

ANNUAL REPORT

EAST CENTRAL FLORIDA
REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

21/22

A young child with curly hair, wearing a blue long-sleeved shirt with a white animal graphic and blue shorts with a white pattern, is playing in a water fountain. The child is smiling and has water splashing on their face and hands. The background is a blurred outdoor setting with other people and structures.

TABLE OF CONTENTS :

About Us

- 03 ECFRPC Profile
- 04 2021/2022 Council
- 05 Letter from Executive Director
- 06 Letter from ECFRPC Chair
- 07 Financial Overview

Highlights

- 08 Program and Project Highlights
- 10 Team Highlights
- 11 New Team Members

Department Updates

- 14 Resilience
- 18 Economic Development
- 23 Community Planning
- 26 Emergency Preparedness

Our Team

- 29 Photo Credits
- 30 Department Contacts



WHO IS THE ECFRPC?

The East Central Florida Regional Planning Council was **established in 1962** as an area-wide association of local governments and serves eight counties, **78** cities and towns, and more than **4.5 million people** within the counties of Brevard, Lake, Marion, Orange, Osceola, Seminole, Sumter, and Volusia.

Our Board is comprised of two representatives from each county, one representative from the City of Orlando, one municipal representative from each county via the league of cities or, if no league, the largest city, and gubernatorial appointees. Several state agencies have non-voting seats as well.

The Council provides a forum where leaders can discuss complex regional issues and set regional goals and objectives as envisioned in the 2050 Regional Vision and the 2060 Strategic Regional Policy Plan.

2021/2022 ANNUAL REPORT

This report highlights some major projects, programming, and events that took place during FY 21/22. We hope the 2021/2022 Annual report provides you insight into the many significant efforts and partnerships of the ECFRPC. If you would like additional information on any of the items highlighted in the report, please reach out to the ECFRPC team.

Thank you for helping us celebrate sixty years of serving our region.



2021/2022 ECFRPC BOARD

County Representatives

Commissioner Bryan Lober, Brevard County

Commissioner John Tobia, Brevard County

Commissioner Sean Parks, Lake County (Immediate Past Chair)

Commissioner Douglas Shields, Lake County

Commissioner Jeff Gold, Marion County

Commissioner Craig Curry, Marion County

Commissioner Emily Bonilla, Orange County (Chair)

Commissioner Mayra Uribe, Orange County

Commissioner Ricky Booth, Osceola County

Commissioner Peggy Choudhry, Osceola County (Member at Large)

Commissioner Lee Constantine, Seminole County

Commissioner Amy Lockhart, Seminole County (Vice Chair)

Commissioner Craig Estep, Sumter County (Treasurer)

Commissioner Roberta Ulrich, Sumter County

Council Member Jeff Brower, Volusia County

Council Member Billie Wheeler, Volusia County

Municipal Representatives

Commissioner Jim Fisher, City of Kissimmee, Osceola County, Tri-County League of Cities

Commissioner Jordan Smith, City of Lake Mary, Seminole County, Tri-County League of Cities

Commissioner Julian Green, City of Wildwood, Sumter County (Secretary)

Commissioner Patty Sheehan, City of Orlando

Council Member James P. Hilty Sr., City of Ocala, Marion County

Council Member Mindy Gibson, City of Satellite Beach, Space Coast League of Cities (Member at Large)

Mayor Chris Cloudman, City of DeLand, Volusia County League of Cities

Mayor Michael Holland, City of Eustis, Lake County League of Cities

Gubernatorial Appointees

Mr. Jose A. Rivas, Orange County

Mr. John Lesman, Seminole County

Ex-Officio Members

Mr. Alice Giuliani, Florida Department of Transportation

Mr. Aaron Watkins, Florida Department of Environmental Protection

Ms. Susan Davis, St. Johns River Water Management District

Ms. Kathy LaMartina, South Florida Water Management District

Ms. Laura Kelley, Central Florida Expressway Authority

Mr. Mike Radzik, City of Groveland

Ms. Eileen Hinson, City of Sanford

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S LETTER

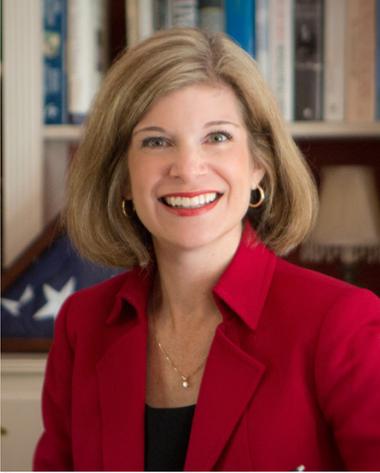


Over the past year, the ECFRPC worked closely with our communities and partners to provide meaningful assistance and leverage partnerships and resources to cultivate a diversified economy, and implement resilient and sustainable community development and preparedness strategies across the region. From regional-scale strategic initiatives such as the Brownfields Program, the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy, the ECF Regional Resilience Collaborative and CARES grant, to community-scale projects including comprehensive plan rewrites, park master planning, an economic impact analysis of policy changes and taxation, and conservation strategy planning, the RPC continues to bring a multi-disciplinary approach to planning, economic development, emergency preparedness and resilience both locally and regionally.

The milestones of the RPC in 2022 go beyond projects with regional impacts, as the RPC team has several accomplishments as well. Michelle Morrison, a Planner II at the ECFRPC, was selected as part of the fifth cohort of Urban Land Institute's Health Leaders Network. The highly prestigious network saw just twenty-seven professionals worldwide selected for this latest cohort. Morrison traveled to Detroit and New Mexico to learn about the latest in urban renewal and health-focused urban planning initiatives. Luis Nieves-Ruiz had a big year being named as an American Institute of Certified Planners Fellow and was awarded the Don Quijote Award for Professional of the Year from the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Metro Orlando (HCCMO) and Prospera. This award recognizes "successful businesses and individuals who demonstrated the qualities exemplified by literary character of Don Quijote: visionary and courageous dreamers who have taken risks to achieve their goals and improve Central Florida."

