

**ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS** HOLD CONTEST TO NAME CRIME PREVENTION Rовот ..... 2



PHASE ONE DEVELOPMENT ON THE INNOVATION HUB BEGINS ......3

O FISCAL YEAR 2010 O QUARTER 2





COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE HELPS SPREAD THE WORD TO PARTICIPATE IN CENSUS COUNT ......6

Strategic Plan Quarterly Report ADDRESSING THE NEEDS OF GAINESVILLE RESIDENTS AND PLANTING THE SEEDS FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE.

## City Commission Strategic Planning Retreat

On June 7th, the City Commission will hold their annual Strategic Planning Retreat at the Austin Cary Memorial Forest to discuss the City Commission Strategic Plan for fiscal years 2011 & 2012.

At the strategic planning retreat, goals and initiatives that improve the quality of life in Gainesville will be prioritized and then matched with available fiscal resources through the normal budget process.

Following the City Commission Strategic Planning Retreat, senior staff will hold a workshop to develop implementation strategies and action plans. The new Strategic Plan will be drafted during the third quarter and presented to the City Commission for adoption at the end of the fiscal year, in conjunction with the City Budget.





## **INITIATIVE WATCH**

Gainesville's central core is undergoing numerous transformations, many of which directly relate to the City Commission's Strategic Plan. Read this quarterly report to learn more about these projects:

- Innovation Hub at the former AGH site
- Redevelopment of Depot Park and transportation infrastructure
- Strategic Redevelopment Plan for GRU Area
- Reconstruction of transportation facilities on 6th Street

## **Public Safety**

Maintain a safe and healthy community in which to live

#### Develop and continue programs to reduce the causes of crime



Duval Elementary School students won the contest to name the female version of the interactive robot after submitting the name, "Kristy the Cop."

The key prevention components aimed at the root causes of crime featured this quarter include the car burglary "lock it or lose it" campaign which was featured in the monthly GRU bulletin. Using Federal stimulus dollars, an interactive robot that can be a boy, girl, or dog was received and 3 schools had contests to give it a name. In this quarter, the girl was named Kristy the Cop by Duval Elementary School students. This robot attended 2 college safety fairs and has the potential to be an incredible crime prevention tool.

As part of a program designed to focus on youth crime, Gainesville Police were assigned this quarter to a combined "gang intervention unit" with the Alachua County Sheriffs Office. Their efforts focus on identifying gang members, gathering intelligence, and youth curfew/ probation checks. A new program in the Investigations Bureau is designed to reduce crime using a new "lethality assessment" protocol which identifies victims at risk of further domestic violence. This program, modeled after a national program utilizes a checklist to determine if immediate further interventions are needed.

A GPD Citizens Academy began this quarter with over 30 civilian participants. This group will be trained for almost three months on law enforcement with expectations of leading into a key initiative, the Citizens On Patrol volunteer program. At the end of this quarter, over 10 screened volunteers had begun to provide service in several areas of the Department. In anticipation of budget shortfalls expected for FY 2011, grant applications and awards were developed this quarter. To address potential funding shortfalls at the Reichert House, two awards & foundation grants were developed this quarter which will be submitted in the next quarter.

The Gainesville Police Department completed reorganization with 5 Bureaus reporting through a Major to the Chief. More police officers were deployed to front line service delivery as part of a comprehensive strategy to reduce UCR Part I crime in 2010 by 5%. Preliminary statistical analysis indicates that while robberies occurred at similar levels as compared to 2009, violent crime as a whole was down 7.6%, property crime was down over 2%, and total overall Part I crime decreased 3.25% this year as compared to the same period of time in 2009.



After winning the contest to name the interactive robot, each class posed with the newly named robot. Left: Norton Elementary School students named the male, "Jerry." Middle & Right: Terwillger Elementary School students named the dog, "Chester."

