



Agenda Item Summary

File #: 24-00941

Agenda Date: 10/22/2024

Agenda Item Name:

Transmittal Public Hearing for Comprehensive Plan Amendment to Clarify Fire Level of Service Guidelines.

Presenter:

Ben Chumley, Principal Planner, Growth Management

Description:

Public hearing for transmittal of a proposed County-initiated text amendment to the Alachua County Comprehensive Plan, Capital Improvements Element, to revise Policy 1.2.5(a) by clarifying Level of Service guidelines for fire service response.

Recommended Action:

Approve the proposed Comprehensive Plan Amendment for transmittal to the State Land Planning Agency and other agencies for review and comment pursuant to Section 163.3184, Florida Statutes.

Prior Board Motions:

None

Fiscal Note:

There is no cost to the County associated with this item.

Strategic Guide:

Public Safety

Background:

The proposed amendment to the Comprehensive Plan was requested by Alachua County Fire Rescue to ensure that the level of service guidelines for fire response that are contained within the Comprehensive Plan are consistent with National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standards and with the County's practice for monitoring the guidelines.

The Alachua County Comprehensive Plan, Policy 1.2.5(a) of the Capital Improvements Element identifies Level of Service (LOS) guidelines for fire service response. The currently adopted policy calls for initial unit response within 6 minutes for 80% of all emergency responses within a 12-month period for areas within the Urban Cluster; for the rural area, that time is 12 minutes.

The fire Level of Service guidelines are used as a capital improvement planning tool to identify capital project needs, such as new fire stations, to be considered for inclusion in the County's Capital

Improvements Program. The guidelines enable the County to determine when and where new fire facilities are needed as growth and development occur. The fire LOS guidelines are not a traditional concurrency standard, in that development proposals could not potentially be denied based solely on a failure to meet these guidelines.

The proposed Comprehensive Plan amendment would clarify that the response time guidelines listed in Policy 1.2.5(a) refer to *travel time* and not to other time-related performance measures identified in NFPA standards, such as turnout time and alarm handling time. This amendment will ensure that the Comprehensive Plan aligns with NFPA standards as well as the County's practice for tracking this measure.