We are thankful for our community, agency, academic, and non-profit partners who help to make all this possible by synergistically harnessing the power of partnerships, aligning work and expertise with community needs, and seeking opportunities to turn ideas into reality. This 2022 Annual Report is an opportunity to highlight the work accomplished by the RPC team and our partners, including our three 2022 Aliceann Wohlbruck NADO Impact Award winning projects.

CHAIR'S LETTER



The East Central Florida Region remains one of the fastest growing in the nation, and the dual threat we faced this past fall from Hurricanes Ian and Nicole highlighted the fact that many newer residents had never experienced these types of storm events. Weathering disasters like hurricanes emphasize why organizations such as the East Central Florida Regional Planning Council (ECFRPC) are vital for our region. Water and winds don't stop at city limits or county lines. We must work together as a region to ensure we are even more prepared when the next storm comes.

It is my honor to serve as Chairman of the ECFRPC during the launch of the Diamond Awards. In the late 1980s, the predecessor of the Diamond Awards celebrated superb urban planning projects across our region. It's telling that many of the same projects which were highlighted by those awards, such as the Orlando International Airport, Uptown Altamonte, and EPCOT Center, are undergoing their own updates due to the region's unprecedented growth. With submissions from nearly every county, the Diamond Awards highlight the vast leadership, skillset, and opportunities seen in our region; these awards speak to the very spirit of what the ECFRPC is all about.

This same spirit can be seen at every Council meeting. Recently, we welcomed a neighbor just across the river from Seminole County and learned about the exciting, planned transportation-oriented development and conservation efforts in the City of DeBary. Other focuses have included the first of what will become a regular update on local housing issues, an overview of regional hurricane response efforts, and a conversation on how to best engage with the community at large.

Looking forward, we plan to continue hosting offsite meetings at local places of regional significance. Last year's visits to the Brevard Zoo, the Orange County Regional History Center, and the offices of Visit Kissimmee with the tour of Margaritaville provided a unique snapshot of what makes our region so attractive to current and prospective residents alike.

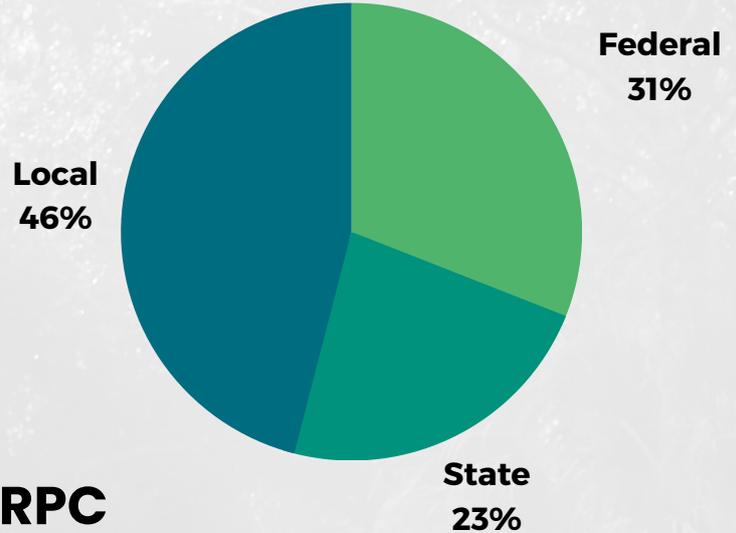
As Chairman, I invite you to join us in working with the ECFRPC to make our region the best it can be!

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

This page shows financial information for the ECFRPC for the 2021-2022 fiscal year. Additional financial information can be requested from the Director of Finance, Julie Bowes. Revenues increased by 17% in fiscal year 2021-2022 over fiscal year 2020-2021, with a corresponding increase in expenditures of 23%.

