GAINESVILLE

Work Session Agenda
Thursday, June 12, 2025, 9:00 AM
Administration Building, Boardroom (3rd Floor)
300 Henry Ward Way, Gainesville, GA 30501
Mayor or Mayor Pro Tem Presides

DEPARTMENT ISSUES:

Police

- Resolution: Axon Contract for Body Worn Cameras, Fleet Cameras, and Tasers — Jay Parrish

Community & Economic Development

- Resolution: Authorization to Apply for and Accept an Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) Area Development Grant — Jessica Tullar

CITY MANAGER ISSUES:

- Resolution: Acquisition of Land and Easement Rights to Construct the Airport Connector Segment of the Highlands to Islands Trail — Angela Sheppard

MAYOR/COUNCIL ISSUES:

- Ex-Officio Report(s)

CITY ATTORNEY ISSUES:

CITY CLERK ISSUES:

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

ADJOURNMENT:

Final: Tuesday, June 10, 2025 4:30 PM

CITY OF GAINESVILLE

Work Session Agenda Request

Item Created:	June 9, 2025
Date Submitted:	June 9, 2025
Final Approval Date:	June 11, 2025
Presenter:	Jay Parrish, Chief of Police
Item of Business:	Resolution: Axon Contract for Body Worn Cameras, Fleet Cameras, and Tasers
Meeting Date:	June 12, 2025

Purpose of Request:
The purpose of the resolution is to approve the new contract with Axon to replace cameras with the latest technology.

Facts & Issues / History & Background:
The new contract totals $2,345,000 over five years. It will replace our current body-worn cameras with the latest technology, as the existing cameras are four years old. We will upgrade our entire vehicle fleet to the newest camera system, which will operate on the same platform as the new body cameras.

Department Recommendation:
Adopt the resolution.

Department Director:
Jay Parrish

If funding is involved, are funds approved within the current budget? No

Amount Requested:
2,345,000

Sources of Funds: Year one approved in FY26 Budget

Finance Comments:

Administrative Comments:

Attachments:

1. Resolution: Axon Contract for Body Worn Cameras Fleet Cameras and Tasers

RESOLUTION BR-2025 - ___

AXON CONTRACT FOR BODY WORN CAMERAS, FLEET CAMERAS, AND TASERS

WHEREAS, Axon provides the Gainesville Police Department ("GPD") with body worn cameras, fleet cameras, and tasers, which are critical tools in the GPD's efforts to continue providing high quality services to the citizens of Gainesville; and

WHEREAS, the new contract with Axon will total $2,345,000 over five years and will allow for the replacement of the GPD's current body-worn cameras with the latest technology; and

WHEREAS, the existing cameras are four years old and, through a new contract, the GPD will upgrade its entire vehicle fleet to the newest camera system, which will operate on the same platform as the new body cameras; and

WHEREAS, the new contract will replace all GPD tasers with the new Taser 10, which new platform expands and enhances the GPD's ability to collect digital data (photos and videos) from the public; and

WHEREAS, after two years, the new contract will allow for the upgrade of equipment to the latest technology released after that date; and

WHEREAS, the new contract will contain an annual termination option, based on budget approvals, with Year One of the new contract being currently covered within the proposed GPD FY26 budget.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the governing body for the City of Gainesville hereby authorizes the Mayor, City Manager and/or City Attorney to execute all documents necessary to contract with Axon for the provision of equipment and services as set forth herein, in an amount not to exceed the annual budgeted amount.

Adopted this _____ day of _____, 2025.

_____

W. Samuel Couvillon, Mayor

This is to certify that I am City Clerk of the City of Gainesville. As such, I keep its official records, including its minutes. In that capacity, my signature below certifies this Resolution was adopted as stated and will be recorded in the official minutes.

