

**City of Alachua**  
*The Good Life Community*  
Celebrating a Century  
1905-2005

#070491

**Clovis Watson, Jr., MPA**  
*City Manager*

5 September 2007

**Gib Coerper**  
*Mayor*

**Bonnie Burgess**  
*Vice-Mayor*

**Jean Calderwood**  
*Commissioner*

**Orien Hills**  
*Commissioner*

**James Lewis**  
*Commissioner*

Mr. Russ Blackburn, City Manager  
City of Gainesville  
P.O. Box 490  
Gainesville, FL 32602

Re: **CITY OF ALACHUA TRANSIT SYSTEM (CATS)**

Dear Mr. Blackburn:

As you know, the City of Alachua is working closely with the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) and is finalizing negotiations with a service provider and a marketing firm for the continuation of the CATS that provides transportation services to match job seekers from East Gainesville with Alachua job providers. CATS provides services that *extend beyond our corporate limits to Gainesville residents.*

The emphasis of the CATS demonstration program is to decrease trips along US 441, and to provide a means by which the underemployed and underserved residents from East Gainesville could become employed at Alachua's southwest job center. Our preliminary budget projections indicate a total operating budget of approximately \$182,000 for FY 2008. Our business model seeks support from the FDOT, Alachua County, and the City of Gainesville. To that end, we anticipate that 50% of the total operating costs could come from the FDOT and the remaining 50% could be shared between the Cities of Alachua and Gainesville and Alachua County. Further refinement of our model would show that the City of Alachua would contribute 30% of this 50% share, while Alachua County and Gainesville could contribute the remaining 20%. We estimate the 20% share to be about \$36,000.

Prior to presenting this Business Plan to the FDOT in early September we are seeking your endorsement of this Model. In order for us to finalize the FY 2008 CATS budget, we respectfully request a letter from the City Commission endorsing this Business Plan and pledging to provide financial support within these parameters as all agencies finalize their upcoming budgets. This letter of support is essential as we finalize discussions with FDOT and should be received by us prior to September 13<sup>th</sup>.

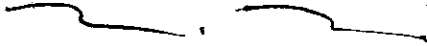
On behalf of the Mayor and Commission of Alachua, we wanted to express our thanks to you for your continued interest in projects that benefit *citizens of East Gainesville.* We

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Alachua, Florida  
32615

P.O. Box 9  
32616-0009

look forward to continuing this dynamic intergovernmental transportation project with your support and input.

Respectfully,



Clovis Watson, Jr.  
City Manager

cc: Mayor & Commissioners, City of Alachua

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**City of Alachua**

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