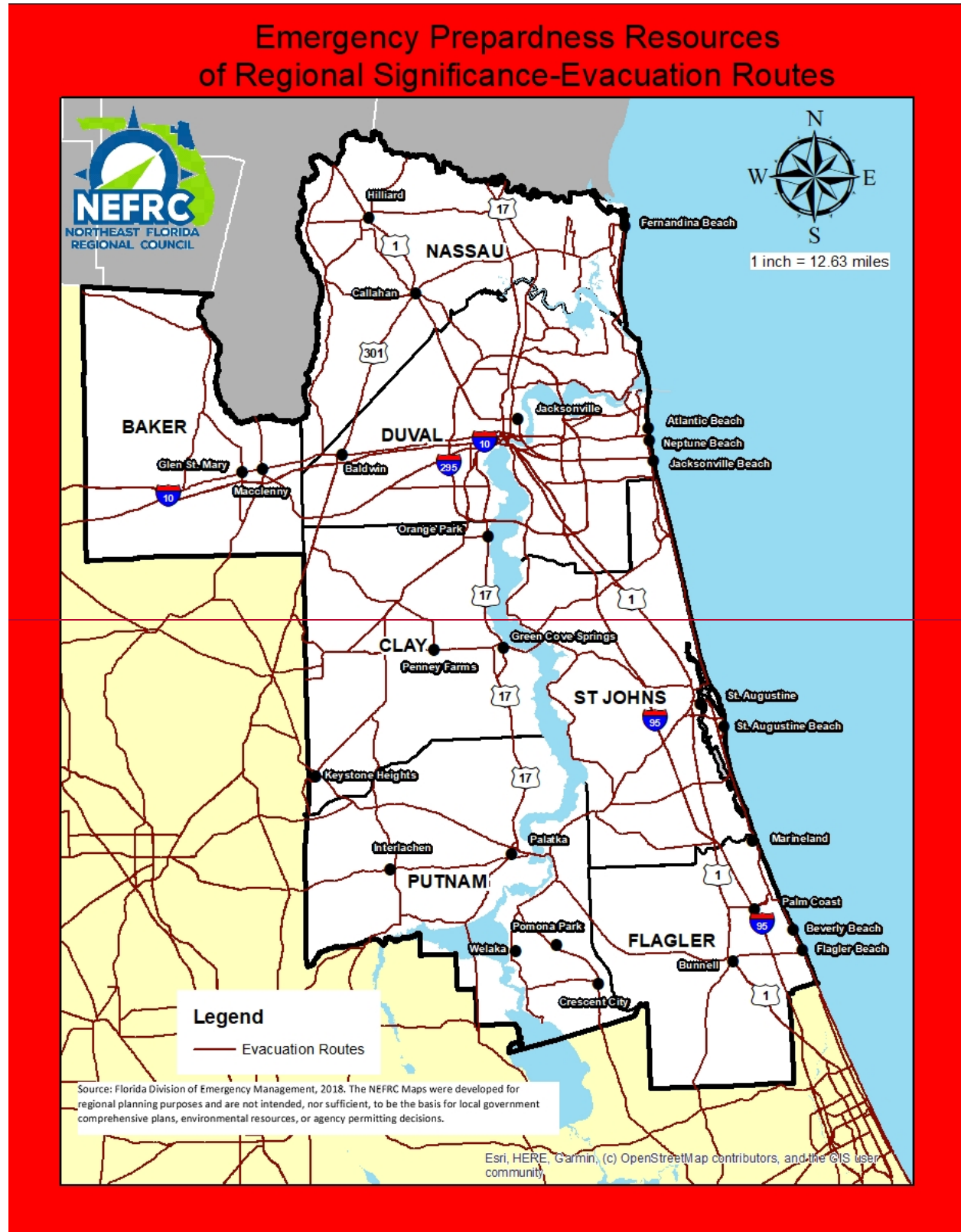
Figure 76: Florida Health Care Coalitions



