

CITY OF GAINESVILLE



2015 Federal Agenda

Gainesville, Florida City Commission

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Commissioner Lauren Poe (At Large)

Commissioner Thomas Hawkins (At Large)

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Kathy Viehe, Interim GRU General Manager



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2015 CITY OF GAINESVILLE FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

SKILL SET BUILDING, JOB TRAINING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

JOB CREATION INFRASTRUCTURE:

The central city core of Gainesville is experiencing economic growth due in large part to the redevelopment efforts of the City of Gainesville, the Gainesville Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) and its partners as well as interest from private developers. This area, including downtown and east Gainesville, has seen significant development and infrastructure improvement which has impacted the economic potential for the central city. Partners such as the University of Florida, Alachua County, the State of Florida and others have worked with the City and CRA to create an atmosphere of economic opportunity and sustainable growth with a goal of revitalizing this part of our community. Gainesville has a unique opportunity to leapfrog ahead and create a new model of community economic development; the community has mobilized with unified goals of establishing a model of collaboration and innovation and to further enhance its effectiveness as a crucible for developing high tech companies. Establishing true public/private partnerships and further leveraging research funding and faculty expertise coming into the University of Florida, along with the City and CRA's extensive outreach and economic development programs will catalyze growth and spur the creation of creative class jobs.

Current projects include: completion of Depot Park, which includes the finalizing the remediation of a contaminated site, building stormwater ponds to support additional growth downtown and creating a world class public park amenity; the GTEC (Gainesville Technology Enterprise Center) Expansion and former Kennedy Homes Redevelopment, which includes the expansion and creation of a commercial corridor on the eastern side of Downtown and creating an adjacent 15-acre mixed-use development on the site of a former housing project; Innovation Square, a collaboration with the University of Florida to create a live/work/play research and innovation community, and the Power District, 17 acres of decommissioned utility buildings and property being repurposed into an mixed-use post-industrial urban village. These community initiatives include layers of redevelopment and community engagement including but not limited to historic preservation, redevelopment, economic development, rebranding, marketing and infrastructure improvements such as streets, sidewalks, street and pedestrian lighting, and utility improvements.

GTEC Area and the Former Kennedy Homes Site

Directly east of the Power District; the Eastside Redevelopment Area is home to the City's first technology incubator, the Gainesville Technology Enterprise Center (GTEC). Adjacent to GTEC is the former Kennedy Homes site, a 16-acre site planned for redevelopment. The CRA is working with interested partners to create a sustainable community that will support the growing innovation economy and future expansion at GTEC and surrounding sites. The CRA also completed an infrastructure analysis along Hawthorne Road, a major corridor through the area. The GTEC and former Kennedy Homes areas are an important connection to Gainesville's downtown and will compliment growth in the Power District and Innovation Square District, creating a signature east-west Technology Corridor for the City of Gainesville. Funding is needed for GRU to prioritize and complete an upgrade to a major lift station that services the majority of the Eastern Gainesville area.

Innovation Square and the iDistrict

The Innovation District (iDistrict) spans roughly 44 acres in the heart of Gainesville's urban core. Development of the iDistrict provides a strong physical link between Downtown Gainesville and the University of Florida. It also represents the symbolic link of a deeply integrated town/gown partnership in which the University, Shands HealthCare (affiliated with the University of Florida), City of Gainesville, Gainesville Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA), and Gainesville Regional Utilities (GRU) work together in a collaborative partnership to bring investment, growth, economic development, and job creation to the community. The core development is a mixed-use, research-oriented 24-hour live/work/play community that will translate the knowledge developed at UF and elsewhere into commercial and business applications. The iDistrict has the capacity to include up to 6 million square feet of new building space and generate thousands of new jobs to the community. Many of these jobs will be high-wage positions in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) fields. However, a high level of support services in commercial retail, residential, and other fields will be generated to meet the demand generated by the "creative class" innovation economy centered in this district.

The community has formed strong institutional partnerships in order to proactively establish the necessary framework that will support and cultivate iDistrict development: The CRA has partnered with the City and GRU to streamline and clarify zoning and utility regulations and the development review process and is building two new roadways through the district to provide necessary infrastructure and create greater connectivity. The CRA, GRU, UF, Shands HealthCare, and the City of Gainesville, and private sector have coordinated high-level utility master planning to ensure that capacity, design, and delivery of services are well integrated into development plans. Urban design standards have been adopted to ensure walkability and multi-modal opportunities connecting the iDistrict, Downtown, and the University of Florida. The partnership is developing innovative stormwater systems that will be interwoven into urban design standards in order to address stormwater in a holistic, district-wide manner.

