

Presented by Mr. Poppel, UF  
1/31/03  
Special BOCC Mtg.  
PW

## SW 24<sup>th</sup>

Good Morning.

*Thank you Commissioners*  
My name is \_\_\_\_\_.

- Thanks to each of you for your attendance.
- The neat thing about this community and the reason I have lived here <sup>for over 31 yrs.</sup> is the passion for issues. Originally, the intent of this meeting was to share some ideas and discuss <sup>some proposals</sup> ~~the options~~.

Today, I feel like we are past that point and are having a dress rehearsal. <sup>of sorts</sup>

- I will be as brief as possible.
- I wish to cover 4 areas.
  - Why is the University involved with SW 24<sup>th</sup>?
  - What is our new vision for SW 24<sup>th</sup>?
  - Why did we change our views or vision?
  - Present a proposal for accelerating SW 24<sup>th</sup> as a 4-lane road.
- First, why is the University involved?

- The University has \$3.2 million plus interest – <sup>Almost</sup> ~~about~~ half of the budget for SW 24<sup>th</sup>.
- We have been waiting 4 years for action.
- We were very involved in the development of the ~~SW 24<sup>th</sup>~~ vision ~~and~~ the SW 20<sup>th</sup> charette.
- SW 24<sup>th</sup> is a community issue, not a Butler Plaza issue.
- The SW 24<sup>th</sup> vision is about making Gainesville a better community.
- The SW 24<sup>th</sup> vision is about a holistic plan that will improve the future <sup>for</sup> ~~of~~ Gainesville.
- Now – What is this new and revised vision for SW 24<sup>th</sup>?
  - Over 5 years have elapsed since the SW 20<sup>th</sup> design charette was conducted. Over 8 years have elapsed since MTPO....
  - Things change and our vision should reflect that. SW 24<sup>th</sup> should be considered the first phase of a grander vision.
- **OUR VISION! Simply stated...**

- Student Village. Our vision is to assure this area is developed with high density. This area <sup>SW 20<sup>th</sup></sup> was our first great transit success – SW 20<sup>th</sup>. Infill is good. This road will encourage density. This road will discourage sprawl.
- Gainesville needs to <sup>encourage</sup> contain its growth in established and developed commercial areas that support density.
- East/West Connector. Gainesville needs a major road that can encourage growth and movement in the east. SW 24<sup>th</sup> will enhance this growth and provide the much needed connector. We need access to the east side. This vision will take SW 24<sup>th</sup> across 34<sup>th</sup> Street to Archer and further to SW 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue.
- Neighborhoods. The SW Student Village concept will help relieve the pressure on our traditional University neighborhoods and assist us in restoring them. The University has an aggressive plan to assist in this.
- Road Failures. Currently SW 34<sup>th</sup> Street is failing. Archer Road is failing. SW 20<sup>th</sup> needs relief. University Avenue

needs relief. If we are to encourage density and growth in a focused area, we must provide the road infrastructure to support it. A 4-laned road will provide the capacity and safety to encourage this continual growth.

- Safety, Capacity, Beauty. I believe this vision of a 4-laned road can be done in a way that will not totally compromise the original 2-lane plan. There are many examples in this community and in other communities where center islands and landscaping can beautify the road and create traffic calming without sacrificing vehicle capacity and the safety afforded by a 4-laned road.
- Now - What caused this change in vision? Simply...
  - Time – 5 years has elapsed – or 8 years.
  - Transit Success – 7 million riders last year and 1 million in October of 2002.
  - Density – of SW 20<sup>th</sup> and the SW area in general.
  - Growth – in the right places.
  - Desire to infill and the need to limit sprawl.

In summary, we need to encourage what is happening in the Southwest. It is good for the Gainesville economy and its responsible growth. ~~The debate over responsible planning is healthy.~~ We need to facilitate what we now see as good growth in the right places. Let's not handicap it or limit its potential by failing to recognize and support the need for road infrastructure.

The University is encouraging a new vision, and it starts with SW <sup>4 laning</sup> 24<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

*finally* WHAT IS THE PLAN? The County has some \$7.2 million budgeted for the SW 24<sup>th</sup> Avenue segment from 34<sup>th</sup> Street to 43<sup>rd</sup> Street. Many of these costs are fixed, regardless of who may build it. Right-of-way costs, design and engineering costs already spent, landscaping and street lighting.

However, Mr. Butler has offered to assume "responsibility for the construction of SW 24<sup>th</sup> Avenue" as follows:

- Build a 4-laned road according to County design standards.
- Cap the County's construction cost at \$2 million.
- Assume all design costs.
- Manage the project.
- Pave SW 38<sup>th</sup> Street.

The County will save some \$2 million plus dollars that can be used elsewhere.

*The land believe strongly in Public/Private Partnership  
We have a strong track record of the we are asking  
the County to engage Mr. Butler in this construction?*