



CITY OF GAINESVILLE

Office of the City Manager

December 12, 2000

Division of Community Affairs
2555 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-2100

Attention: EMPATF

The City of Gainesville, Florida, is submitting for the Municipal Competitive Grant, in accordance with Chapter 9G-19, Florida Administrative Code, in the amount of \$50,000. The monies will be used to purchase a trailer equipped with barricades, pre-fabricated emergency signs and directional information. This equipment is for "Citizen Warning" and information prior to, during and after emergency events. This equipment will be available to other agencies under mutual aid.

In applying for this grant, the City of Gainesville agrees that this request is made without any other understanding, agreement, or connection with any person, corporation, or firm submitting a request for the same purpose, and that the request is in all respects fair and in good faith, without collusion or fraud. Only the entities listed will be involved with the project. The City is committed to performing the work necessary to implement the project in the established time frame.

It is further agreed that the City of Gainesville and those persons involved with the project accept the terms and conditions of the aforementioned grant and its provisions. The signer of the application has full authority to bind the applicant and other involved parties:

The project manager will be Traffic Engineer II Philip Mann, P.E., City of Gainesville Station #58, P. O. Box 490, Gainesville, Florida 32602, 352-334-5416.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Wayne Bowers".

Wayne Bowers
City Manager

Title Page

Title of Project: **City of Gainesville Emergency Barricades & Signs/Citizen Warning**

Amount Requested From State: \$50,000.00

Amount Matching Funds Committed: \$45,767.49 (Not Required)

This is an application for a competitive grant under (indicate only one):

- _____ Emergency Management Competitive Grant Program
or
xx Municipal Competitive Grant

The application is submitted for consideration in the following category (select only one):

- _____ 1) A project that will promote public education on disaster preparedness and recovery issues.
- _____ 2) A project that will enhance coordination of relief efforts of statewide private sector organizations, including public-private business partnerships.
- _____ 3) A project that will improve the training and operations capabilities of agencies assigned lead or support responsibilities in the State Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan.
- xx 4) A project that will otherwise further state and local emergency management priorities identified in the Notice of Fund Availability.

APPLICANT INFORMATION:

Name of Organization: City of Gainesville
Address of Organization: 200 East University Avenue
Gainesville, Florida 32601
E-mail address: broskems@ci.gainesville.fl.us
Name of Chief Elected Official: Paula DeLaney, Mayor
Chief Administrative Officer: Wayne Bowers, City Manager
Name of Applicant Contact: Mary S. Broske, Ph.D.
Title of Applicant Contact: Grants Coordinator
Telephone # of Applicant Contact: 352-334-5000, x5872
Federal Employee Identification #: 59-6000325

Authorized Signature must comply with 9G-19.008(7), F.A.C., or application will not be scored:

Signature: Paula DeLaney
Title: Mayor

_____ Date

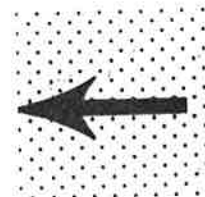


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City of Gainesville
Emergency Barricades & Signs for Citizen Warning

Scoring criteria #1 - Clearly identify, describe and document the emergency management need or problem, provide an in-depth explanation of the proposal, and show how it meets the need solves the identified problem. If applicable, clearly link the emergency management need to the priority issue area(s) contained in the current Notice of Fund Availability (NOFA).

- **Overview**

This is a Municipal Competitive Grant Program Application. It is being submitted under Category 4 - *“Other projects that will further state and local emergency management objectives which have been designated by the State of Florida as priorities in the applicable Notice of Fund Availability.”* This proposal addresses Category 4, Priority Area B) Projects which implement the community’s Local Hazard Mitigation Strategy, and Priority Area C) Projects which will improve emergency management capabilities in any of the following fundamental areas of preparedness, response or recovery – Citizen Warning.

- **Project Addresses Emergency Management Priority Identified in the Notice of Fund Availability**

This proposal addresses Category 4, Priority Area B) Projects which implement the community’s Local Hazard Mitigation Strategy, and Priority Area C) Projects which will improve emergency management capabilities in any of the following fundamental areas of preparedness, response or recovery – Citizen Warning.

