

Resilient Community Investments Moving Policies to Projects: A 20 year plan building infrastructure supporting Mobility Choice, Resilience, and Inclusiveness





Presentation Concept



Comprehensive Plan Key Elements

- Energy Element
- Conservation and Open Space
 Housing Element Element
- Transportation Mobility Element
- Recreation Element
- lachua County, Capital Improvement Element Florida
- Stormwater Element

Economic Element

Solid Waste Element

- Community Health Element
- Future Land Use Element

Energy Element

GOAL

REDUCE GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS AND FOSSIL FUEL CONSUMPTION; MITIGATE THE EFFECTS OF RISING ENERGY COSTS; AND PROMOTE THE LONG-TERM ECONOMIC SECURITY OF ALACHUA COUNTY THROUGH ENERGY CONSERVATION, ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND RENEWABLE ENERGY PRODUCTION.

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Alachua County, Florida

Efficient and Solar Powered County Facilities

100% Solar-Powered by 2030 & "Agrivoltaics"





Benefits

- 100% Renewable power for County facilities
- No emissions to the air or water
- No water withdrawal for power production
- Displace 9,600 tons per year of CO₂

See also FLUE, Housing, Economic, COSE, and Solid Waste Elements

Background

- 100% renewable energy offset
- System Size 98.8 MW, 534 Acres
- Dispersed, inefficient and aged facilities.

- No net revenue generation
- Alachua Cou Significant regulatory and off-take
 - issues
 - Intermittency of production
 - Focus on conservation, efficiency before renewable

Conservation and Open Space Element

6.0 LAND CONSERVATION PROGRAM OBJECTIVE 6.1 - PROGRAM OVERVIEW Establish and maintain a land conservation program for the purchase, preservation, and management of natural areas and open space to complement the regulatory approaches identified in other sections of this element.

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Alachua County,

Wild Space Public Places Extension

Extending & Linking Wild Space



Benefits

- Protection of environmental lands and headwaters
- Ecologic restoration, springs protection
- Environmental services preservation

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FLUE, COSE, Energy, PW&SS, Stormwater Elements

Background

- Total Acres Protected: 20,294
- Value of land protected with ACF funds: \$84,677,174
- County share: \$43,640,663
- Partner share: \$41,036,511

- Co-U Surtax funding ending
 - - Western agricultural lands opportunity

Economic Element

OBJECTIVE 1.7

Maximize local resource & energy-efficient food production and processing within the County's local foodshed. A robust local food system will:

- maintain agricultural land and support rural land stewardship
- protect incomes for family farms and provide local employment
- stimulate local food industries and enhance agritourism
- protect public health by improving food safety issues at harvesting, washing, shipping and distribution, and increasing the nutritional value of food
- increase food security and resiliency through providing affordable local food, protecting agricultural knowledge and traditions, and supporting biodiversity in our food crops

Local Agriculture and Food

Infrastructure and Land Support for Local Food





Benefits

- Preserve agriculture land and local food production
- Easements to lessen water, fertilizer use/increase compost
- Supports the local food economy resilience
- Regenerative farming: sequesters carbon into the soil

See Local Food Policies

Background

- Protects farmlands from development
- Buffers urban areas
- Supports sustainable farming
- Investment in packing house, abattoir, food hubs

- Agricultural land loss due to development pressure
- Small farmer infrastructure support
- Regenerative farming, water and soil health

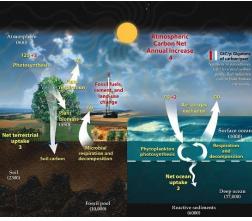
Energy Element

- 3.0 ENERGY EFFICIENT LAND USE OBJECTIVE 3.1
- Promote energy-efficient land use patterns that reduce travel costs and encourage long-term carbon sequestration.
 OBJECTIVE 3.2
- The County shall encourage long-term carbon sequestration practices on both public and private land.

Carbon Sequestration

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Active Sequestration Effort



Benefits

- Wetlands Restoration/Protection
- Reforestation/Reducing Deforestation
- Tree Planting
- Increasing Soil Carbon
- Regenerative Agriculture



See also FLUE, COSE, Economic Elements

Background

- Wetlands have highest carbon storage capacity per acre
- Agricultural lands ability to hold carbon

lssues

- Alachua Cou Policy, Cultural, Economic,
 - Environmental Barriers
 - - Current Agriculture Practices

Conservation & Open Space Element

- 7.0 GREENWAYS MASTER PLAN
- Greenways Master Plan
- Develop a linked greenway system that provides unique opportunities for recreation, multi-modal transportation, and economic development.
- **Policy 7.1.1** The County Commission shall adopt a Greenways Master Plan that functionally integrates the County's bicycle/pedestrian infrastructure, conservation lands, parks, and Open Spaces. The Greenways Master Plan is intended to guide and prioritize future Open Space designations, construction of bicycle/pedestrian facilities, and public land acquisitions needed to complete the Plan, consistent with respective program policies.

