

**Gainesville Long Range Transportation Plan Update  
Public Meeting Notes  
March 18, 2004**

**Purpose:** To introduce the 2025 Long Range Transportation planning process to the Gainesville urbanized area community.

**Attendance:** See attached.

**Discussion:**

**Introduction:**

Marlie Sanderson welcomed those in attendance. He explained the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council and the MTPO (Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization). He then discussed the process for the evening's workshop/public meeting. He introduced Joe Corradino to provide an overview of the LRTP Update.

Joe Corradino explained, with the use of slides, the Long Range Transportation Plan Update study process. He noted the schedule includes eight public meeting events, including two public hearings. He stated the project will last until the end of 2005. It will include the use of a new model known as TransCAD. He highlighted the public engagement process including the meetings scheduled for April for defining the transportation vision, the meetings scheduled for September to weight evaluation criteria, and the meeting in November which, like the meeting being conducted that evening, to focus on needed multimodal transportation improvements.

Joe Corradino then discussed the working session that would be conducted by two groups made up of those in attendance to define transportation problems and opportunities affecting the Gainesville urban area.

Before that session began, questions/comments were then addressed by Marlie Sanderson and Joe Corradino.

## **Questions/Comments**

*Q: Why does Florida not seem to get its fair share of the federal funding for transportation?*

R: Many states are considered “donors” to the federal Transportation Trust Fund which then returns less than \$1 for every \$1 contributed by Floridians. New legislation has passed in the United States Senate which would ensure that all states be targeted for receipt of at least 95 percent of the money they send to the federal Trust Fund. Currently that target is closer to 90 percent.

*Q: How will this plan help the working poor? Will there be an increase in public transportation?*

R: The public engagement portion of the Long Range Transportation Plan Update reaches out to those that are low-income and otherwise disadvantaged. A “tour” of several shopping centers will be conducted on Saturday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> to reach out to those from all segments of the community, including working poor. Additionally, extensive mailings will be undertaken to invite those groups that are often underserved by the planning process, including the poor, to engage them. The April and September rounds of public meetings will be spread throughout the Gainesville Urbanized Area to engage all segments of the population in the communication process.

Public transportation is a key component of the multimodal transportation planning process.

*Q: Is light rail to be considered as part of the program?*

R: The previous Long Range Transportation Plan established for the year 2020 focused on Archer Road/State Road 24 as the future premium transit corridor. It is likely that the mode will be rubber-tired rather than rail. The density in Gainesville along its various corridors does not appear sufficient to support light rail transit in the next 20 to 25 years.

*Q: How will the objectives of the study be prioritized?*

R: There will be a visioning session in April (four separate meetings) followed by a workshop in September (again, four separate meetings in four separate locations in the urbanized area) to allow the public to: 1) update the vision of transportation for the year 2025; and, 2) define the “weights” of the evaluation factors that will be used to design the transportation plan of the future. These evaluation factors, weighted by the public as well as the consultant, will be tied to the project’s goals and objectives.

*Q: Will there be an engagement of the “commercial/for-profit” transportation providers?*

R: An effort will be made to involve both public and private providers of transportation.

*Q: Is the Archer Road project a “done deal?”*

R: There is an intense interest in addressing the Archer Road corridor as a location for improved transportation investment, including premium transit service. Additionally, there will be a charette on March 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> dealing with Archer Road at 34<sup>th</sup> Street to determine the framework for improvements at that node. The involvement of the public through the updates of the transportation plan, beginning tonight, is focused on allowing Archer Road, and other corridors, to be reexamined for transportation needs.

*Q: What is the consultant bringing to this project that the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council/MTPO staff cannot? Why are we spending money for outside help?*

R: The installation and use of the new model, TransCAD, requires special expertise that causes engagement of a consultant. This modeling expertise will be transferred to the MTPO staff over the two years that the Transportation Plan Update is being conducted. Additionally, the MTPO is staffed by a small/core group with day-to-day responsibilities that will not allow the intense focus necessary to complete the Transportation Plan Update in the required time.