### **Economic Development**

Foster economic development and encourage redevelopment

### & Redevelopment

## Continue to position City to take advantage of innovation economy and identify plan for innovation zone near UF



Conceptual Sketch of the Innovation Hub to be located on the northeast corner of the former AGH site. Credit: UF Facilities Planning and Construction

#### Ensure transparent, efficient and consistent regulation of land development in furtherance of the Comprehensive Plan

In the second quarter of 2010, Code Enforcement went live with the Innoprise system. At this juncture, Planning, Building Inspections and Code Enforcement are all operational with this electronic plan management system. The citizen portal was released allowing citizens to plug into the system remotely to inquire on the status of various projects. The next phase will involve tying Innoprise into the City's financial system in order to allow acceptance of payment for various levels of projects.

A presentation was provided to Community Development Committee (CDC) on the status of Action Plan items related to this Strategic Initiative on January 12th. Progress was reported and an overview and status summary will be provided at a City Commission workshop on April 26th.

A presentation on modifications to the Comprehensive Plan and Land Development Code was presented to the CDC on March 1st. The City's consultant provided drafts of proposed modifications to the two documents and after receiving Committee and attendee comments it was determined that another revision would be undertaken and presented to the Committee at a special meeting in May. The intent would be to make a recommendation to the full Commission to initiate a Petition to the Plan During the second quarter, the EDUCC completed its work on revisions to the City's Economic Development Strategic Action Plan. Both the Plan and the Innovation Gainesville effort undertaken by the Council for Economic Outreach were recommended for approval and forwarded to the City Commission for action. It is anticipated that the Commission will approve both efforts and staff's participation in them in the third quarter.

Staff worked with representatives of Shands and UF on review of the Innovation Hub to be located on the northeast corner of the former AGH site. This represents the first phase of development of the 12 acre campus and will represent a game changer in terms of future City economic development prospects. It is anticipated that the proposed development will go to the Development Review Board (DRB) in May.

#### Improve coordination with Alachua County in order to more effectively plan and develop Gainesville's Urban Reserve Area

Following adoption of the Petition regarding the Butler Plaza land use plan amendment by the City Commission in December, 2009, City staff worked with the Petitioner's agents in the second quarter to ensure that any recommended modifications were made to the proposed amendment. The amendment will be reviewed in ordinance form by the City Commission in April and then transmitted to Department of Community Affairs (DCA) for their review.

In the second quarter of 2010, staff participated in the review of proposed development plans for the Santa Fe Health Care DRI as well as those contemplated by the Springhills Development.

Planning staff is working on revisions to the conceptual land use and zoning plans presented to the City Commission in January for the Urban Village. The Commission continued the matter based upon concern with some of staff's recommendations. It is anticipated that this will come back to the Commission sometime in the third quarter.

## **Economic Development**

#### Foster economic development and encourage redevelopment

### & Redevelopment

#### **Strategic Redevelopment Plan for Depot Park**

Phase I and Phase II of the GRU Remediation Project were underway in the second quarter. Additional contamination has been found, which has delayed the timeline for Park construction. Phase I of Depot Avenue construction is complete and Phase II of Depot Avenue coordination is continuing between the CRA, GRU and City Public Works departments. Depot Building construction documents are 100% complete and will be bid in the fall of 2010, with anticipation of construction beginning during winter 2010-2011. Park construction documents are well underway and bidding and construction are anticipated to take place during winter 2010-2011.



**Depot Park Renderings and Remediation Images** 

#### Southeast Gainesville Renaissance Initiative (SEGRI)

During the second quarter, the SEGRI Special Area Plan was adopted by the City, and CRA Staff presented the vision for development of an Eco-village at the former Kennedy Homes site. The project will be a residential development with an affordable component and will be sustainable across many different platforms.

Construction began on the Hawthorne Road Café in late March and should be completed this summer. The fencing project at Lincoln Middle School is currently underway and five applications have been approved for the paint program along the major corridors of the district.