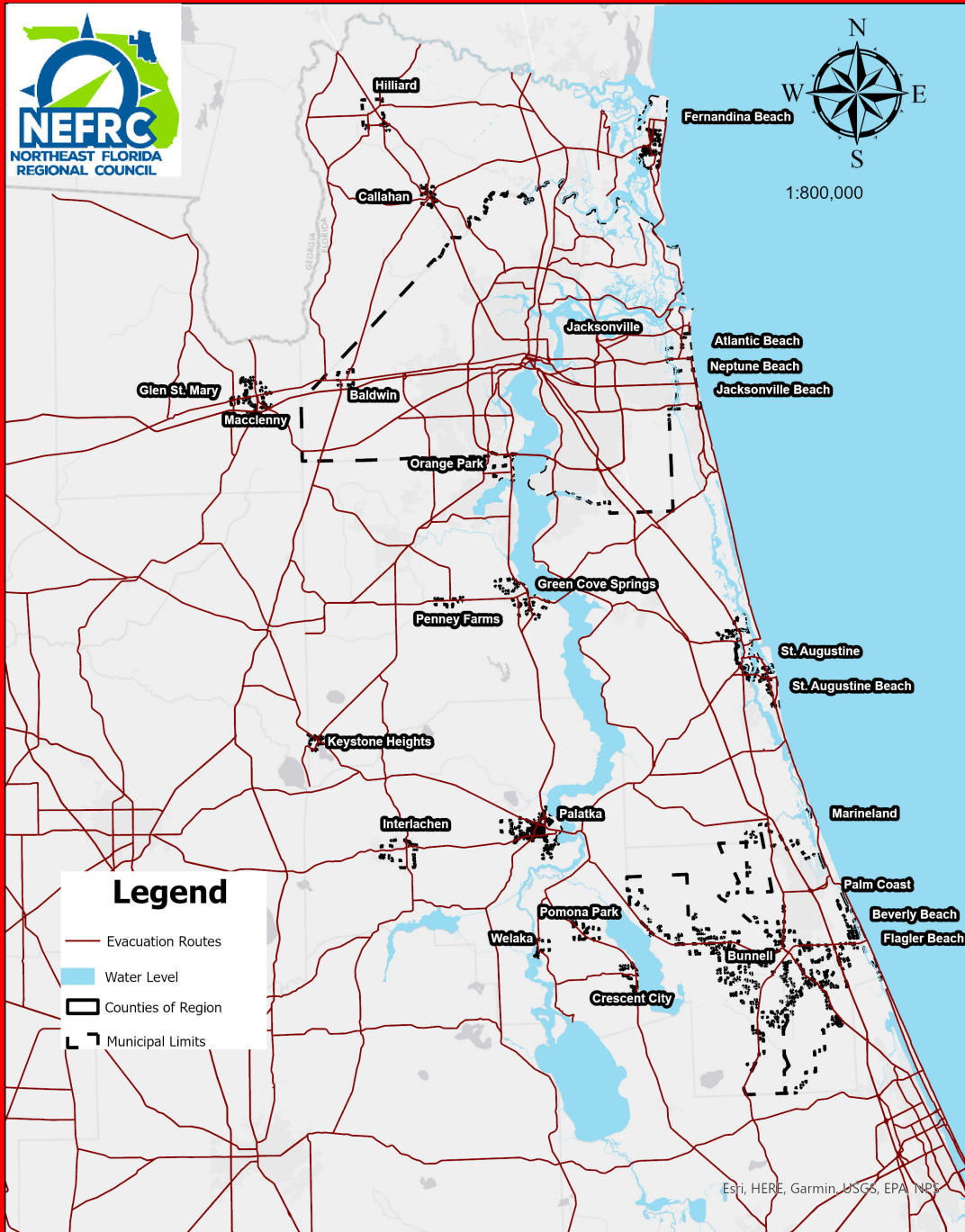
REGIONALLY SIGNIFICANT RESOURCES AND FACILITIES

Evacuation routes and primary shelters as determined by Counties are regionally significant. The map is just an illustration and may not include all such resources or facilities. As state law requires, projected impacts on evacuation route and shelter capacity and functionality will be assessed by NEFRC. Mitigation may be required.

