



Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization

For the Gainesville and Alachua County Area

Executive Director



Executive Recruitment

Contact:
Alachua County Human Resources
352-374-5219 or
achr@alachuacounty.us

Alachua County is pleased to announce the recruitment of candidates and selection process for the next Executive Director of Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization (MTPO).

Candidates should apply online immediately with a resume, cover letter, and contact information for three professional references.

Pursuant to Florida Open Records Law, applications and resumes are subject to disclosure. Questions: contact Alachua County Human Resources at 352-374-5219 or achr@alachuacounty.us.

Alachua County, FL is an Equal Opportunity Employer

COMMUNITY INFORMATION

ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA (population of 263,496) is located in north-central Florida and centrally located between the Gulf of Mexico and the Atlantic Ocean. Alachua County is surrounded by spectacular natural wonders and scenery. Serving as the home to the University of Florida and Santa Fe College, it is located just a couple of hours drive from Orlando, Jacksonville, Tallahassee, and the Georgia border. This location enables visitors and residents to easily explore the entire North/Central parts of Florida.



Alachua County, a Florida Charter County, offers a quality of life influenced by remarkable scenery, a wide variety of recreational opportunities in its parks and conservation areas and a strong commitment to cultural diversity. It offers a major urban center in the County seat of Gainesville, historic villages in Hawthorne, Newberry, Waldo and Micanopy, and rural natural retreats in High Springs and Alachua.



The County has a population of 263,496 and covers over 960 square miles making it the 22nd largest County in Florida for total land mass as well as population. The Greater Gainesville region serves as a regional hub for employment and retail for the County and 11 surrounding counties. With the state's greatest concentration of 18 to 44-year-olds and people with advanced degrees, Greater Gainesville is the state's youngest and most educated region. It has thriving cities, rich agricultural land and many small communities that contribute to its character and exceptional quality of life.

A significant portion of the County is protected through land conservation. Since 2002, the County has successfully protected more than 24,000 acres allowing the County to remain in a natural, undeveloped state for residents and visitors to enjoy. Outdoor enthusiasts come to the area for its rivers that offer kayaking and swimming, lakes for boating and inland natural springs for scuba diving.

The County is home to the University of Florida and Santa Fe College, however, it is not just a college area, it's "Where Nature and Culture Meet". Trees draped in Spanish moss line quaint Old South inspired streets creating an inviting environment and strong quality of life. The cozy quintessential downtown exudes hospitality, comfort, and at times a certain refined ease in its shops and restaurants. The varied city, County, and state parks offer world-class natural attractions, waterways, shady pine forests, flora and fauna, and amazing natural north Florida sunsets.



- SmartMoney.com ranks Gainesville # 1 place to retire during an economic downturn
- Forbes ranks Gainesville in the top 25 "Smartest cities in America" and in the top 25 "Best places to do business and have a career"
- Popular Science magazine ranks Gainesville "Most Technologically Advanced City in Florida"
- National Geographic Adventure magazine ranks Gainesville among the top 10 "Best places to live and play"
- AARP ranks Gainesville in the top 20 "Best Places to Reinvent Your Life"



Gainesville ranked #1 in the newest Sperling's "Cities Ranked & Rated: 400 Metropolitan Areas Evaluated in the U.S. and Canada"

The City of Gainesville operates the Regional Transit System and has a unique focus on multimodal transportation and a strong commitment towards Vision Zero. Gainesville was recognized as a Vision Zero city by the Vision Zero Network in 2024. The League of American Bicyclists designated Gainesville as a Silver-tiered Bicycle Friendly Community in 2021 and was designated a Trail Town in 2023 by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection.

Alachua County is a wonderful place to live and work and the area has earned various distinctions over the years.

Arts, Cultural and Entertainment

Alachua County also boasts some of the best art museums and theaters in North Florida. You can find the spirit of the area not only in its people, but in every one of its cultural landmarks. Whether you're searching for fun at Gainesville's Butterfly Rainforest or for entertainment at the Hippodrome State Theatre, there are things to do for everyone.



Proximity to a large university certainly helps when it comes to having culture and diversity in the arts. The County is lucky enough to boast several great places for historical learning. The Florida Museum of Natural History is fantastic for gaining knowledge of the environment, animals, and history of the region. The Harn Museum of Art is easily one of the greatest university art museums in the United States, featuring over 6,000 pieces of work, and offering live lectures and performances.

The arts, coupled with various festivals throughout the year in all the communities of Alachua County, make the area a mecca of cultural and entertainment events for all ages to enjoy. Many facilities and venues offer a wide variety of music and entertainment including the various theaters in the area, many offering free to low-cost events open to the public. Those looking for dinner choices before or after the show won't be disappointed with 31 dining venues in downtown Gainesville alone.