Priority Area B): Projects which implement the community’s Local Hazard Mitigation Strategy

The chairperson (Steve Abrams) of the county-wide Local Mitigation Strategy (LMS) working group has certified this proposal as identified on the Alachua County LMS priority mitigation initiative list. Documentation from the LMS will be provided upon award of the grant.

Priority Area C): Projects which will improve emergency management capabilities in any of the following fundamental areas of preparedness, response or recovery – Citizen Warning

The State has identified certain areas as priorities in meeting emergency management needs. One of those areas is Priority Area C) *“Projects which will improve emergency management capabilities in any of the following fundamental areas of preparedness, response or recovery – Citizen Warning”*

We propose purchasing a trailer and associated equipment to outfit the trailer with portable prefabricated emergency warning & guidance signs and emergency barricades to effectively respond to disaster situations for citizen warning. This trailer and equipment will be used before and after incidents to direct evacuees to the appropriate evacuation shelter locations. This equipment will be used to supplement the 2 Variable Message Signs that the City has for

emergency management purposes. In accordance with the State's plan, this will be evacuees from coastal communities, particularly metropolitan areas such as Tampa/St. Petersburg and Volusia and Flagler Counties. The portable signs and barricades will also be utilized during an incident for road closing, motorist rerouting and information. It is anticipated that this equipment will be used for mutual aid through the Alachua County Department of Emergency Management as well as for our own use.

- **Identify, Describe and Document the Emergency Management Need:**

During an emergency in which motorists are detoured or residents or evacuated, it is important to provide good information to people who are travelling by motor vehicle. Evacuees and detoured motorists are travelling in new and unfamiliar territory and can be stressed by the trauma of being evacuated or detoured. It is important to provide the maximum level of information to the motorists. Often times a good evacuation plan or detour route can make the difference in effectively moving traffic or simply creating a traffic jam. With impending circumstances such as severe inclement weather or rapidly moving wildfires, it is important to move the folks in these motor vehicles out of harm's way. In order to provide an effective emergency transportation management plan, local jurisdictions must work together and have the proper equipment. Alachua County and the City of Gainesville have taken the appropriate steps to make sure that the local governments and emergency deployment areas are working in concert with each other. The City and the County and the other municipal agencies in the County have been working together to address emergencies as they arise. The City has been working to secure the equipment necessary to implement the emergency traffic management plans that are being developed by the County and to assist the County in this endeavor.

The City of Gainesville responds to several disaster related events during the course of a year. During the Gainesville/Alachua County Wildfires, the city supported the Alachua County Department of Emergency Management. This support was in the form of fire suppression services, law enforcement and directional signing in the Public Works Department. The wildfires in Alachua County caused the closing of several local, State and U.S. highways. As a result of these closings, countless motorists were re-routed including local residents, state residents, tourists and evacuees. During these fires, roads were closed and opened and rerouted on a daily and even on an hourly basis. Providing information to motorists was a necessity. With the given resources, it was impossible to provide this information. This natural disaster brought forth the need for portable traffic control and signing. This traffic control can be easily and quickly deployed and relocatable with a minimal amount of staffing. Motorists could be given directions and warned of the upcoming conditions (i.e. Smoke / Fog & Detour & Evacuation Shelter signs). This would free up some law enforcement personnel from providing information and directions.

Another issue that Gainesville / Alachua County must address is sheltering evacuees from Tropical Weather or other major disasters. Hurricane Gordon threatened the Gulf Coast of Florida and several counties were evacuated with Alachua County being designated as the Host County for sheltering. The City Public Works Department assisted the Alachua County Department of Emergency Management by providing Citizen Notification for shelter locations. Currently, Governor Bush has ordered the Florida Department of Transportation to work with the local communities (Emergency Management Departments) and erect fold down Evacuation Shelter guide signs. Unfortunately, the only applies to the State Highway System. Given the

