

Resolution

Northeast Florida Regional Council

2012-13

**A Resolution Of The Board Of Directors Of The
Northeast Florida Regional Council Endorsing The
Recommendation Of The Northeast Florida
Regional Transportation Study Commission To
Create The Northeast Florida Regional
Transportation Commission.**

RECITALS

WHEREAS, in 2010, the Florida Legislature passed Chapter 2010-212, Laws of Florida, creating the Northeast Florida Regional Transportation Study Commission (Study Commission) to study multimodal transportation needs and delivery systems for the region comprised of the following counties: Baker, Clay, Duval, Flagler, Nassau, Putnam and St. Johns; and

WHEREAS, the Study Commission was comprised of twenty representatives from throughout the region including appointees from each of the counties and the President of the Northeast Florida Regional Council; and

WHEREAS, the members of the Study Commission worked for more than two years to develop a consensus set of recommendations, held twenty-six full commission meetings, and engaged in numerous county workshops and public outreach sessions; and

WHEREAS, the Study Commission determined that a gap exists in the region's abilities to cooperatively plan transportation infrastructure and services on a regional basis, to cooperatively and competitively seek transportation funding from federal and state sources, and to execute coordinated transportation services and infrastructure for the maximum benefit of the region's population and economic development; and

WHEREAS, the Study Commission has concluded its work and has finalized its report to be submitted to the Florida Legislature; and

WHEREAS, the Study Commission will recommend to the Florida Legislature that a regional approach to transportation infrastructure and services is appropriate for the region, and that it is appropriate to create a regional transportation commission to coordinate and advance the planning, project development, funding and implementation of regional transportation facilities and services, to develop the regional transportation plan, to serve as a leader in communicating to the citizens and governments of the region the importance of regional transportation planning and implementation, and to pursue grant funding and other means to implement strategic regional projects; and

WHEREAS, the North Florida Transportation Planning Organization is nearing commencement of its Long Range Transportation Plan update, which update can serve as a valuable input to the work of the regional transportation commission; and

WHEREAS, each county which is a member of the regional transportation commission will have representation on its governing body; and

WHEREAS, membership on and funding of the commission shall be on an annual voluntary basis by the participating counties; and

WHEREAS, the regional transportation commission will undertake a five-year work plan to develop the regional transportation plan, promote regional transportation initiatives, develop long-term transportation funding alternatives, and pursue opportunities to implement strategic regional projects; and

WHEREAS, the regional transportation commission report to the Legislature contains a "hard sunset" in five years should the commission fail to develop funding to carry out the regional transportation plan; and

WHEREAS, the Study Commission has requested that each of the region's counties demonstrate support for and commitment to a regional, multimodal approach to transportation needs by committing to participate in the work and funding of such a regional transportation commission; and

WHEREAS, the Study Commission strongly recommends the creation of a Multimodal Transportation Business Alliance to generate private sector support with champions for regional transportation.; and

WHEREAS, the Northeast Florida Regional Council is one of the key regional partners that will work with the Northeast Florida Regional Transportation Commission to develop and implement the regional transportation plan;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of the Northeast Florida Regional Council hereby declares that:

Section 1. The above recitals are incorporated by reference into the body of this Resolution and such recitals are adopted as findings of fact.

Section 2. The Board of Directors further finds that:

- (a) An efficient regional transportation system is central to the future economic competitiveness and quality of life for Northeast Florida;
- (b) There is an opportunity to enhance planning and infrastructure provision on a regional scale specifically for regionally significant projects;
- (c) Having a strong and consistent regional voice on transportation issues is increasingly important in the successful pursuit of state, federal, and private transportation funding;
- (d) Creation of a separate regional transportation commission to pursue these goals and to focus on regional transportation initiatives will enhance the competitiveness of the region and better serve the citizens of this Region; and
- (e) The members of the Study Commission have contributed extensive time and expertise in developing its recommends and are deserving of public commendation.

Section 3. It is understood that the Northeast Florida Regional Transportation Commission will sunset on June 30, 2018 unless

- (a) It shall have adopted a regional transportation plan and an implementation plan, and at least Clay, Duval, Nassau, and St. Johns Counties shall have adopted resolutions endorsing such plans, and
- (b) Adequate funding sources to carry out the initial phases of such plans have been secured, or placed on the ballot in the constituent counties in the event a referendum is required.

Section 4. This resolution encourages the member local governments of the Northeast Florida Regional Council to support action by the Florida Legislature, consistent with the draft legislation offered by the Regional Transportation Study Commission, to adopt draft legislation creating the Northeast Florida Regional Transportation Commission.

Section 5. This resolution supports the Northeast Florida Regional Transportation Commission and encourages counties in the region to adopt and approve resolutions indicating their support and intent to participate in the Northeast Florida Regional Transportation Commission.

Section 6. This resolution supports the creation of a multimodal regional transportation business alliance to be supported by the private sector and to offer support for key regional transportation efforts.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 6th day of December, 2012 by the Northeast Florida Regional Council in a regular meeting assembled in the City of Jacksonville, FL.



A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Larry Williams", is written over a horizontal line.

Larry Williams

President of the Board of Directors

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Brian D. Teeple", is written over a horizontal line.

Brian D. Teeple

CEO