The Innovation Hub research/technology business incubator is now open, and plans for additional buildings are in the permitting process. Plans for major capital improvements are also progressing and include: roadways; stormwater; utilities; parks/public spaces; public/public and public/private partnerships; and more. All stakeholders, both public and private are working together to ensure full integration of plans, with the ultimate goal of creating a vibrant urban area that will create jobs and generate unprecedented levels of urban development. This district will not only benefit the local community, but serve as a national and international model.

CRA is currently constructing approximately \$4 million in transportation, stormwater, and utility improvements. These infrastructure improvements are necessary to support the planned additional buildings and high-tech jobs which are slated for the iDistrict in 2014-2015. Two buildings are planned to start construction in I2 for a total of 250,000 sq.ft. of research, commercial, and residential space.

Depot Park and the Power District

After decades of disinvestment, the area immediately south of Gainesville's Downtown core is being revitalized into what is known as the Power District and Depot Park. Depot Park is a 32-acre designated Brownfield that is being remediated by the City and GRU and transformed into Gainesville's premier urban green space. The City/GRU has invested nearly \$30,000,000 in funds to remove environmental

contamination, install new infrastructure and roadways, and invest in public amenities such as the restored Depot (listed on the National Register of Historic Places), walking and biking trails, a children's play area, and park gardens and pathways. At the central focal point of the park are large stormwater treatment basins, representing nearly \$5 M in capital investment that will support infill and redevelopment in Gainesville's downtown. The Cade Museum for Creativity and Invention has plans to construct a 45,000 square foot museum on the Depot Park site, with Phase I planned to begin construction in 2015. Currently the City is finalizing remediation of the property and constructing the stormwater ponds. Park development, led by the CRA, is planned to begin construction during 2014.

Immediately adjacent to Depot Park is the Power District, approximately 17 acres of downtown property formerly utilized as support areas for utility operations. The area represents approximately 50,000 sq.ft. of potential adaptive reuse of 6 buildings with 700,000 sq.ft. of proposed development at full build-out. The Power District presents tremendous economic opportunities for the community. It is emerging as one of the city's most vibrant districts and includes an eclectic mix of industrial, artistic, commercial, and residential spaces. In late 2011, GRU relocated operations away from this district, providing an opportunity for large-scale redevelopment and economic development. The CRA, as lead agency, has coordinated master planning work in order to literally rebuild this section of town, and is working to enable flexible, streamlined zoning regulations that will bolster efforts to attract new commercial opportunities and jobs to the area. Additional investigations are scheduled to begin in early 2014 to explore the feasibility of daylighting portions of Sweetwater Branch Creek into a community green space, stormwater treatment amenity, and redevelopment asset. The proposed master plan identifies over 2 acres of new public open space with 1,300 linear feet of new streets, 4,000 linear feet of refurbished streets, and over 350 new parking spaces to serve the district and Depot Park. The CRA has currently appropriated approximately \$500,000 in funds towards the Power District initiative. Additional funding will be necessary to assist with the redevelopment of the area and to recruit redevelopment investment and business development. Such projects include but are not limited to development recruitment, utility infrastructure upgrades, building improvements and new construction, stormwater infrastructure, brownfield remediation, and streetscape enhancements.

The area will serve as an important compliment to Innovation Square and the iDistrict, as it provides the opportunity for Innovation Economy businesses with assembly/production/manufacturing needs the ability to locate and grow within Gainesville's urban core. Currently, the CRA lead a partnership with the City and GRU to establish a "catalyst" economic development project in the Power District. The catalyst project, a public/private partnership with Prioria Robotics, will provide an anchor tenant for the Power District, and will afford Prioria the opportunity to expand their growing business within the local community. Prioria is a locally grown clean tech company which develops and produces unmanned aircraft and other engineering solutions for industrial robotics, medical device applications, and military and homeland security applications. Prioria has brought its production capabilities to the Power District and moved into the newly converted and renovated warehouse building in February 2013. The company anticipates adding approximately 40 new high wage jobs over the next five years. The catalyst project incorporated economic development, business retention, and redevelopment initiatives. Funding for the catalyst project included building reuse and renovation and infrastructure improvements. CRA was the lead agency for this project and partnered with the City of Gainesville and GRU. The project is substantially complete.

Master planning and rezoning is currently underway and additional funding is needed for construction and infrastructure improvements on the balance of the former Gainesville Regional Utilities sites. There

is current interest from local technology companies in relocating to the Power District, which will require additional renovations to former warehouses to convert them to the appropriate uses. Cost estimates have not yet been obtained for this work but the City is seeking additional funding to continue its efforts in this important area of Gainesville urban core.

