



2009 CITY OF GAINESVILLE FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

Gainesville, Florida City Commission

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Russ Blackburn, City Manager

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CITY OF GAINESVILLE, FLORIDA

FY2009 FEDERAL AGENDA

APPROPRIATION REQUESTS

Downtown Revitalization Initiative

The Gainesville Downtown Revitalization Project is a \$31.4 million project to revitalize the traditional heart of the city and East Gainesville. The project aims to reverse the effects of several decades of urban decay and environmental contamination that have eroded the economic and social health of the city core. This area is a key sector and is adjacent to the University of Florida, one of the nation's largest universities, the Health Sciences Center, and Downtown Gainesville.

The Downtown Revitalization Project is embraced by many enthusiastic community partners, including the City of Gainesville, Alachua County, the University of Florida, Gainesville Regional Utilities, neighborhoods, businesses, and civic and recreation organizations. The Project is crucial to the quality of life of thousands of citizens, now and in the future.

The City of Gainesville has secured approximately \$22 million in grants, loans, and local government funds. Funding partners are the United States Environmental Protection Agency Brownfields Program (\$200,000), FL Department of Environmental Protection (\$1.1 million), St. Johns River Water Management District (\$715,000), US Department of Housing and Urban Development (\$526,300), Florida Recreational Trails Program (\$200,000) and the State Revolving Fund, which provided a \$15 million construction loan.

Depot Park Development Project

The Project is a \$9.75 million program to develop the recreation amenities, rehabilitate the Gainesville Train Depot, provide support facilities such as parking and restrooms, and create a setting for a new museum. This funding request is for \$6.2 million, which will be used to complete development of the park site. The Depot Park site improvements complement ongoing revitalization efforts underway in the area such as constructing rails-to-trails, new housing, and improvements to the adjacent Porters Neighborhood. The park is a key component in redeveloping the urban core and is adjacent to the University of Florida, one of the nation's largest universities, the Health Sciences Center, and downtown Gainesville. The first phase of brownfield cleanup and preliminary park construction has been completed. Phase Two cleanup planning, regulatory approvals, and park design tasks are into advanced stages.

The City is planning a partnership with the Cade Museum Group to site a major science and technology museum at Depot Park. The museum purpose is to highlight the process of scientific discovery in a family-friendly venue comprising approximately 50,000 square feet. Museum leaders are planning to initiate conceptual design planning in early

2008. Both indoor and outdoor exhibits are planned, which will be integrated in to the park development concept

The Downtown Revitalization Project is embraced by many enthusiastic community partners, including the City of Gainesville, Alachua County, the University of Florida, Gainesville Regional Utilities, neighborhoods, businesses, and civic and recreation organizations. The Project is crucial to the quality of life of Gainesville citizens, now and in the future.

Component	Total Cost	Funding Obtained	Funding Needs
Historic Rehabilitation of Depot Bldg.	\$1,500,000	\$1,000,000 (1)	\$500,000
Depot Park Rail Trail Project	700,000	400,000 (2)	300,000
Museum Support Facilities: Parking & Landscaping	600,000	300,000 (2)	300,000
Historic Depot Trail	2,500,000	1,000,000 (2)	1,500,000
Pond Promenade	500,000	250,000 (2)	250,000
Nature Trails and Boardwalk	1,500,000	652,400 (2)	847,600
Amphitheater	2,000,000	0	2,000,000
Children's Play Area	150,000	0	150,000
Garden Center	300,000	0	300,000
Total Depot Park	\$9,750,000	\$3,602,400	\$6,147,600

(1) State Historic Preservation Grant: \$250,000, TEA-21: \$750,000

(2) City of Gainesville: \$1,253,600; HUD EDI Grant: \$148,800, Recreational Trails Grant: \$200,000 2005 CIRB Bonds: \$1,000,000

The City of Gainesville has secured approximately \$3.6 million in grants, loans, and local government funds. Funding partners are the Florida Division of Historical Resources (\$250,000), FL Department of Transportation (\$750,000), US Department of Housing and Urban Development (\$148,800), and the Florida Recreational Trails Program (\$200,000). The City of Gainesville is contributing approximately \$2,253,600 of local funds to the project through revenue sources and bond proceeds.

