

The East Central Florida Regional Resilience Collaborative
Memorandum of Understanding

This memorandum of understanding (MOU) is entered into on this 4th day of September, 2020 among the undersigned members of the East Central Florida Region. All Parties are collectively referred to as the members or collaborative members.

Recalling the East Central Florida Regional Planning Council's (ECFRPC) resolution 03-2018 of 19 September 2018, in which the unanimous decision was made by the ECFRPC Board to support a program to convene stakeholders across disciplines and the East Central Florida region to develop the framework for a regional resilience collaborative, herein including the undersigned Members that include government agencies and entities that serve the eight counties and municipalities of Brevard, Lake, Marion, Orange, Osceola, Seminole, Sumter, and Volusia:

- 1. Express profound gratitude to the East Central Florida Regional Planning Council, Council Sub-Committee and Steering Committee, who have articulated the importance of establishing a collaborative framework for action and are committed to implementing resilience measures as a guiding principle to enhance the efforts of our local jurisdictions, individually and collectively, for the future; and**

- 2. Endorse the East Central Florida Regional Resilience Collaborative and the aforementioned resolution, which is contained in Annex I to the present resolution.**

WHEREAS, the East Central Florida Region is home to more than 4.1 million residents as of 2018, approximately 20% of the population of the State of Florida, includes two of the four majority-minority counties in the State, hosts over 60 million visitors annually, and comprises one of the fastest growing metropolitan areas in the United States; and

WHEREAS, while the East Central Florida Region remains a service-driven economy where 45% of households qualify as asset-limited, income-constrained, employed according to the United Way's 2018 ALICE report, it is also considered a globally competitive marketplace ranking 38th in the nation according to the Stats America Innovation Index, and is a top ten metropolitan region for various patenting technologies thus indicating a high level of innovation, driving wealth creation in the region; and

WHEREAS, according to the East Central Florida Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy, the region has seven innovation clusters including tourism; aviation and aerospace; boats and other marine vessels; photonics; turbines; modeling, simulation and training; and telecommunications; which positions the region for a diversified and transformative future workforce and economy; and

WHEREAS, water and natural resources are the foundation of communities and eco-tourism in the East Central Florida region and the protection of this biodiversity, its ecosystem services and the economic interdependencies are a critical issue facing the region; and

WHEREAS, recent weather, natural and manmade events have resulted in increasing shocks and stressors to our economy, human security, health and equity, natural environment and built infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, vulnerable and underserved people in our region are disproportionately impacted from the aforementioned events and from on-going stressors to their human security; and

WHEREAS, additional and enhanced regional approaches are needed to build on current efforts and increase adaptive capacities to improve resilience in confronting shocks and stressors; and

WHEREAS, this adaptation toward resilience must provide for the region's people, places, and prosperity in ways that promote mutual progress addressing risk exposure and vulnerability in conjunction with sustainability goals; and

WHEREAS, to support further all efforts that continue to mitigate the increasing impacts of hazards and their complexity in the region, we must elevate ways to work cooperatively across disciplines to identify issues, using existing mitigation strategy research with additional technical expertise to identify ways to improve resiliency, while supporting the local mitigation strategy and post disaster recovery planning to include input to measure continual improvement in the process; and

WHEREAS, the East Central Florida 2060 Strategic Regional Policy Plan identifies effects from climate change to our water availability, agriculture and food security, public health, infrastructure, natural resources, ecosystems services, and economy, and all are therefore appropriate subjects for this regional resilience effort; and

WHEREAS, the resilience of East Central Florida Region's people, places and prosperity rely on interconnected and multi-modal transportation infrastructure, including the spaceport, space center, seaport, trails, rail and other transit systems, roadways and airports; and

WHEREAS, promoting safe, affordable transportation, attainable housing choices, opportunities for safe physical activity, green and open spaces, local food systems, and clean energy use improves health outcomes and contributes to a region that is equitable and prosperous; and

WHEREAS, promoting high-performing, energy-efficient and resilience targets and policies for our built infrastructure reduces the region's risks and vulnerabilities; and

WHEREAS, promoting sustainable development that includes compact urban centers, preservation of agricultural landscapes, interconnected, multi-modal corridors, conservation areas, decreases the carbon footprint, increases our Members' fiscal sustainability and minimalizes conflicts in 'wildland and urban interface' areas, further supporting emergency management efforts; and

WHEREAS, the East Central Florida Region provides shelter during the evacuation of surrounding areas in times of disaster, and must plan effectively to accommodate future migration from high hazard areas; and

WHEREAS, good health is essential and instrumental to human survival, livelihood and dignity, and addressing health disparities and externalities will foster advances in our health systems, increase access to services, and build a more resilient region; and

WHEREAS, collaborating with public and private partners across jurisdictional boundaries will improve human and energy security and increase access to clean and affordable resources and sources of electricity and water; and

WHEREAS, several of our jurisdictions and agencies have taken steps to become more sustainable and resilient while continuing to advance economically and socially, all parties recognize that a coordinated and collaborative approach building on current efforts will best serve the region; and

WHEREAS, the development and success of a regional resilience collaborative depends on participation and commitment from cooperative networks and partnerships with local governments, federal, state and regional agencies, educational institutions, non-government organizations, philanthropic organizations, businesses, civil society, and other stakeholders to raise the level of our resilience; and

WHEREAS, this collaborative approach will position the region, jurisdictions and agencies to plan better for resilience, meet state and federal regulations and guidelines, and enable greater access to long-term financing sources;

NOW, THEREFORE, we call all stakeholders to action, aware that the realization of the new resiliency framework depends especially on our unceasing and tireless collective efforts to make the region and state more resilient in the decades to come for the benefit of our own and future generations, **BE IT RESOLVED**, BY THE East Central Florida Regional Planning Council and the MEMBERS AS SIGNED BELOW, EACH MEMBER SHALL COMMIT TO THE FOLLOWING WITHIN BUDGET CONSTRAINTS:

- **Regional Cooperation – Create Productive Connectivity -**
Each member shall commit appropriate staff resources and expertise to participate with other members in facilitating and advancing the work of the Regional Resilience Collaborative. A steering committee appointed by the ECFRPC will identify and report on opportunities for providing sustainable solutions for the current and future resilience of our built and natural environment, economy, and health and equity. The steering committee will draw on strategies and processes that address resilience, organize and direct integrated scientific and other technical research and analysis, and organize and structure its work and procedures toward these ends.

- Regional Resiliency Action Plan -

Each member shall work collaboratively to develop a Regional Resilience Action Plan that will identify specific initiatives with supportive and actionable data.

- Legislative Strategy -

Each member shall work to align individual decisions and policies in service of a shared legislative regional resilience strategy developed by the Regional Resilience Collaborative.

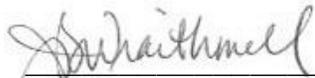
- Community Involvement -

Each member shall work collaboratively to recognize and engage the regional community, involving a diverse stakeholder representation in developing policies and recommendations for implementation of the Regional Resilience Action Plan.

- Annual Summit -

Each member shall participate in an annual regional summit to share knowledge, resources, and progress on the collaboration. In addition, the East Central Florida Regional Resilience Collaborative will coordinate with other coalitions in the State of Florida to identify opportunities and fulfill the specific initiatives of the Regional Resilience Action Plan and collaborative.

Approved for signature by



Julie Wraithmell
Executive Director
Audubon Florida

4 September 2020