Empowerment Center

The City of Gainesville purchased the former Gainesville Correctional Institute (GCI) property on November 19, 2013, in order to develop a full service Human Services campus providing a variety of public services for homeless/needy individuals and families in the community. Once fully restored, the campus will offer services such as employment training, laundry facilities, medical and dental, meals, case management, shelter, and other services. The City has invested \$2.3 million for the project including the purchase of surplus state property. State funding in the amount of 1.3 million was requested for renovations and development of buildings and roof replacement of all buildings on the property.

The City has enough funding to bring one of the four dormitory buildings up to code for much needed residential/shelter services, however, the other dormitory buildings offer a great opportunity to provide additional shelter services to address housing needs for the homeless, young people graduating out of the foster care system, at-risk youth, young adults between the ages of 18 and 24 years of age, veterans, families of domestic violence and other shelter needs in the community. Many services will be provided through the commercial kitchen & cafeteria from meals to the homeless, culinary training, to commercial business opportunities, all operating in one facility. The laundry facility will provide commercial washers and dryers for facility use and coin operated washer and dryers for residents use. The Empowerment Center project will provide the opportunity for the City to work with the private and public sector in developing the first full service Human Services Campus in the state, and could serve as a model for adaptive re-use.

Furthermore, due to the size and space available at the site, there are agriculture/horticulture opportunities which could include organic farming, community gardens, food forest, greenhouse operations, aquaculture, composting operations, and more. The City has already reached out to potential partners for their input and expertise in these areas, and has received great response from the community agriculture/horticulture experts.

Federal Request:

The initial funding request will be to renovate the largest assets of Empowerment Center; the commercial kitchen & cafeteria, dormitory buildings and laundry facility. The City of Gainesville is seeking \$950,000 in federal request to assist with the renovation and development of the Empowerment Center's commercial kitchen & cafeteria (\$490,000), the dormitory building (\$420,000), and the laundry facility (\$40,000). With these renovations, a variety of human services and programs may be provided to homeless, foster care, and at-risk youth, young adult services, veteran and families of domestic violence.

C. R. Layton United States Army Reserve Center – 1125 Northeast 8th Avenue

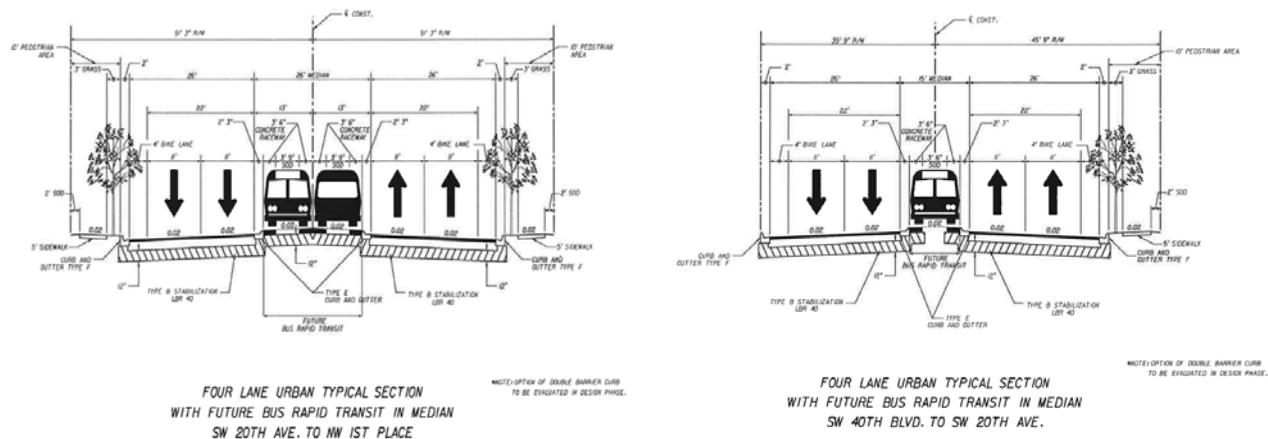
In 1950, the City of Gainesville conveyed title for 6.8 acres of vacant property located at 1125 Northeast 8th Avenue to the Federal government. The US Army developed the property into a 35,625 square foot Army Reserve Center that was completed in 1953. The deed of conveyance contained a reverter clause indicating that the property would revert back to the City of Gainesville if no longer needed by the Federal government. Over 60 years later, in late 2011, the City was notified the property was no longer needed and would be conveyed to the City. The City was provided with an Environmental Condition of Property Update Report that was prepared for the US Army in 2010. This report identified issues in the building that would need to be addressed prior to any future reuse of the building. These issues include asbestos, lead paint and mold. In early 2013, the US Army determined that additional testing was needed and which was completed in the summer 2013. City staff also felt it was in the best interests of the City to complete further testing and assessment of the property.

