



Z24-000005: County Initiated Text Amendment to Alachua County Comprehensive Plan to Clarify Fire Level of Service Guidelines

**Board of County Commissioners Public Hearing
October 22, 2024**

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Background – Fire Level of Service (LOS) Guidelines

- Capital Improvements Element Policy 1.2.5(a) identifies LOS guidelines for fire service response times.
- Currently adopted policy calls for the following initial unit response times:
 - Within the Urban Cluster, 6 minutes for 80% of all emergency responses within a 12-month period.
 - For the rural area, 12 minutes for 80% of all emergency responses within a 12-month period.
- LOS 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.

National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Standards

- Standard 1710 (2020) identifies specific performance objectives for emergency unit response, broken down into three main areas: alarm handling time, turnout time, and travel time.
- Currently adopted Comp Plan policy does not recognize or distinguish between the different NFPA time standards.
- In practice, Alachua County uses travel time for the purpose of implementing the Comprehensive Plan policy.

Proposed Policy Revisions – Capital Improvements Element

Policy 1.2.5 Alachua County shall adopt Level of Service (LOS) guidelines for Category "C" public facilities, ~~and include those facilities in the CIP.~~ These LOS guidelines are to be used for analysis and identification of Capital Improvement Project needs for these facilities to be considered for inclusion ~~included~~ in the Capital Improvements Program. The LOS guidelines for Category "C" public facilities are the following:

a) Fire LOS guidelines are as follows:

- 1) In the Urban Cluster, initial unit response LOS guideline is within 6 minutes travel time for 80% of all emergency responses within a 12 month period. Land development regulations shall require that 100% of development shall provide water supply served by hydrants.
- 2) In the rural area, initial unit response LOS guideline is within 12 minutes travel time for 80% of all emergency responses within a 12 month period. Fire suppression/protection service level for all properties in the Rural Area shall be at the ISO (Insurance Service Office) Class Protection of <10. Development will provide adequate water supply for fire suppression and protection, and fire service compliant fire connections, required through land development regulations.

Local Planning Agency (Planning Commission) Recommendation

The Alachua County Local Planning Agency held a public hearing on the proposed amendment on September 18, 2024, and recommended **transmittal for state agency review**.

Staff Recommendation

Recommend that the Board of County Commissioners approve transmittal of Comprehensive Plan Amendment Z24-000005 to the state land planning agency and other review agencies pursuant to Sec. 163.3184, Florida Statutes.

Questions and Discussion