ECFRPC Funding Sources

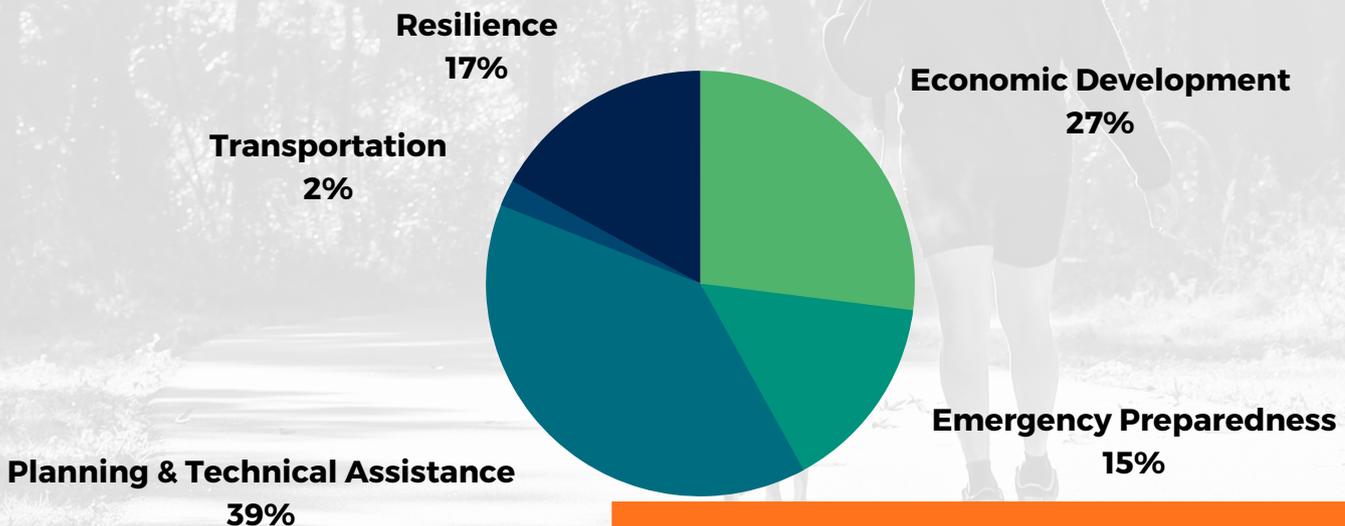
\$2,643,795



ECFRPC Expenses by Category

\$2,576,145

Economic Development	\$699,818
Emergency Management	\$396,584
Planning & Technical Assistance	\$1,002,023
Resilience	\$423,434
Transportation	\$54,286





PROGRAM & PROJECT UPDATES

NADO Awards

The East Central Florida Regional Planning Council is proud to announce that it has received three 2022 Aliceann Wohlbruck NADO Impact Awards, the most of any planning council in the state. The annual awards, hosted by the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO), highlight creative approaches to advancing regional economic development and improving quality of life. The 2022 class of awardees consists of 107 projects from 71 organizations spanning 28 states.

The three ECFRPC projects among this year's award recipients are;

Partnership for the Goals through 17 Rooms – Partnership for the Goals, a regional leadership summit engaging government, philanthropic, academic, civil society, and the business community leveraging the Sustainable Development Goal framework to increase cooperation across traditional silos and vernaculars, was selected for its launch event which brought together close to 150 local decision-makers.

Southeast Volusia Regional Economic Development Strategic Plan – After hosting two successful leadership summits, the ECFRPC coordinated the approval of multiple resolutions involving the communities of Southeast Volusia County to support the development and implementation of a regional economic development strategic plan. Comprised of the Cities of Edgewater, New Smyrna Beach, Oak Hill, and unincorporated Volusia County, the Southeast Volusia (SEV) County region is now embarking on an economic plan with ECFRPC staff providing regionally proven expertise and tools.

Pipeline Emergency Response Initiative (PERI) – The Florida Pipeline Emergency Response Initiative brought multiple training sessions and pipeline-related certification courses across the region. The PERI also saw the installation of six MSA 5-gas detector systems for fire departments located near pipelines. This comes after more than a dozen detection systems have been distributed in recent years. Finally, PERI helped familiarize first responders across the region with smartphone-based programs to help them better prepare for, and respond to, potential pipeline incidents.

P&P UPDATES

CON'T

Hurricane Response

Michelle Cechowski, ECFRPC's Director of Emergency Preparedness, was deployed to SW Florida as part of Central Florida's Urban Search and Rescue Team TASK FORCE 4's response to Hurricane Ian. The team was deployed for 14 days – their longest deployment to date – first to Charlotte County, then to Lee County, where they assessed over 2,500 structures, searched more than 150 vessels and made contact with hundreds of people. Sai Oicata, an Emergency Preparedness Planner II with the ECFRPC, was also deployed to SW Florida following Hurricane Ian. An update on the regional response efforts was shared at the November 2022 Council meeting.

Hurricane Recovery

SBP and the East Central Florida Regional Planning Council, in partnership with Farmers Insurance and AT&T, hosted a Recovery Acceleration Week to help Central Florida communities chart a path to recovery after Hurricanes Ian and Nicole.

Photo Calendar

We watched our progress through the year via a beautiful calendar with photos from across the region. The photo calendar contest saw its first edition in 2022, and the 2023 calendar is now available.

East Central Florida Diamond Awards

After a more than two-decade hiatus, the ECFRPC revived the tradition of recognizing exemplary planning efforts across the region with the debut of the East Central Florida Diamond Awards. Taking place on Wednesday, January 18, 2023, at the Lake Mary Events Center, the inaugural East Central Florida Diamond Awards celebrated the ECFRPC's sixtieth anniversary by highlighting some exceptional projects realized in recent years.





TEAM HIGHLIGHTS

COLLEGE OF FELLOWS OF THE AICP

Luis Nieves-Ruiz was named to the College of Fellows of the American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP). This is the highest honor that can be bestowed to an urban planning professional; fellows are nominated and selected by their peers because of their outstanding contributions to the profession through professional practice, teaching and mentoring, research, and community service and leadership.

ULI HEALTH NETWORK

Michelle Morrison is among the twenty-seven professionals selected from a pool of international applicants as part of the fifth cohort for the Urban Land Institute's Health Leaders Network. Morrison is one of two Florida professionals chosen for the cohort. Morrison is the second ECFRPC staff member to participate in ULI's Health Leaders Network.

DON QUIJOTE AWARD

Luis Nieves-Ruiz was named the Professional of the Year Award at the 25th Don Quijote Awards for his economic modeling used by Orange County in better understanding their proposed penny sales tax proposal and presenting the findings of the economic impact analysis to a variety of stakeholders. This highly prestigious award highlights the world-class skillsets the ECFRPC staff provide to our ever-changing region.

FLORIDA APA CONFERENCE

This year's Florida Planning Conference, hosted by the Florida Chapter of the American Planning Association, took place in Orlando, Florida. With the event in our own backyard, ECFRPC staff had a large presence at the event. Altogether ECFRPC staff took part in nearly a dozen panels, providing insights and lessons from our region to planners from across the state. The work of the ECFRPC was also highlighted in numerous other panels and sessions, including ones focused on local growth initiatives, gender equity in the workplace, and community outreach.