The City conducted a Phase II Environmental Assessment of the property. Based on the testing results of soil and ground water, Water & Air Research, Inc. concluded no adverse impacts were detected. However, based on air samples acquired at various locations throughout the facility, primarily two locations were found to have moderate mildew spore types which were similar to outdoor samples. Water & Air Research recommended running the air conditioning system to lower the moisture in the air and cleaning any obvious areas of mold before occupancy.

The additional testing by the US Army included a specific study of asbestos in the building. The study identified additional suspect asbestos containing materials but did not confirm whether these materials contained asbestos. The US Army has indicated that they will do no further testing or maintenance of the property. The City is seeking to confirm whether these suspect materials contain asbestos or not the then update cost estimates for remediation of the lead paint and asbestos in the building. Current estimates of the costs to remediate the lead paint and asbestos are in the range of \$350,000. The City is seeking federal funding to cover the costs of the remediation and hoping to confirm this before accepting the property back into City ownership. The US Army and the City will need to sign a document to confirm the property ownership reverting back to the City.

INTEGRATED TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM

Public Works: SW 62nd Boulevard

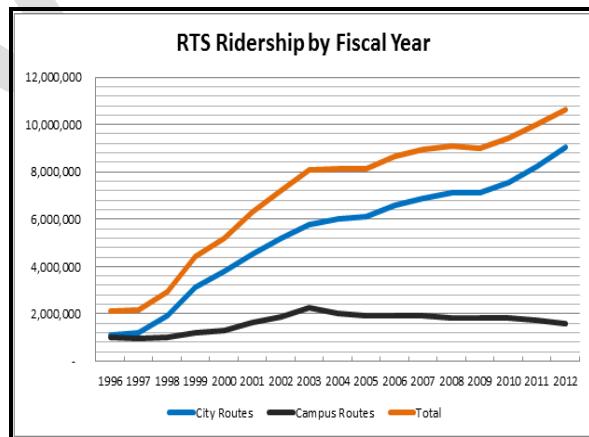
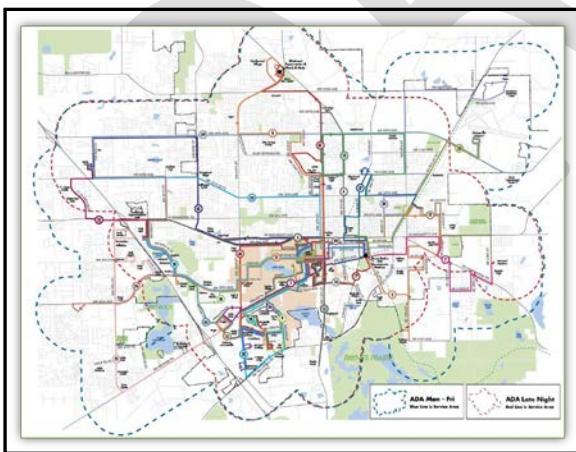


Transit:

The City of Gainesville Regional Transit System (RTS) is a mid-sized agency that provides public transit service to the City of Gainesville and the adjacent areas of Alachua County. RTS service area is approximately 91 square miles with a total of 38 fixed routes, including 10 University of Florida (UF) campus shuttles. RTS provided more than 10.8 million passenger trips in FY 2013 and an average of over 41,103 weekday trips. Although RTS faces unique challenges daily as a result of adapting its service to both students and local residents, 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 to the greater Gainesville area.

Over the past 10 years, the demand for transit services has exceeded RTS resources. In 1998, RTS started its collaboration with UF to provide students prepaid, unlimited access to transit service by incorporating a transportation fee in UF students' tuition; in 2010 the same type of partnership also began with Santa Fe College. Similarly, RTS has worked over the past 10 years to enroll the area's top employers in the RTS Employee Bus Pass Program. To date, twelve major employers participate in the program with almost 32,000 employees enrolled. UF, Shands Healthcare and the Veteran's Administration Hospital are three of the largest program participants with a combined 27,640 eligible employees all working within a one square mile area. The Employee Bus Pass Program continues to be a success—use increased by 22 percent annually to more than 416,400 passenger trips in 2012. Because of these relationships the number of annual trips has increased by over 10.8 million passenger trips and the Gainesville Urbanized area has the highest transit mode share in the state..

