



Marion County Board of County Commissioners

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April 18, 2022

SENT VIA EMAIL

Benjamin M. Melnick, Deputy Secretary
Division of Community Development
Florida Department of Economic Opportunity
107 East Madison Street, MSC 160
Tallahassee, FL 32399-4120

RE: How Did We Grow Regional Listening Sessions and Recommendation Plan

Dear Mr. Melnick:

Please accept this letter on behalf of the Marion County Board of County Commissioners in support of the East Central Florida Regional Planning Council's proposal to the FDEO Community Planning Technical Assistance Grant program for conducting Regional Listening Sessions for enhancing the implementation of the How Shall We Grow (HSWG) regional growth vision. This proposal aims to support the East Central Florida Regional Planning Council continue the work conducted over the past two years to evaluate and support the progress of implementing the HSWG regional growth vision, based on the needs of the community.

The activities presented in this proposal will continue to engage stakeholders toward implementation of the HSWG and will develop a recommendation report with actions for supporting the region's communities to enhance regional prosperity by implementing the 4 "Cs" of HSWG: Conservation, Countryside, Corridors, and Centers.

The Marion County Board of County Commissioners acknowledges how integral these types of collaboration events are to sharing ideas and working through challenges and opportunities concerning the region's economic future. We are fully supportive of the efforts proposed by the ECFRPC to continue to engage elected leadership, staff, and the public in dialogue related to the implementation of activities in the growth vision.

The Marion County Board of County Commissioners supports this project and strongly encourages the FDEO to fully fund this proposal to continue this important work.
Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,


Carl Zalak, III, Chairman