

# Transportation Policy Manual

Draft

November 28, 2012



Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization  
for the Gainesville Urbanized Area



# DRAFT

## Transportation Policy Manual

### A Comprehensive Guide to Adopted Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization for the Gainesville Urbanized Area Policies

The preparation of this report has been financed in part through grants from the Florida Department of Transportation and the Federal Highway Administration and Federal Transit Administration, United States Department of Transportation, under The State Planning and Research Program, Section 505 [or Metropolitan Planning Program, Section 104(f)] of Title 23, United States Code. The contents of this report do not necessarily reflect the official views or policy of the United States Department of Transportation.

### Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization for the Gainesville Urbanized Area

2009 NW 67th Place  
Gainesville, FL 32653  
[www.ncfrpc.org/mtpo](http://www.ncfrpc.org/mtpo)  
352.955.2200

With Assistance from:

North Central Florida Regional Planning Council  
2009 NW 67th Place  
Gainesville, FL 32653  
[www.ncfrpc.org](http://www.ncfrpc.org)

November 28, 2012



# Table of Contents

Chapter I: Introduction .....	3
Chapter II: Language .....	7
A. Transportation Language Policy .....	7
B. Transportation Language Guidelines .....	7
Chapter III: Plan Reviews .....	13
A. Plan Review Process .....	13
Chapter IV: Trucks .....	17
A. Truck Route System .....	17
Chapter V: Design Standards .....	21
A. Bicycles .....	21
B. Pedestrians .....	25
C. Streetlighting Fixtures .....	27
D. Traffic Signals .....	29
E. Landscaping for the State Highway System .....	33



# Illustrations

Illustration I Metropolitan Planning Boundary.....	3
Illustration II Truck Route System Boundary.....	18
Illustration III Arterial and Collector Roadways Federal Aid Eligible .....	23