*Q: With the lack of available state and federal funding, is there not a need to be more focused on maintenance of what we have as compared to new and ambitious alternatives?*

R: The local communities' financial resources are largely dedicated to maintenance programs. Only one-third of the needs beyond maintenance can be funded with expected revenues. This situation is typical of most communities in Florida, like Gainesville.

*Q: Does the TransCAD model take into account the limited availability of natural resources and the resulting expense of the cost of gasoline versus the cost to use other modes like transit?*

R: The TransCAD model allows the pricing/cost of fuel and the use of other transportation modes as well as the price to park in the use of an automobile in determining the future distribution of travel among various modes.

### **Working Sessions**

Those in attendance were then divided into two working groups with use of large wall maps, they engaged in a discussion of transportation issues and opportunities. Each group then reported back the results of their work which is summarized in Table 1.

### **Next Steps**

Marlie Sanderson concluded the meeting by indicating that four individual working sessions would be conducted in different locations during the week of April 22<sup>nd</sup> through April 29<sup>th</sup>. He indicated that those in attendance would be added to the mailing list and encouraged them to advise others that the project will continue to engage the public in these discussions.

The meeting then concluded at 9:00 p.m.

**TABLE 1**  
**Gainesville Urbanized Area**  
**Year 2025**  
**Long Range Transportation Plan Update**  
**Public Workshop**  
**March 18, 2004**

**ISSUES RAISED BY COMMUNITY PARTICIPANTS**

<b>ISSUES</b>			
<b>Non-Motorized</b>	<b>Transit</b>	<b>Roadways</b>	<b>All Modes</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide bike paths/pedestrian paths that are not within high speed roads.</li> <li>• Provide a traffic signal cycle for pedestrian movement, where needed.</li> <li>• Address pedestrian traffic needs at West University and NW 13th Street.</li> <li>• Provide better pedestrian signal phase at NW 16th Avenue and NW 34th Street near Westwood School.</li> <li>• Install Rails-Trails bridge over Sweet Water Branch.</li> <li>• Improve east side of Waldo Road for wheelchair users (too many curbs/not enough ramps).</li> <li>• Follow "Plan East Gainesville" by purchasing land for conservation and spur trail to Rail-Trails system.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish dedicated transit corridors.</li> <li>• Provide transit that will enable people to go anywhere in Gainesville in one hour.</li> <li>• Provide more transit service to Santa Fe College.</li> <li>• Provide transit service, like the ElectroWave system of Miami Beach.</li> <li>• Cluster development to make transit work.</li> <li>• Provide transportation on Saturdays for all working people.</li> <li>• Provide park-and-ride service for city-county employees.</li> <li>• Provide bus bays.</li> <li>• Provide direct transit service between east Gainesville and Santa Fe College.</li> <li>• Connect with regional bus service the Gainesville, Tampa and Orlando airports.</li> <li>• Extend hours of transit service.</li> <li>• Provide more east/west bus service.</li> <li>• Use buses suitable to neighborhoods (smaller buses).</li> <li>• Provide more frequent bus service on 34th Street.</li> <li>• Provide bus service to Turkey Creek Forest senior village.</li> <li>• Offer owner of Butler Plaza, and owners of shopping centers along Archer Road Corridor, incentives to operate shuttle system.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Failure to move forward on one-way pair (University Avenue).</li> <li>• Build Hull Road extension.</li> <li>• Connect SW 16th or Main Street to Hawthorne Road.</li> <li>• Make Archer Road four lanes.</li> <li>• Provide more connections in the west area of Gainesville: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ To the airport.</li> <li>✓ An overpass at Archer Road/34th Street.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Don't ignore roadway congestion.</li> <li>• Create east/west expressway or beltway around Gainesville.</li> <li>• Eliminate "prestige" parking spaces downtown.</li> <li>• Employ speed humps.</li> <li>• Eliminate parallel parking on Main Street.</li> <li>• Recognize the University of Florida burden (wear and tear) on local streets.</li> <li>• Synchronize Main Street traffic signals.</li> <li>• Provide narrow median on University Avenue (13th Street east to West 12th Street).</li> <li>• Address the transition from 4 to 2 lanes at NW 13th Street/ NW 16th Avenue.</li> <li>• Synchronize traffic signal on Newberry Road at Newberry Square with rest of signals on Newberry Road.</li> <li>• Design/use roundabouts for traffic flow, not traffic "blocks."</li> <li>• Use more roundabouts to keep traffic moving at safe speeds.</li> <li>• Apply "traffic calming" on Tower Road (lots of schools).</li> <li>• Address the Butler Plaza parking lot.</li> <li>• Improve condition of Williston Road.</li> <li>• Address the traffic conditions at SW 13th Street and Archer Road.</li> <li>• Narrow 6th Street.</li> <li>• Install traffic signal at SE 16th Avenue and Williston Road.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Need a transportation system that is less costly.</li> <li>• Address urban sprawl.</li> <li>• Address the overall lack of connectivity.</li> <li>• Create balanced/multimodal transportation system.</li> <li>• Connect infill neighborhoods.</li> <li>• Balance infill needs with wetlands.</li> <li>• Precede infill with infrastructure.</li> <li>• Facilitate GRU Eastside "Operations Center" consistent with "Plan East Gainesville".</li> </ul>

