



Alachua County Board of County Commissioners

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Administration
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County Manager

March 28, 2024

GovernorRon.Desantis@eog.myflorida.com

The Honorable Ron DeSantis, Governor
Executive Office of Governor
State of Florida
400 S. Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001

Dear Governor DeSantis:

This letter is being sent as a request to include in your budget the design phase of the conversion of State Road 24 (Archer Road) from SW 75th Street (Tower Road) to SW 122nd St (Parker Road) in Alachua County from a rural 2-lane undivided section to a 4-lane divided roadway. The project is included in the legislatively approved budget (HF 3721/SF 3711) with a cost of \$2,250,000. With a complete design in hand Alachua County, or the Florida Department of Transportation, would stand on solid ground in applying for a construction grant from any number of Federal transportation grants.

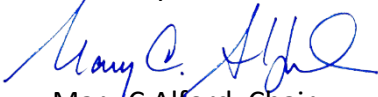
The importance of this project can be seen from the recent impacts of Hurricane Idalia. State Road 24 serves a primary arterial between the coastal areas of Levy County and the largest nearby hub for commerce, the Gainesville Urbanized area. Alachua County offers a large number of hotels, a range of restaurants and shopping, and direct access to I-75. This section of State Road 24 is the logical first step in extending a four-lane section towards the Gulf Coast from Gainesville to be better prepared to get residents inland to services to support them.

This project is currently included in the Gainesville Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization's adopted Long Range Transportation Plan Cost Feasible Plan. The project is also included in Alachua County's Comprehensive Plan and is included in the basis of the County's adopted Mobility Fee program. In addition to the regional benefits gained from this project, transportation capacity within the County will be increased even for non-emergency operations providing for a more efficient network that benefits residents of Alachua County as well as those of Levy County and beyond.

The Alachua County Board of County Commissioners appreciates your consideration of this matter and welcomes continued exploration and discussion. Should you have questions about the project, please

feel free to contact our Transportation Planning Manager, Alison Moss, at amoss@alachuacounty.us or 352-374-5211.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mary C. Alford".

Mary C Alford, Chair
Alachua County Commission
Chr24.020

MA/JLH/jlh

XC: Board of County Commissioners
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