

ALACHUA COUNTY

TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES PROGRAM

PRIORITIES

FOR

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION WORK PROGRAM
Fiscal Year 2015/16 – 2019/20

Presented to the
Alachua County Board of County Commissioners
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INTRODUCTION

The Federal Transportation Authorization (MAP-21) 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 Program (TAP). Projects that are eligible for TAP 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 solicit input to identify potential projects to be considered for funding under TAP. 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:

- Archer Braid Trail (Archer to SW 91st) – \$1,200,000 – Completed
- Newberry Sidewalk/Trail Connections - \$1,690,000 – Under Construction
- Waldo US 301 Sidewalks - \$509,000 – Work Started
- Micanopy Sidewalks Project - \$174,000 – Work Started
- Hawthorne Bicycle Enhancements - \$160,000 – Work Started

In addition, the Board submitted three projects in the spring for the FY 2014/15 – FY 2018/19 5-Year Work Program. Of those three projects, two are tentatively included in the work program.

- Poe Springs Trail – Multi-use path along NW 182nd Ave from US 27/41 to Poe Springs Park (3.2 miles) and sidewalk along US 27/41 from SW 6th Avenue to NW 182nd Avenue (0.2 miles)
- Melrose SR 26 Sidewalk Extension – Sidewalk from Quail Street to Santa Fe Park (0.6 miles)

The Poe Springs Trail, which was the first priority project of the Board last year, was part of a larger project that also included conversion of an existing railroad right-of-way to a multi-use path. This rail-to-trail portion was not funded because the railroad corridor vacation process has not been completed. Staff has maintained this project in the list, but recommends not ranking it until the vacation process is complete.

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

Based upon discussions with FDOT, Staff has revised the Waldo Road Trail Extension, the third ranked project last year, into two phases. The first phase of this project would now run from the existing terminus at the Gainesville Regional Airport to Austin Cary Memorial Forest. This represents slightly more than half of the project and will at least one bridge construction project. The second phase, which is not ranked for this year, will require additional research on right-of-way and may be ranked by the Board in future years.

Finally, Newberry submitted two projects last year that were not ranked. Staff recommends that these two projects be ranked second and third behind the first phase of the Waldo Road Trail Extension.

FISCAL YEAR 2015/16 – 2019/20

TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVE PROGRAM PRIORITIES

(Outside Gainesville Metropolitan Area)

Priority	Project Location		Project Description	Cost Estimate
1	Unincorporated Alachua County	Waldo Road Trail Extension Phase 1	GRA to Austin Cary 5.5 mile multi-use trail	\$1,437,500
2	Newberry	SR 26 Intersections	Upgrade existing pedestrian cross-walks on SR 26	\$32,500
	Newberry	US 27 / 41 @ SW 15 th Street	Crosswalk improvements @ Oakview Middle School	\$19,000
	Unincorporated Alachua County	Waldo Road Trail Extension Phase 2	Austin Cary to City of Waldo 3.9 mile multi-use trail	\$925,000
	High Springs / Unincorporated	High Springs Bike / Walking Trail	Phase 1: 5 mile rail-trail conversion	\$1,055,000