

S.W. 24th AVENUE PROPOSED EXTENSION
UF Senate Meeting 4.17.03

BACKGROUND

Natural Area Teaching Laboratory (NATL)

- The academic area of the NATL is 22 acres. Proposed 24th Avenue right-of-way (ROW) through NATL includes 3.1 acres plus potential stormwater storage.

1997-1978 MPTO community charrette

- Consensus to extend 24th Avenue across 34th St. headed east as a two-lane road into the NATL.

2003 MPTO Public Hearing

- Amendment changed road from a two-lane road to a four-lane road without public input (against the recommendation of their own staff, their Citizen Advisory Committee, community workshops, & FDOT)
- President Young wrote to the County Commissioners that UF “will recommended through its Master Plan Amendment process that sufficient ROW be given the City of Gainesville/County of Alachua to provide the necessary land to connect S.W. 24th Avenue to Archer Road”

LVLC Concerns:

- **The impact to NATL is greater than the loss of 3.1 acres**
- **The 2003 Public Hearing Amendment was not consistent with the results of community input and the conclusions of the planning studies**
- **It appears as if the UF decision to recommend donation of the ROW has been taken without input from the relevant University Committees and community.**

UF FOCUS GROUP

Charge: “...review the proposed impact on academic programs, possible mitigation of impact, and/or transfer of these programs to other locations”

Participants:

- Chuck Frazier, Associate Provost of Academic Affairs
- Tom Crisman, Director of the Center for Wetlands
- Joseph C. Joyce, Executive Assistant to the Vice President of Agricultural Affairs
- Chairs of the IF Advisory Committees
 - Traffic & Parking – Gail Sasnett
 - Land Use – David Stopka
 - Lakes, Vegetation & Landscaping – Tina Gurucharri
 - Historic Preservation – John Ingram

LVLC Concerns:

- **The Focus Group is being asked to make decisions about impacts and mitigation without the use of a Complete Cost/Benefit Analysis**

LVLC MOTION: The LVLC supports a process, which encompasses the development of a Complete Cost/Benefit Analysis for UF identifying academic & conservation impacts, potential mitigation and provides opportunities for public input.

RECOMMENDATION for the UF SENATE: The UF Administration should clarify its position on the 24th Avenue extension in order to address procedural concerns and ensure that a process will be implemented that allows for input from the entire University community before any final decisions are made.