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Public Meeting  
March 18, 2004**

**Attendance**

NAME	AFFILIATION/ADDRESS
Nell Anderson	Pine Grove Apts., 1901 NE 2 <sup>nd</sup> St., #100, Gainesville, FL 32609
Tom Daniel	623 N. Main St., Gainesville, FL 32601
Thomas H. Fay	ECAGI, 116 NW 3 <sup>rd</sup> St., Gainesville, FL 32601
Martin Gold	University of Florida
Sven Hanson	1425 NW 25 <sup>th</sup> Terr., Gainesville, FL 32605
Sharon Hawking	MTPO Citizens Advisory Committee
Jane Burnam Holton	Kirkwood, 701 SW 23 <sup>rd</sup> Place, Gainesville, FL 32601
Harold Humphrey	MV Transportation
Harold Jaime	1716 NW 10 <sup>th</sup> Terr.
Jason Kelly	Santa Fe Community College
Deborah Lintner	City of Gainesville Public Works
Lura Williams Martin	14416 SW CR 346, Archer, FL 32618
Laura McCormick	3000 NW 83 <sup>rd</sup> St., Gainesville, FL 32606
Ray Scott Miller	13803 SW 143 <sup>rd</sup> St., Archer, FL 32618
Beatrice Mitchell	1120 NW 45 <sup>th</sup> Ave. Apt. 22, Gainesville, FL 32609
Chandler Otis	Bike Ped. Adv. Board
Alison Pointer	Gainesville Chamber of Commerce
Nina Postlethwaite	AAULO, 1716 NW 10 <sup>th</sup> Terr., Gainesville, FL 32609
Maureen Reschly	1208 SE 22 <sup>nd</sup> Ave., Gainesville, FL 32641
Doug Robinson	Regional Transit System
Cindy Rohlwing	2611 NW 37 <sup>th</sup> Ave., Gainesville, FL 32605
Harvey Rohlwing	2611 NW 37 <sup>th</sup> Terr., Gainesville, FL 32605
Teresa Scott	City of Gainesville Public Works
John Skelly	ALA-COUNTY CAC
Glen Smerage	2104 NW 15 Ave., Gainesville, FL 32605
Paul Urone	3726 SW 6 <sup>th</sup> Place
Kaydie Vistelle	2616 NW 37 <sup>th</sup> Terr.
Janie S. Williams	811 SW 5 <sup>th</sup> St., Gainesville, FL 32601
Ruby Williams	237 SW 6 <sup>th</sup> Ave., Gainesville, FL 32601
Rebekah Wolfson	3524 NW 51 Ave., Gainesville, FL 32605
Chuck Woods	P.O. Box 12225, Gainesville, FL 32604

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