



Alachua County

Board of County Commissioners

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 Dr. Lee A. Niblock, CM
 County Manager

May 10, 2017

Mayor Lauren Poe
 City of Gainesville
 200 East University Avenue
 Gainesville, FL 32601

Dear Mayor Poe,

When looking at transportation funding, the relationship between Alachua County and the City of Gainesville has been built on a long history of quid pro quo agreements which, taken as a whole, have equitably served the citizens of both the City and unincorporated Alachua County.

The current distribution of the local option gas tax is favorable to Alachua County; the County has reciprocated through a series of agreements that are very favorable to the City. The County requests that the City agree to consolidate all eleven cents of the local option gas tax, for a period of ten years, at the current status quo distribution formula. This distribution formula will result in revenues of approximately \$47 million to the City over that period.

In exchange, the County agrees to the following:

- The County will continue the historical practice of sharing the Florida Department of Transportation's County Incentive Grant Program (CIGP) funding, alternating annual awards between County and City. These grants have averaged \$1-2 million per year. The County is under no legal obligation to share, but the current gas tax distribution has convinced the County that sharing this grant is fair. The CIGP grant has recently enabled the City to fund projects such as the Depot Avenue and upcoming SW 40th Blvd. reconstructions, totaling \$5.2 million over the past five years.
- The County will continue to prioritize their high-profile reconstruction and maintenance road projects within the City of Gainesville, such as the recent rehabilitation of NW 16th Ave./23rd Ave., at the expense of unincorporated area projects. This will include upcoming projects such as the reconstruction of all of NW 43rd St. and NW 16th Ave. between NW 13th and 2nd Streets. These two projects alone will cost the County approximately \$8.2 million, largely funded through gas tax revenue.
- The County will continue to support Transportation Improvement Programs (TIP) through the Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization (MTPO,) that are highly favorable to the City's priorities, particularly capital and operations funding for transit. Over the next five years the City is looking at over \$100 million in projects. This historical emphasis on

transit has come at the expense of County road maintenance projects. Without the current gas tax distribution, the County will be compelled to re-evaluate its priorities within the TIP, which requires majority support from both City and County Commissions. County staff is currently preparing a draft TIP for the County Commission's consideration at the MTPO meeting in June that is more favorable to unincorporated area projects.

I suggest that we have a joint meeting in advance of the soon to expire 3-cent gas tax. In talking to City staff, it would appear that the best opportunity to meet would be on Monday, May 22 at 9 a.m.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,



Ken Cornell, Chair
Alachua County Commission
Chr17.101

KC/MS/lg

cc: Board of County Commissioners
Lee A. Niblock, County Manager
Michele Lieberman, County Attorney
Gainesville City Commission
Anthony Lyons, City Manager

James Harriott, Deputy County Manager
Mark Sexton, Legislative Affairs Director
Ramon Gavarrete, Public Works Director
Tommy Crosby, OMB Director
Nicole Shalley, City Attorney