



**Marion County
Board of County Commissioners**

Growth Services

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**PLANNING & ZONING SECTION
STAFF REPORT**

Hearing Dates	P&Z: 6/30/2025	BCC(T): 7/21/2025	BCC(A): 3/18/2026
Case Number	25-L01		
CDP-AR	32571		
Type of Case	Comprehensive Plan Large-Scale Text Amendment: Request to amend FLUE Policy 2.1.28 – World Equestrian Center, FLUE Table 2-1 – Summary of Future Land Use Designations, FLUE Policy 10.5.1 – Golden Ocala, and FLUE Map 15.h – Golden Ocala		
Owner	Golden Ocala Equestrian Land, LLC, et. al.		
Applicant	Gooding & Batsel, PLLC c/o W. James Gooding III		
Street Address / Site Location	Multiple Address and/or No Addresses Assigned		
Parcel Number(s)	Multiple		
Property Size	Various		
Future Land Use	World Equestrian Center (WEC)		
Existing Zoning Classification	Various		
Overlays Zones / Special Areas	Urban Growth Boundary, Secondary Springs Protection Zone, Opportunity Zone, portions of the land within FEMA Flood Plain and Flood Prone Areas		
Staff Recommendation	APPROVAL		
P&Z Recommendation	APPROVAL		
BCC Transmittal	APPROVAL		
Project Planner	Christopher Rison & Xinyi Cindy Chen		
Historic Cases	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 20160506Z - Rezone to PUD • 20170302Z - PUD Amendment • 20180611Z - PUD Expansion and Amendment • 20200201Z - PUD Expansion and Amendment (Ord 20-38) 		
Related / Concurrent Cases	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 25-L02 Comprehensive Plan Large-Scale Map Amendment • 250606ZP PUD Amendment • 25-DM01 Development Agreement Amendment 		

I. BACKGROUND

Applicant, W. James Gooding III, on behalf of the Owner, Golden Ocala Equestrian Land, L.L.C., has filed a Comprehensive Plan Large-Scale Text Amendment application (CPA 25-L01) requesting amendments to the Marion County Comprehensive Plan related to the World Equestrian Center (WEC) future land use designation (Attachment A) and Golden Ocala DRI-scale development project. The application proposes the following amendments: 1) Amend Future Land Use Element (FLUE) Policy 2.1.28 - World Equestrian Center Definition, including FLUE Table 2-1: Summary of Future Land Use Designations to reflect the changes to the WEC definition; and 2) Amend FLUE Policy 10.5.1 - Golden Ocala DRI Policy, replacing the existing policy in its entirety, and update Map 15.h - Golden Ocala to reflect the amendments. There are three other concurrent applications: 25-L02 Comprehensive Plan Large-scale Map Amendment, 250606ZP PUD Amendment, and 25-DM01 Developers Agreement.

The Golden Ocala World Equestrian Center (GO-WEC) is a multi-use community including a regional attraction providing equestrian-related facilities, residential uses, commercial uses, and community amenities. Previous policies have defined the use and restrictions of the GO-WEC and its designated properties. The proposed amendments intend to expand the scope of uses to include indoor/outdoor sports/event/expo facilities and clarify land use policies with updated maximum project entitlements.

II. STAFF SUMMARY RECOMMENDATION

Staff is recommending the **APPROVAL** of the Large-Scale Text Amendment because it **is consistent** with Land Development Code Section 2.3.3.B, which requires amendments comply and be consistent with the Marion County Comprehensive Plan as well as the provisions of Chapter 163, Florida Statutes.

III. NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice of public hearing was provided pursuant to LDC Section 3.5.3.A and B as listed in following Table A. As of the issuance of this report, staff has received 24 letters of opposition to the requests related to the Golden Ocala - World Equestrian Center applications.

TABLE A. PUBLIC NOTICE SUMMARY			
METHOD	FORMAT	DATE	LDC Section
Newspaper Legal Notice	Display Ad	Ad Run: 3/2/2026	3.5.3.A & 3.5.3.B(1)(b)
Sign	Large-Scale CPA	Text Amendment - N/A	N/A
300-foot Mail Notice	SPO Letter	Text Amendment - N/A	N/A

IV. PROPOSED TEXT AMENDMENT:

The Comprehensive Plan Large-Scale Text Amendment 25-L01 is submitted to modify components of the existing Marion County Comprehensive Plan Future Land Use Element (FLUE) for the following requests:

A. FLUE Policy 2.1.28 and FLUE Table 2-1:

The applicant proposes to revise FLUE Policy 2.1.28 that provides the definition of the World Equestrian Center (WEC) land use designation by adding 'sports facilities' to the allowed uses for those WEC designated lands located within the Urban Area. It also provides examples of "sports facilities" to further define the uses that can be categorized as sports facilities (see Figure 1 following). A companion revision to FLUE Table 2-1 is proposed to reflect the revised WEC land use definition (see Figure 2 following).