#### Strategic Redevelopment Plan for GRU Area

Survey work is underway and code issues are being investigated. CRA staff are coordinating with private sector business people who may be interested in relocating to this area.

#### Increase the amount of affordable housing throughout the City

During the second quarter, the SHIP Affordable Housing Advisory Committee (AHAC) invited City Planning staff to their March 9, 2010 meeting to discuss the Housing Element component of the City's Comprehensive Plan. The AHAC will follow up with Planning staff as needed to provide input on the Housing Element.

The City continues to administer the new Florida Homebuyer Opportunity Program (FHOP), which is funded by the State of Florida through the SHIP Program. The FHOP, was signed into law to ensure that residents of the state derive the maximum possible economic benefit from the first time homebuyer federal tax credit created through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA). Since the inception of the FHOP in September 2009, four first-time homebuyers have received assistance in the amount of \$32,000. The City continues to offer homebuyer education and training to promote the FHOP Program. The FHOP will be available until June 30, 2010 as approved by the State of Florida. The City continues to provide assistance through its Comprehensive Housing Program including homeowner rehabilitation, mortgage foreclosure intervention, down payment assistance, and homebuyer/ homeowner education to promote affordable homeownership and to sustain City neighborhoods by preserving the City's affordable housing stock. A total of 116 families were provided with housing assistance (18 financial assistance and 98 housing services) through the City's Comprehensive Housing Program.

### **Human Capital**

Assist every person to reach their true potential

#### Explore the potential for addressing senior issues and services



Proposed Site for the Gainesville Senior Recreation Center

On February 18, 2010, the City entered into an agreement with WG Mills for the Design Build of the Senior Recreation Center. The design team has held three public meetings to discuss the conceptual plan and programs for the Senior Recreation Center; two meetings were held in the NW area (Northwood YMCA) and one meeting was held in the SE area (Springhill Missionary Baptist Church).

The original conceptual plan was changed, moving the Senior Center closer to the roadway. This satisfies and addresses the Urban Design Criteria of the City's Land Development Code and safety/pedestrian traffic concerns. The revised conceptual plan is scheduled to be presented to the City Commission during the first meeting in April.

The Senior Services Workgroup continues to analyze data and draft a narrative for the Senior Services Report.

#### Continue implementation of the 10-year plan to end homelessness

On February 1, 2010, the Planning Board heard the City of Gainesville Petition to rezone the proposed property from I2 to PUD; the Petition was approved with conditions and forwarded to the City Commission for their review, and approval. On February 15, 2010, the City of Gainesville and ADC Development & Investment Group, LLC entered into a purchase agreement for the 9.7 acre property in the amount of \$452,350 for the future site of the One Stop Homeless Assistance Center. On March 4, 2010, the City Commission heard the Petition, approved it with the conditions recommended by the Plan Board, and directed the City Attorney to prepare the ordinance.

## Streamline the efforts of agencies providing child victim services

During the second quarter, several meetings were held with City staff, mostly regarding the procurement of space for the Family Safety Center. Pat Grunder, Grants Coordinator for GPD, was asked to join in on this initiative. She attended a meeting on February 10, with Commissioner Lauren Poe, Sherry Kitchens and Captain Lynne Benck. The team met again on February 22, with Jon Mills, Dean Emeritus of the University of Florida Levin School of Law. The idea of partnering with UF was discussed. In the next quarter, Commissioner Lauren Poe and Ms. Grunder are going to meet with Shands CEO to discuss a partnership with them as well.

#### Analyze the availability and accessibility of youth programs and identify a role for City government

This past quarter, with assistance from the Public Works Department, the Juvenile Youth Program GAP Analysis document is being transformed into a GIS presentation. This presentation will show youth program locations compared to schools, parks, bus routes and past juvenile crime incidents broken down by zip code. This will be presented to the Recreation, Cultural Affairs and Public Works Committee during the third quarter.

