



## City of Gainesville Agenda Item Report

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**File Number:** 2023-845

**Agenda Date:** September 7, 2023

**Department:** Sustainable Development

**Title:** 2023-845 Letter of Support for Toyota Mobility Foundation Sustainable Cities Challenge Application (B)

**Department:** Sustainable Development

**Description:** City of Gainesville is submitting a grant application to the Toyota Mobility Foundation Sustainable Cities Challenge program, and is requesting a letter of support from the City Commission.

**Fiscal Note:** None

**Explanation:** The City of Gainesville is applying for the Toyota Mobility Foundation Sustainable Cities Challenge program, a competitive grant that aims to expand access to safe, affordable, and inclusive modes of transportation, harness the power of data to create connected and resilient mobility ecosystems, and reduce environmental impact through low-carbon and renewable energy solutions. Gainesville is dedicated to taking impactful strides in combating climate change and advancing equity within the community and would like an official endorsement from the Commission to enter this grant competition. If selected as a finalist city, Gainesville will be invited to send two representatives to a capacity building academy in Dallas, Texas, from November 13-15, 2023 (travel and accommodation costs will be covered by the Challenge). Three winning cities will be chosen by February 2024, who will then host a City Challenge event to attract design ideas from global innovators for the solution proposed in our application. The winning innovators for each city will be announced in late 2024, and the three cities and their winning innovator will be awarded \$3 million in funding to test and roll out their solutions.

The city of Gainesville's solution proposal details our goal for the strategic deployment of publicly accessible EV charging stations, with a twofold aim: to effectively address the carbon footprint within the transportation sector and to provide opportunities for neighbors to improve access and enhance data-driven concepts for more resilient

transport systems. This initiative aligns seamlessly with the city's overarching goal of achieving net-zero greenhouse gas emissions.

**Strategic Connection:**

- ☒ Goal 1: Equitable Community
- ☒ Goal 2: More Sustainable Community
- ☒ Goal 3: A Great Place to Live and Experience
- ☐ Goal 4: Resilient Local Economy
- ☒ Goal 5: “Best in Class” Neighbor Services

**Recommendation:** The City Commission authorize the Mayor to sign a letter of support on behalf of the Commission for this Sustainable Cities Challenge application.