Figure 1 – Proposed Text Amendment in FLUE Policy 2.1.28 (Reference Attachment Set B.)

Policy 2.1.28: World Equestrian Center (WEC)

This land use is intended to provide for the development of the Golden Ocala World Equestrian Center, a regional attraction consisting of equestrian-related improvements (including indoor and outdoor arenas, barns, show rings, etc.), [sports facilities](#) and other improvements to support the horse community and community in general. This designation also allows for commercial uses (including retail, hotel, office, community uses and business opportunities), recreational uses, residential uses, recreational vehicle parks ("RVP") and mixed uses. Any commercial uses on World Equestrian Center ("WEC") designated lands in the Rural Area (i.e., outside the UGB) shall be limited to equestrian-related uses associated with the World Equestrian Center. Any hotels or other commercial uses that are not permitted in the Rural Lands Future Land Use designation shall be prohibited on WEC designated lands in the Rural Area (i.e., outside the UGB); provided, however, Recreational Vehicle Parks and clubhouse spaces may be allowed if expressly permitted by a FLUE Policy applicable to a parcel of real property assigned the WEC designation. As used herein, the term "equestrian-related use" shall mean a land use that is principally rural and equestrian in character and associated with and supportive of equestrian sports. Examples of equestrian-related uses include polo fields, equestrian arenas, equestrian instruction facilities, veterinary clinics, farriers (non-mobile), stables and barns, and feed stores and tack shops. Any and all accessory uses to equestrian-related uses shall be directly ancillary and incidental to such equestrian related use and shall be located on the same lot or parcel as the principal equestrian-related use. [Examples of sports facilities include softball fields, soccer fields, indoor and outdoor arenas, and other recreational uses.](#) The maximum density for residential uses (i) within the Urban Area shall be four (4) dwelling units per one (1) gross acre; and (ii) within the Rural Area shall be one (1) dwelling unit per ten (10) gross acres. The maximum intensity for non-residential uses (i) within the Urban Area (inside the UGB) shall be a Floor Area Ratio of 0.5, as further defined by the LDC; and (ii) within the Rural Area (outside the UGB) shall be a Floor Area Ratio of 0.35, as further defined by the LDC. This land use designation is allowed in the Urban and Rural Area and is limited to the lands: (1) described in Exhibit "C" to Ordinance No. 20-36 dated December 16, 2020 (as may be subsequently amended); all such lands shall be developed under a single-unified Planned Unit Development (PUD) zoning district classification on and over such land, consistent with Marion County's Land Development Code (LDC); and (2) described in Exhibits "A1" and "A2" to Ordinance No 22-26 dated [June 21, 2022](#); all such lands shall be developed under a single-unified Planned Unit Development (PUD) zoning district classification on and over such land, consistent with Marion County's Land Development Code (LDC).