WELCOME OUR NEW TEAM MEMBERS

Edwin Rivera

The ECFRPC's team grew with our newest Planner I, Edwin Rivera, officially joining in October. Edwin has served as an intern for the ECFRPC since early 2021 before accepting a full-time Planner I position this fall. The onboarding of Mr. Rivera is just the latest intern to be brought on to a full-time position by the RPC. Mr. Rivera began his internship at the ECFRPC after graduating with a Bachelor's in Political Science at the University of Central Florida. He is currently in his second year in UCF's Urban and Regional Planning graduate program.

Julianna Merotto

Julianna Merotto joined the ECFRPC in December as a Resiliency Planner I. A recent UCF grad, Merotto studied Political Science and Environmental Studies. While serving as a Climate Fellow on the Audubon Florida and R2C GHG Climate Cohort, Merotto met Jenifer Rupert, the ECFRPC's Regional Resilience Officer, virtually. The two met again at the UCF Climate Teach-In, which Merotto helped organize. While at UCF, Merotto was a member of the Burnett Honors Congress. A lifelong Florida resident, Merotto grew up in South Florida, where she attended West Boca Raton High School.

Ken Storey

After serving as an intern, Ken Storey was brought on in March as the ECFRPC's Communication Specialist. Storey previously worked for a local media outlet and has covered Central Florida's growth and tourism for over a decade. In 2020, he graduated from Georgetown University with a master's in Urban and Regional Planning and also has a Master's in Applied Sociology from UCF. A graduate of Umatilla High School in Lake County, Storey is a second-generation Central Floridian.

Sai Oicata

Sai Oicata, a nationally registered paramedic, joined the East Central Florida Regional Planning Council this fall as an emergency preparedness planner. Inspired by domestic and foreign catastrophic events, her education and career are aimed at strengthening the public safety community and bridging the communication gap in disaster preparedness. Oicata holds an undergraduate degree in Emergency Management from the University of Central Florida and actively pursuing an MPA in Emergency and Crisis Management from the University of Central Florida.

Brenda Defoe-Surprenant

Brenda Defoe-Surprenant joined the ECFRPC as its new Director of Planning. In this position, Defoe-Surprenant will help ensure uniformity across the diverse work ECFRPC staff does across its eight-county region. A Florida resident for most of her life, Defoe-Surprenant has dedicated her work to ensuring the Sunshine State is a leader in sustainable development patterns.

Defoe-Surprenant has worked with partners such as the ECFRPC, the SCTPO, and FDEP. She has spent the past four years working on several coastal sustainability and resilience-based projects in Brevard County—and is well-versed in sea level rise vulnerability assessments and the impacts on infrastructure. She has served as a local partner for the East Central Florida Regional Resilience Collaborative (ECFR2C) since 2019. Defoe-Surprenant holds a bachelor's degree in fine arts and design from the University of Central Florida and a master's degree in urban planning with a specialization in sustainability from the University of Florida. She is currently pursuing a master's in legal studies specializing in environmental law at Arizona State University.

Joshua Sheldon

In early 2022, Joshua Sheldon joined as our GIS Director. In this position, Josh will help create a standard for all maps and data and increase efficiency in GIS across the work we do throughout the ECFRPC and the region.

Sheldon earned a Master's in Geographic Information Systems from the University of Central Arkansas and a Master's Certificate in Urban and Regional Planning from UCF. He also has Bachelor's from UCF in Public Administration and Urban and Regional Planning. He started his career in GIS at Data Transfer Solutions as a GIS Analyst. There he focused on asset management and creating datasets for clients nationwide. After that, he became the GIS Coordinator for the City of Deltona Public Works Department, where he implemented the use of web GIS across the city and into the hands of staff working in the field. Prior to joining the council, he was a Planning and GIS Specialist for the Volusia County School board, where he worked on school concurrency, the rezoning of schools, Volusia County Redistricting, and creating interactive maps and apps to share data and information with the public. He has easily moved into his role at the ECFRPC, and his skill set is now being harnessed across multiple projects.



DEPARTMENT UPDATES

14 RESILIENCE

18 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

23 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

27 EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS





Resilience & R2C

DIRECTOR

Jenifer Rupert

[ECFRPC.org/Resilience](https://ecfrpc.org/Resilience)

RESILIENCE

This year has been a busy one for the Resilience Program and the Regional Resilience Collaborative (R2C). We bided farewell to Tamara Pino due to her moving away from the region and welcomed Julianna Merotto to the team. The year also saw the finishing touches put on many multi-year projects and the introduction of new engagement opportunities across the region.

In early May, **more than one hundred regional leaders** from different organizations came together as part of the region's first Partnership for the Goals event. The two-day summit was a partnership between the Brookings Institution, the RPC's East Central Florida Regional Resilience Collaborative, the Central Florida Foundation, the University of Central Florida's Center for Global Environmental and Economic Opportunity, Orange County, the City of Orlando, and Florida For Good.

The theme of the Partnership for the Goals was to break from business-as-usual and leverage the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) framework as a tool for common conversation across government, philanthropic, academic, business, and civic society that often struggle to connect across professional vocabularies and organizational reference points.

In partnership with the Central Florida Foundation, the East Central Florida Regional Planning Council (ECFRPC) completed a significant **update to the CEDS dashboard**, now titled "East Central Florida's Dashboard; Tracking Community Resilience Through People, Places, and Prosperity." The update incorporates new data sets that will help provide comprehensive insight into resilience-based indicators across the eight-county region. This dashboard provides easy access and free-to-download regional and by-county indicators that spark regionwide action at levels ensuring the region continues to become more resilient.

This year also saw the R2C complete **the first region-wide greenhouse gas emissions inventory** for the baseline year of 2019. East Central Florida has an absolute Science-Based Target (SBT) of **54.3% reduction by 2030** from 2019 inventory findings in support of national and global goals to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. A High Impact Actions (HIA) analysis was completed by the R2C and ICLEI. This analysis identifies five action areas with substantial emissions reduction impacts. The R2C created an HIA resource of sustainability action and policy momentum toward emissions reduction within the region.

