



# **ALACHUA COUNTY**

## **TRANSPORTATION PROJECT PRIORITIES**

**FOR**

**FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**  
**FIVE YEAR WORK PROGRAM**  
**Fiscal Year 2021 – 2026**

**Presented to the**  
**Alachua County Board of County Commissioners**  
**December 10, 2019**

Prepared by the  
Alachua County Growth Management Department  
10 SW 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave  
Gainesville, Florida, 32601

## INTRODUCTION

The Federal Transportation Authorization (FAST Act) provides funding for local government transportation needs. The portion available to the States is split among Metropolitan Planning Areas (MPAs) and other local governments outside of MPAs. For projects within the boundary of an MPA, the MPA is the agency responsible for establishing transportation modification priorities for federal funding consideration. Outside of MPAs, the FDOT has identified the County as the agency responsible for submitting modification priorities to the FDOT for federal and state funding consideration.

One program funded by the Federal Transportation Authorization is the Transportation Alternatives (TA) set-aside of the Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG). Projects that are eligible for TA funding are generally identified as projects that are not intended to enhance automobile capacity or provide maintenance for facilities on the federal aid highway system. There are ten (10) categories of projects eligible for funding under TAP.

1. Construction, planning, and design of on-road and off-road trail facilities for pedestrians, bicyclists, and other nonmotorized forms of transportation, including sidewalks, bicycle infrastructure, pedestrian and bicycle signals, traffic calming techniques, lighting and other safety-related infrastructure, and transportation projects to achieve compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.
2. Construction, planning, and design of infrastructure-related projects and systems that will provide safe routes for non-drivers, including children, older adults, and individuals with disabilities to access daily needs.
3. Conversion and use of abandoned railroad corridors for trails for pedestrians, bicyclists, or other nonmotorized transportation users.
4. Construction of turnouts, overlooks, and viewing areas.
5. Inventory, control, or removal of outdoor advertising.
6. Historic preservation and rehabilitation of historic transportation facilities.
7. Vegetation management practices in transportation rights-of-way to improve roadway safety, prevent against invasive species, and provide erosion control.
8. Archaeological activities relating to impacts from implementation of a transportation project eligible under title 23.
9. Any environmental mitigation activity, including pollution prevention and pollution abatement activities and mitigation to address stormwater management, control, and water pollution prevention or abatement related to highway construction or due to highway runoff, including activities described in sections 133(b) (11), 328(a), and 329 of title 23;
10. Any environmental mitigation activity, including pollution prevention and pollution abatement activities and mitigation to reduce vehicle-caused wildlife mortality or to restore and maintain connectivity among terrestrial or aquatic habitats.

Each year, the municipalities outside of the Gainesville Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization boundary are contacted to request applications for potential projects to be considered for funding under TA. Information received from the municipalities, along with analysis of transportation needs by the Alachua County Board of County Commissioner's Staff, has been used to draft this document. The projects listed in this document have been identified to meet the goals of the Alachua County Mobility

Plan and the Alachua Countywide Bicycle Master Plan (BMP) to the greatest extent feasible.

Examples of previously funded Transportation Alternatives Projects for the unincorporated area include:

Project Name	Project Cost	Status
Archer Braid Trail (Archer to SW 91 <sup>st</sup> )	\$1,200,000	Completed
Newberry Sidewalk/Trail Connections	\$1,690,000	Completed
Waldo US 301 Sidewalks	\$850,000	Completed
Town of LaCrosse Sidewalks on SR121	\$1,035,000	Completed
Gainesville-Hawthorne Trail Access Improvements	\$931,000	Completed
<b>Poe Springs Trail</b> (Multi-use path along NW 182 <sup>nd</sup> Ave from US 27/41 to Poe Springs Park (3.2 miles) and sidewalk along US 27/41 from SW 6 <sup>th</sup> Avenue to NW 182 <sup>nd</sup> Avenue (0.2 miles))	\$1,793,000	Under Construction

There is one additional project the Board requested funding for in previous years that is programmed for funding the current fiscal year.

Project Name	Project Cost	Status
<b>Melrose SR 26 Sidewalk Extension</b> (Sidewalk from Quail Street to Santa Fe Park (0.6 miles))	\$499,000	Construction to begin February 2020

FDOT has indicated that only two projects should be submitted for this round of funding.

The projects submitted last year were not funded for construction. Staff recommends resubmitting the sidewalk projects submitted by the City of Newberry that were unfunded last year as well as submitting the Waldo Road Trail Extension Phase 1. No new projects were submitted by the municipalities this year, though the City of Newberry provided updated applications for projects previously submitted but not funded.

## FISCAL YEAR 2021 – 2026

### TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVE PRIORITIES (Outside Gainesville Metropolitan Area)

Priority	Project Location	Project Limits	Project Description	Cost Estimate
1	City of Newberry	Various Location	Sidewalk Additions/State Roads	\$335,325
2	Unincorporated Alachua County	Waldo Road Trail Extension Phase 1	Airport to Austin Cary Forest 5.5 mile multi-use trail	\$2,145,000
3	City of Hawthorne	SE 226 <sup>th</sup> Street	Johnson Street Landscaping	\$699,054
-	Unincorporated Alachua County	Waldo Road Trail Extension Phase 2	Austin Cary to City of Waldo 3.9 mile multi-use trail	\$1,755,000
-	Unincorporated Alachua County/Newberry	Newberry Road Multi-use Path	NW 170 <sup>th</sup> Street to Newberry Ln. 3.63 mile multi-use trail	\$1,887,600
-	City of Alachua	Alachua Central Multimodal Trail (CR 2054)	Peggy Road to NW 126 <sup>th</sup> Terrace, 2.0 mile multi-use trail	\$686,000
-	City of Newberry	SR 45 and SR 26	Replace existing wood utility poles with concrete pedestrian/roadway lighting poles	\$1,116,000

In addition to the Transportation Alternatives priorities identified above, the County has identified a Roadway Modification Priority. State Road 24 within the City Limits of Waldo is currently constructed as one-way pairs with 2 lanes in each direction. The City and County have worked together with FDOT to develop a concept plan to reduce the number of lanes in each direction from two to one. In addition, the concept include bicycle lanes in both directions.

Roadway Name	From	To	Description
State Road 24 / Waldo Road	NE 141 DR	US 301	Reduction of 2-lane one-way pairs to 1-lane pairs, including restriping, adding bicycle lanes, designating on-street parking, and pedestrian enhancements