

INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION

TO: Honorable Mayor Pegeen Hanrahan & Members of the City Commission
FROM: Russ Blackburn, City Manager
DATE: July 21, 2009
SUBJECT: RTS – City of Alachua Transit Service (CATS) Proposal

On April 7, 2009, I met with Alachua City Manager Clovis Watson to discuss the City of Alachua Transit Service (CATS) Transit Improvement Program Final Report that was released in December 2008. The emphasis of the meeting was to collaborate with RTS to fulfill the City of Alachua's vision for creating transit service connections. RTS staff also met with Alachua Assistant City Manager Danielle Judd on April 28, 2009 and reviewed and discussed the report.

RTS would like to pursue providing transit service to the City of Alachua. Ideas were discussed to maximize transit services to citizens while meeting the long range transit goals of RTS and the City of Alachua. This prospective connection between Gainesville and Alachua also supports the vision of Express Bus/Park and Ride Service as proposed by RTS in the 2025 Long Range Transportation Plan.

The proposal provides details to instate two CATS fixed routes, one within the City of Alachua and one express route between Alachua and Gainesville. As outlined in the attached proposal, RTS has drawn up the cost summaries for three different options of CATS service. The proposal will be presented to the City of Alachua as a formal service agreement that will then be brought to the Gainesville City Commission for approval if the City of Alachua is interested.

Several details, such as fare structure and ADA eligibility certification, require further discussion and inclusion in the agreement. Although transit supportive densities in the service area may not be reached until 2019, there is still potential for a strategic approach starting with limited service and expanding services as growth occurs and use increases.

RB:hh

Cc: Paul Folkers, Assistant City Manager
Teresa Scott, Public Works Director
Jesus Gomez, Regional Transit Director