Resiliency by the Numbers

GHG SBT



54.3%

Science-Based Target (SBT) of 54.3% reduction by 2030 from 2019 inventory findings, in support of national and global goals to reduce greenhouse gas emission

As you cannot effectively manage what you do not measure, reducing our carbon footprint is one of the most relevant efforts our region can face head-on. A region-wide greenhouse gas emission inventory will help our region understand the scope and scale of our emissions. Emission sources and activities have been evaluated and attributed gas emissions quantified.

46,968,766
Metric Tons of CO₂e

Regional Resilience Collaborative Partners



38%

To date, the R2C totals 41 unique partners, ranging from regional local governments (i.e., counties, cities, and towns), institutions, and forward-thinking relevant organizations.

RESILIENCE



EAST CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL RESILIENCE COLLABORATIVE

The R2C embarked on a two-fold **Housing Assets and Resilient Policy** (HARP) project to increase resilience in the East Central Florida region. The Collaborative partnered with three local county governments, the University of Florida's Shimberg Center for Affordable Housing, and the Florida Housing Coalition to consider housing as a critical asset.

The R2C's **Health & Equity Advisory Committee** developed an intentional planning Equity Guide to serve as a roadmap for organizations' bottom-up implementation of people-centered, action-oriented, and inclusive principles defined in the collaborative framework.

In partnership with UCF's Dr. Chris Emrich and the collaboration of Emergency Management Directors from around the region, an **integrated climate vulnerability assessment methodology** was developed. In addition, standardized and consistent hazards, climate sensitivities, social vulnerabilities and asset datasets that can be utilized for a regionwide assessment were established.

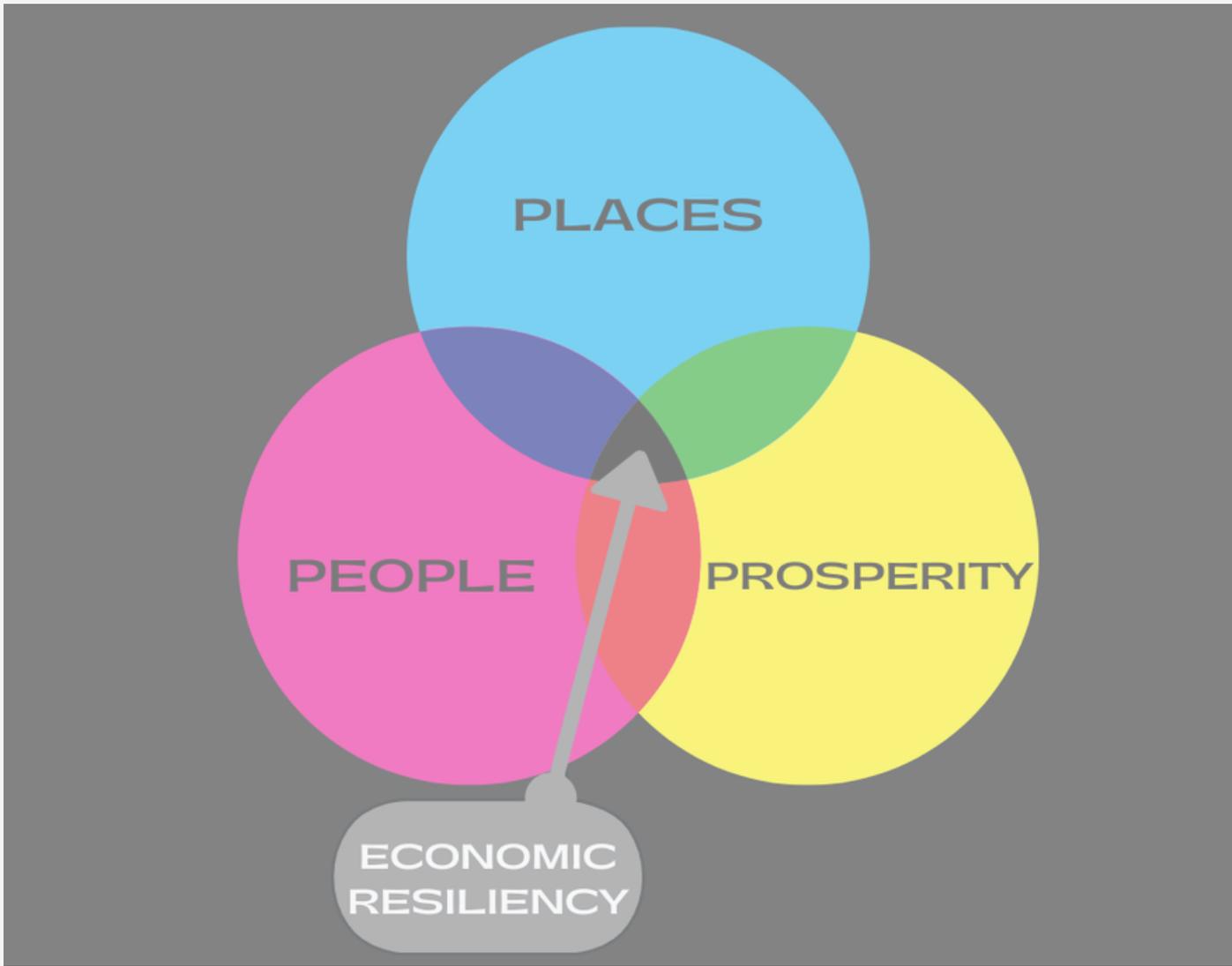
The R2C has completed its first year of CDP and Global Covenant of Mayors (GCoM) for Climate & Energy reporting as a commitment to transparency and accountability on regional climate progress. This first reporting cycle includes 2019 inventory findings and climate action planning vision.

