


Memo

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Commission

Via: Anthony Lyons, City Manager 
Dan Hoffman, Assistant City Manager

From: Phil Mann, P.E., Public Works Director
Deborah Leistner, PW Planning Manager

Date: 7/26/2018

Re: County Request – N.W. 16th Avenue

Alachua County BOCC Chair Pinkoson recently sent Mayor Poe a letter requesting that the City of Gainesville take over ownership and maintenance of N.W. 16th Avenue / Boulevard (CR 172) from Main Street to N.W. 43rd Street.

Staff recommends that the City of Gainesville not accept ownership of this road until such time that its functional classification has been changed by the Florida Department of Transportation through the MTPO process. This is similar to the practice the City of Gainesville and Alachua County have utilized and that all other counties and municipalities throughout the state utilize.

Road jurisdictions and definitions are outlined in Florida Statutes Chapter 334.03:

- “City street system” means all local roads within a municipality, and all collector roads inside that municipality, which are not in the county road system.

Alachua County Road CR 172 eastern termini is Waldo Road and the western termini is approximately 104th Way. One of the two termini for this road lies outside the City Limits.

- “Collector road” means a route providing service which is of relatively moderate average traffic volume, moderately average trip length, and moderately average operating speed. Such a route also collects and distributes traffic between local roads or arterial roads and serves as a linkage between land access and mobility needs.
- “Local road” means a route providing service which is of relatively low average traffic volume, short average trip length or minimal through-traffic movements, and high land access for abutting property.

- "County road system" means all collector roads in the unincorporated areas of a county and all extensions of such collector roads into and through any incorporated areas, all local roads in the unincorporated areas, and all urban minor arterial roads not in the State Highway System
- "Urban minor arterial road" means a route that generally interconnects with and augments an urban principal arterial road and provides service to trips of shorter length and a lower level of travel mobility. The term includes all arterials not classified as "principal" and contains facilities that place more emphasis on land access than the higher system.

Since 2000 the City of Gainesville has accepted jurisdiction of 26.7 miles of local and collector roads fully contained within the city upon annexations. The roads that we have not accepted responsibility for are the urban minor arterial roads which by definition noted above should remain on the County road system. Staff checked other jurisdictions such as Leon County/City of Tallahassee. Leon County also owns roads contained within the limits of City of Tallahassee.

Attachment 1 is a map identifying the roads (approximately 27.9 miles) that remain classified as urban minor arterial wholly or partially contained within the City Of Gainesville. The estimated cost of maintenance for these is approximately \$1,116,000/year (\$40,000 per year per mile of road).

One additional road, South Main Street between Williston Road and S 16 Avenue (1.2 miles) has not been accepted by the City since the designation of this street changed in 2013 from an urban minor arterial to a collector road. Alachua County adopted a resolution to transfer ownership to the City. The estimated cost if the City accepts this transfer is \$45,000 per year for maintenance of pavement, signage and striping. The City already provides the landscape maintenance along S. Main Street.

It is important to note that the City pays for the operating and maintenance cost of 763 streetlights (\$114,879 plus fuel surcharge fees) and 50 traffic signals (\$96,364) located along these urban minor arterial roads owned by Alachua County but located within the city limits. Alachua County contracts with the City of Gainesville for traffic signal maintenance in the unincorporated area at \$201,164 for FY16 – this contract covers 39 signals. The City of Gainesville also reimburses Alachua County approximately \$960,000 per year for the cost of operating and maintaining all streetlights in the unincorporated area.