Depot Avenue Stormwater/Sewer Improvements

To date, phase two of the project which includes cleanup and construction of the remaining stormwater facility and roadway are well into the advanced planning and permitting stages. The City of Gainesville requests \$4.8 million in order to complete the stormwater improvement portion of the project which is integral with the reconstruction of Depot Avenue.

Water Quality Initiative

Paynes Prairie Sheetflow Restoration

The City of Gainesville is requesting \$2 million in funding for a water quality / surface water resource improvement and protection project. The project will meet Total

Maximum Daily Load (IMDL) requirements and improve water quality in Alachua Sink, a lake located within the Paynes Prairie Preserve State Park, restore over 1,300 acres of natural wetlands, and help protect a vital water supply for the state, the Floridan Aquifer. The Paynes Prairie Sheetflow Restoration project is included as a priority in the St. Johns River Water Management District Orange Creek Basin, State Funding Initiative.

The request is 47% of the \$4.3 million estimated construction cost and 9% of the \$23 million total project costs. The requested funding will be used as cost-share funding in conjunction with local funding and other funding sources. The funding would help to pay for the construction of a sheetflow distribution channel with water-control structures and backfilling the Sweetwater Canal that connects Sweetwater Branch to Alachua Sink. The funding would complete the final downstream component of a project to restore the historic sheetflow onto the wetlands of Paynes Prairie from Sweetwater Branch.

Public Transportation Enhancement Initiative

RTS Administration, Operations and Maintenance Facility Expansion

The City of Gainesville Regional Transit System (RTS) provides public transit service to the City of Gainesville and the adjacent areas of Alachua County. The RTS service area is approximately 75 square miles with a total of 45 fixed routes, including 10 University of Florida (UF) campus shuttles. RTS benefits from a highly successful partnership with UF, providing the community with more than 8.9 million passenger trips in FY 2007 and an average of 45,000 weekday trips. RTS continues to play a key role in building successful partnerships within the community and is committed to providing a safe, courteous and reliable transportation alternative.

RTS is requesting \$12 Million to continue the expansion of its administration, operations and maintenance facility. Over the past nine years, the demand for transit services has outstripped RTS resources. RTS has completed the first two of three project phases using local, state and federal funds as shown on table 1. Phase one included the construction of an employee parking lot and phase two consisted of site work in preparation for the facility expansion.

Phase three will consist of the expansion of the RTS administration, operations and maintenance facility. One major component of this phase is the modification and rehabilitation of the maintenance facility. The existing facility was originally designed to maintain a fleet of 40 buses. Today, with difficulty, RTS maintains 110 buses in this same facility. While this facility expansion is necessary to maintain the existing fleet and store parts properly, it's more critical that the facility be rehabilitated and expanded if RTS is to accommodate any future service expansion.

RTS has already received \$2 million in SAFETEA-LU earmarks to begin the planning, engineering and design phase of this project in order to comply with FTA regulations. RTS has also begun the conceptual design phase and is currently working to develop strategies that will maximize the use of current federal funds in order to meet existing and future demands.

Table 1: Facility Expansion Funding Needs

Project	Total Cost	Funding Obtained	Funding Needs
RTS Facility Expansion	\$17,100,000	\$5,100,000 (*)	\$12,000,000

(*) Section 5309 Grant (\$300,000), FDOT Funds (\$250,000), Local Funds (\$250,000), and SAFETEA-LU Grant allocation for FY06-FY09 (\$4,300,000)

Homeland Security

Traffic and I-75 Freeway Management System

The City of Gainesville requests \$7,505,400 in Homeland Security funds to complete phase five of the Alachua County Traffic Management System (TMS). Funds will be applied toward the completion of the I-75 Freeway Management portion of the Alachua County TMS. The Alachua County TMS is a five-year five phase regional project coordinated with Alachua County, Marion County, the City of Gainesville, the University of Florida and the Florida Department of Transportation. \$18.2 million has been funded for the initial four phases by the regional partnership. When complete the system will provide real time monitoring and surveillance capabilities of the I-75 Corridor and all other major streets and highways throughout the county to the Alachua County Combined Communications Office, Alachua County Office of Emergency Management and the City of Gainesville' Traffic Management Center; as well as allow monitoring and surveillance capabilities to the Unified Command Team during University of Florida home football game weekends when the stadium is hosting 90,000 people.