Regionally Significant Resources and Facilities



Emergency Preparedness Resources of Regional Significance-Evacuation Routes



Source: Florida Division of Emergency Management, 2023

GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES

Goal: A resilient and safe region that is prepared for a coordinated and effective response to all hazards in emergencies. ~~and is prepared to adapt to change to remain resilient and safe in the long term.~~

Pillar: ~~Innovation and Economic Development~~

OBJECTIVE: PUBLIC SAFETY

Policies

Policy 1: NEFRC will be a ~~clearinghouse for data and a resource for the coordination, cooperation and communication~~ data clearinghouse and a resource for coordinating, cooperating, and communicating between entities in the Region that share this objective.

Pillar: ~~Civic and Governance Systems, SCP: 187.201(6)(b)F.S.~~

Pillar: ~~Civic and Governance Systems, SCP: 187.201(6)(b)(23)F.S~~

Pillar: ~~Quality of Life and Quality Places, SCP: 187.201(6)(b)(23)F.S~~

Policy 2: Shelter capacity, as both a local and regional asset, should be considered.

Pillar: ~~Civic and Governance Systems, SCP: 187.201(6)(b)(23)F.S~~

Policy 3: The Region encourages the healthcare community to plan, train, and exercise together to increase the capacity and capability of the healthcare system.

Policy 4: In assessing impacts and mitigation pursuant to 73C-40.0256 F.A.C, NEFRC will always use the most current available FDEM accepted Evacuation Study.

Pillar: ~~Civic and Governance Systems, SCP: 187.201(6)(b)(23)F.S~~

OBJECTIVE: PREPARATION FOR ALL HAZARDS

Policy 5: The Region supports “all hazards” as the complete list of hazards as identified in all Local Mitigation Strategies in the Region.

Pillar: ~~Civic and Governance Systems, SCP: 187.201(6)(b)(23)F.S, 187.201(12)(a)F.S.~~

Pillar: ~~Quality of Life and Quality Places, SCP: 187.201(6)(b)(23)F.S~~

Policy 6: Support the preparation and implementation of hazardous materials programs, including the *Local Emergency Planning Committee*, that are protective of public safety, public health, and the environment.

Pillar: ~~Civic and Governance Systems~~, SCP: 187.201(12)(a)F.S.

Policy 7: Support the Regional Domestic Security Task Force and its objectives to increase safety, coordinate response, and provide seamless communication in the Region.

Pillar: ~~Civic and Governance Systems~~, SCP: 187.201(6)(a)F.S.

Policy 8: Evacuation plans in the Region are considered in a regional context to ensure they are feasible and coordinated and to identify any recommendations that could make them work better together.

Pillar: ~~Civic and Governance Systems~~, SCP: 187.201(6)(b)(23)F.S.

Policy 9: NEFRC staff will support the activities of emergency management and the healthcare community in the Region or outside before, during, and after a disaster.

Pillar: ~~Civic and Governance Systems~~, SCP: 187.201(6)(b)(23)F.S.

OBJECTIVE: A RESILIENT REGION

~~**Policy 10:** The Region supports assessment of the ability of existing structures to withstand emergencies, including wind events, flooding, and fire and encourages local governments to address deficiencies by creating building codes to increase disaster survivability in new construction and renovation. The Region supports programs to assist owners of structures that were built to less rigorous standards to update for safety.~~

~~**Pillar:** Quality of Life and Quality Places, SCP: 187.201(6)(b)(23)F.S., 87.201(8)(a)F.S.~~

~~**Policy 11:** The NEFRC, through its licensed Regional Resilience Exposure Tool, will maintain access to data layers that illustrate the Region's vulnerabilities to certain environmental hazards. This resource will remain available to the public and will include best available data for the Region including layers that depict:~~

- ~~• locations of FEMA flood hazard zones~~
- ~~• storm surge potential based on storm strength~~
- ~~• depth of flooding at defined storm occurrence intervals~~
- ~~• potential increases in sea level rise from 1-6 feet~~
- ~~• locations of critical facilities and valued community assets~~

- ~~densities of low-income, minority and elderly populations~~
- ~~locations of historical resources~~
- ~~locations of “Resilience Hub” areas identified by NFWF and NatureServe~~
- ~~any other data that can assist with planning for the safety of local communities~~

