

CITY OF GAINESVILLE, FLORIDA

FY 2003 FEDERAL AGENDA

Community Development Initiative

- **Downtown Revitalization Project**
- **Gainesville Neighborhood Improvement Project**

Public Transportation Enhancement Initiative

- **Multimodal Transportation Center**
- **Public Transportation Acquisition Project**

Public Safety Enhancement Initiative

- **Joint Communications Project**
- **Regional Emergency Preparedness Project**

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Community Development Initiative

Depot Regional Stormwater Park The City is requesting \$10.7 million in federal funding assistance for the Depot Regional Stormwater Park. The City and its funding partners are providing approximately \$10 million towards the total estimated cost of \$20.7 million. The Depot Regional Stormwater Park is a broadly developed, multi-faceted initiative that has an established goal of revitalizing Downtown Gainesville. The revitalization initiative is dependent on this master stormwater facility that has been planned as a landmark stormwater park that will not only serve as an urban park setting for downtown and nearby residents, visitors and employees, but also as a functional stormwater management facility. The stormwater park will be located on a 25 acre EPA designated Brownfield site. The Stormwater Park will provide vital water quality treatment for the original Gainesville area within the Sweetwater Branch watershed. Currently, Sweetwater Branch discharges untreated stormwater runoff directly to the Paynes' Prairie State Preserve. The Prairie is drained by an open sinkhole that links directly with the Floridan Acquirer, the source of the drinking water supply for many communities in Florida.

The Depot Regional Stormwater Park will also function as a Rail Trail Hub to provide linkage of four primary existing and proposed rail trail systems. The Revitalization Initiative also includes the construction of the backbone of a reuse water system for irrigation of the park and the reconstruction of an enhanced Depot Avenue roadway from Williston Road to SW 13th Street. The City of Gainesville has just completed acquisition of 22 plus acres. The environmental assessments and preliminary stormwater analysis have been completed. Conceptual design plan alternatives are being reviewed by a citizen participation process for final plan preparation, Spring 2002.

Gainesville Neighborhood Improvement Project The City is requesting \$1 million for upgrade of public infrastructure in the older neighborhoods. The City has a significant number of older low-to-moderate income neighborhoods that lack paved roadways, curbs and gutters, sidewalks and adequate water supply service. The population of these neighborhoods includes disproportionately large percentages of children and youth, single-parent families and the elderly, whose quality of life is diminished by high crime and low employment prospects, so that it is not feasible to utilize Special Assessment Districts as a funding mechanism for upgrading infrastructure. The City currently directs 15% of the Community Development Block Grant annual allocation to upgrading of public infrastructure in eligible neighborhoods. However, due to the significant numbers of neighborhoods that need assistance this funding mechanism is inadequate to meet the demand.

Public Transportation Enhancement Initiative

Multimodal Transportation Center The City is seeking \$ 2 million in Federal assistance for a multi-modal facility in Gainesville. The rapidly expanding transit system needs a suitable facility to accommodate the large numbers of passengers transferring between routes. Greyhound Bus lines is participating with the City and RTS to locate and construct a facility that will meet the needs of our citizens and passengers and provide optimum access to transportation choices.

Public Transportation Acquisition Project Gainesville and the Regional Transit System (RTS) have joined a coalition of transit systems to pursue a bus acquisition appropriation. The RTS will be requesting \$2 million through the consortium. The coalition consists of HartLine (Tampa), Manatee County, Sarasota County and RTS. Members will submit their request to the consortium and a formula for distribution will be determined. New buses are vital to the continued operation of RTS services. Of our 84 total buses, 49 are over the 12 year old threshold and are eligible for replacement.

Public Safety Enhancement Initiative

Joint Communications Project This \$4.77 million request will facilitate communication between our urban area public safety agencies, emergency medical services and professionals, establishing an

innovative crime data gathering, reporting and training system that will include a Geographic Information System (GIS), interactive Internet/Intranet applications, Crime Mapping and automated reporting through the use of mobile wireless laptop computers.

Regional Emergency Preparedness Project The City of Gainesville seeks a federal funding strategy to enhance Homeland Security and Anti-Terrorism response and consequence management for a large region of North Florida. The City and Alachua County, along with 10 other counties, are using their Regional Hazardous Materials Team, Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC), law enforcement training center and the biotechnology resources of the University of Florida to integrate the prevention and response activities for the entire region by planning the creation of a joint communications system for the future. This City and County serve as the regional center for much of rural north Florida's medical care, disaster management, and criminal justice services. The need for this system is driven by the lack of availability of resources provided to tier 1 (population over 250,000) and tier 2 (seat of government) cities that have been funded by prior Federal initiatives. Although the region has a total population over 450,000 and geographic area of 8,500 square miles, it is not within the primary grant recipient categories in previous efforts. However, considerable efforts have been made to provide anti-terrorism resource through other means and utilizing existing resources. The estimated need to continue these efforts is \$4.5 million.

Present capabilities to respond to a "weapons of mass destruction" (WMD) incident are largely created by the activation of the City of Gainesville's Fire Rescue Hazmat Team. The Hazmat Team is the technical core of a new regional system in which five trailers equipped for first response are dispersed throughout the region. These were funded through a State Emergency Management Grant. Through use of a Byrne Grant in FY 2000, the Hazmat Team has been partly equipped for such WMD response, and instructors for first responders (fire, EMS, and law enforcement), have been trained. This grassroots effort has been spearheaded by the LEPC as the regional administrative organization serving 11 counties. The goal of these efforts is a coordinated response plan for the region in which each of the response agencies would have communications capability, protective equipment, detection and isolation equipment, command and control structures and training on all facets of joint operations. Some of the building blocks are in place, including mutual aid agreements, training programs, and low-level response packages, primarily oriented to chemical agents. The next level for this preparation requires upgrades to the capabilities of the entire region through the existing core structure. Some of these requirements can, and are, being met through local initiatives, particularly the training components. Some existing equipment serves the needs. However, it is specialized and must be augmented to serve the additional missions related to terrorism response.