We are happy to report this year also saw new Resilient Florida funding that will help the R2C in many of its priorities, including;

- Developing an Integrated Risk Assessment for the Region- Risk & Vulnerability Technical Advisory Committee
- Founding a Climate Action Plan- Regional Greenhouse Gas Reduction Advisory Committee
- Growing its Heat, Health, & Violence Advisory Committee
- Increasing its focus on Affordable Housing & Solid Waste Facilities
- And helping found a Priority Natural Resources Area Identification, Lake County- Green, Gray, & Blue Infrastructure Technical Advisory Committee

With these projects, and many others, 2023 is promising to be another busy year for the Resilience program and the R2C.





Economic Development

DIRECTOR

Luis Nieves-Ruiz

ECFRPC.org/EconomicDevelopment

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Brownfields

East Central Florida (E.C.F.) Brownfields Coalition is an E.P.A.-funded grant project that supports the completion of Environmental Site Assessments (E.S.A.s) on perceived brownfield sites, which enable brownfield redevelopment. This economic development tool enhances local economies and community quality. Brownfields are land properties where their re-use may be complicated due to the presence of hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants. Brownfield revitalization helps to protect the environment, reduce blight, and take development pressures off greenspaces and working lands.

The E.C.F. Brownfields Program is led by the Brownfield Coalition, composed of members of various local governments, non-profit organizations, and individuals ready to tackle brownfields in their communities. While the Coalition Cities of the program include the Cities of **Apopka, Eustis, Kissimmee, and Longwood**, other cities such as **Melbourne and Palm Bay** have also benefited from the Coalition.

While E.S.A.s are permitted and encouraged in any E.C.F. community, the Orange Blossom Trail Corridor/U.S. 441 (O.B.T.) inspired the Coalition. The corridor is still one of the primary North/South routes through Central Florida. Once carrying more traffic than any other Florida thoroughfare in the 1950s-1960s, by the 1990s, the corridor was rife with issues and vacant businesses. This project seeks to invigorate new development to usher in a new era for the O.B.T. corridor and surrounding communities.

The Coalition has accomplished various tasks, such as supporting the completion of E.S.A.s in the region with **21 Phase I's and 4 Phase II's** that amount to **\$458,800**; and leading the Brownfield Advisory Committee, which supports public outreach for the program with on-site outreach and educational materials.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

CEDS

The Economic Development Staff completed the five-year update of the East Central Florida CEDS document. The 2022 update provides a **more in-depth discussion** of several of the region's innovation clusters based on data developed for the Industry Clusters Study. Defined as a regional concentration of inter-related industries that export their goods and services, industries such as **Antennas, Turbines, Boating, Aviation, Model & Simulation, and Photonics** have been at the lead of the economic push for the region. These industries have specific components that go hand-in-hand with whichever product or service is given, such as suppliers, machinery manufacturing, custom parts, and more. These industries employ an average of 42,000 East Central Florida residents.

1.8 MILLION NEW RESIDENTS (1995-2020)

(REMI)

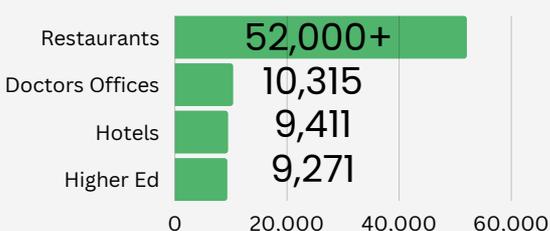
81% Growth in 25 Years

93 Industries gained at least 1K employees between 1995-2020

Moreover, staff incorporated the goals and strategies developed by the Collaborative's Economic Resiliency Taskforce, with strategies for identifying economic vulnerabilities and investing in emerging and green programs and industries.

In the middle of 2022, the E.D.D. staff also assisted Osceola County in submitting the second phase of the Build Back Better Challenge. The Economic Development Administration awarded the county \$50.8 million for the NeoCity project, a commercial/industrial development that will help to advance the nation's semiconductor manufacturing capabilities. Soon after, the E.D.D. held a meeting with Osceola County to join the project's Governing Board.