~~Pillar: Civic and Governance Systems, SCP: 187.201(6)(b)(23)F.S, 187.201(8)(a)F.S.~~

~~Pillar: Quality of Life and Quality Places, SCP: 187.201(6)(b)(23)F.S, 87.201(8)(a)F.S.~~

~~Pillar: Quality of Life and Quality Places, SCP: 187.201(6)(b)(22), 187.201(8)(a)F.S.~~

OBJECTIVE: DETERMINE AND ADDRESS THE VULNERABILITY OF THE REGION

~~**Policy 12:** The Region will make its best efforts to determine the impact of climate change on Northeast Florida. This will be accomplished through local community dialogue about issues related to climate change which will be informed by findings from the NEFRC Regional Resilience Exposure Tool mapping resource.~~

~~**Pillar: Civic and Governance Systems, SCP: 187.201(6)(b)(23)F.S**~~

~~**Policy 13:** The Region will work with the communities, leaders and experts to determine what assets (people and built environment) are vulnerable, establish a plan to know what actions to take to address the impacts of climate change, if any, and mitigate the impacts whenever possible.~~

~~**Pillar: Quality of Life and Quality Places, SCP: 187.201(6)(b)(23)F.S**~~

~~**Policy 14:** If the Region identifies impacts, it will consider climate change adaptation in all planning, design, and infrastructure investment decisions made in the Region.~~

~~**Pillar: Quality of Life and Quality Places, SCP: 187.201(6)(b)(23)F.S**~~

OBJECTIVE: CONSISTENCY WITH THE STRATEGIC REGIONAL POLICY PLAN

~~**Policy 15:** NEFRC considers impacts to resources of regional significance and extra jurisdictional impacts as it reviews consistency with the SRPP. Local governments and proposers of projects should include best available data gathered using professionally acceptable methodology in support of their proposals, sufficient to determine impacts. Where mitigation is proposed, using strategies outlined in local government policies or plans, the SRPP or a combination is encouraged.~~

~~**Pillar: Infrastructure and Growth Leadership, SCP: 187.201(15)(a)**~~

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS MEASURES

Regional Shelter Demand

DEMAND					
REGIONAL SHELTER CAPACITY	EVACUATION LEVEL A	EVACUATION LEVEL B	EVACUATION LEVEL C	EVACUATION LEVEL D	EVACUATION LEVEL E
	42,929 <u>37,262</u>				
62,320 <u>111,685</u>		57,541 <u>44,903</u>	73,633 <u>56,933</u>	83,031 <u>71,828</u>	95,282 <u>84,207</u>

Source: ~~2013~~2021 Northeast Florida Regional Evacuation Study

Regional Clearance Time (hours)

REGION	EVACUATION LEVEL BASE SCENARIO				
	LEVEL A	LEVEL B	LEVEL C	LEVEL D	LEVEL E
Northeast Florida	17.0 <u>22.0</u>	20.0 <u>24.0</u>	28.0 <u>25.5</u>	39.0 <u>28.0</u>	40.0 <u>31.0</u>

Source: ~~2013~~2021 Northeast Florida Regional Evacuation Study

Agenda

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🌐 www.nefrc.org
✉ info@nefrc.org





Proudly serving the communities of Baker, Clay, Duval, Flagler, Nassau, Putnam, and St. Johns Counties

MEMORANDUM

DATE: DECEMBER 30, 2024

TO: NORTHEAST FLORIDA REGIONAL COUNCIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

THRU: ELIZABETH PAYNE, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER 

FROM: TYLER NOLEN, SPECIAL PROJECTS COORDINATOR 

RE: 2025 REGIONAL LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

Regional Council staff have finalized the nomination process for the 2025 Regional Leadership Academy class. The 2025 cohort will consist of 20 participants selected to participate in the program. The Academy will begin on Wednesday, January 29, 2025, and will conclude on Wednesday, August 27th.



2025 Regional Leadership Academy

1

Introduction

Tyler Nolen
Special Projects
Coordinator
tnolen@nefrc.org



2




What is the NEFL Leadership Academy?

The Northeast Florida Regional Leadership Academy (RLA) is a program of the Northeast Florida Regional Council (NEFRC) that *cultivates a commitment to Regionalism*.