ATTEST:

_____

Alisa Grayson, City Clerk

CITY OF GAINESVILLE

Work Session Agenda Request

Item Created:	June 10, 2025
Date Submitted:	June 10, 2025
Final Approval Date:	June 11, 2025
Presenter:	Jessica Tullar, Neighborhood Development Manager
Item of Business:	Resolution: Authorization to Apply for and Accept an Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) Area Development Grant
Meeting Date:	June 12, 2025

Purpose of Request:
The purpose of the request is to authorize submittal and acceptance of, if awarded, an Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) Area Development Grant

Facts & Issues / History & Background:
The Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) Area Development Grant Program is designed to provide matching grant funds in support of public infrastructure improvements such as water, sewer and storm drain facilities, road improvements, sidewalks and streetscaping. These ARC matching grant funds are awarded on a competitive basis. Funds are awarded to eligible applicants based on economic status for projects consistent with both the ARC's investment priorities outlined in the 2022-2026 ARC Strategic Plan and the State investment priorities outlined by Governor Kemp. The City of Gainesville is located within a "Transitional" designated county and is eligible for up to 50% funding assistance under this ARC grant program.

The ARC Area Development Grant involves a two-step application process, with an initial project assessment/pre-application and a full application should the state approve the initial project assessment. ARC Area Development Grant funds will be used for such eligible activities as street/road improvements, sidewalks, streetscapes, and stormwater infrastructure improvements within the "moat" area of Downtown. It is anticipated that grant awards will be announced in October 2025, and will have at least two years to complete.

Department Recommendation:
Adopt the resolution.

Department Director:
Rusty Ligon

If funding is involved, are funds approved within the current budget? Yes

Amount Requested:
$5,000,000

Sources of Funds:
ARC Grant ($2,500,000); City CIP Fund and private funds ($2,500,000)

Finance Comments:

Administrative Comments:

Attachments:
1. Resolution: Apply for and Accept 2025 ARC Area Development Grant

RESOLUTION GR-2025 - ___

AUTHORIZATION TO APPLY FOR AND ACCEPT AN *APPALACHIAN REGIONAL COMMISSION (ARC) AREA DEVELOPMENT* GRANT

WHEREAS, excellent connectivity spurs pedestrian activity as well as contributes to healthier, safer neighborhoods and ties together existing assets; and

WHEREAS, through its strategic planning process for Downtown and Midland, it was concluded that one of the top issues facing Gainesville's Downtown is connectivity within and outwardly from the "moat" area (the area bound by E.E. Butler Parkway, Jesse Jewell Parkway, Academy Street and West Academy Street); and

WHEREAS, the Gainesville 2040 Comprehensive Plan further emphasizes connectivity and the need to better serve pedestrians through more walkable environment, setting as a goal to "efficiently and safely move traffic and people through and around the city" with a strategy to increase connectivity as well as the trail and sidewalk network to encourage pedestrian and bicycle mobility; and

WHEREAS, the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) *Area Development Grant Program* is designed to provide matching grant funds in support of public infrastructure improvements such as water, sewer and storm drain facilities, road improvements, sidewalks and streetscaping; and

WHEREAS, said matching grant funds are awarded to eligible applicants based on economic status for projects consistent with both the ARC's investment priorities outlined in the 2022-2026 ARC Strategic Plan and the State investment priorities outlined by Governor Kemp; and

WHEREAS, the city wishes to apply for an *Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) Area Development Grant* to improve and enhance existing roads, sidewalks, streetscapes, water, sanitary sewer, and/or stormwater infrastructure within Downtown, and thereby, support new and existing downtown businesses and residences; and

WHEREAS, the City of Gainesville is located within a "Transitional" designated county and is eligible for up to 50% funding assistance under this ARC grant program; and

WHEREAS, the City of Gainesville is committed to supporting the infrastructure project with a total budget of $5,000,000 of which 50% ($2,500,000) would be grant-funded and the remaining 50% ($2,500,000) would be funded through public and private funds as a local match; and

WHEREAS, by way of an allocation from its FY26 and FY27 Capital Projects Budgets, the city intends to contribute towards the local match for public infrastructure improvements within the Downtown "moat" area.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the governing body for the City of Gainesville hereby authorizes the Community and Economic Development Department to apply for a *Appalachian Regional Commission Area Development* grant.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the governing body for the City of Gainesville authorizes the Mayor, City Manager, and/or City Attorney, or their designee, to sign necessary documents to apply for, accept, execute and administer the grant.

Adopted this _____ day of _____, 2025.