Improving transportations options to access youth services throughout the City has been explored during the second quarter. GPD, PRCA and stakeholders at the local and regional level are preparing a recommendation to bring to the City Commission.

## Government Effectiveness

Continue to increase the effectiveness of local government and maintain a strong fiscal condition

#### Fiscal Responsibility 8

#### Improve communication through increased use of the Internet for City services



This spring, more than 20 citizens participated in Gainesville 101, where attendees learned about municipal government by visiting such places as GFR, GPD, GRU and Morningside Nature Center.

During the second quarter, the Communica- In March, the Communications Office Wednesday, January 20th.

#### ary 25th and March 11th. The first, entitled website. Staff also developed US census "Strategy and Implementation of Social informational content for placement on city Media," used real world case studies to social media sites and for distribution focus on how social media programs tie through various city electronic publications. into government strategic initiatives for communication, employee development Also in March, the Communications Office (recruitment) and citizen engagement. The began the spring 2010 session of Gainessecond webinar, entitled "Policy and Risk ville 101: the Citizens' Academy with 26 Management of Social Media," examined accepted applicants. The six-week course is what effective social media policies look designed to provide a comprehensive overlike, how they are developed, and how of- view of city government to the general pubten they should be revisited. The webinar lic. The course features sessions on city also explored social media's impact on em- leadership and budget, quality of life, pubployees, recruitment, elected officials and lic safety, infrastructure, energy and utility legal considerations.

tions Office produced, recorded and distrib- stepped up support for the media and pubuted the online version of the Mayor's An- licity campaign efforts of the US Census nual "State of the City Address" which was Bureau and the local Alachua County Cenheld at the Hippodrome State Theater on sus Committee to inform the public about the 2010 US Census count. As part of this effort, and in addition to serving as a re-The Communications Office hosted two source to local news media outlets, city well-attended Alliance for Innovation webi- communications staff developed a US Cen-

nars on social media for city staff on Febru- sus Awareness page for the official city

operations, and planning and development.



#### Increase civic engagement

City elections were held on March 16th to elect a new Mayor and District 4 Commissioner. Of the 72,623 registered voters eligible to participate, the Supervisor of Elections reported 10,180 – or about 14% - voted in the election. Based on past history, it is not unusual for voter turn-out to fall below 20% participation rate when it is a City-only election.

#### Committee in publicizing the 2010 census. Information was communicated to residents in print, online and on Community12TV

#### Continue annexation efforts in the urbanized area to maintain social, economic, and financial diversity

#### **Comprehensive Plan, Element 1.2.3**

It is the intent of the city to: annex areas within the adopted Urban Reserve Area that are urban in character and pursue City-sponsored annexations at a minimum of once every two years; and, by 2010, annex half of the urban reserve area or the extent of the utility service area, whichever is greater.

The annexation process for two voluntary annexations continued in the second quarter of the fiscal year. It is anticipated that annexation activity will remain stagnant until the economic conditions begin to improve and development activity increases.

As part of the Comprehensive Plan update, staff made changes to the Intergovernmental Coordination Element to reflect the coordination between the City and County through the use of the Annexation Transition Agreement. Element number 1.2.3 was eliminated because this goal was accomplished.

## Infrastructure & Transportation

Invest in community infrastructure and continue to enhance the transportation network and systems

## Support the reconstruction of transportation facilities to encourage redevelopment of Depot Ave.

Segment 1: SW 13th Street to just west of SW 11th Street

No further progress to report this quarter.

**Segment 2:** *SW 11th Street to Main Street* Final design and ROW acquisition are underway. The design plans are currently 75% complete.

**Segment 3:** Main Street to just west of SE 7th Street

Construction is underway. Phase 1 (SE 3rd St to just west of SE 7th St) is substantially completed. Phase 2 (SE 3rd St to Main St.) will begin following GRU's contamination remediation work in the Depot Ave roadway. Completion of Phase 2 is anticipated to be completed in Fall 2010.