# Chapter I

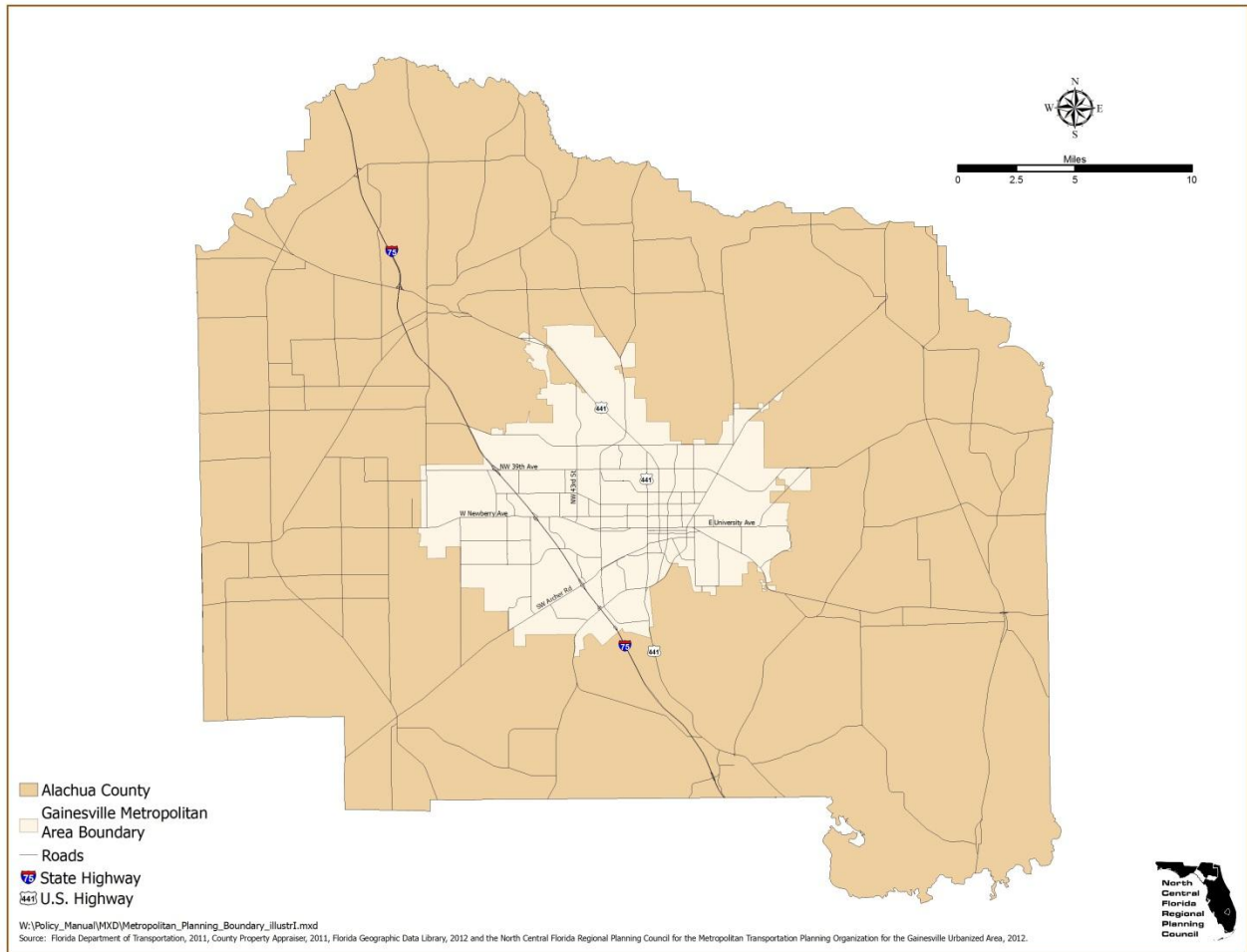
## Introduction

THIS PAGE LEFT BLANK INTENTIONALLY

# Chapter I: Introduction

This document contains adopted transportation policies of the Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization for the Gainesville Urbanized Area. The policies in this document apply to projects that are located in the area subject to the transportation planning responsibilities of the Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization for the Gainesville Urbanized Area - the Gainesville Metropolitan Area (see Illustration I).

**Illustration I**  
**Metropolitan Planning Boundary**



THIS PAGE LEFT BLANK INTENTIONALLY

# Chapter II

## Language

THIS PAGE LEFT BLANK INTENTIONALLY

## Chapter II: Language

### A. Transportation Language Policy

**Policy II.A.1.** Objective language shall be used for all correspondence, resolutions, ordinances, plans, language at meetings and when updating past work.

*Adopted August 17, 1999.*

### B. Transportation Language Guidelines

The following examples of biased and objective statements are to be used as guidelines for implementing the Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization for the Gainesville Urbanized Area Transportation Language Policy.

Transportation Language Policy Samples		
Sample	Biased	Objective
A	The following street improvements are recommended.	The following street modifications are recommended.
	The intersection improvement will cost \$5,000.00.	The right turn channel will cost \$5,000.00.
	The motor vehicle capacity will be improved.	The motor vehicle capacity will be changed.
B	The level of service for motor vehicles was enhanced.	The level of service for motor vehicles was changed.
	The level of service for motor vehicles deteriorated.	The level of service for motor vehicles was increased. The level of service for motor vehicles was decreased.
	The motor vehicle capacity enhancements will cost \$40,000.	The increases to motor vehicle capacity will cost \$40,000.
C	Upgrading the street will require a wider right of way.	Widening the street will require a wider right of way.
	The upgrades will lengthen sight distances.	The changes will lengthen sight distances.
D	The level of service was "A".	The level of service for motor vehicle users was "A". The level of service for pedestrians was "A".
E	The problem is speeding traffic.	The problem is speeding motor vehicles.
	The traffic queued back for one mile.	The motor vehicles queued back for one mile.
F	The traffic demand will increase.	Motor vehicle use will increase. Travel demand will increase.
	The traffic demand projections will be complete soon.	The projections of motor vehicle use will be complete soon.
	The peak hour traffic demand is falling.	The peak hour motor vehicle use is falling.
G	Alternative modes of transportation are important downtown.	Non-automobile modes of transportation are important downtown. Non-motorized modes of transportation are important to the downtown. Alternative modes of transportation to the automobile are important to the downtown.
H	Motor vehicle accidents kill 200 people every year.	Motor vehicle crashes kill 200 people every year.
	He had an accident with a light pole.	He crashed into a light pole.
	Here is the accident report.	Here is the crash report.
I	We have protected this right-of-way.	We have purchased this right-of-way. We have designated this a right-of-way.
J	The traffic signal timings were adjusted to increase motor vehicle efficiency.	The traffic signal timings were adjusted to increase motor vehicle speeds.