The last major update to the RTS Ten-Year Transit Development Plan (TDP) occurred in 2009 and proposed implementation of 17 new routes and 23 enhancements to existing routes. These service improvements would not only increase the service span and help RTS achieve its goal of 30 minute



frequencies or better on all routes it would also bring service to Alachua County's other municipalities and add other transit modes like Bus Rapid Transit.

RTS Fleet Replacement and Expansion – Next Generation

One of RTS's goals is to reduce energy consumption of the City's bus fleet, which in turn will help improve fuel economy, reduce emissions and lower maintenance costs. RTS currently runs both bio-diesel and hybrid-electric vehicles. To prepare for the future, RTS also plans to explore the adding Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) buses to its fleet.

RTS has more than doubled its fleet size since 1997 to address the huge ridership increases above. In order to meet the demand, RTS acquired a number of used buses, which caused the average fleet age to soar to over 12 years old by 2000. This became incredibly costly, with an evaluation of RTS' fleet showing that the average cost per mile for vehicles older than 6 years old was \$2.42, while vehicles younger than 6 years was only \$1.23. FTA grants have helped to reduce the fleet age to 8.02 years but 55 RTS buses still exceed their useful life in years or mileage, which according to FTA are vehicles older than 12 years or have more than 500,000 miles. Older, high-mileage vehicles require heavier repairs, which cost about \$45,000 more per vehicle annually. Heavier repairs also require longer use of the repair bays, leaving less space for repairing other vehicles. RTS needs to replace these 55 buses in order to sustain regular service and reduce maintenance costs. Additionally, as discussed above, RTS also has a number of service expansions planned to keep up with demand. Therefore, it is simply not a matter of only improving the current fleet age but also to keep pace with the pressure to grow the system.

It's important to note that this fleet replacement and expansion strategy is articulated in the goals, objectives and priorities of the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), TDP, the Gainesville Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization's Long Range Transportation Plan, Alachua County's Mobility Plan, and the City of Gainesville's Comprehensive Plan.



Bio-diesel Buses:

RTS is requesting **\$5,000,000** to replace 15 older diesel engine buses with new ones.

Articulated Buses:

In order to meet demand on some of RTS's most popular routes, RTS needs **\$5,500,000** to purchase 5 articulated buses. A strategic approach in their placement will also allow RTS to reduce the total number of buses needed in a corridor and decrease capital costs.

***Hybrid-electric Buses:***

In order to continue efforts to reduce operating costs, RTS currently has five (5) hybrid-electric buses that have experienced over 20% fuel consumption reductions when compared to the rest of the fleet. RTS needs **\$3,250,000** to purchase 5 Hybrid-electric vehicles; because of their higher unit cost and suitable on only certain types of routes a complete fleet replacement with hybrid-electric vehicles would not be economical.

***Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) Buses:***

RTS efforts to use alternative fuels on its fleet includes potentially adding CNG buses. Because of the large capital investment required to implement this fuel type, RTS estimates that at least 25-30% of its fleet would need this type of fuel to be cost-effective. To implement a CNG system, a new fuel station,

rehabilitation of the existing maintenance facility and modification of the in-construction new facility, and new buses are all necessary.

Federal Request: is **\$20,000,000** to make these modifications and to purchase 30 CNG buses.



Transit Amenities and Technology Improvements

Transit Amenities:

RTS has developed a bus stop improvement plan to identify and prioritize bus stops that require Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) modifications and passenger amenities like benches and shelters. Improving the pedestrian infrastructure will make the bus riding experience more comfortable, safer, and work toward improving the marketability of transit through enhancing existing ridership and reaching out to new passengers.

Federal Request:

\$5,000,000 for transit amenities.



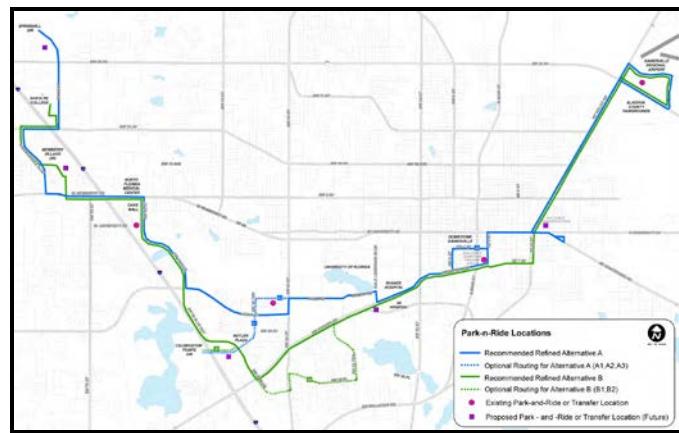
Technology Improvements:

Increases in RTS ridership and a number of efficiency gains have a direct correlation with the technology improvements RTS has implemented in the last several years. Real-time bus arrival information ("Gator Locator") has reduced the uncertainty and time required to use transit and Automated Passenger Counters (APC) have provided insight into a vast array of travel behaviors. The latter lets RTS know where amenities should be provided, running times that should be adjusted and a whole host of other valuable information.