RESOLUTION GR-2025 - ___

AUTHORIZATION TO APPLY FOR AND ACCEPT AN *APPALACHIAN REGIONAL COMMISSION (ARC) AREA DEVELOPMENT* GRANT

W. Samuel Couvillon, Mayor

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ATTEST:

Alisa Grayson, City Clerk

CITY OF GAINESVILLE

Work Session Agenda Request

Item Created:	June 4, 2025
Date Submitted:	June 4, 2025
Final Approval Date:	June 11, 2025
Presenter:	Angela Sheppard, Assistant City Manager
Item of Business:	Resolution: Acquisition of Land and Easement Rights to Construct the Airport Connector Segment of the Highlands to Islands Trail
Meeting Date:	June 12, 2025

Purpose of Request:
The purpose of this request is to authorize the City Manager, City Attorney and the employees and agents of the City to negotiate, acquire, and execute the necessary documents to effectuate the property acquisition needed for the Airport Segment of the Highlands to Islands Trail.

Facts & Issues / History & Background:

Department Recommendation:
Approve the resolution.

Department Director:
Bryan Lackey

If funding is involved, are funds approved within the current budget? No

Amount Requested: **Sources of Funds: SPLOST**

Finance Comments:

Administrative Comments:

Attachments:

1. Resolution: Acquisition of Land and Easement Rights to Construct Airport Connector Seg of HTI Trail
2. Airport Connector Exhibit A

RESOLUTION BR-2025 - ___

Acquisition of Land and Easement Rights to Construct the Airport Connector Segment of the Highlands to Islands Trail

WHEREAS, the City of Gainesville has determined that it is necessary and in the public interest to acquire certain tracts of land and easement as part of a Project known as the Airport Connector Project – Highlands to Islands Trail (the "Project"), immediately and without delay, said Project and the swift construction of said Project being in the public interest of the citizens of the City of Gainesville; and

WHEREAS, Article 9, Section 2, Paragraph 5 of the Georgia Constitution authorizes municipalities to exercise the power of eminent domain for any public purpose; and

WHEREAS, the Project is for public transportation purposes involving the construction and maintenance of a safe and efficient trail for pedestrian and bicycle traffic between Pine Street and Palmour Drive as shown on Exhibit "A" attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference. Construction of the Project is necessary to construct a continuous and uninterrupted route of pedestrian travel and bicycle travel on the Highlands to Islands Trail for use by the general public. In order to maintain the projected schedule of Project construction, all required right-of-way and easements should be acquired without delay; and

WHEREAS, the Project and the land and easements needed to construct the Project are located in Gainesville Militia District (411 GMD) in Hall County, Georgia, and located on the route shown on Exhibit "A", and incorporated herein by reference.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, and it is resolved, the City of Gainesville finds that the Project to construct the Airport Connector Project – Highlands to Islands Trail is necessary to serve a public transportation purpose, and in furtherance of that public purpose the City has determined to use its power of eminent domain to acquire certain property rights necessary for Project construction as shown on Exhibit "A" by negotiation and sale, or through the condemnation process in the event that the necessary property rights cannot be acquired by voluntary negotiation and sale. The acquisition procedure shall proceed under Title 32 of the Official Code of Georgia, as the Project is for a transportation purpose and the schedule of completion requires acquisition of all parcels quickly, and without delay. Time is of the essence; and

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Manager of the City of Gainesville, and the employees and agents of the City of Gainesville, may negotiate for and acquire the property needed for the Project by gift, sale, or condemnation, in compliance with the requirements of O.C.G.A. Section 22-1-9, and that the City Attorney and the employees and agents of the City of Gainesville, are hereby directed to prepare the necessary deeds, easements, closing documents, petitions, declarations of taking, orders, and any other documents required to effectuate the foregoing; that all actions taken and easements acquired for the Project by the Mayor, City Manager, employees and agents of the City of Gainesville, and City Attorney's office which have heretofore occurred, are hereby ratified; and

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Mayor and City Council of the City of Gainesville, the City Manager, the City Attorney, and the employees and agents of the City of Gainesville, are authorized to sign any of the documents referenced in the preceding paragraph on behalf of the City of Gainesville, Georgia to complete the acquisition of the property required for the Project; and

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Mayor and City Council of City of Gainesville hereby approve the location of the Project by Resolution, and that said location of the Project be

advertised in the legal organ of the County, commencing immediately, for four consecutive weeks, and that the plans be kept on file at the City of Gainesville Public Works Department, and that any interested party may obtain a copy of same by writing to the City of Gainesville Public Works Department at 300 Henry Ward Way, Suite 302, P.O. Box 2496, Gainesville, GA 30503, and paying a nominal cost therefore.