### Example Summary

Biased Terms	Objective Terms
improve	change, modify
enhance, deteriorate	change, increase, decrease
upgrade	change, redesignate, expand, widen, replace
level of service	level of service for
traffic	motor vehicles
traffic demand	motor vehicle use
accident	collision, crash
protect	purchase, designate
efficient	fast

THIS PAGE LEFT BLANK INTENTIONALLY

# Chapter III

## Plan Reviews

THIS PAGE LEFT BLANK INTENTIONALLY

## Chapter III: Plan Reviews

### A. Plan Review Process

All road construction projects that construct new roads, add additional through lanes to existing roads or delete through lanes to existing roads on arterial and collector roadways shall be reviewed by the Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization for the Gainesville Urbanized Area and its advisory committees at the scoping phase.

*Adopted June 11, 1998; amended August 14, 2003.*

THIS PAGE LEFT BLANK INTENTIONALLY

# Chapter IV

## Trucks

THIS PAGE LEFT BLANK INTENTIONALLY



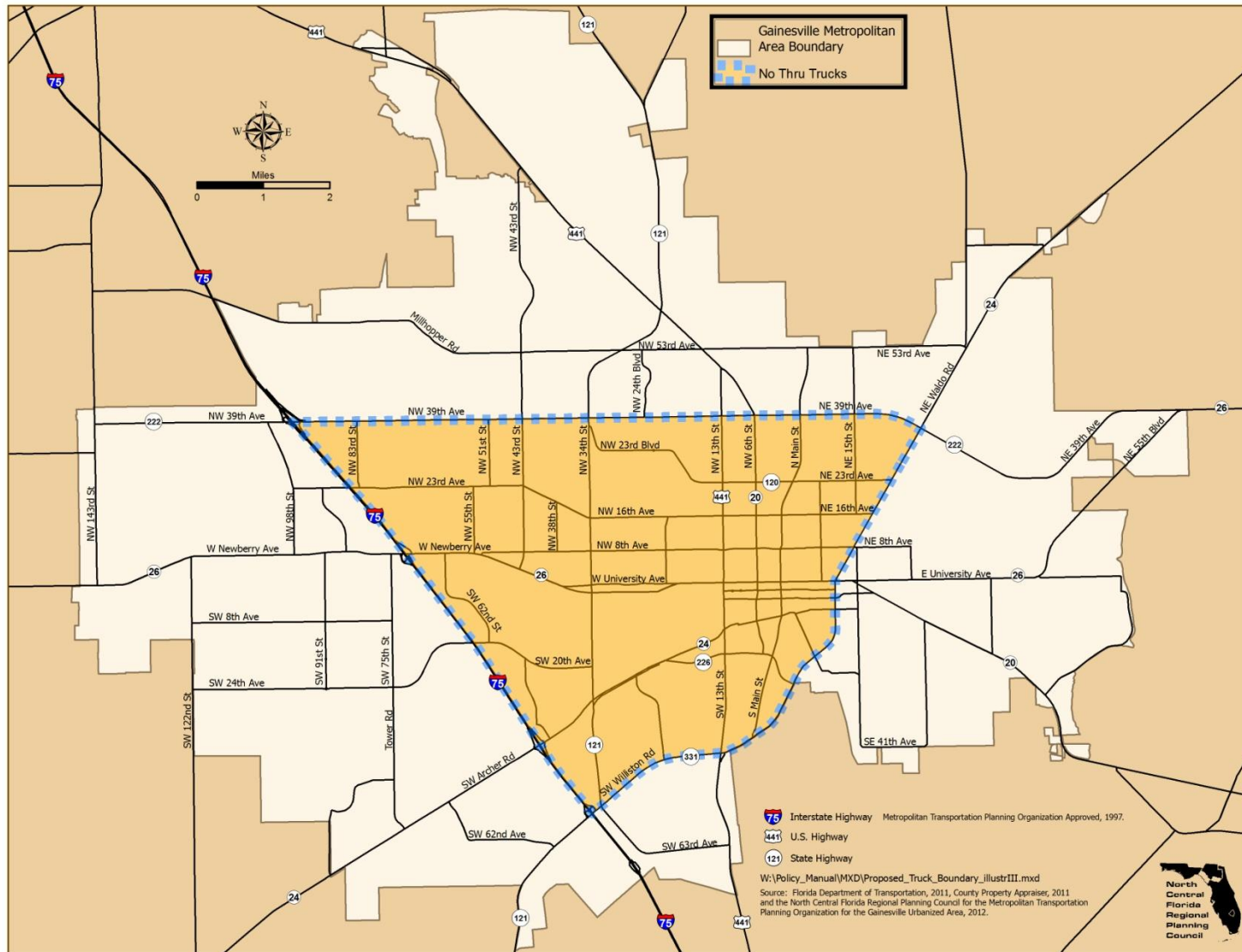
## Chapter IV: Trucks

### A. Truck Route System

The Truck Route System for the Gainesville Metropolitan Area is shown in Illustration II. The “through truck route” shown in Illustration II identifies bypass streets for through city truck travel.