The Top Four are



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

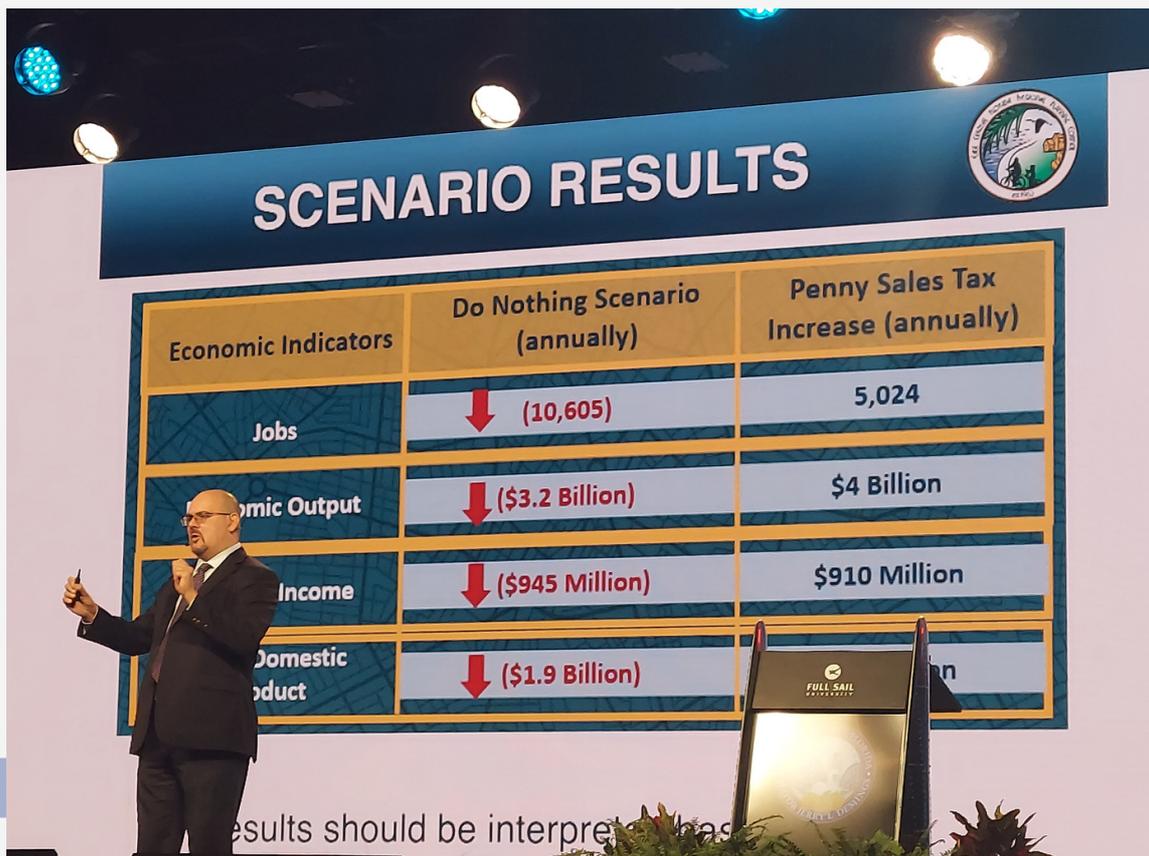
Economic Impact Analysis

Orange County Penny Sales Tax for Transit Initiative

The Economic Impact Analysis of the Penny Sales Tax Increase that the ECFRPC prepared for the Orange County government was a high-priority project for the RPC team. During this reporting period, EDD presented the results of this project at the Orange County Economic Summit (April), WTS-Opportunities Roads in Orange County luncheon (July), Rethinking the City (August), and the Orange County League of Women Voters Hot Topics Luncheon (September).

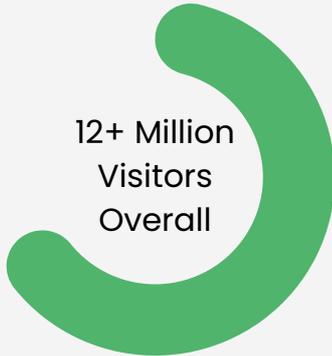
The Report conducted two scenarios using a 20-year timeframe: The “Do Nothing” scenario estimates the economic consequences of doing nothing to address the County’s transportation congestion problems. The ECFRPC then developed a second simulation that estimates the economic impact that the penny sales tax increase could have on Orange County’s economy.

In the image below, Luis Nieves-Ruiz presents the Penny Sales Tax analysis at the 2022 Orange County Regional Economic Summit.



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

4.5 Million Overnight
Visitors



8.2 Million day visitors

International Drive

The annual update to the International Drive Economic Analysis was completed in October, observing the 2021 fiscal year. With population growth in the region, multiple residential units (single-family homes and apartments) have been or will be built in the district. I-Drive's residential land now comprises 8.8% of the overall district, with 26,675 residents living in the fast-paced district. I-Drive accounts for more than 90,000 jobs and 1,800+ businesses, the majority in the Leisure and Hospitality and Retail Industries.

\$13.9 billion in Property Tax Revenue
\$5.5 billion Visitor Expenditure

Cape Canaveral Sea Level Rise

EDD staff is finishing its contributions to the two-year Karl Havens Memorial South Atlantic Regional Research on Coastal Community Resilience Grant. As part of this project, the ECFRPC used the REMI Policy Insight (REMI PI+) software to estimate the total cost of sea level rise in the City of Cape Canaveral over sixty years. This economic impact is based on three variables: loss of value of flooded properties, loss of businesses, and population flight. Because sea level rise is a long and cumulative process, staff forecasted the increases in property values and business sales from 2023-2080 based on 2022 values. Staff presented the preliminary results of this research at the 2022 REMI Users Conference in October. Flooding in the area, as seen in the image below of Fillmore Ave., has become a critical concern as the region looks to expand its economic offerings.





Community Planning

DIRECTOR

Brenda Brenda Defoe-Surprenant ECFRPC.org/Planning

COMMUNITY PLANNING

FDEP Resilient Florida Grant Program

In the 2021 session, the Florida Senate established CS/SB 1954 (Statewide Flooding and Sea Level Rise Resilience) to develop criteria to help inland and coastal communities prepare for flooding and sea level rise. Through the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) Resilient Florida Grant Program, communities can apply for funding to conduct a vulnerability assessment to better understand their risks. The standards create a framework for communities to assess critical assets and analyze their exposure and sensitivity to water hazards via criteria listed in F.S. section 380.093.

The ECFRPC will be partnering with several local municipalities to conduct vulnerability assessments and will continue to work with local governments to standardize the assessment methodology and provide recommendations that address the impacts of flooding and sea level rise in the region. Current partners include the City of Satellite Beach; the City of Palm Bay; the City of Ormond Beach; the Town of Ponce Inlet; and Volusia County.