Even with these enhancements though, RTS continues to rely on antiquated software and manual techniques to schedule services and job assignments. Software advancements being utilized by a large number of transit agencies utilize algorithms that can reduce agency operating costs by upwards of 10%. Therefore, RTS is requesting **\$2,000,000** to acquire this software, add more bus GPS units, implement real-time information kiosks at major locations, and explore adding Wi-Fi capabilities to routes with long travel times. **Bus Rapid Transit (BRT)**

Regional Transit Service (RTS) is requesting **\$46 million** in federal capital assistance to implement BRT services. A BRT feasibility study was completed in March 2010 and RTS is currently conducting an Alternatives Analysis (AA) for BRT. The locally adopted transportation plans all support the implementation of BRT service as soon as 2015. The initial BRT implementation would likely connect a regional shopping mall, the University of Florida main campus, downtown Gainesville, and then terminate at a new transfer facility on the eastside of Gainesville. The funding needs for this project also involve operating expenses which would be over \$3 million annually.



Urban Circulator – 2nd Avenue

RTS is currently conducting a Streetcar Conceptual Study to determine the feasibility of a streetcar transit system connecting the University of Florida (UF), Innovation Square (IS), Downtown Gainesville, and proximate adjacent areas. A 2.2-mile preferred conceptual alignment was identified as shown on the figure below. The initial results of the conceptual study indicate that the implementation of a streetcar system within Gainesville could have significant long term positive economic impacts.



However, these impacts must be weighed against the operating and capital costs of such a system, and other local budget priorities before determining whether it is a good investment. This comparison of costs and benefits will be done at a cursory level in the final Conceptual Study, but more detailed analysis is recommended in future studies. RTS is requesting **\$1.0 million** in federal assistance for additional study.

Environment and Natural Resources

Biomass Carbon Neutrality

GRU supports and advocates for the permanent treatment of ~~wood-waste~~-biomass fuel as carbon neutral. In demonstration of GRU's commitment to providing clean and renewable energy, GRU executed a 30-year agreement to purchase 100 MW of wood-waste biomass-fueled electric generation from the Gainesville Renewable Energy Center (GREC). With ~~almost two thirds~~approximately 47 percent of the energy GRU produces being fueled by coal, and 2553 percent from natural gas (calendar year 2012), the decision to invest in ~~wood-waste~~-biomass fuel-fired energy was made as part of a strategy to diversify GRU's fuel mix and protect customers from fluctuating fuel costs. While the EPA's deferral on regulating Greenhouse Gas emissions from biogenic fuel sources (issued July 2011 through July 2013, subsequently extended through July 2014) was a step in the right direction, GRU supports EPA's permanent ruling of ~~wood-waste~~-biomass fuel as carbon neutral. Project costs ~~heavily rely on~~will be impacted by the cost of ~~carbon and~~ carbon regulation would it that requires capital investments to install emissions control equipment that will be borne ~~e~~ by GRU customers.

Support for Transition to Compressed Natural Gas Vehicles

The City of Gainesville is seeking funding in support of our goal of transitioning our fleet of vehicles from traditional gasoline to compressed natural gas. The City of Gainesville currently owns 123 buses and 776 on-road vehicles, all of which rely on a mixture of diesel and unleaded gasoline. Fuel for the City is \$2.1 million and Regional Transit Services (RTS) fuel is over \$3.5 million. By transitioning 25% of our transit fleet and 33% of our eligible heavy- and medium- duty diesel general fleet to Compressed Natural Gas (30 buses and 55 vehicles), we \$28,249 project saving our community for general fleet. RTS is unable to predict total savings at this time but would studies show a significant savings in fuel cost but could be offset with higher maintenance operating expenses over the life of the CNG fueled fleet.

Support for Expanded Use of Renewable Energy

The City of Gainesville is seeking funding in support of our commitment to increasing our use of renewable energy by Gainesville Regional Utilities (GRU). In addition to being among Florida's leading utilities in the deployment of solar energy, GRU has contracted to purchase 100% of the renewable, waste-wood fueled output from the Gainesville Renewable Energy Center's biomass plant, a privately held company. This will amount to 100 MW of clean, local, renewable energy for GRU customers.