*Adopted September 11, 1986.*

## Illustration II Truck Route System Boundary



# Chapter V

## Design Standards

THIS PAGE LEFT BLANK INTENTIONALLY

## Chapter V: Design Standards

This chapter includes design standards for bicycles, pedestrians, streetlighting, traffic signals and landscaping.

### A. Bicycles

#### 1. Bicycle Travel Facilities

**Policy V.A.1.** Instreet bicycle lanes (see Figure 1) or wide curb lanes (see Figure 3) shall be provided on all arterial and collector roadways to accommodate bicycle travel. The facility shall be instreet bicycle lanes, unless it can be documented that physical space constraints or excessive turning movements preclude an instreet location. If bikelanes or paved shoulders cannot be provided, the “shared lane marking” (sharrow) shall be provided if adopted design standards can be met. Illustration III shows arterial and collector roads in the Gainesville Metropolitan Area.

*Adopted December 14, 1995.*



Figure 1 - Instreet Bicycle Lane



Figure 2 - Shared Lane (Sharrow) Marking



Figure 3 - Wide Curb Lane

## 2. Bicycle Parking Facilities

**Policy V.A.2.** The Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization for the Gainesville Urbanized Area recommends that the City of Gainesville and Alachua County require the provision of adequate, secure bicycle parking facilities in local zoning regulations (see Figure 4).