**Figure 2 – Proposed Table 2-1
(Reflecting Proposed Amendment to FLUE Policy 2.1.28)
(Reference Attachment Set B.)**

Future Land Use Element Table 2-1: Summary of Future Land Use Designations*

FLU	DENSITY	FAR	USES
RURAL AREAS (Outside UGB)			
AGRICULTURAL USES			
Rural Land (RL)	0 – 1 du/10 ac	N/A	Agriculture, residences associated with agriculture, or Conservation.
NON-RESIDENTIAL / MIXED USES			
Rural Activity Center (RAC)	0 - 2 du/ac	0 – 0.35	Office, Commercial, Public, Recreation, Residential
URBAN AREAS (Inside and Outside UGB)			
RESIDENTIAL USES			
Low Residential (LR)	0 - 1 du/ac	N/A	Residential, Public, Recreation, Conservation
Medium Residential (MR)	1 – 4 du/ac	N/A	Residential, Public, Recreation, Conservation
High Residential (HR)	4 - 8 du/ac	N/A	Residential, Public, Recreation, Conservation
Urban Residential (UR)	8 - 16 du/ac	N/A	Residential, Public, Recreation, Conservation, Commercial (accessory)
NON-RESIDENTIAL / MIXED USES			
Commercial (COM)	0 – 8 du/ac	0 – 1.0	Office, Commercial, Public, Recreation, Residential, Campgrounds, Recreational Vehicle Park (RVP)
Employment Center (EC)	0 - 16 du/ac	0 – 2.0	Office, Commercial, Industrial, Public, Recreation, Residential, Campgrounds, RVP
Commerce District (CD)	N/A	0 – 2.0	Office, Commercial, Industrial, Public
ALLOWED IN RURAL AND URBAN AREAS (Inside or Outside UGB)			
NON-RESIDENTIAL / MIXED USES			
Public (P)	N/A	0 – 1.0	Public, Office, Commercial, Recreation, Golf Course
Preservation (PR)	N/A	N/A	Preservation, Conservation
Municipality (M)	N/A	N/A	Municipality
World Equestrian Center (WEC)**	<i>Rural Area (Outside UGB)</i>		
	0-1 du/10 ac (Rural Area)	0 – 0.35 for Rural Areas (outside the UGB)	Residential, World Equestrian Center with equestrian-related uses per FLUE Policy 10.5.1 for property depicted on FLUMS Map 15h- (for Golden Ocala) Residential, World Equestrian Center with equestrian related use (RVP) and clubhouse per FLUE Policy 10.6.1 (for Jockey Club)
	<i>Urban Area (Inside UGB)</i>		
	0-4 du/ac (Urban Area)	0 - 0.50 for Urban Areas (inside the UGB)	World Equestrian Center, Sports Facilities , Office, Commercial, Public, Recreation, Residential, Recreational Vehicle Park (RVP)

B. FLUE Policy 10.5.1 and FLUE Map 15.h:

The applicant proposes to revise FLUE Policy 10.5.1 regarding the Golden Ocala development by completely replacing the existing policy for the Golden Ocala development that is a Development of Regional Impact (DRI) level development. However, the changes to the text are identified in underline/strike-out text for clarity (see Figure 3). The applicant proposes to remove/replace the existing policy with the new policy that will update and clarify the Golden Ocala development's land use entitlements, density & intensity, and concurrency management qualifications, to include the addition of allowable "sports facilities," 300 added hotel rooms, and reflecting various sports and venue facilities in an acreage format. A companion

revision to FLUE Map 15.h (see Figure 4) is proposed to reflect the revised Golden Ocala general development master plan along with its entitlements, etc. This policy and map change are proposed to enable additional use opportunities in the WEC land use designation reflecting the proposed intent of concurrent Comprehensive Plan Amendment 25-L02 that seeks to expand the area of WEC future land use designated areas wherein the anticipated outdoor and indoor sports and event facilities are expected to be located.

**Figure 3 – Proposed Text Amendment in FLUE Policy 10.5.1
(Reference Attachment Set C.)**

REVISED FLUE POLICY 10.5.1: GOLDEN OCALA "DRI" POLICY

Future Land Use Element Policy 10.5.1: Golden Ocala

[Editor Note: Prior Policy 10.5.1 is deleted in its entirety, being replaced and superseded by this "new" policy.]

This concerns the following Future Land Use Map Amendments - (a) Future Land Use Map (FLUM) Amendment 2016-L04; (b) Future Land Use Map (FLUM) Amendments 2017-L02 and 2017-D05; ~~and~~ (c) FLUM Amendment 2020-D01 and FLUM Amendment 2020-L02; (d) FLUM Amendment 2024- and FLUM Amendment 2024- concerning approximately 4,276.21 acres (the "Project" or "Golden Ocala"). The land use and development potential of the Project is hereby limited and governed by the following conditions:

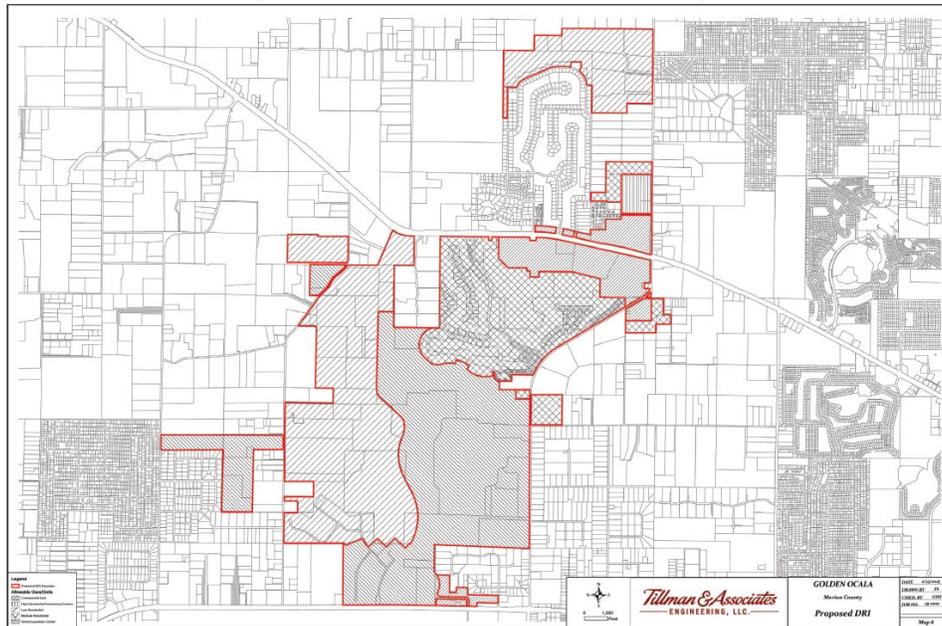
1. The Golden Ocala project general land uses and boundary are identified as part of the Marion County Future Land Use Map Series (FLUMS) as identified on Map 15.h.
2. Golden Ocala is a mixed-use development composed of single family, multi-family (includes condominiums), commercial, hotel, recreation, RV units, equestrian facilities, sports facilities, and other uses to support the horse community, the Golden Ocala project and the community in general.
3. The maximum project entitlements are as follows:

