



## MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 13, 2025  
FROM: Tommy Howard, Commissioner City of Hawthorne  
SUBJECT: Alachua County MTPO Rural Representative Interest Statement

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I am honored to have the ability to be considered to represent the City of Hawthorne on the Board of the Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization for the Gainesville Urbanized Area (MTPO).

- Why are you interested in serving on the Board of the Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization for the Gainesville Urbanized Area (MTPO)? I am interested in being able to identify concerns of the county and have the ability to incorporate the best practices from surrounding cities. I want the opportunity to express the concerns of the citizens of Hawthorne and be able to inform them of the potential changes in the area.
- What are the most pressing transportation issues facing Alachua County? In my opinion, I believe one of the most pressing issues facing Alachua County would be the influx of new residences and increased tourism. The amount of increased wear and tear on the infrastructure has long term implications and accelerates the repair and replacement of roads and bridges.
- And the County's rural municipalities? The City of Hawthorne is facing an increased number of commercial vehicles traversing our downtown roads. State road 301, with a posted speed limit of 45 mph, has vehicles traveling at speeds in excess of 60 mph. This is one example, but it's pressing to the city because school age children navigate this road daily.
- What would you bring to the Board? Being a lifelong resident of Hawthorne, I would bring a wealth of knowledge of historical growth in the region. I have witnessed the changes to the area to have a full understanding of what is needed to address the concerns of the citizens.