



Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization
For the Gainesville and Alachua County Area

VII. Action Item G



Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization

For the Gainesville and Alachua County Area

February 26, 2025

MEETING MEMORANDUM

To: Metropolitan Transportation
Planning Organization Board

From: Brad Thoburn

Subject: **Transportation Disadvantaged Resolution**

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization adopts the updated Transportation Disadvantaged Resolution authorizing North Central Florida Regional Planning Council (NCFRPC) to serve as support staff to the MTPO in administering its duties and function as the Designated Official Planning Agency (DOPA) for Alachua County for the Transportation Disadvantaged Program.

BACKGROUND

The MTPO is the DOPA for Alachua County. The North Central Florida Regional Planning Council (NCFRPC) has historically served as staff to the MTPO in providing DOPA administrative functions. In the MTPO Board Meeting on December 2, 2025, the MTPO voted to pass a resolution designating the NCFRPC as DOPA for Alachua County. However, the Commission for Transportation Disadvantaged has informed that the MTPO does not have the authorization to designate the NCFRPC as the DOPA in its place mid-cycle. Therefore, the Transportation Disadvantaged Resolution has been updated to state that the NCFRPC will serve as staff to the MTPO in providing DOPA administrative functions with the intent that the NCFRPC may become the official DOPA designated by the Commission for Transportation Disadvantaged for their next grant cycle beginning July 1, 2025.

A letter submitted by the Commission for Transportation Disadvantaged has been included as an attachment.

Attachment



February 28, 2025

Ron DeSantis
Governor

Monia Russell
Chairperson

Melissa Smith
Vice Chairperson

Karen Somerset
Interim Executive Director

Mr. Scott Koons, Executive Director
North Central Florida Regional Planning Council
2009 NW 87th Place
Gainesville, Florida 32653

RE: Transportation Disadvantaged Program
Designated Official Planning Agency
Alachua County

Dear Scott,

Thank you for sharing the information about the Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization for the Gainesville Urbanized Area (MTPO) adopting Resolution No. 2024-08 at its December 2, 2024, meeting.

I would like to clarify that the MTPO does not have the authority to designate the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council (NCFRPC) as the Designated Official Planning Agency (DOPA) for the Alachua County Transportation Disadvantaged Program. The Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged (CTD) holds that authority.

As per CTD's process, each agency involved must submit written documentation regarding their board's decision on the DOPA designation. Agencies must indicate whether they wish to continue serving as the DOPA, relinquish it, or assume the role.

Therefore, the adoption of the MTPO's resolution does not directly impact the DOPA designation. The MTPO for the Gainesville Urbanized Area remains the DOPA for Alachua County. If the MTPO wishes to relinquish its DOPA designation, it must notify the CTD in writing and may recommend an agency for consideration. Any agency seeking to assume the DOPA role must formally express this to the CTD. Please note that the CTD, at its next business meeting, must approve any changes to the DOPA designation before they can be finalized. We suggest addressing this prior to the start of the new grant cycle in July 2025 to ensure a smooth transition.

Mr. Scott Coons
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We encourage continued collaboration with the MTPO to support the Alachua County Transportation Disadvantaged Program. While the NCFRPC is not the DOPA, it can still provide valuable staff support through an agreement with the MTPO.

Please let me know if you have any questions or need further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Karen Somerset". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Karen" being more prominent than the last name "Somerset".

Karen Somerset
Interim Executive Director

cc: Cynthia Moore Chestnut, Chair, MTPO
Doreen Joyner-Howard, District 2 Modal Development Manager, FDOT
Achaia Brown, District 2 Urban Planning Manager, FDOT
Lynn Franson, Senior Planner, NCFRPC
Dan Zeruto, Area 3 Project Manager, CTD

Resolution 2025-02

A RESOLUTION OF THE METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION FOR THE GAINESVILLE URBANIZED AREA AUTHORIZING THE NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL TO PROVIDE STAFF TO PERFORM THE ADMINISTRATIVE FUNCTIONS OF THE DESIGNATED OFFICIAL PLANNING AGENCY FOR THE TRANSPORTATION DISADVANTAGED PROGRAM FOR ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA; REPEALING ALL RESOLUTIONS IN CONFLICT; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE

WHEREAS, Chapter 427, Florida Statutes and Rule 41-2.009, Florida Administrative Code designates metropolitan planning organizations as designated official planning agencies for the Transportation Disadvantaged Program in urbanized areas;

WHEREAS, the designated official planning agency is responsible for Transportation Disadvantaged Program planning and providing the local Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board with sufficient staff support and resources to enable the Board to fulfill its responsibilities;

WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization for the Gainesville Urbanized Area is the designated official planning agency for the Transportation Disadvantaged Program for Alachua County, Florida;

WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization for the Gainesville Urbanized Area desires to authorize the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council to provide staff to perform the administrative functions of the designated official planning agency in order to provide support to the transportation disadvantaged service project in Alachua County, Florida.

WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization for the Gainesville Urbanized Area supports the designation of the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council as the designated official planning agency for Alachua County, Florida beginning with the next contract cycle starting on July 1, 2025.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION FOR THE GAINESVILLE URBANIZED AREA:

1. That the Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization for the Gainesville Urbanized Area hereby authorizes the execution of an agreement with the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council to perform the administrative functions of the designated official planning agency for the Transportation Disadvantaged Program in Alachua County, Florida.
2. That Resolution 2024-08 is repealed and resolutions or portions of resolutions in conflict with this resolution are hereby repealed to the extent of such conflict.
3. That this resolution shall take effect retroactively beginning December 2, 2024, until June 30, 2025.
4. That the Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization for the Gainesville Urbanized Area will support the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council in request to be designated by the Commission for Transportation Disadvantaged to become the designated official planning council for Alachua County, Florida beginning July 1, 2025.

Passed and duly adopted by the Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization Board on this 5th day of March 2025.

**Metropolitan Transportation Planning
Organization**

Attest:

By:_____

By:_____

Marihelen Wheeler, Chair

Missy Daniels, Assistant County Manager

APPROVED AS TO FORM

(Name, Attorney)

Metropolitan Transportation Planning
Organization for the Gainesville Urbanized
Area