1603 Amendment to Level Playing Field for Purchase of Power Plants

The City of Gainesville supports amending Section 1603 of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to allow the recipient of a 1603 payment to transfer specified energy property to a governmental entity without triggering recapture. Section 1603 of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Public Law 111-5), as amended ("Section 1603"), appropriates funds for payments to eligible persons who place in service specified energy property during 2009-2011 or after 2011 if construction began on the property during 2009-2011 and the property is placed in service by a certain date known as the credit termination date. The 1603 program filled the gap created by diminished demand for investor tax credits following the 2008 financial crisis, and achieved the near-term goal of creating and retaining jobs as well as the long-term goal of expanding the use of clean and renewable energy and decreasing dependency on non-renewable energy sources. To finance the construction of a facility eligible for a 1603 payment, a developer may enter into a power purchase agreement ("PPA") with a counterparty for a term of 20-30 years in order to secure a guaranteed revenue stream from power sales generally priced at then-current market rates. Such PPAs typically provide for one or more purchase options to allow the counterparty to acquire the facility in certain circumstances. As the rules are currently written, the City of Gainesville is deemed ineligible to benefit from the grant. Transfer of ownership of the Gainesville Renewable Energy Center to the City of Gainesville would trigger the grant recapture provision of Section 1603. Amending Section 1603 as outlined would place municipalities on a level playing field. Further, as the 1603 payment would have already been paid, this amendment would not cause the Federal government to incur any additional costs.

VIOLENCE, INTERVENTION, PREVENTION AND REENTRY

The Gainesville Police Department provides municipal policing services to a population of 124,354 located in Gainesville, FL. Years ago, the Gainesville Police Department realized that they must be more

proactive in working with the youth who are the greatest of need and who have demonstrated patterns of delinquency. The 2012 Alachua County School Juvenile arrest data indicates that 34.7% of District students are African American; whites make up 46.6%, Hispanics make up 7%, multiracial 6.8%, and Asian 4.7%. When you examine those who are charged with crimes, whites make 32% and blacks were charged in 70.7%.

The Police Department has long since realized that there must be multiplicity solutions to addressing crime and despair in the City of Gainesville. Our agency works with a number of community stakeholders to address crime and other quality of life issues by partnering with community based organizations and local government institutions designed to not only impact crime, but address some of its causative factors.

The Gainesville Police Department's highest priority is public safety for the citizens of Gainesville. As a Community Oriented Policing Agency it is implicitly understood that the origins of crime are rooted in complex societal issues. Therefore, the Gainesville Police Department realized years ago that we must be more proactive in working with the youth who are the greatest of need and who have demonstrated patterns of delinquency.

Reichert House Youth Program

The Reichert House Youth Academy was established in 1987, as a result of a growing number of at risk young black males between the ages of 12 through 18 (4th to 12 grade), predominately from lower income, single family households creating crime problems and other socially unacceptable behaviors within Gainesville communities. Candidates are referred by the courts, States Attorney's Office, police officers, schools, public housing officials, Department of Juvenile Justice, and parents.

The program has grown from very humble beginnings to encompass a permanent educational complex including a main building containing classrooms, library, fully supported computer room, administration offices, board room, complete kitchen and multi-purpose room. A high school wing has been added containing classrooms and administrative offices as well as a fully supported computer lab. A functioning music/video production studio is available for participants to become involved in the many processes and jobs available in media operations. Staffed with an executive director, operations manager, 5 intervention officers, police officer, 3 state certified teachers, and an academic coordinator Reichert's Vision has continued to support and grow the facilities to meet the needs of at risk young men throughout the Gainesville and surrounding communities. Our current funding sources are both public and private. Because of our success and growth, we are in the process of building on donated land (\$55,000) the new modular elementary wing (\$150,000) to include a fully supported STEM lab (\$50,000) with an anticipated completion date of early 2014. The academic programs are primarily funded by a grant obtained through a relationship with the Alachua County School Board. Employees and operations are funded by the City of Gainesville, Black on Black Task Force and City of Gainesville/Alachua County grants. Transportation is funded by the City of Gainesville.

Program Success and Accomplishments:

Reichert House graduates have achieved success in both their personal life and post academic endeavors as well as achieving their occupational goals. Graduates have been successful in the college, military, law enforcement, Fire Department, law school and medical school. The 2011, 2012 graduation rates for seniors was 100%.

Federal Request:

The federal request for this project is estimated at \$250,000 to continue Moral Recognition Therapy program and to provide two full-time teachers, one for the elementary and one for the middle school.