County's designation as a Host Community and the number of shelters available in the county, it is impractical to erect permanent signs on the local road network leading to each shelter. The City of Gainesville has been working with the Alachua County Department of Emergency Management to locate those signs on the State Highway System and to develop a plan to provide routing information once evacuees leave the State Highway System. Our current plan calls for portable shelter routing signs that can be moved from shelter to shelter and supplement the FDOT signs. It is impractical to open every shelter simultaneously. The plan would be to deploy the relocatable shelter signs at the shelters that are opened. Couple this with the Variable Message Signs that the City already had and the permanent signs being installed by the FDOT and Alachua County will have a pretty thorough routing system for evacuees. The need for this project has been demonstrated over the years by Hurricane Floyd in 1999 and Hurricane Gordon in 2000. Currently, existing barricades are utilized for road construction projects and we do not have any pre-fabricated signs that would be applicable to an emergency. This trailer and equipment would be set aside for use during a local, state or federal emergency.

Another aspect of this plan is that the City of Gainesville – Public Works Department also assists the Alachua County Public Works Department in the area of Traffic Engineering. Through inter-local contracts, the City of Gainesville provides traffic engineering assistance to Alachua County, the University of Florida and all the incorporated municipalities within Alachua County. This assistance includes, but is not limited to: Traffic Engineering, Traffic Signal Operation & Maintenance, Emergency Management Assistance and any other services normally provided by a Traffic Engineering Agency. Per these contracts, the agencies can utilize any portion of the City of Gainesville's Public Works Department – Transportation Services Division that they need. This avoids duplication of services and saves the taxpayers of Alachua County money.

Proposed Solution:

We propose purchasing a trailer and equipment to outfit the trailer. This equipment will include pre-fabricated portable routing and warning signs as well as emergency barricades. The pre-fabricated portable signs will meet the FDOT requirements for warning and guide signs. This will make them visible during nighttime conditions and inclement weather. The trailer and equipment will also be used before and after incidents to assist in directing evacuees to the appropriate evacuation shelter locations. In accordance with the State's plan, this will be evacuees from coastal communities, particularly metropolitan areas such as Tampa/St. Petersburg and Volusia and Flagler Counties. It will also include Gulf Coast communities as was necessary during the Hurricane Gordon evacuation. In addition the trailer and equipment will also be utilized during an incident for motorist rerouting and information. It is anticipated that these signs will be used for mutual aid through Alachua County by the Alachua County Department of Emergency Management as well as for our own use. It is the City's belief that this trailer and equipment coupled with the Variable Message Signs will provide Gainesville and Alachua County with an effective portable transportation management system to adequately address most natural and man-made disasters.

This proposed project has not been submitted for funding under any federal Public Assistance Program or Hazard Mitigation Program.

Scoring criteria #2 – Identify and demonstrate long- and/or short-term benefits of this proposal coupled with the availability of resources necessary to continue the project; and identify the number of emergency management personnel whose emergency management needs will be directly benefited by this project.

Municipalities are a major source of direct resources and services in a time of disaster. Their involvement in emergency response and disaster recovery operations is not only encouraged by the State of Florida, but a necessity for our community. The disastrous events striking Alachua County have also affected the City of Gainesville. In the case of a major event such as a hurricane striking mainland Florida, the number of Counties and municipalities reaching out for mutual aid may be greater than the initial supply of mutual resources. It is imperative that Cities and Counties obtain these resources whenever possible.

Currently, the City does not have any of this type of equipment available. Additionally, there are not any directly available to the Alachua County Department of Emergency Management. During recent emergencies, the City has pulled in limited numbers of barricades from construction sites and any that may be available within the Public Works Compound. Having this equipment available will allow emergency management personnel to more effectively provide information and direction to the public.

The emergency trailer equipped with pre-fabricated portable routing and warning signs as well as emergency barricades will allow the City and the County to implement the appropriate emergency traffic management plan. This will be of benefit to the to the public at large by being placed at strategic locations throughout the City and the County to direct evacuees to shelters or detoured motorists along the route. Under mutual aid, the trailer and equipment will be available for use by other agencies during emergencies. The proposed project benefits Alachua County and all of the encompassed cities (7) and the University of Florida; not just the City of Gainesville. It will primarily assist the local Fire-Rescue Departments and local Law Enforcement Agencies and will be an tool for use by the Alachua County Department of Emergency Management. It will also be a benefit to evacuees being sent to Alachua County by the State of Florida from Coastal Communities during mandatory and voluntary evacuations.