RLA participants are leaders representing both large and small businesses, education, nonprofits, agriculture, government, healthcare, elected officials, and media.

Through meeting 1 day a month from January to August in each of the seven local governments and one day at one of our military installations, we showcase specific successful initiatives and challenges while facilitating discussions that promote regionalism

3



2025 Curriculum

January: Baker	May: St. Johns
February: Putnam	June: Military Day
March: Flagler	July: Clay
April: Nassau	August: Duval

4

Questions?

Tyler Nolen
Special Projects
Coordinator
tnolen@nefrc.org



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MEMORANDUM

DATE: January 6, 2025
TO: NORTHEAST FLORIDA REGIONAL COUNCIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS
THRU: ELIZABETH PAYNE, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER *EP*
FROM: TYLER NOLEN, SPECIAL PROJECTS COORDINATOR *TN*
RE: REGIONAL AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE

At the 2025 Regional Awards of Excellence and Elected Officials Luncheon, the Council will recognize outstanding projects for awards of excellence in their respective categories. Notably, the 2024 Regional Leadership Award will be presented to longtime NEFRC Board Member and City of St. Augustine Commissioner Roxanne Horvath.

Attached is the Press Release announcing the winners of the 2024 Regional Awards of Excellence.





Date: December 17, 2024

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Beth Payne
Title: Chief Executive Officer
Phone: 904-279-0880
Email: epayne@nefrc.org

P R E S S R E L E A S E

2024 Northeast Florida Regional Leadership Award Winners Announced

Jacksonville, FL – The Northeast Florida Regional Council (NEFRC) announced the winners of the 2024 Northeast Florida Regional Leadership Awards today. **The 21st Annual Regional Awards for Excellence and Elected Officials Luncheon** will be held to celebrate the winners and to honor local elected officials **on January 9, 2025**. The NEFRC awards these honors each year to recognize the best projects and the brightest leaders in the Region.

The Regional Awards recognition program is anchored by the **Regional Leadership Award**, given to a leader who exemplifies service to community and commitment to regionalism. Past recipients include Congressman (previously State Senator) Aaron Bean, and former State Representative Cyndi Stevenson. **The 2024 recipient is former City of St. Augustine City Commissioner Roxanne Horvath**. Other 2024 award winners were selected in the following categories:

- Affordable Housing – Heirs Property-LISC Jacksonville (Duval)
- Culture and Historic Preservation – Nassau 200/Fernandina Beach 200 Bicentennial Celebrations (Nassau)
- Economic Development – PLANT Agricultural Systems- Baker County Economic Development Commission (Baker)
- Environmental Stewardship – Nassau County -Atlantic to Okefenokee Florida Forever Designation (Nassau)
- Healthcare Emergency Preparedness – UF Health Pediatric Evacuation Full Scale Exercise
- Planning and Growth Management – City of Palm Coast - Imagine 2050 City on the Rise
- Public Safety – Flagler County’s FAA Certificate of Waiver for Drones Beyond Line Of Sight (Flagler)
- Quality of Life – Florida Department of Health – St. Johns County Mobile Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children
- Resiliency – St. Johns County’s Alpine Groves Park Shoreline Restoration
- Transportation – Clay County’s Bonded Transportation Program (Clay County)
- Special Achievement- Henry Dean, former St. Johns County Commissioner

“There continues to be engaging and transformational work happening across Northeast Florida. It is an honor to celebrate those projects and initiatives that enhance local communities in the region, including the many achievements of our regional leadership award winner. Roxanne Horvath has been a Regional Council Board Member for over 10 years, leaving a lasting imprint through her dedication to the Region and her contributions to regional resiliency efforts over the last several years,” said Beth Payne, CEO of the Northeast Florida Regional Council. “We look forward to celebrating these accomplishments at the Awards Ceremony on January 9th.”

The NEFRC is an independent, regional government agency serving Baker, Clay, Duval, Flagler, Putnam, Nassau, and St. Johns counties. It provides a regional perspective on economic development, emergency preparedness, resiliency, and community development to enhance the quality of life of Northeast Florida residents. For more information about the Northeast Florida Regional Council, visit www.nefrc.org.

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