



Council Highlights

May 1999

Council hosts workshop of REMI users group

The Council hosted the REMI Statewide Users Group on May 17-18. Attendees included individuals from throughout the state and from as far away as Arkansas and South Carolina.

The majority of the participants were from organizations that are presently utilizing the REMI Economic Model. The workshop included presentations from representatives of REMI on the development of and background data in the model. Presentations from actual projects by various users were included as well as the opportunity for some hands-on examples of policy scenarios utilizing the model.

The Council recently received the Windows Version of the model and is now in a position to run basic policy analysis. For any questions or information regarding this service, please call Mike Brown, (904) 363-6375 X135.

Regional eco-tourism seminar set June 10

A regional tourism seminar entitled "Building Strategic Alliances for Northeast Florida Tourism" will be held Thursday, June 10, at the University Center of the University of North Florida.

The seminar, sponsored by the Northeast Florida Eco/Heritage Tourism Committee in cooperation with the

Northeast Florida Regional Planning Council, will run from 9:00 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. Registration of \$11.50 includes lunch and is payable at the door.

The seminar will be facilitated by Ron Drake, a full-time receptive tour operator who focuses on programs customized to meet the needs and expectations of special interest travelers (eco/heritage).

The morning session will cover "special interest travel," its growing numbers and importance, and strategic alliances that would enhance opportunities in Northeast Florida.

The afternoon session will include "niche" workshops on alliance development opportunities within specific areas, such as parks & open space, ecotourism, maritime history, outdoor recreation, and heritage tourism. For info, call Mike Brown, (904) 363-6375 X135.

Clean Cities program is workshop topic

The Council will host John Bradley from the Center for Urban Transportation Research (CUTR)—Statewide Clean Cities Facilitator—who will provide an overview of Clean Cities Program during a workshop Friday, June 4, from 9:30 a.m. to noon at the Council offices.

The workshop will cover the "hows and whys" of the Clean Cities Program and is meant to be a precursor to a North Florida Clean Cities Coalition kick-off meeting to be held in the near future.

The workshop is open to anyone

interested in learning about the Clean Cities Program and developing such a program in north Florida. For info, call Mike Brown, (904) 363-6375 X135.

Annual report printed

The Council's 1998 Annual Report is available. The 32-page report lists highlights of the Council's accomplishments for fiscal year 1997-98 in the areas of planning/land use, transportation, economic growth, human services, emergency/safety, natural resources, and government services.

For a free copy, call Doris Barletta, (904) 363-6375 X104

Stakeholders share views on growth management

The Council held a series of Growth Management Stakeholder meetings during April and May and will culminate the effort with a second Local Elected Official meeting to be held immediately after the regular meeting of the Council on June 3, 1999.

Results of the Stakeholder Meetings will be summarized in a final report and provided to interested persons in the regional community as well as to Steve Seibert, secretary of the Florida Department of Community Affairs.

DCA is currently working on possible changes to the growth management system to be considered by the 2000 Legislature. For info, call Brian Teeple, (904) 363-6375 X103.

BDC loans grow to 11 for fiscal year

The Business Development Corporation of Northeast Florida, a project of the Council, has received approval on five more loans from the Small Business Administration.

They are Greenstreets Restaurant (St. Johns County); Sun-TechWindows (Lake County); Merry Pats Preschool (St. Johns County); R&J Enterprises, a cabinet manufacturer (Clay County); and Springfield Equities for purchase of the Seagarden Inn (Volusia County).

BDC now has a total of 11 loans approved with one pending submission to SBA for the fiscal year. It is also in the process of completing loan packages for another five projects. For info, call Pat Ferm, 1-800-385-7888.

Staff attends DEP workshop on air quality

Staff attended a workshop on Air Quality developed by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. The workshop was held May 11 at Jacksonville City Hall.

The workshop dealt with which counties should be included in a non-attainment designation for ozone should the data support a gubernatorial recommendation and an EPA designation of non-attainment for Jacksonville.

Currently the DEP is considering the designation of all counties (Clay, Duval,

Nassau and St. Johns) in the Metropolitan Statistical Area as non-attainment should non-attainment status be warranted. For info, call Brian Teeple, (904) 363-6375 X103.

Director on airport advisory committee

Council Executive Director Brian Teeple has been appointed to a Jacksonville International Airport Terminal Expansion Public Advisory Committee.

At its first meeting on May 17, the committee heard from the various consultants involved with the terminal expansion. The committee will help guide the expansion process to make sure that the expansion is as user friendly as possible. For info, call Brian Teeple, (904) 363-6375 X103.

DCA secretary keynotes Regional Summit

Speaking to some 200 Northeast Florida government officials and planners attending the second annual Regional Cooperation Summit, the new Department of Community Affairs Secretary Steve Seibert outlined his view of growth management, emphasizing greater local control and a more focused and measured approach to DCA oversight.

The summit, sponsored by St. Johns County with Council help, was held on May 20 at the World Golf Village. For info, call Mike Brown, (904) 363-6375 X135.

NEWS & NOTES

GIS CAPACITY GROWING

Two planning staff attended the Florida Joint Geographic Information/Mapping Conference in Tampa, and with newly learned GIS techniques, they are ready to assist Council constituents with their mapping projects.

CDBG APPLICATIONS DUE JUNE 30

Florida Small Cities CDBG competitive applications are due June 30, 1999 for Housing (HR), Commercial Revitalization (CR) and Neighborhood Revitalization (NR) categories. The Council can help prepare your applications. Call Gus Rappold (904) 363-6375 X133.

IN THE NEWS

- The Times-Union quoted **Executive Director** Brian Teeple in a story May 7 about growth in Nassau County
- A **Hurricane Evacuation Map** produced for the Council's Hurricane Study was used in the annual TU/TV-4 "Eye on the Storm" disaster guide.
- **Healthy Start** Director Carol Brady was quoted in a TU article on Kids Count May 18.
- The TU ran a photo of the Northeast Florida **Regional Cooperation Summit** and coverage of the Council's **Transportation Committee** meeting May 21.



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