Open Space Connectivity and Greenbelt

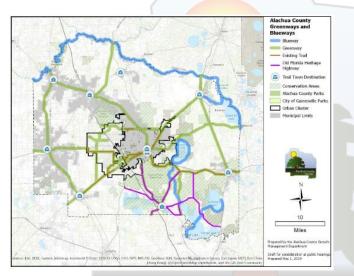
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Interconnected Green Spaces



Benefits

- Repair ecologic fragmentation
- Promote health and wellbeing
- Reduce GHG emissions
- Grow community interconnection



See also Transportation, Economic, COSE, Energy, PWSSE, Stormwater and Health Elements

Issues

Florida

- Missing links between neighborhoods
- Fragmented landscapes and communities
- Degraded quality of life: limited live, work, Alachua C play opportunities

Conservation and Open Space Element

7.0 GREENWAYS MASTER PLAN

Greenways Master Plan

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Greenways and Trails

Greenways for Mobility and Economic Benefit



Benefits

- Neighborhood connectivity to schools, shopping, greenspace, cities
- Trailtown economic benefit: ecotourism and urban renewal for small towns

See also FLUE, Economic, Health, and Housing Elements

Background

- Greenways and Blueways Master Plan
- Trailtown Designation for Municipalities
- Linking major destinations, neighborhoods for mobility and economic benefit w/out cars

- Gaps to larger FL trail network
- Gaps County nodes/destinations not linked
- Coordination between multimodal, open space, and greenbelt

Transportation Mobility Element

Policy 1.1.6.7 A network of corridors with dedicated transit lane(s) as shown on the Rapid Transit Corridors Map shall be developed to provide a sense of permanence and provide developers seeking to build Transit Oriented Development with the assurance that there is a commitment to transit. Dedicated Transit Lane(s) shall connect transit supportive development with regional employment, educational and entertainment centers. The design of dedicated transit lanes(s) shall be done in consultation with RTS and FDOT on State Roadways. Rapid Transit Corridors may deviate slightly from the alignment shown to serve a Transit Oriented Development, Traditional Neighborhood Development or Activity Center. A Comprehensive Plan amendment shall be required to modify dedicated transit lane(s) for transportation uses other than provision of transit service.

High Frequency Public Transport

East-West Fast Transport



Benefits

- Reduced single vehicle occupancy
- Promotes density
- Dependable 15 min headways
- Emissions efficient



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See also FLUE, Economic, COSE, Energy, PWSSE, Stormwater, and Health Elements

Background

- <u>Rapid Transit Corridors</u>
- Station permanence
- Dedicated transit spine
- Major connection hubs

Alachua County

- On going congestion
- Inefficient network
- GHG emissions

Housing Element

GOAL 1

- TO PROMOTE SAFE, SANITARY, AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING FOR ALL CURRENT AND FUTURE ALACHUA COUNTY RESIDENTS.
- **Objective 1.4** To ensure access to housing for all income levels of the population, Alachua County shall provide funding for affordable housing activities.
- **Policy 1.4.1** Alachua County shall continue to allocate public funds for the creation, rehabilitation, or purchase of affordable housing.

Florida

Innovative Housing/Rejuvenated Communities

Housing Opportunities





Benefits

- Create affordable units
- Keep a stock of workforce housing
- Increase good economic outcomes



Background

- Purchase old motels for efficiency units
- Acquire and renovate multifamily units
- Construct new rental units on vacantproperty

- Alachua Co Definition of affordability
 - Lack of affordability
 - Lack of availability

Economic Element

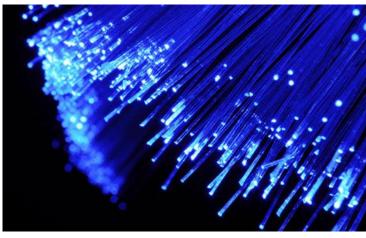
Objective 1.6 - LIVABLE COMMUNITIES

Create livable communities that are attractive to diverse populations and new economic development opportunities, and promote greater economic prosperity, innovation, quality of life, and public safety.

Policy 1.6.1 It is a goal of Alachua County for high-speed internet access to be available throughout the County as a means to encourage economic development, enhance education and healthcare access, facilitate inclusion and engagement of citizens, promote planning and resilience, and enhance public safety and emergency response.

Connected Communities

Broadband Ready Infrastructure



Benefits

- Build middle mile throughout community
- "Shovel ready" infrastructure for a variety of competitors FORICA
- Partnering opportunity with private sector providers

Economic Element

Background

- City of Gainesville Broadband Study
- The Digital Divide
- Rural Service Area Coverage

Issues

- Regulatory Issues FL St 350.81
- Competition with Private Enterprise
- Technology Churn (5G Buildout)

Access

Alachua

Stormwater Element

OBJECTIVE 2.1

Deficient stormwater management and drainage facilities will be upgraded in accordance with Chapter 62-25 F.A.C and federal, state, regional, water management districts (WMD) and local regulations in effect on the date of adoption of this Comprehensive Plan to an acceptable level of service to prevent violations of water quality standards.