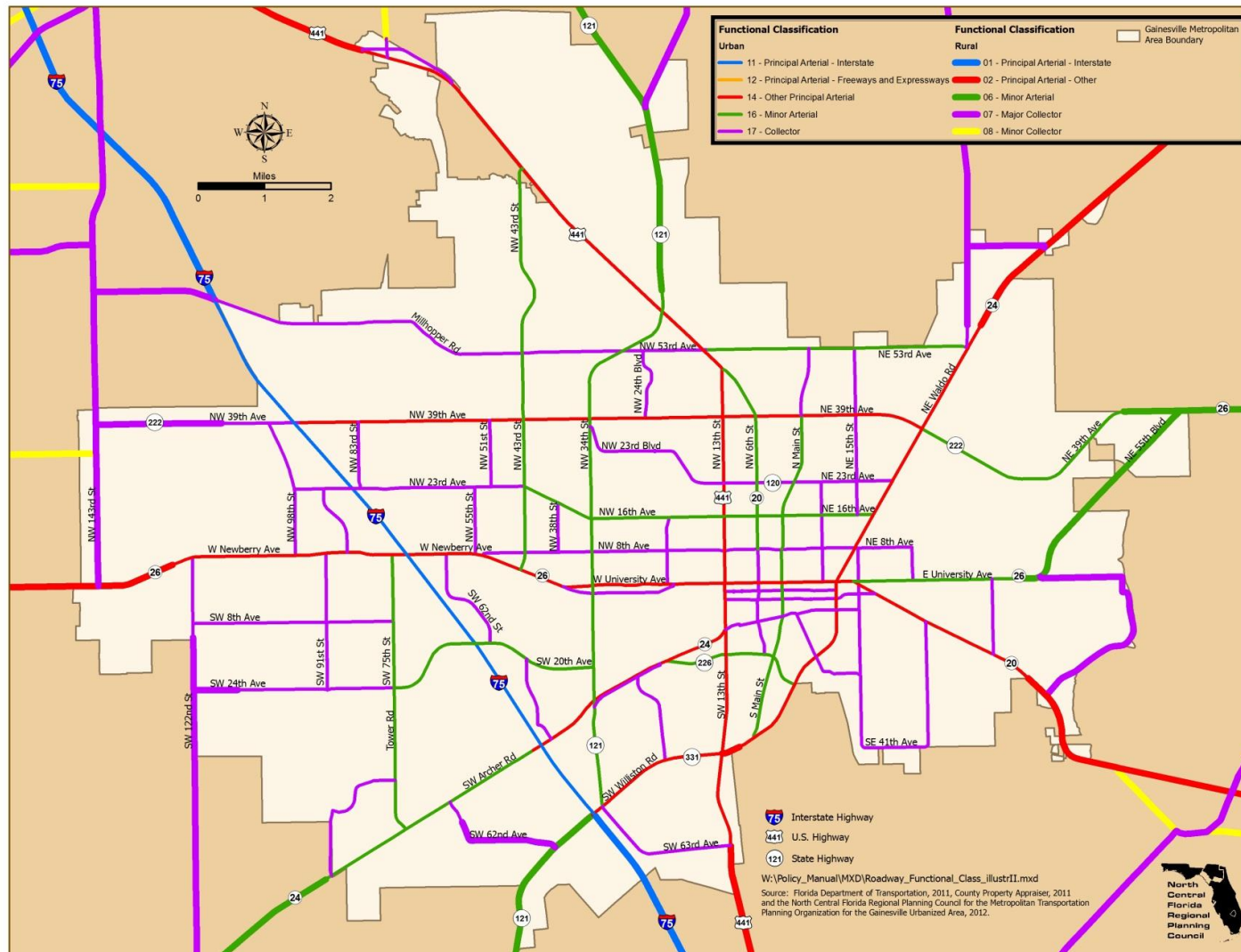
*Adopted December 14, 1995.*



Figure 4 - Bicycle Parking



### Illustration III Arterial and Collector Roadways Federal Aid Eligible



THIS PAGE LEFT BLANK INTENTIONALLY



## B. Pedestrians

### 1. Pedestrian Travel Facilities

**Policy V.B.1.** Pedestrian travel facilities, such as sidewalks, crosswalks, ramps and refuge islands (see Figure 5), shall be provided on all arterial and collector roadways, unless it can be documented that physical space constraints preclude such facilities.

*Adopted December 14, 1995.*



Figure 5 - Pedestrian Refuge Island

## 2. Pedestrian Traffic Signal Timing

**Policy V.B.2.** To improve pedestrian transportation along certain major corridors that have high pedestrian volumes, the following shall be implemented to the extent possible:

Pedestrian phases in which the minimum programmed green time exceeds the length of the "WALK" and flashing "DON'T WALK" will be placed in an automatic mode during times of high pedestrian activity. Generally, this will be in place from 7:00 A.M. to 7:00 P.M.

### Targeted Corridors/Intersections

Corridor/Intersection	Limits
East/West University Avenue	from NE 9th Street to NW 22nd Street
North/South Main Street	from North 2nd Avenue to South Depot Avenue
NW/SW 13th Street	from North 10th Avenue to SW 16th Avenue
Archer Road	from SW 13th Street to SW 34th Street
SW 34th Street	from Radio Road to Archer Road
NW 13th Street/NW 16th Avenue	intersection
SW 2nd Avenue/Village Drive	intersection
SW 2nd Avenue/SW 34th Street	intersection
University of Florida campus streets	-
SW 16th Avenue	from Archer Road to SW 13th Street

*Adopted June 4, 2012.*

## C. Streetlighting Fixtures

**Policy V.C.1.** This Streetlighting policy applies to arterial and collector roadway facilities within the Gainesville Metropolitan Area. Streetlighting is to be installed using best management practices in accordance with appropriate City of Gainesville and Alachua County streetlighting standards and criteria.

- 1. Primary Streetlighting Fixture-**  
When streetlights are installed, they shall be conventional (cobrahead-shaped) "cutoff" luminaire fixtures. This policy only applies to those roadways that are not within local government-designated special streetlighting fixture districts. Fixtures installed within City of Alachua, Clay Electric and Progress Energy service areas may use "cutoff" luminaires, but they are not required.

*Adopted December 14, 2000.*



Figure 6 - Cobrahead Streetlight

2. **Pedestrian-Scale Streetlighting Fixture-** When pedestrian-scale lighting is installed, it shall be traditional (acorn-shaped) "cutoff" luminaire fixtures. This policy only applies to those roadways that feature significant pedestrian activity and are not within local government-designated special lighting fixture districts, unless a district allows this type fixture. This fixture is intended to supplement the Primary Streetlighting Fixture. Fixtures installed within City of Alachua, Clay Electric and Progress Energy service areas may use "cutoff" luminaires, but they are not required.

