

ARPC BOARD NOTES MARCH 2025



ARPC has established a resilience collaborative for the Region, Apalachee Strong. With funding made possible through a grant by the American Flood Coalition, all nine of the Apalachee Region's member counties along with the City of Tallahassee eagerly joined the collaborative. The initiative started in November of 2020, with the adoption of the ARPC's Memorandum of Understanding that outlines the need for a collaborative approach in tackling resilience issues.

The goal of the collaborative is to help cities and towns across the Panhandle advance adaptation efforts and support resilience projects and ultimately see a return on investment in our communities. The collaborative serves as a centralized forum for resilience related initiatives in the Region. By identifying resiliency deficiencies at the regional level, valuable projects can be developed, and appropriate grants can be pursued.

One of the first grants that the ARPC pursued under the collaborative is the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Resilient Florida Grant Program, through the Office of Resilience and Coastal Protection. The grant program was established in 2021 by Senate Bill 1954 and allows regional resilience coalitions to coordinate solutions to sea level rise and flooding. ARPC utilized the grant funding to develop a regional vulnerability analysis, used to prioritize projects for inclusion in the Statewide Flooding and Sea Level Rise Resilience Plan.

As resiliency efforts become ever more crucial throughout the Region, ARPC is ready to bridge the gap. Resiliency Officers Divina Lade and Josh Adams will be leading the charge, ensuring that the communities throughout the Apalachee Region are fully prepared for the challenges of tomorrow.

With funding recently awarded by DEP to convene regional meetings of Apalachee Strong, an official kickoff meeting has been scheduled for May 22.

**MARCH
2025**

AWARD WINNING SOFTWARE LAUNCHED

Commuters in the Florida panhandle have just been handed a powerful new tool to help them find and schedule commuter transportation for work, technical school, or college.

Funded by the Florida Department of Transportation, the RideOn program serves to help achieve a longtime goal of reducing the number of single occupant vehicles here in Florida. The RideOn app is available at no cost to Floridians and provides access to information and scheduling for a multitude of commuting options from carpooling and vanpooling to scheduled transit routes and even recommended walking and bicycling routes.

“This app gives users the power to find, schedule, and log all their commutes”, said Tom Thompson, Commuting Coordinator at ARPC. “Fewer cars on the road and in parking lots is great for all of us,” he added, “but saving money and getting free stuff by using the app is awesome.”

The RideOn team is working hard to constantly foster new partnerships with employers, commuters, transportation providers, and institutions of higher learning to provide options and support for everyone who will benefit from this initiative. For more information, please visit www.rideontogether.org.



GET STARTED!

Staff created a new website to compliment the upgraded commuter platform.



VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENTS

ARPC staff has mapped potential flood impacts over the years 2040 and 2070 for Franklin and Gadsden County. Based on the types of impacts, such as storm surge or general flooding, recommendations are being generated for the asset types including transportation, community and emergency facilities, infrastructure, and historical natural resources. These assets are vulnerable to flooding and sea level rise, which can have economic, social, and environmental impacts.

CONGRATULATIONS COMMISSIONER MINOR!

Congratulations! Selected as one of 14 local elected officials nationwide, Leon County Commissioner Minor will participate in Smart Growth America's 2025 Champions Institute. The champions will come together to learn, develop, and advance efforts to improve community design. Staff assisted in reviewing the application that Commissioner Minor put together. Please let us know what sort of opportunities interest you so that we may be of further assistance.

HOW CAN WE HELP?

ARPC proudly serves as a dedicated catalyst for responsible growth and development in the Apalachee Region of Florida. Our dedicated staff work closely with local governments, community organizations, and stakeholders on a variety of challenges, developing innovative solutions from a Regional perspective. Fully committed to collaboration and community engagement, ARPC is better able to position our member governments, creating access and leverage for funding. Our dedicated team works tirelessly to address the unique challenges and opportunities that shape the landscape of our communities.



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING

GEOSPATIAL PLANNING

TRANSPORTATION PLANNING

EMERGENCY PLANNING

HOUSING

GROWTH MANAGEMENT

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



ARPC.ORG

850.488.6211

LOCAL PARTNERSHIPS REGIONAL IMPACT



APALACHEE REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL ECONOMIC IMPACT DASHBOARD

ARPC works diligently to improve the quality of life throughout the Apalachee Region! For a more in-depth look at the impact ARPC continues to have, check out this geographical representation of the funding that ARPC secures for the Region, and how it is being distributed!

WELCOME TO THE TEAM!

As ARPC continues to grow, our staff exponentially expands upon our efforts to improve quality of life throughout the Region. We are thrilled to welcome Brianna Williams to the team as a full time employee! Ms. Williams served as an intern previously and we are lucky to keep her on the team!

ARPC staff are currently working on an annual update of the Apalachee Regional Economic Development Strategy. For more information on this process or how to participate, please contact Caroline Smith, ARPC Economic Development Manager, at csmith@arpc.org.



GRANT UPDATES

USDOT SAFE STREETS FOR ALL: ARPC Economic Development staff partnered with ARPC Transportation staff to apply for multi-year project funding to create a Regional Safety Action Plan that would complement work currently underway for the Rural Regional Transportation Plan (RRTP). ARPC was awarded 2-year federal funding in the amount of \$497,839, however the funding has been frozen since the announcement of the award. Staff is awaiting further instruction from USDOT.

U.S. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION (EDA) DISASTER RECOVERY COORDINATION GRANT: ARPC staff applied for and received a 5-year federal funding award for \$500,000 to conduct disaster resiliency work in the Region. A variety of activities will be conducted under this funding, including an overhaul of the Apalachee Online website.

REGIONAL RURAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN
Staff has completed the RRTP and submitted to FDOT. The contract has been extended for maintenance and updates.

NEXT ARPC BOARD MEETING: MAY 29TH, 2025

