



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

Board of County Commissioners Adoption Public Hearing

January 14, 2025

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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 level of service guidelines.

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.

Process Background: Z24-000005

- Planning Commission – August 21 and September 18, 2024
 - Recommendation to transmit for state agency review
- BoCC Transmittal Public Hearing – October 22, 2024
 - Action to transmit for state agency review
- State Agency Review (30 days)
- BoCC Adoption Public Hearing – January 14, 2025

State Agency Review and Comment

- Letters of “No Comment” from:
 - Florida Department of Commerce
 - Florida Department of Environmental Protection
 - Florida Department of Transportation
 - Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission
 - St. Johns River Water Management District

Staff Recommendation

Adopt ordinance to approve Comprehensive Plan Amendment Z24-000005.

Questions and Discussion