10-Year Plan to End Homelessness Initiative

In December 2005, the City of Gainesville and Alachua County completed the 10-Year Plan following an intense six-month effort on the part of over 100 volunteers, including public officials and staff from local public agencies and nonprofit organizations. Gainesville and Alachua County are now among over 300 communities across the country that have chosen to address the issue of homelessness in a deliberate, comprehensive fashion through a locally developed 10-year plan.

Gainesville Homeless Mental Health Services Initiative

The City of Gainesville requests \$800,000 to expand mental health and substance abuse services for homeless individuals as laid out in the Gainesville-Alachua County 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness

In December 2005, the City of Gainesville and Alachua County completed the 10-Year Plan following an intense six-month effort on the part of over 100 volunteers, including public officials and staff from local public agencies and nonprofit organizations. Gainesville and Alachua County are now among over 300 communities across the country that have chosen to address the issue of homelessness in a deliberate, comprehensive fashion through a locally developed 10-year plan.

Based on a 2007 point-in-time survey conducted by the Alachua County Coalition for the Homeless and Hungry, there are an estimated 952 homeless persons living in Gainesville and Alachua County. According to estimates from the survey and those reported in the Coalition's 2007 HUD Continuum of Care for the Homeless Plan, 261 of the 635 homeless adults surveyed (41%) were severally mentally ill, had chronic substance abuse problems or were dually-diagnosed. In addition, an estimated 179 homeless adults (28%) were determined to be chronically homeless, indicating that they were not only homeless more frequently and over longer time periods but they had serious mental and/or physical health problems.

This initiative will further one of the key goals of the 10-Year Plan, which is to expand mental health and substance abuse services to serve up to 300 additional homeless persons over a two-year period for a total cost of \$800,000 (\$400,000 per year). If funded, these critical services will be provided through experienced local providers such as Meridian Behavioral Healthcare and CDS Family & Behavioral Health Services, which have partnered with the City and County in the past to create the 10-Year Plan.

The City's commitment of resources to address the issue of homelessness has been considerable. Since the adoption of the 10-Year Plan in December 2005, the City has provided over \$1,584,000 from resources it has access to, including City General Funds, CDBG funds and private donations, to support programs that serve to implement the 10-Year Plan. In the current fiscal year alone, the City has earmarked over \$550,000 for homeless assistance programs.

Gainesville Homeless Employment Services Initiative

The City of Gainesville requests \$300,000 to expand job training and employment services for homeless individuals as laid out in the Gainesville-Alachua County 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness.

Based on a 2007 point-in-time survey conducted by the Alachua County Coalition for the Homeless and Hungry, there are an estimated 952 homeless persons living in Gainesville and Alachua County. According to estimates from the survey and those reported in the Coalition's 2007 HUD Continuum of Care for the Homeless Plan, 354 of the 635 homeless adults surveyed (56%) were unemployed. Unemployment is particularly

prevalent among the estimated 179 homeless adults who were determined to be chronically homeless. As a group, 65% the unsheltered homeless, who are mostly chronically homeless, were unemployed according to the survey.

This initiative will further one of the key goals of the 10-Year Plan, which is to enhance educational, job training and employment options for homeless persons. This initiative proposes to enroll 350 homeless persons in employment services, train 200 of them in employability skills and place 150 of them in jobs over a two-year period at a total cost of \$300,000 (\$150,000 per year). If funded, these services will be provided through FloridaWorks, the regional workforce entity for Alachua and Bradford Counties, which has partnered with the City and County in the past to create the 10-Year Plan.

The City's commitment of resources to address the issue of homelessness has been considerable. Since the adoption of the 10-Year Plan in December 2005, the City has provided over \$1,584,000 from resources it has access to, including City General Funds, CDBG funds and private donations, to support programs that serve to implement the 10-Year Plan. In the current fiscal year alone, the City has earmarked over \$550,000 for homeless assistance programs, including \$15,000 that is being used to continue a homeless-to-work program that was begun by FloridaWorks in 2006.

Public Safety Initiative

Technology Infrastructure Improvements to the GPD Training Facility

The City of Gainesville is dedicated to providing the highest level of police service to its citizens as well as utilizing innovative methods to serve the community. To that end, the City has developed a Community Oriented Policing and Training Center. Two aspects of GPD's operations will be housed in this facility: the Community Oriented Policing and Training Center and the Joint Intel Center. The City of Gainesville has committed the funds to construct a new building to house the aforementioned facilities, which will cost approximately \$6.5 million. The City is requesting \$1 million to pay for the technology infrastructure needs that are vital for each facility to be fully functional. The following is a brief overview of each facility and the role it will serve for the community.