5

Vulnerability
Assessments
currently
underway

Low-Impact Development (LID) & Green Infrastructure

planning projects are now underway,
including;

- City of Cape Canaveral National Science Foundation (NSF) Civic Grant,
- Brevard County Sea Grant,
- Orange County Sea Grant,
- Lake County Conservation/JPA Project,
- Volusia County LID project
- with others expected to start in 2022/2023

COMMUNITY PLANNING

Community Development Projects

The ECFRPC continues to provide technical planning assistance to local partners. Throughout 2022, the RPC has partnered with: the City of Apopka, the City of Cocoa; the City of Deland; the City of Clermont; the City of Lake Helen; the City of Wildwood; the City of Winter Springs, the City of Titusville; and Volusia County. The RPC also continues to partner and assist with projects related to conservation planning, low-impact development, and green stormwater infrastructure.

The ECFRPC provided technical planning assistance to the City of Clermont to complete the Evaluation and Appraisal Report (EAR). Local governments are required to undergo an EAR of the Comprehensive Plan every seven years pursuant to Section 163.3191, Florida Statutes. The purpose of the evaluation is to analyze the Comprehensive Plan Goals, Objectives, and Policies (GOPs) to ensure compliance with changes to state law and local conditions.

Unanimous!

The City of Clermont City Council voted to unanimously adopt the Evaluation and Appraisal Report (EAR) produced in partnership with the ECFRPC

The analysis included proposed amendments to the GOPs, which are considered EAR-based amendments, and data reflecting changes in local conditions, including, but not limited to, the following: population growth, change in incorporated land area, and vacant and developable land analysis. The EAR was unanimously adopted by City Council 5-0.

9 local governments used the ECFRPC's technical planning assistance expertise in 2021/2022



Emergency Preparedness

DIRECTOR

Michelle Cechowski

[ECFRPC.org/EmergencyManagement](https://www.ecfrpc.org/EmergencyManagement)

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

URBAN SEARCH AND RESCUE COMMUNITY RESPONSE

The Emergency Preparedness staff at the ECFRPC also serve as first responders within our state. Michelle Cechowski is a planning manager for Central Florida's **Urban Search & Rescue Team Task Force 4** (TF4), and Sai Oicata is a member of the National Disaster Medical System's (local) **Disaster Medical Assistance Team** (DMAT). Michelle deployed twice recently with TF4: Hurricane Ida in Louisiana from August 30, 2021, to September 4, 2021, and to both Charlotte and Lee Counties in response to Hurricane Ian from September 28, 2022, through October 11, 2022. (See her photo on our back page from a storm survey flight she took during her Ian deployment.) Sai also deployed to Lee County with DMAT for Hurricane Ian from October 11-24, 2022.

LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE (LEPC) COORDINATOR



The ECFRPC continued to serve as the Coordinator of the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) in 2021/2022. The LEPC helps to coordinate regional hazardous materials response needs and assists in supporting and providing opportunities for training, exercises, and evaluation. The East Central Florida LEPC is one of ten in the state of Florida. The LEPC meets quarterly to discuss planning, training, and the reporting of hazardous material and toxic chemicals.

BREVARD, ORANGE, OSCEOLA, AND SUMTER HAZARD ANALYSIS

ECFRPC Emergency Preparedness staff assisted Brevard, Orange, Osceola, and Sumter Counties by conducting **72 virtual site visits** of facilities reporting extremely hazardous substances. Due to the ongoing pandemic, the state allowed modifications to be made to accommodate those facilities whose staff was virtual or had visitation restrictions. Information collected during these virtual site visits is sent to local fire departments, emergency management offices, and the state for compliance purposes.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

594

first responders were trained during the calendar year.

360

Hours of training during the calendar year

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS (HMEP) GRANT

The ECFRPC received \$135,125.23 to train first responders in transportation-related hazardous materials incidents. This is an annual grant program in which the ECFRPC participates. Activities of the 2021-22 program include various hazardous materials classroom and hands-on trainings, "How to Comply" classes for facilities reporting Extremely Hazardous Substances (EHSs), and FEMA's Incident Command System (ICS) trainings for a total of 19 (nineteen) different trainings over the twelve-month period.

FLORIDA HAZARDOUS MATERIALS SYMPOSIUM

The ECFRPC is the lead organization of the annual Florida Hazardous Materials Symposium held in Daytona Beach every January. The FL HazMat Symposium is a conference that includes classroom courses, hands-on trainings, and a HazMat Team competition for first responders from all regions of Florida and all over the United States. The specific mission is to enhance, and better train/educate first responders, first receivers, manufacturers, and industry partners regarding hazardous materials response, mitigation, prevention, and safety through classroom and hands-on trainings.

The 9th Annual Florida Hazardous Materials Symposium was held on January 18-21, 2022, and hosted 577 people who participated in this event, which included 68 training sessions (188 hours) and 59 instructors. There were seven (7) HazMat Teams who competed in the competition. For the second year in a row, first and second place were from our region! Orange County Fire Rescue took first place, the City of Orlando Fire Department took second place, and Palm Beach County Fire Department came in third place.



PHOTO CREDIT

Many of the photos used in this year's Annual Report come from submissions to our annual photo calendar. These photos represent the diversity and desirability that make our region thrive. We're honored to have so many talented photographers in our region. If you're interested in submitting for our 2024 Calendar, please watch our website in late summer for details on our next photo calendar.

1,2

Making a Splash

Submitted by The City of Groveland

3

Night Launch

Submitted by Brevard County

8

Sunset at Lake Washington

Submitted by Brevard County

10

Lake David Golden Hour

Submitted by The City of Groveland

14

The Color

Submitted by James Gray

23

A SunRail Sunrise

Submitted by Andrew Clem

27

Road Cleanup Crew

Submitted by Marion County

All other photos taken by ECFRPC staff.

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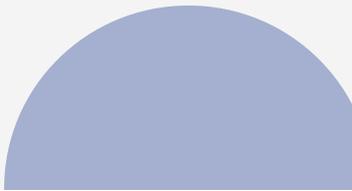
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**THANK
YOU
FOR A
GREAT
2022**