This project potentially will benefit 1 million plus residents from the Tampa Bay area. As a designated host community for evacuations, the City of Gainesville/Alachua County will receive evacuees from coastal/affected communities. During Hurricane Floyd, we received evacuees from the Atlantic Coast and during Hurricane Gordon, we received evacuees from the Gulf Coast.

The proposed project is a long-term project, due to the length of time the City of Gainesville and surrounding communities will benefit from the emergency response equipment. The proposed equipment will have a long useful life to benefit the citizens of this community as well as north central Florida. The City of Gainesville has demonstrated a long-term commitment to Emergency Management by developing an emergency management plan and participating with the Alachua County Department of Emergency Management during natural disasters. Our Public Works Director, Teresa Scott, believes that interagency cooperation is essential and that during an emergency we must endeavor to provide the best services possible to our citizens and those

that are coming to or travelling through our community. The City is currently updating our Emergency Management Plan in order that our services can more readily support the efforts of the Alachua County Department of Emergency Management.

The short-term benefit of this project is that the equipment will be placed into service in a relatively short time upon completion of the purchase of the equipment.

Benefits from emergency response equipment are:

- > The emergency trailer and equipment provides the ability to notify citizens of evacuation routes, detour routes, evacuation shelter locations, upcoming hazards and other such information.
- > The emergency trailer and equipment is portable and can be deployed in any location in a very short time.
- > The emergency trailer and equipment will be available for mutual aid purposes to the Alachua County Department of Emergency Management and surrounding agencies to enhance their abilities to respond to an emergency.

All equipment will be purchased through the City's normal purchasing procedures. They will be delivered operational and will be put into service as soon as possible.

When coupled with other resources, this project solves a major problem during an emergency: traffic control. This trailer will be linked to Variable Message Sign trailers to provide a complete emergency traffic management tool to be utilized during any kind of an emergency, whether declared or undeclared. The City of Gainesville has and will continue to maintain on-call staff to respond rapidly to any emergency situation and deploy the equipment in an appropriate manner. The City also has the resources to maintain this equipment to an acceptable level of service.

Emergencies impact motorists regardless of the functional classification of a roadway. It is important that local government be ready to respond to an emergency whether traffic management is needed on a local street or on a state or federal highway.

Scoring criteria #3- Clearly describe the project's consistency with the State Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan and any applicable local plans.

The need for response, evacuation shelters, routing and other Citizen Warning issues at the local level can be found in the following Florida State Statutes (F.S.S.). The F.S.S.'s authorize the creation of emergency management in the political subdivisions of the state so vulnerability is reduced, relief is rapid and orderly, planning is adequate, and lives and property are preserved.

F.S.S. 252.311 (2) states, *"It is the intent of the legislature to reduce the vulnerability of the people and property of the state; to prepare for efficient evacuation and shelter of threatened or affected persons; to provide for the rapid and orderly provision of relief to persons and for the restoration of services and property; ... and provide for the coordination of activities relating to emergency preparedness with local and federal governments"*.

F.S.S. 252.32 (1) states: "Because of the existing and continuing possibility of the occurrence of

emergencies and disaster resulting from natural, technological, or manmade causes; in order to ensure that preparations of this state will be adequate to deal with, reduce vulnerability to, and recover from such emergencies and disasters; to provide for the common defense and to protect the public peace, health, and safety; and to preserve the lives and property of the people of the state, it is hereby found and declared to be necessary: (c) To provide for the rendering of mutual aid among the political subdivisions of the state, with other states, and with the Federal Government with respect to carrying out all emergency management functions and responsibilities.”