*Adopted December 14, 2000.*



Figure 7 - Acorn Pedestrian-scale Fixture



## D. Traffic Signals

### 1. Mast Arms

#### a. State Highway System

This section states current Florida Department of Transportation policy concerning traffic signal mast arms.

**Policy V.D.1.** Florida Department of Transportation District Two will install strain pole traffic signals (see Figure 8) on the State Highway System unless the City of Gainesville or Alachua County agree to provide the funds for the additional cost of the mast arm installation. The mast arm request will be considered on a case-by- case basis.

1. If the City of Gainesville or Alachua County agree to the additional cost of a mast arm signal replacement, the signal structure will be galvanized mast arm. If the City of Gainesville or Alachua County request a “painted” mast arm, they must provide the additional cost for painting and enter into a maintenance agreement for the painted structure with the Florida Department of Transportation.
2. If a mast arm is installed in the Gainesville Metropolitan Area on the State Highway System, it shall be painted black and have horizontal signal heads (see Figure 9).



Figure 8 - Strain Pole Traffic Signal

b. City of Gainesville and/or Alachua County Roads

**Policy V.D.2.** If a mast arm is installed in the Gainesville Metropolitan Area on City of Gainesville or Alachua County roads, it shall be painted black and have horizontal signal heads (see Figure 9).

*Adopted August 10, 1995.*



Figure 9 - Mast Arm with Horizontal Signal Heads

c. Exceptions for Vertical Heads or Post-mounted Signals

**Policy V.D.3.** Exceptions for installing vertical heads on mast arms (see Figure 10) or post-mounted signals (see Figure 11) may be granted by the Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization for the Gainesville Urbanized Area on a case-by-case basis.

*Adopted August 10, 1995.*



Figure 10 - Mast Arm with Vertical Signal Heads



Figure 11 - Post-mounted Signals

d. Monotube Mast Arms

**Policy V.D.4.** Monotube mast arms (see Figure 12) shall not be constructed within the Gainesville Metropolitan Area unless specifically approved by the Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization for the Gainesville Urbanized Area.



Figure 12 - Monotube Mast Arm



## E. Landscaping for the State Highway System

This section states current Florida Department of Transportation policy concerning landscaping for the State Highway System.

### 1. General Landscaping Principles

**Policy V.E.1.** Provided all current Florida Department of Transportation Design Standards, Criteria and Policies can be met; landscaping projects shall be considered following the priorities identified in the Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization for the Gainesville Urbanized Area's latest adopted *List of Priority Projects*.

**Policy V.E.2.** State highway landscaping projects are proposed and constructed as separate projects from all roadway projects. Proposed landscape projects on the State Highway System may be part of a Florida Department of Transportation funded landscaping project or as a permit project by another agency. Highway landscape on the State Highway System proposed by other agencies must be by permit from the Florida Department of Transportation District Two and plans must comply with all Florida Department of Transportation Design Standards. All landscape projects must be within the existing state right-of-way and designed as standard Florida Department of Transportation maintained landscape projects.

**Policy V.E.3.** The Florida Department of Transportation standard landscape design is trees and sod. If the City of Gainesville, Alachua County or any other local agency desires to include shrubs, ground cover or anything beyond standard landscape design on the State Highway System it shall be required to pursue and sign a maintenance agreement with the Florida Department of Transportation prior to final design and construction (see Figure 13).

**Policy V.E.4.** Agencies shall maintain close coordination and contact with the Florida Department of Transportation District Two Landscape Architect during preliminary project planning phase to ensure compliance with Florida Department of Transportation Design Standards.



Figure 13 - Enhanced Landscaping

---

# Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization for the Gainesville Urbanized Area

## *Policy Manual Team*

Scott R. Koons, AICP, Executive Director

- \* Marlie Sanderson, AICP, Director of Transportation Planning
- \*\* Michael DePalma, Associate Planner
- \*\* Steven Dopp, Senior Planner
- \*\* Michael Escalante, AICP, Senior Planner
- \*\* Kevin Parrish, Information Technology and Property Management Director
- \*\* Carol Laine, Executive Assistant to the Executive Director

- \* Primary Responsibility
- \*\* Secondary Responsibility



Use the QR Reader App on  
your smart phone to visit  
our website!

## Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization for the Gainesville Urbanized Area

2009 NW 67th Place  
Gainesville, FL 32653-1603  
352.955.2200  
[www.ncfrpc.org/mtpo](http://www.ncfrpc.org/mtpo)