



**Bill Braswell, Chairman**  
Commissioner, District 3

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*Board of County Commissioners*

May 7, 2024

Meredith Ivey  
Deputy Director  
Florida Commerce  
Division of Community Planning  
107 East Madison Street  
Caldwell Building, MSC 160  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-4120

**Re: Letter of Support for Proposal for Technical Assistance Grant for the Four Corners Future Growth and Collaborative Strategic Planning Project**

Dear Ms. Ivey,

I am writing this letter in support of the East Central Florida Regional Planning Council's (ECFRPC) grant request under the Technical Assistance Grant program for funding to create a Strategic Planning Recommendation Report for the future growth and collaboration within the Four Corners area of Central Florida. The ECFRPC will be partnering with Lake, Polk, Osceola, and Orange counties, as well as local residents, businesses, and other stakeholders, in the creation of recommendations.

The rapid growth of this area is an issue of great importance to Polk County, as it has created increasing infrastructure needs, disconnection of services and representation of residents in the area, and the need to balance growth with the preservation of the Green Swamp Area of Critical State Concern.

The Four Corners is a Census designated place (CDP) (also known as Citrus Ridge) located around the intersection of Interstate-4 and U.S. Highway 27, and includes lands within the area where Lake, Polk, Osceola, and Orange counties intersect in Central Florida. The area has more than doubled in population between the 2010 and 2020 censuses, with an estimated 2020 Census population of 56,381 people. The Four Corners Census Designated Place has a powerful draw to visiting tourists, retirees and working-age families desiring housing with access to all the Orlando job market has to offer. The lack of centralized political representation for the area adds to the challenge of managing growth, service provision, and environmental management in this area.

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The proposed project is comprised of three (3) main tasks including: an existing conditions analysis and projections for future growth; opportunities for stakeholders to provide input through in-person events and on-line surveys; and a final *Recommendations Report* offering recommendations for the future growth, managing services, and cohesive representation of the Four Corners. The project findings and report will be presented to each county board for acceptance within six (6) months of completion of the grant.

If approved, the project would commence July 1 and the ECFRPC would provide completed deliverables to Florida Commerce by the end of May, 2025.

The ECFRPC has a proven track record of collaboration and project development for unique visioning projects such as the one proposed here-in. Because of this, as well as the need for such coordinated effort as documented above, Polk County supports this grant application.

Sincerely,

Bill Braswell, Chairman  
County Commissioner, District 3