BOLD Program - Brave Overt Leaders of Distinction

BOLD (Brave Overt Leaders of Distinction) Program was started in 2010 to provide assistance to young men between the ages of 17 to 24 who needed professional guidance to address their life situations and circumstances. These young men needed community resources or services for the intervention and/or prevention of criminal activity and/or incarceration. Many are unemployed, underemployed, and/or undereducated. At that time, many of these young men had dropped out of high school, been incarcerated, or were even homeless. Now through persistence and perseverance, the program has risen to provide one-of-a-kind holistic services like no other community-based organization designed to work with young men with criminal or background infractions. The program also places a tremendous focus on renewing the whole person by requiring mandatory participation in activities concentrating around education fulfillment, employability skills, career exploration, community resource assistance and development, life skills, financial literacy, healthcare management, and character enhancement.

The Brave Overt Leaders of Distinction Program (BOLD) provides services to low income and often unemployed City of Gainesville residents who have criminal records. We serve clients with criminal backgrounds from simple arrests and misdemeanors to multiple felony convictions. The B.O.L.D. Re-entry Program can offer legal assistance with sealing/expunging of criminal records, through the University of Florida Leven Law Center and restoration of civil rights. The program also partners for employment and educational services to offer opportunities for ex-offenders. Our ultimate goal is to partner with the community to successfully reintegrate former felony offenders by providing holistic direct services and case management to promote their opportunities to become productive members of our community thus reducing recidivism and increase public safety.

Program Success and Accomplishments:

There are currently 45 members in the program of which 25 are employed, 14 seeking educational opportunities, 5 employed and going to school, and 1 has graduated.

Federal Request:

Funding for the BOLD Program is provided by the City of Gainesville and donations from private and other public entities. The federal request for this project is estimated at \$150,000

Mental Health and Public Education for Violence Prevention

The Gainesville Police Department is coordinating efforts between Meridian Behavioral Health Services, CDS Family and Behavioral Health Services, Inc., Alachua County Schools, the Court System (Eighth Judicial Circuit, FL) and Juvenile Justice Providers to develop a system of care (SOC) for youth. The youth requiring these services are overwhelmingly youth of color. This fact has led to a disproportionate number of youth of color entering the juvenile justice system in our judicial circuit. The overall objective of the SOC will be to assess behavioral issues and collaboratively intervene with the student and family before these issues become arrestable offenses.

Federal Request:

Funding in the amount of \$50,000 is being requested to support the development of the SOC, examine, and when possible revise, existing policies and procedures that may lead to the criminalization of youth. A critical component of the development of the SOC will be to provide training to faculty, counselors and law enforcement officers for the purpose of improving communication with youth and families in crisis and more fully understanding the ramifications of dealing with children with special needs (autism, ADHD, substance abuse, intellectual and psychiatric deficiencies). Support services will include referrals for individual and family counseling, psychiatric referral, diversion to community conferencing, teen court, and restorative justice programs, mentoring, testing, and assessment.

Domestic Violence

The majority of domestic violence cases in this community are committed by men. A new grassroots effort championed by GPD's Rebuilding Coordinator targets men involved in speaking out against intimate partner violence. A community Rally will be held December 7. Social media has been utilized as a vehicle for advertising the event which is being well received by the community. GPD Domestic Violence detectives and other agencies have formed a High Risk Team response to Domestic Violence. The purpose of this team is to identify the most dangerous cases of domestic violence and implement interventions to prevent cases from escalating to lethal levels. The team strives to interrupt this pattern of escalation by focusing equally on victim safety and offender accountability utilizing a three-pronged approach: Early identification of high risk offenders through risk assessment; an individualized multidisciplinary response to high risk cases; and coordinated monitoring and containment of offenders. GPD is also examining ways to address victims of sexual assault and has partnered with the Alachua County Office of Victim Services Rape Crisis Center to launch a website for anonymous reports of sexual assault. The site provides information about intimate partner violence, victim rights and free resources available in the community.

GPD is expanding a partnership with the University of Florida to develop videos aimed at sexual assault prevention that were aired as public service announcements. With the continued assistance of the Office on Violence Against Women the Gainesville Police Department will continue to expand these outreach efforts to address the effects of domestic and intimate partner violence in our community and increase awareness about prevention and support.

The Gainesville Police Department (GPD) has been continuously funded through OVW's Grants to Encourage Arrest Policies and Enforcement of protection Orders Program since 2007 and has developed several innovative programs that assist victims of domestic violence and their families that have been recognized nationally. GPD will seek funding from the Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) in 2014.

Federal Request:

In order to complete our domestic violence videos for public service announcements, we are requesting federal assistance in the amount of \$25,000.