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TO: Economic Development University Community Committee (EDUCC)

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

DATE: August 23, 2010

SUBJECT: Summary of June 24, 2010 Committee Discussion
Infrastructure Needs and Economic Development

At the Committee's June 24th regular meeting, a conversation amongst members ensued regarding the provision of Infrastructure within the City designed to foster economic development opportunities. This memo is intended to briefly summarize the key points coming out of the Committee's deliberations.

The principal concerns regarding Infrastructure needs and economic development seemed to focus on: 1) resources available from various sources; 2) the expenditure of those limited resources in light of ED Strategic Action Plan priorities; and, 3) the geographic location of expenditure of those limited resources.

The Committee stressed the importance of identifying the various sources of funds associated with provision of Infrastructure throughout the community. This is inclusive of City of Gainesville General Government, Gainesville Regional Utilities (GRU) and the Gainesville Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) internally. Externally, resources available from the City's economic development partners, the University of Florida, Santa Fe College, the Alachua County School Board and Alachua County were mentioned.

In terms of future action by the City Commission, the Committee indicated that it was important to filter the various sources of Infrastructure funds through the economic development vision of the City as represented in the Strategic Action Plan for Economic Development recently adopted by the City Commission. Specifically, the Committee identified the need to consider the provisions of Infrastructure when reviewing future versions of the CIP and budget submissions of internal agencies and when considering the funding allocations of other important entities such as the MTPO.

Finally, the Committee stressed the spatial implications of Infrastructure expenditures and the manner in which this furthered the economic development and redevelopment priorities of the City Commission. Economic Development opportunities associated with central core provision of Infrastructure seemed to engender the most support although a balanced approach focused on City priorities such as the provision of transit and public safety lend themselves to a more Citywide approach.

Next steps identified included directing that the CIP discussion held with the City Commission in January or February of 2011 be structured with these thoughts in mind. In this context, the provision of Infrastructure approved by the Commission in the Strategic Action Plan for Economic Development is to be reviewed with the Commission. Lastly, a roundtable meeting with external partners in the context of the EDUCC forum is to be held in the next several months to discuss the coordinated provision of Infrastructure.

cc: Russ Blackburn, City Manager
Robert Hunziger, GRU General Manager
Shaad Rehman, CRA Small and Minority Business Development Coordinator
Thomas Hawkins, City Commissioner (attendee at the June 24th EDUCC meeting)

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