Adopted this _____ day of _____, 2025.

_____

W. Samuel Couvillon, Mayor

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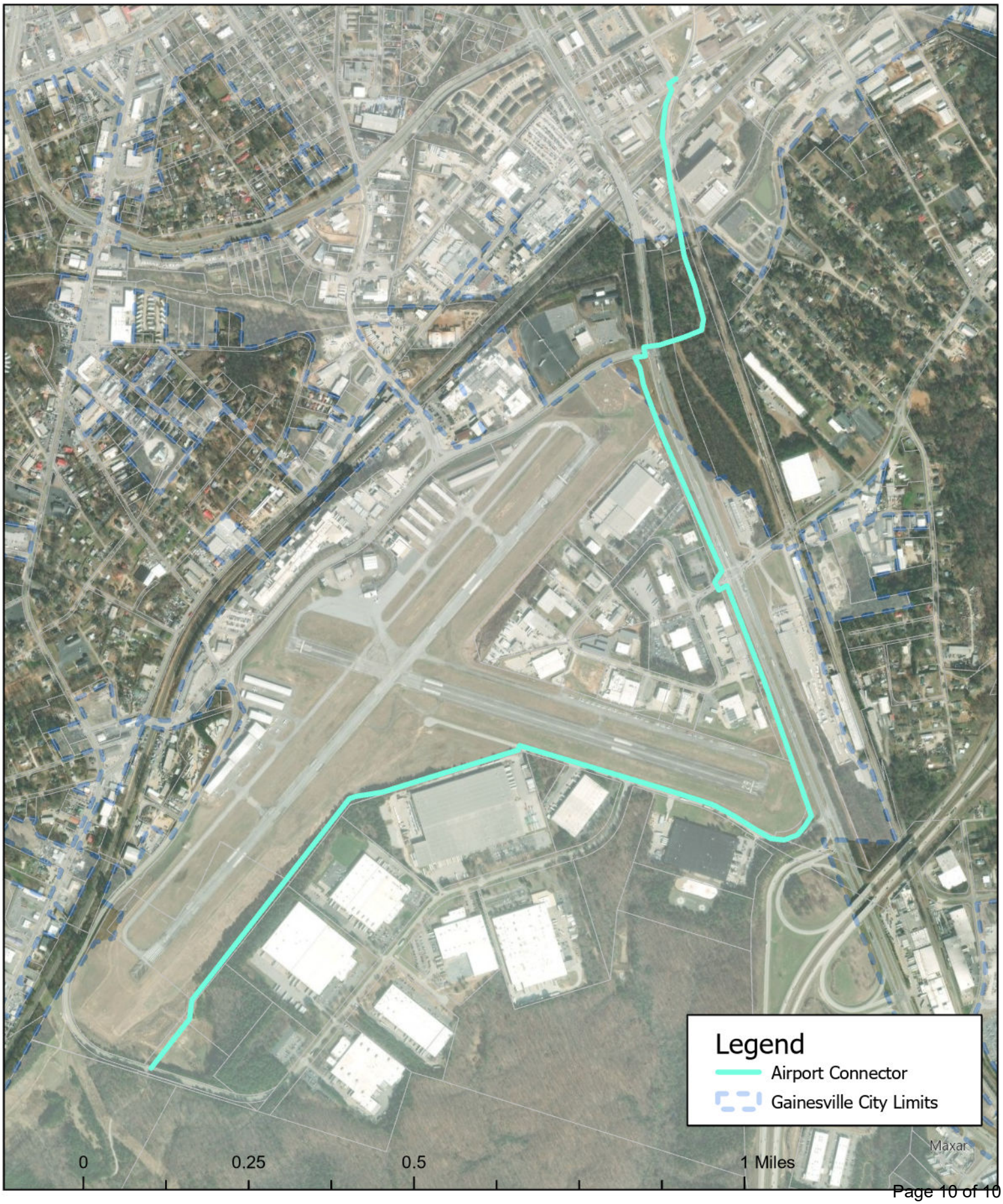
ATTEST:

_____

Alisa Grayson, City Clerk

GAINESVILLE
HIGHLANDS TO ISLANDS CONNECTION

Exhibit A

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