F.S.S. 252.34(4) states: *“Emergency Management means the preparation for, the mitigation of, the response to and the recovery from emergencies and disasters. Specific emergency management responsibilities include, but are not limited to: (b) Preparation for prompt and efficient response and recovery to protect lives and property affected by emergencies.”*

F.S.S. 252.35 (2) (a) 1. states: *“Include a shelter component that includes specific regional and interregional planning provisions and promotes coordination of shelter activities between the public, private and nonprofit sectors...”*

It is the intent of the City of Gainesville to be prepared to rapidly respond to the evacuation needs of the citizens of and visitors to this state. The principle intent of this project is to provide City emergency responders with vital Citizen Warning equipment to be able to provide timely information to affected citizens and visitors. As a Host Community, it is vital that we be able to provide timely information to either people being evacuated or rerouted, as in the wildfires and floods. As the sole traffic engineering agency in the County, it is also our intent to be able to provide assistance to the Alachua County Department of Emergency Management. Given the populations being evacuated, it essential to be prepared to provide necessary information to affected persons once an order to evacuate has been issued.

- **CONSISTENCY- STATE COMPREHENSIVE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PLAN**

This project is consistent with the **State CEMP**, as the **Basic Plan** (1998) identifies an important aspect under IV. Method of Operations - C. Preparedness - 3. Evacuation and Sheltering: *“As the population of the state continues to grow and congregate along the coastline, the importance of providing timely and well coordinated evacuation shelters becomes critical; particularly in a hurricane event...”*. The City of Gainesville’s plan to acquire an emergency trailer equipped with pre-fabricated portable routing and warning signs and emergency barricades surely agrees with this purpose.

As stated in the State CEMP, the provision of this information in a timely manner is critical. This project provides the City of Gainesville, a Host Community, the ability to provide the information in a timely manner. The emergency trailer equipped with pre-fabricated portable routing and warning signs and emergency barricades will be used for mutual aid as outlined in the State CEMP, as well as for our own use. Specifically, they will be available for the Alachua County Department of Emergency Management during Statewide or local emergencies.

- **CONSISTENCY- ALACHUA COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PLAN**

This proposal is consistent with the Alachua County Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan. Alachua County Emergency Manager Steve Abrams will provide a Letter of Consistency upon award of the grant.

The State of Florida Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan as well as the Alachua County Emergency Plan specifies the provision of emergency services to segments of the community during as well as after a disaster by way of emergency support functions.

The Alachua County Emergency Operations Plan, Section 5.0, Recovery Annex, identifies responsibilities of Alachua County, the State of Florida, as well as the Federal Government. Listed among the responsibilities assigned to Alachua County are the provisions of immediate response to an emergency through utilization of local law enforcement agencies, fire departments, emergency medical services, public works departments, public utilities, and any other public resources that are available or required.

It is a goal of the City of Gainesville to be consistent with these responsibilities as identified in the Alachua County Emergency Operations Plan. As a municipality residing within the political boundaries of Alachua County, it is the City of Gainesville's intent to provide those needed emergency services in an organized and efficient manner.

Scoring criteria #4 - Describe why this particular method or approach to solving the problem was chosen over other available alternative. Include a proposed budget for the project and describe how it is necessary and appropriate to the scope of the project.

The City of Gainesville has been involved in several evacuation and detouring activities with the Alachua County Department of Emergency Management. Through city-county contract, the City provides transportation services engineering assistance to Alachua County.

During an emergency, the City of Gainesville Public Works Department works with the Alachua County Public Works Department to provide support to the Alachua County Department of Emergency Management. Neither the City nor County Public Works Department has this type of equipment.

During the recent wildfires, the City had to fabricate temporary signs and obtain emergency barricades from various locations around the city. While this fabrication and rounding up of barricades is occurring, valuable time is lost that could be utilized to provide timely traffic management to the motoring public and relieve law enforcement personnel to address other issues.

Methods Considered

We considered remaining status quo and requesting signs and barricades through the State. This creates significant delays in effectively providing vital traffic control to the motoring public and

relief to law enforcement agencies. During an evacuation or other emergency, it is crucial to provide accurate and timely information to affected motorists. This option is still available to us but is undesirable.

We also considered utilizing our traffic sign fabrication operation to manufacture temporary informational signs. There is a significant time delay from the time the information is provided to the sign fabricators until the sign is actually fabricated and installed. Additionally, as conditions change, informational signs must be re-manufactured to provide updated information. There are significant personnel and fabrication costs associated with this option. We could also rent the emergency barricades when necessary. This provides a recurring cost and is extremely untimely. Again, this option is still available to us but is also undesirable.