Outdoor/Indoor Activities



All of Alachua County, not just Gainesville, is an outdoor enthusiast's dream destination. With world-class fishing, snorkeling, canoeing, diving and kayaking, there's always plenty to do on the water. On land, enjoy birding, hiking, running, biking, fishing and pretty much everything else under the sun. It's all made possible by Mother Nature herself.

Experience the adventure of climbing trees! Gainesville's Canopy Climbers provides fun, safe, sustainable, year-round tree-climbing adventure events. The Santa Fe College Teaching Zoo allows for an up-close look



at the wildlife through student-led tours revealing what working with zoo animals is all about. The area is blessed with parks like Paynes Prairie, the San Felsaco Hammock Preserve and Devil's Millhopper; three of many such places that not only offer incredible sanctuary to wildlife, but also generously provide people activities that simply don't exist anywhere else. With rolling hills, sinkholes, lakes, upland forests, hammock and prairie, the landscape of the County has always been a natural playground.

If the thrill of finding a great buy sounds exciting, the County offers both indoor and outdoor shopping venues. Stroll through the winding brick streets of downtown Gainesville or in world-class Eco-tourism destination of High Springs, known for its antique shops. Many Floridians consider Micanopy to be the top antique shopping destination in the state. "The little town that time forgot" presents shoppers with antique shops housed in historic buildings framed by massive old live oak trees draped in Spanish moss.

SCHOOL SYSTEM/EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

All of Alachua County is served by the Alachua County Public School District. The District is comprised of 63 total schools including 34 elementary schools, 10 middle schools and 7 high schools with a total school enrollment of 28,922 students. These numbers also include several charter schools and special education centers. In addition, the District offers several Magnet schools and magnet programs to students outside the school's normal attendance boundaries. These 13 different Career and Technical Education Programs range from the Institute of Graphic Art and Design, Culinary Arts and Biotechnology to the Academies of Agri-science, Finance, Entrepreneurship, Criminal Justice, Future Teachers, Health Professions, Fire and Emergency Medical Services, Gaming and Mobile Apps, Automotive Technology, and Robotics and Engineering.



In addition to the public school systems, there are also several private and secular schools within the County. The County also has numerous opportunities for higher education, including the University of Florida and Santa Fe College. The University of Florida is consistently ranked among the nation's top universities including 2nd among Forbes "Best Value Public Colleges and 2nd in Kiplinger's "Best Values in Public Colleges". It is #6 by U.S. News and World Report among Public Universities. Additionally, Santa Fe College was named the winner of the 2015 Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence (given every two years) by the prestigious Aspen Institute. SF was named number one over 1,000 institutions nationwide and has been in the top 10 of U.S. community colleges since 2012.



ABOUT THE AGENCY



The Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization (MTPO) for the Gainesville and Alachua County Area is actively seeking an Executive Director to lead efforts in transportation planning for the region. The MTPO has recently been designated as a Transportation Management Area (TMA) and is in the process of developing an "independent leaning" organization that oversees and supports multimodal transportation, bicycle and pedestrian, and safety planning efforts in coordination with City, County, and State organizations. The MTPO boundary includes all of Alachua County.

CANDIDATE QUALIFICATION CRITERIA

The Executive Director is the professional leader and official representative of the Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization (MTPO) for the Gainesville and Alachua County areas. The position oversees the operations and supports multimodal transportation, bicycle and pedestrian, and safety planning efforts in coordination with City, County, and State organizations.



The incumbent in this position will build a new organization and shape the future of transportation in the area. The Executive Director will have significant autonomy in their work and will serve as the main point of contact for the MTPO Board, local jurisdictions, transportation agencies, and other MPOs in the state. The role involves leading the transportation vision, advocating for key needs, and fostering partnerships and consensus on long-term multimodal



transportation priorities. Additionally, the Executive Director will be responsible for shaping the MTPO's work program and budget, focusing on data analysis, community and stakeholder engagement, and planning tasks aligned with strategic goals.

Work is performed under the broad direction, oversight and review of the Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization (MTPO). A considerable degree of independent judgment, discretion, and initiative will be exercised in carrying out work assignments by and for the MTPO Board.

Education and Experience

A Bachelor's degree in Urban and Regional Planning, Transportation Planning, Traffic Engineering, Geography, Public Administration, or related fields and ten years of progressively responsible supervisory experience in private or public sector urban planning, public administration in the transportation field, transportation planning or transportation engineering.



Compensation and Benefits



The MTPO offers a starting salary range of \$119,999.98 - \$140,000.02. Appointment salary DOQ. A comprehensive benefit package includes the Florida Retirement System, health insurance including medical, dental, vision coverage, and life insurance and voluntary participation in a deferred compensation program.

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