Policy 2.1.2 Alachua County shall pursue revenue sources, including state and federal funding, for correcting deficiencies in stormwater management facilities and for designing, constructing and operating regional master stormwater management facilities.

Policy 2.1.3 Priorities for correcting volume and water quality deficiencies in existing County-maintained stormwater management systems shall be scheduled in the Capital Improvements Program in accordance with the criteria established in the Capital Improvements Element of this plan. 24

Greening the Gray Infrastructure

Resilient Stormwater Capacity





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See Water Quality, Stormwater, Floodplain Policies

Issues

Alachua County,

Florida

- Current floodplain policy
- Policy and Economic Barriers
- Different Maintenance Requirements

Benefits

- Additional water quality and quantity capacity
- Resilient, Nature based solutions
- Large-Scale Watershed Restoration and Treatment
- Floodplain protection

Solid Waste Element

Objective 1.5 The County shall develop and implement a waste reduction strategy that includes waste prevention, source reduction, reuse, recycling and biological disposition, resulting in a reduction of solid waste disposed per capita.

Alachua County, Florida

Zero Waste Infrastructure

Alachu

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Supporting Reuse and Recycling



Benefits

- Provided new employment opportunities
- Supports reuse and remanufacturing businesses
- Diverts materials from the landfill

See Solid Waste, Economic and Energy Elements Background

- Recycling rate is 68%
- Eco-Industrial Park ready for lease
- Phase II Research Hub and Storage
- Compost and Storm Debris
 Processing

- Requires additional infrastructure to support
- Must coordinate material flow from producers
 - Recycling rate includes biomass energy use

Example Ballot Language

ONE CENT LOCAL GOVERNMENT SURTAX EXTENSION

To provide for projects designed to improve roads; reduce traffic congestion; protect lakes and water quality; reduce flooding; expand and operate parks and recreational areas; invest in economic development; and other uses authorized under Florida law; and to seek matching funds for these purposes, shall the existing one cent sales surtax within Leon County be extended until December 31, 2039, with project expenditures subject to annual independent audit and review by a citizens advisory committee?

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FOR the one cent sales tax

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◯ AGAINST the one cent sales tax





Example Ballot Language

BALLOT TITLE: Ten (10) Year Extension of the Penny for Pinellas One-Cent (1¢) Infrastructure Sales Surtax

BALLOT QUESTION: Shall the levy of the Penny for Pinellas onecent $(1 \notin)$ local infrastructure sales surtax be extended for an additional ten (10) years to finance county and municipal projects, including roads, bridges, flood and sewer spill prevention, water quality, trails, parks, environmental preservation, public safety facilities, hurricane sheltering, vehicles, technology, land acquisition for affordable housing, capital projects supporting economic development (pursuant to section 212.055(2)(d)3, Florida Statutes), and other authorized infrastructure projects.

> FOR the one-cent sales tax AGAINST the one-cent sales tax

Timeline

- Now -November 2020: Convene stakeholders, build consensus
- February to March 2020: Bring back preliminary report and draft interlocal agreement
- April to June: Finalize ballot language
- November 3, 2020 Referendum
- 2021-2024 Project Prep and Conceptual Design
- January 2025 Surtax Proceeds Available for Projects

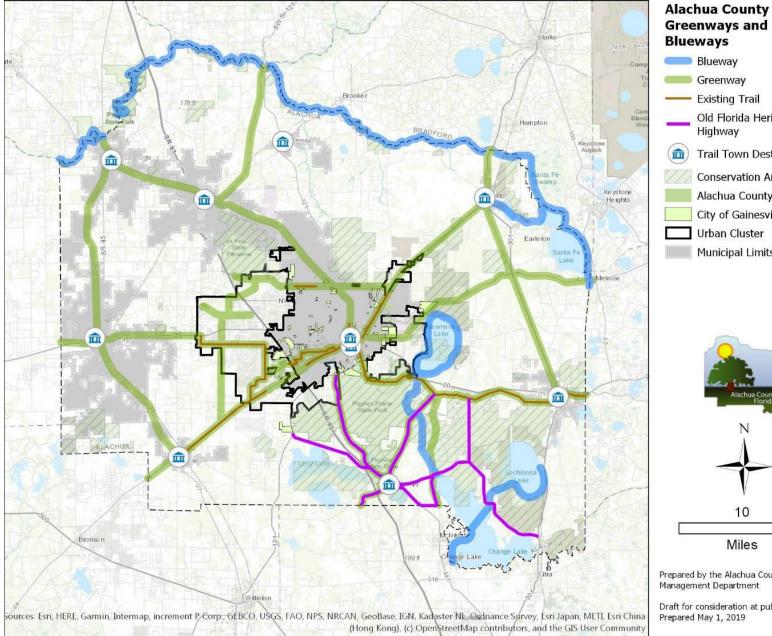
Next Steps

Suggested Motion: Direct staff to reach out to UF and City of Gainesville counterparts, community stakeholders, and advisory boards to discuss opportunities for a cooperative effort on surtax priorities.

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Alachua County,

Florida







Prepared by the Alachua County Growth Management Department

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