Method Chosen

The City decided to purchase an emergency trailer equipped with pre-fabricated portable routing and warning signs as well as emergency barricades. These signs and barricades can be easily moved from location to location and will supplement our 2 variable message signs.

This will allow the City to quickly react to changing conditions and provide timely information to affected motorists. The City has budgeted the purchase of a truck this year and it will be utilized to pull this emergency trailer.

Proposed Budget – Variable Message Signs for Citizen Warning

EXPENDITURE CATEGORIES	Cash Match	In-Kind Service Match	Total Grantee Cost	EMPA Award	Total Project Cost
1. SALARY AND BENEFITS					
2. OTHER PERSONAL / CONTRACTUAL SERVICES					
3. ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES					
4. EXPENSES					
5. OPERATING CAPITAL OUTLAY					
A. New Truck Purchase		\$ 30,000.00	\$ 30,000.00		\$ 30,000.00
B. Emergency trailer equipped with pre-fabricated portable routing and warning signs as well as emergency barricades				\$50,000.00	\$ 50,000.00
6. FIXED CAPITAL OUTLAY					
TOTAL EXPENDITURES		\$ 30,000.00	\$ 30,000.00	\$50,000.00	\$ 80,000.00
PERCENTAGES		37.5 %	37.5 %	62.5%	100 %

Narrative Explanation and Justification of Line Items:

Operating Capitol Outlay:

- The City has budgeted for the purchase of a new truck which will be the City's match for this project. This truck is the replacement of an existing fleet vehicle and will not be reserved exclusively for this purpose.
- Emergency trailer equipped with pre-fabricated portable routing and warning signs as well as emergency barricades will be purchased at a cost of \$50,000 to provide Citizen Warning messages such as evacuation shelter locations, evacuation routes, detour routes, smoke warnings, etc. The emergency trailer and the supplies necessary to fabricate the portable routing and warning signs as well as emergency barricades will be purchased through a competitive bidding process or through state contract in accord with City of Gainesville Purchasing Procedures. All equipment will meet standards set forth by the Florida Department of Transportation for traffic control devices.

Describe how the proposed budget is necessary.

The City of Gainesville believes that the proposed budget is appropriate for the scope of work to be undertaken, if this grant is funded. The result will be the addition of an emergency trailer equipped with pre-fabricated portable routing and warning signs as well as emergency barricades to the City's emergency management equipment. The City, the Alachua County Department of Emergency Management and surrounding agencies will be able to use the emergency trailer equipped with pre-fabricated portable routing and warning signs as well as emergency barricades to provide "Citizen Warning". With the amount of citizens that can be notified, this program can be very cost effective.

Scoring criteria #5 - Identify the Applicant's matching funds, either cash or in-kind and include supporting documentation.

The City of Gainesville has budgeted the purchase of a new truck that will be utilized with the emergency trailer equipped with pre-fabricated portable routing and warning signs as well as emergency barricades. The City Commission Minutes reflect the commitment of the purchase of the truck as match for this project, and will be provided upon award of the grant.

Scoring Criteria #6 – Discuss the applicant's experience and ability applied to the project.

Public Works Director Teresa Scott, P.E., will be the Project Director for the project. Ms. Scott has worked for the City and has been the Public Works Director since March 1997. Prior to that, Ms. Scott was assistant Public Works Director for the Alachua County Public Works Department. That prior employment with the County provides a vital link in the coordination of resources during an emergency to the Alachua County Department of Emergency Management. She is also familiar with both emergency plans as well as the staff of both agencies. As Public Works Director, Ms. Scott is responsible for the City's Regional Transit System, Solid Waste Division, Stormwater Management Services Division, Transportation Services Division and Operations Division. She is a registered Professional Engineer in the State of Florida.

Traffic Engineer II Philip Mann, P.E. will be the project manager for this project. Mr. Mann has worked for the City since June 1987. He is responsible for the Traffic Operations Section. Mr. Mann serves as the Public Works Department's contact person to the Alachua County Department of Emergency Management and was responsible for coordinating field activities for both the floods and the wildfires. Mr. Mann is available and on call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Mr. Mann is also a registered Professional Engineer in the State of Florida.