Community Oriented Policing and Training Center

The Community Oriented Policing and Training Center is a 19,000 square foot facility that will house GPD's Restorative Justice program, Mediation, the Black on Black Crime Task Force, Community Resource Officers, and many other community oriented programs. The idea and concept of the center is to bring together members of the community to assist in the reduction of crime and target those areas, working in conjunction with the courts and the State Attorney's Office, that will empower communities and individuals to reduce crime while in partnership with the police department. Additionally, the center will serve as a hub for the more than fifteen service providers in Alachua County that provide some type of service aimed at reducing crime, working with victims, and assisting neighborhoods. Service providers will be given the opportunity to share resources and ideas, bring victims and suspects together, and have their communities assist in "trying" the cases.

There are various technology needs for this facility including information kiosks at which any member of the community can enter and access information ranging ordinances to important contact information

Joint Intel Center

The Joint Intel Center will be a 2,600 square foot facility that will house members of the Gainesville Police Department and the Alachua County Sheriff's Office (ASO). This facility will allow the agencies to track crime and relay real time information to investigators in the field. The Joint Intel Center is an off shoot of the Fusion Centers starting up throughout the country as a result of the 9/11 terrorist attack in New York City. This intel center will be able to track criminals, interface with the computer aided dispatch system at ASO, access both GPD's and ASO's records management system, and compile statistics and data on suspects committing crime. Two aspects of this program are: being able to access field interview cards, reports and intelligence as it is generated in the field and then correlating this information into a workable document and providing that information to officer/deputies. To accomplish this, various software packages as well as several computers are needed.

Education Initiative

City of Gainesville and Alachua County Public Schools Partnership for Student Success – Opening the Doors to Math and Science for Disadvantaged Students

While the total population of students in Alachua County made adequate yearly progress in mathematics in the 2007 FCAT assessment, African-American students, students with disabilities, and economically disadvantaged students did not. This contributed to two of the seven high schools in Alachua County being graded as "F" schools by the Florida Department of Education. In addition, the 4-year graduation rate for African-American students in Alachua County Public Schools is 51%. We have a significant achievement gap in Alachua County for disadvantaged students. As the global economy becomes more technologically dependent, these students are being left farther behind.

With the academic support and exposure to the possibilities of the world around them, we believe these students can be successful. To that end, the City of Gainesville and Alachua County Public Schools have entered into The Partnership for Student Success, a broad-based program intended to provide meaningful support to a school system facing many challenges.

On behalf of the Partnership for Student Success, the City of Gainesville is requesting a total of \$636,800 to implement a comprehensive program aimed at closing the achievement gap in mathematics for the at-risk 9th and 10th grade students in the public high schools.

Component #1: Provide a credit-based Extended School Day program in Math
Entering 9th grade and 10th grade students, previously identified as at-risk by their FCAI scores and academic record, would be invited to participate in an extended day program at each high school. This program would allow them to earn one elective credit toward

graduation The curriculum would be based on building their mathematics skills and applying these skills in scientific lab experiences. Students will learn to value mathematics as they see a need for learning it Field trips to the University of Florida and Santa Fe Community College will show the students what is waiting for them if they do well in their academics

Projected Budget: \$470,000

Component #2: Provide a credit-based mathematics/science Summer Camp

Entering 9th grade and rising 10th grade students, previously identified as at-risk by their FCAT scores and academic record, would be invited to participate in a summer camp The students would be engaged in hands-on math and science activities and would have field trips designed to acquaint them with the scientific discoveries going on at the University of Florida and Santa Fe Community College in their own home town Students would earn one-half elective credit toward graduation for their participation in the summer camp An additional benefit to this component is the positive experience that such a program would provide these students. Research has shown that relationships are important in student achievement, particularly for at-risk students A positive experience with the high school and the teachers prior to entering high school will start the student off well the following year

Projected Budget \$112,800

Component #3: Provide after-school tutoring

For the students who are not able to attend the Extended School Day program, a tutoring program will be instituted at each high school to provide support for their mathematics and science classes Teachers will be employed to provide tutoring before and after school 2-4 days per week An enrichment curriculum as well as tutoring on specific questions will be available to help students build their conceptual knowledge in mathematics

