

SIERRA CLUB



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submitted @ccom mh
6/17/02 by
Di Cantwell

Suwannee • St. Johns Group _____

1701 SW 117 St.
Gainesville, Fl. 32607
June 12, 2002

Dear Commissioners:

The Suwannee-St. Johns Group of the Sierra Club strongly endorses the Transportation Element of the City Comprehensive plan as written. It recommends no changes be made to it. It contains all the elements endorsed and encouraged by National Sierra Club to help decrease our dependence on the polluting automobile and help discourage sprawl, one of the key threats to the health of our environment identified by the National Club. The emphasis on pedestrian friendly and bicycle friendly design, the emphasis on compact development especially near activity centers, the requirement that all new development connect to each other in some way are key in creating an urban environment that is healthy and sustainable. We strongly recommend that you pass the element as written.

The Alachua County Air Quality Commission in its study of the air quality in the county found that the automobile was the chief polluter of our air. It found that reducing the particulates and Nox's emitted by vehicles to be the best way that the county could reduce it's risk of exceeding National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). The County has come close to exceeding those standards in the past, and the commission recognized that sprawl and its automobile dependent style of life to be the principal risk factor for the county exceeding those limits in the future. It recommended the county adopt land use and transportation styles that are reflected perfectly in this plan.

Many years of research and work have gone into this plan and if passed, it will be a model for other communities. We strongly endorse it.

For our families, for our future.

Yours truly,
Kathleen Cantwell MB
Kathleen Cantwell, MD
Chair, SSJ Sierra club