**Segment 4:** *SE 7th Street to Williston Road* Final design and ROW acquisition is underway. The design plans are currently 40% complete.



Map of the roadway segments along Depot Avenue.

# Support the reconstruction of transportation facilities to encourage redevelopment of 6th Street

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) addresses the construction of Section 1 and 2 of the 6th Street Rail Trail. Section 1 starts at the northern end of the Downtown Connector Rail Trail (the old CSX right of way just east of SE 4th Street) and ends at the south side of SW 2nd Avenue. Section 2 runs between NW 10th and 16th Avenues. Construction began March 15, 2010 and is scheduled to be completed within six months.

Section 3 connects sections 1 and 2 and is primarily funded through FDOT by Surface Transportation Enhancement funds. These funds are not available until after July 1, 2010. The plans and construction documents are 60% complete. Land rights matters related to the realignment issues associated with the current and proposed GPD Campus, including the crossing of NW 8th Avenue are being addressed. Section 3 is expected to be bid in late summer to early fall of 2010 and should be constructed within nine months.

## Complete capital projects at parks and continue land conservation & acquisition

Activity related to construction of Possum Creek Park increased significantly, with the expectation that completion will occur April 30th. Closure of the park became necessary in order to facilitate the construction work. A soft opening is planned for April 30th to meet grant requirements; a formal opening event will occur at a later date.

Work is underway to issue a bid request for the repair and replacement of boardwalks at a number of parks. Rezoning and land use changes approved in the first quarter for Hogtown Creek Headwaters have enabled design work for the playground area to begin, and restrooms were installed at Cofrin Park. In February, the City Commission initiated a referral to the Recreation, Cultural Affairs and Public Works Committee to begin a Recreation Master Plan that will include a community needs assessment and inventory of existing park and recreation facilities, recreation programs, maintenance operations, staffing and funding sources.

## Neighborhoods

Improve the quality of life in our neighborhoods for the benefit of all residents

#### Develop creative ways to measure progress in code enforcement



Code Enforcement has completed the development of a system to track the correlation between Code Enforcement actions and changes in crime rate. This has been aided by the use of the new case record database known as Innoprise, which is a database shared by Code Enforcement, the Building Department and the Planning Department. The Code Enforcement Office continues to look to other communities for best practices that encourage volun-

tary compliance. Two such programs are a postcard notification for citizen observed violations and a voluntary patrol program.

Initiative 6.1 includes increasing public awareness of City Code. On channel 12, Code Enforcement has two informational segments as well as informational still slides that are updated regularly. Additionally, Code Enforcement actively maintains the department's website. Code Enforcement staff provide outreach to community groups and actively participates in many neighborhood association and crime watch meetings. Two Code Enforcement Officers have developed an educational program for 3rd grade students in City schools which informs children about City Codes and the importance of a safe and well maintained community.

#### Public Outreach Efforts in the Second Quarter

- A "Most Common Code Violations" brochure was developed and made available to the community
- The Code Enforcement Office joined forces with UF, GPD, and the Solid Waste Division to walk-through neighborhoods near the University to inform renters about City Codes and their responsibility as renters in the City of Gainesville



Brochure produced by the Code Enforcement Division in the second quarter to educate Gainesville residents on City Ordinances that enhance the quality of neighborhoods.

## **Environment & Energy**

Protect and sustain our natural

#### Improve the energy efficiency of modest-income homes through weatherization



Gainesville resident, Brenda Stewart, standing by the heat & air conditioning unit that was installed in her home as part of the weatherization program to improve energy efficiency.

In an effort to bring more awareness in the community and increase the number of applications for the Lowincome Energy Efficiency Program (LEEP), GRU's Marketing Department promoted the program heavily during the month of January 2010. Elements of the campaign included direct mail, bill inserts, a two week radio spot, newspaper insert, and local media interviews. The campaign achieved its goals within six weeks of starting. Print and radio ads generated a buzz in the community leading to Twitter postings and topics for local talk shows. Web traffic for the program increased from 211 hits last year

to well over 1400 for the same time this year. The campaign was a success. The program received well over the targeted amount (276) of applications.