Projected Budget \$54,000

TOTAL BUDGET REQUEST \$636,800

Labor/Entrepreneurial Initiative

Small Business (Entrepreneurial) Program

This program will focus on providing job related skills and education to disadvantaged or at-risk 16-24 year old individuals The concern is that there are individuals who fit within this age range who, for various reasons, find themselves without the skills and education to find gainful employment and therefore become at-risk of entering into detrimental behavior This program will provide these individuals with business/entrepreneurial skills and assist them in moving away from at-risk behavior The Small Business (Entrepreneurial) Program is in its initial planning phase and an appropriate funding request will be determined following discussions with various potential partners including: the School Board of Alachua County, FloridaWorks, Santa Fe Community College, Alachua County, and other community based partners

NON-APPROPRIATION ISSUES

Southeast Gainesville Renaissance Initiative

The development of mixed-income residential housing on vacant parcels envisioned in the proposed Southeast Gainesville Renaissance Initiative (SEGRI) project will be significant in revitalizing Southeast Gainesville. The purpose of this project is to eliminate slum and blight by encouraging mixed-income infill residential development in older neighborhoods in Southeast Gainesville. This effort is a specific initiative to implement new residential development pursuant to the recently adopted "Plan East Gainesville" vision.

According to the Housing Data Analysis Report in the City of Gainesville's Housing Element of the Comprehensive Plan, between the years 2005 and 2010, demand for additional new single family housing units will be approximately 1,888. Although there is a stock of affordable homes for sale on the market, there are many barriers preventing low and moderate income households from purchasing a home. Such barriers are high down payment/closing costs, credit problems, difficulty in securing financing and a lack of knowledge about the home buying process. The Southeast Gainesville Renaissance Initiative is aimed to help these individuals acquire safe, decent, and affordable housing.

The City of Gainesville is moving forward with the planning phase for the redevelopment sites within the SEGRI area. One of these sites, the former Kennedy Homes site, has been purchased by the City. The buildings that were on the site have since been demolished in order to clear the way for development. However, a use agreement imposed by HUD which limits the income level of those who reside on the property as well as limits the cost of housing on the property, remains in effect hindering any further development at this time. The use agreement is set to expire in October 2009. At that time the SEGRI project, at least at the former Kennedy Homes site, will move from the planning phase to the development phase. On the Kennedy Homes site alone, the SEGRI plan calls for nearly 100 new homeownership units at a variety of price levels.

Cabot/Koppers Superfund Site Immediate Measures and Cleanup

The City requests assistance in its efforts to pursue action from USEPA to ensure that the City's water supply is protected from contamination from the Cabot/Koppers Superfund site, and that the site is properly cleaned up in a timely manner. The Cabot/Koppers site has been a designated Superfund site since 1983. However, there have been minimal actions taken to clean up the site or to prevent the contamination from reaching the City's wellfield.

Investigations that have been completed since 2001 have documented significant contamination in the groundwater below the site, including the Floridan Aquifer, which is the water supply for the City's wellfield located only 2 miles downstream of the site. The City has been highly proactive in working with USEPA to pursue measures to protect the City's wellfield and obtain timely and permanent cleanup of the site. The City has assembled a team of internationally renowned experts in groundwater contamination and remediation to review the site and advise and assist the City. This team has

recommended that immediate actions be taken to contain the contamination in the Floridan Aquifer below the Koppers site to prevent it from potentially reaching the City's wellfield.

The City is also concerned over contamination of surface soils with dioxin and arsenic at the site. The site is located in a residential area which presents concerns for neighboring residents, and in addition, the site could be redeveloped for residential use at a future date. The soil at the site should be cleaned up to residential standards.

It is our understanding that EPA is in the process of evaluating alternatives for cleaning up the site in anticipation of developing a Record of Decision for the final cleanup plan for the site.

The City requests assistance in working with EPA to ensure that:

- 1 Both immediate and long-term actions are taken to contain the contamination in the Floridan Aquifer below the Koppers site and protect the City Wellfield; and
- 2 The Cabot/Koppers Superfund site is properly cleaned up in a timely manner so that the City's water supply is protected, and soil is cleaned up to residential standards.