

September 15, 2016

Tom Byron, Chair, I-75 Relief Task Force
Florida Department of Transportation
605 Suwannee Street, MS 19
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Chair Byron,

The Gainesville City Commission appreciates the efforts of the I-75 Relief Task Force in achieving a consensus on future transportation options to alleviate congestion, and improve mobility and safety along this critical transportation corridor. The City supports investments in the local transportation network that will serve as reliever corridors and reduce local traffic along the interstate. One critical local project that is identified in the local 2040 long range transportation plan is the SW 62nd Blvd extension that when completed will serve as a bypass to I-75 between the interchanges of SR24/Archer Rd and SR26/Newberry Rd. The project is currently under design, but funding is needed for construction.

Consistent with the task force preliminary framework document dated June 6, 2016, the City supports multimodal investments in public transportation systems, including rail for freight and passengers, to enhance long-distance mobility. The City requests consideration of investments not only as proposed along the US301 rail corridor, but also within the Gainesville urban area to facilitate and encourage access to multimodal hubs.

Finally, in light of the documented safety concerns along the I-75 corridor through the Gainesville urban area, the City respectfully requests consideration of a reduction of the posted speed limit between the interchanges of SR3331/Williston Rd and SR222/NW 39th Ave to reduce the severity of crashes along the corridor. This modification could be enacted in the short term with significant impacts to the corridor, while other long term strategies are considered.

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in the process. The City looks forward to a continued collaboration with the Florida Department of Transportation to achieve the envisioned goals for a safer and more efficient interstate corridor that will support economic growth and prosperity.

Sincerely,

Lauren Poe, Mayor