During the second quarter, 26 homes were retrofitted to improve energy efficiency. Improvements ranged from weather-stripping and caulking to replacing or servicing heating and air conditioning systems. YTD the program has retrofitted 40 homes; homes in this program are seeing an average annual reduction of about 2000 kWh per home

The new heat & ac unit was successfully installed in my home last week, and the insulation was blown in the attic. I could never say thank you enough to each one of you, and any others who were instrumental in making this happen for me.

Prior to last week, my home was cold and quite uncomfortable. Today, I feel like someone has wrapped me in a warm cozy blanket. I suddenly feel alive again...normal and stress free. I don't know who picked up the tab for all the work, but it has been a tremendous blessing for me. There is no way I could have afforded to do it on my own and I am so very thankful for your program. I will be sure to pay it forward ...

Quote from letter sent by Gainesville resident, Brenda Stewart

#### Review the status of commercial recycling ordinances

During the second quarter, commercial recycling tonnages increased to 1483 tons, with 211 commercial recycling audits performed. In January staff expanded their research into what other communities around the country are doing to promote commercial recycling since it has been difficult to find communities that are achieving significantly better results in the areas of Multi-Family housing and Construction & Demolition recycling. At about the same time FDEP published their recommendations for how the state should work toward a 75% waste diversion goal.

Also during the second quarter, Emerald Waste Services opened their own transfer station to receive commercial waste loads for the dual purpose of recovering recyclables that would otherwise be buried in the landfill, and to lower disposal costs by sending the waste to a landfill in Georgia

for about \$20/ton less than the tipping fee currently being paid at Alachua County's Transfer Station. This action has severely impacted the economic viability of the County Transfer Station, and has opened up discussions between the County, City, New River Landfill and the haulers as to what path our management of solid waste and recyclables might have to take in the near future. A number of options are being looked into; some of which may significantly improve opportunities to capture more commercial recycling.

Note: A correction has been made to the first quarter recycling tonnages. An error was made in compiling the tonnages, and the correct figure should have been 1136 tons instead of 904. The corrected figure is still below our target for that quarter, however.

#### FDEP Recommendations

- should implement source reduction and recycling programs that set the standard for businesses and munici-palities; State should require counties over 100,000 in population to implement mandatory commercial recycling; State should create recycling grants; C&D disposal facilities should be re-
- quired to begin sorting and recovering materials from the loads they receive;
- State should encourage communities to consider Pay-as-you-throw, RecycleBank, and other programs that offer incentives for residential recycling;
- State should take an active role in helping to develop markets for all kinds of recoverable materials.

## **Environment & Energy**

Protect and sustain our natural environment and address future energy need.

#### Protect the quality of drinking water and integrity of neighborhoods in Gainesville by actively participating in the clean-up and redevelopment of the Cabot/Koppers Superfund site

The Local Intergovernmental Team (LIT) consisting of representatives from the Alachua County Environmental Protection Department, Gainesville Regional Utilities, Alachua County Health Department, Gainesville City Manager's office, as well as city consultants has continued to provide written and verbal comments to USEPA, FDEP and Beazer East, Inc. on a variety of issues ranging from the draft Feasibility Study, offsite soil sampling, groundwater, storm water, creek sediment and health risk issues.

On January 6, 2010, Mayor Hanrahan and GRU Supervising Engineer Rick Hutton met with EPA Interim Regional Administrator Stanley Meiburg and EPA staff to discuss the Cabot Carbon/Koppers Superfund Site.

