

The Gainesville City Commission has at least twice over the past year discussed the idea of providing fare-free RTS access for anyone under 18 years of age ("Youth") or 65 years of age and above ("Seniors" or "Elders").

The Department of Mobility indicated that the cost of this would be approximately \$230,000 per year, inclusive of both groups. The Youth cost would be approximately \$130,000 and the Senior/Elder cost would be approximately \$100,000.

In an effort to achieve this goal with a broad range of partners, an obvious choice has appeared: The Children's Trust of Alachua County has issued a Request for Application (RFA) entitled "Capacity Increases and Infrastructure Improvements for Programs Serving Youth." Certainly this program should meet that criteria. The application deadline is 2 PM on Wednesday, December 18, with an optional pre-application meeting at 10 AM on November 26. The total funds available in the grant are \$2,500,000.

A motion to direct staff to apply for the full amount of the Youth portion of this program through the Children's Trust grant would be in order here.