


080468

TO: Community Development Committee

FROM: Erik A. Bredfeldt, Planning and Development Services Director 

DATE: January 13, 2011

SUBJECT: Review of City Commission Strategic Initiative 2.7
Committee - Pending Referral # 080468

Strategic Initiative 2.7, adopted in October, 2008, under the City Commission's Economic Development and Redevelopment Goal, focuses on efforts to, *"improve coordination with Alachua County in order to more effectively plan and develop Gainesville's Urban Reserve area"* and lists consistency between the City and County regarding transportation, land use, environmental and annexation policy as critical success measures.

This Strategic Initiative has as its foundation Comprehensive Plan policies that support the continuation and initiation of annexations within the City's Urban Reserve Area.

Objective 1.2 of the Plan's Intergovernmental Coordination Element and its supporting policies 1.2.1, 1.2.2 and 1.2.3 speak to the City's commitment to moving forward with annexations as well as the intent to coordinate with Alachua County regarding the provision of services and the pursuit of certain annexation goals.

Future Land Use Element Objective 4.4 and supporting policies 4.4.1 – 4.4.4 speaks to mechanical issues involved with annexation inclusive of implementation of land use designation, level of standard considerations and application of the TCEA.

Over the last few years, this strategic initiative has been implemented in an ad hoc but also planned manner.

On an ad hoc basis it has been advanced through various annexation initiatives or staff planning projects such as Butler Plaza, SW 20th Avenue, the Urban Village, review of the Environmental Ordinance, review of the County's Long Term Transportation Concurrency efforts and the review of respective City and County Evaluation and Appraisal Reports.

For a time, in a more planned manner, under the City/County jointly adopted Orderly Plan for Annexation, various City and County staff members met regularly to discuss future annexation opportunities, particularly those involving larger spatial areas surrounding the City limits and lying with the City's Urban Reserve area. However, since the Eastside annexation's failure in 2010, and subsequent State of Florida legislation enacted restricting local governments from advocating/spending on issues that may be placed on referendum, these regular meetings have been curtailed.

As a result, staff seeks guidance on how to pursue the City Commission's policy direction (with respect to this Commission's Strategic Initiative as well as Comprehensive Plan Objectives/Policies) in the future.

Specifically, staff seeks some direction on the following:

- Does the City Commission continue to support the substance of Strategic Initiative 2.7?
- If so, what tactics should be employed in the future to achieve this strategy (is the Commission comfortable with the current Action Steps and Critical Success Measures outlined in the Initiative)? If not, what alternatives should be employed?
- Should staff continue to work pro-actively to achieve the City's annexation (coordinated planning) strategy or should the staff assume a different posture?
- Should staff work to continue to coordinate the City's annexation policy with Alachua County staff?
- Does the Commission favor amending the Orderly Plan for Annexation (if necessary) in order to achieve the City's annexation/coordination strategy?

Staff appreciates a discussion on this item by the Committee as it will be helpful in providing staff with direction moving forward and is timely in terms of adjusting any language in the City's Comprehensive Plan.