At the City Commission Meeting on January 21, 2010,

- Mayor Hanrahan and Mr. Hutton provided a summary of their meeting with EPA Interim Regional Administrator Stanley Meiburg and EPA staff,
- Mr. Mitchell Brourman with Beazer East, Inc. provided the City Commission with a status update on the purchase of the Koppers property,
- Scott Miller, EPA Remedial Project Manager provided the City Commission with an update on the proposed timeline on the release of the Clean-up Plan and Record of Decision (ROD), and



Sediment sampling locations near the Cabot/Koppers Superfund site presented to the Joint Commissions on 4/29/2010. Credit: Alachua County

• City staff announced that they had been contacted by E2, Inc., a consulting firm hired by the US EPA to facilitate a discussion and to work with the City of Gainesville, Beazer East, Inc., and other community stakeholders to help identify future uses for the superfund site.

The LIT participated in a workshop with Beazer East, Inc., EPA and FDEP in Tallahassee on January 27th and 28th, 2010 to provide input on alternatives to be included in the final Feasibility Study.

On February 18, 2010, the City Commission approved the City staff recommendation that the Community Development Committee (CDC) be responsible for hearing and making recommendations to the full City Commission on the Future Land Use Process for the Cabot-Koppers Superfund Site. E2, Inc. would be responsible for submitting its Future Land Use recommendations to the CDC for review and recommendation to the City Commission.

On March 8, 2010, the CDC held a Special Public Meeting and heard a presentation from E2, Inc. on the Community Participation Process and their experience in working with other communities in determining alternatives for future land uses of Superfund sites. The Committee and the members of the community engaged in a healthy dialogue with members of the USEPA staff, Beazer East, Inc. and E2, Inc. about the site. The CDC recommended to the City Commission that City staff be directed to prepare a petition for rezoning the property to residential use with some elements of mixed use on the site. It is anticipated that E2, Inc.'s findings and recommendations on future land use will be reviewed and incorporated into the future land use discussion with the City Commission.

## Develop a coordinated response at the local level to address energy policy and climate change

The Traffic Management System (TMS) Phase I field hardware installation is 100% complete and 86% are online communicating with the Traffic Management Center (TMC). Overall, 93% of the field hardware has been completed and 59% of the signals are online in the TMC. Additionally, the temporary Traffic Management Center is operational during the am and pm peak hours.

Only one traffic signal LED indicator has been installed pending final authorization to purchase LED's under the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECB). Also pending is acquisition of the LED pedestrian lighting for the pilot project downtown.

Transit ridership has increased 9.1% since March 2009.

## **Partnerships**

Champion effective and institutionalized relationships with other government entities and community partners

#### Formalize relationships with other community partners



**RTS Ramp Deploying** 

#### **Key Partnerships Opportunities for Transit**

RTS received an FDOT service development grant in the amount of \$100,000 for extension of the use of biodiesel to the entire RTS fleet. Implementation is scheduled for fall 2010. RTS is currently working with UF to extend the "Gator Locator" GPS system to the all RTS routes. RTS expects to run this service by fall 2010. State legislation to authorize Community Colleges to establish a transportation fee which would allow for improved transit to and from SFC was withdrawn. It is anticipated that the legislation will be introduced again next year.

#### Key Partnerships Opportunities for Sustainability

Staff continues to work with partners interested in and supporting the creation of new community gardens. The first new garden will be at the Thelma Boltin Center. Staff also coordinated with the UF Office of Sustainability in support of the Florida Food Summit at UF.

#### **Key Partnerships Opportunities for Hospitality Districts**

UPD continues its support of GPD by providing expanded services covering the College Park Business District across from the UF campus on Wednesday through Saturday nights and providing officers to support Party Patrol. All indications are that this effort will continue.

#### Increase involvement of the City in improving the quality of City schools

The Equal Opportunity Office took the lead in working with the Alachua County Public Schools Foundation to develop a proposal for a mentoring initiative focused on City students that would have its own identity but be part of the Taking Stock in Children program. Funding options are being explored.

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