RESIDENTIAL HOUSING	
Low Residential	400
Medium Residential (including original Golden Ocala PUD)	1103
Equestrian Estate	300
High Residential	408
Condominium	170
Rural	16
Total Housing Units	2,397
NON-RESIDENTIAL	
Commercial	4,000,000 square feet
Equestrian Facilities	13,500 seats 210 acres
<u>Expo and Indoor Sports Facilities</u>	<u>30 acres</u>
<u>Outdoor Sports Facilities</u>	<u>90 acres</u>
Hotel	1,3650 rooms
Recreational Vehicle	280 units (does not include unoccupied parking areas)

4. The commercial and other non-residential entitlements may be used for any of the non-residential uses permitted by Marion County in the Commercial and World Equestrian Center future land use categories. A land use tradeoff mechanism will also be included within the County's PUD approval for this Project, and will apply to the entire Project boundary. The land use conversion table will allow for a land use to exceed the Project entitlements above as long as another land use is reduced through the conversion matrix to ensure there is no increase in development impacts. The conversion table will also allow for conversion of the uses identified above through local approval and thus, without the requirement for a comprehensive plan amendment.
5. Concerning the Marion County's Concurrency Management System:
 - A. The portion of the Project that was the subject of FLUM Amendments 2016-L04 and 2017-D05 is subject to the provisions of a Development Agreement Concerning Concurrency, Impact Fee Credits And Other Matters for Golden Ocala as recorded in OR Book 8791, Page 105, public records of Marion County, Florida (the "2018 Concurrency Agreement").
 - B. Concerning the portion of the Project that is the subject of FLUM Amendments 2020-D01 and 2020-L02, [FLUM Amendments 2024-_____ and 2024-_____](#) neither the approval of this development project's site for future land use designation, or the approval of this policy shall be deemed a final local development order and the development is not considered, or entitled to, being certified for concurrency under Marion County's Concurrency Management System (LDC Article 1, Division 8). The developer shall address and comply with Marion County's Concurrency Management System, including providing for proportionate share for transportation improvements consistent with Sections 163.3180 and 380.06, Florida Statutes, upon proceeding through Marion County's subsequent development review process as contained within the Marion County Land Development Code (LDC Article 2, etc.). Such compliance may be evidenced by an amendment to the 2018 Concurrency Agreement.
6. No Equestrian Estate lot created shall be less than three (3) acres in size measured exclusive of any right-of-way or access easements (except to the extent such access easements provide access between lots and platted streets, are designed to permit the use of shared driveways to provide such access, or are designated easements for utilities or equestrian trails).
7. The commercial, common and non-residential areas, World Equestrian Center and individual lots and homes shall utilize water conservation techniques. Such techniques may include indoor, irrigation and landscaping practices as selected by the Developer, required certifications for irrigation contractors working within the development, wastewater contribution for municipal reuse, maximum irrigable areas, or other landscape and vegetative requirements.
8. Development of:
 - A. Commercial, condominium, RV, low density residential lots ~~north of US 27~~ (other than those developed as Equestrian Estate Lots [north of US 27](#)), medium density residential lots ~~and~~, the Equestrian Facility developments, [and the sports facilities](#) shall be served by central potable water and central sanitary sewer service.
 - B. Equestrian Estate lots:
 - 1) Located South of US 27, shall be served by central potable water or central sanitary sewer services; and
 - 2) Located North of US 27, may, at the option of the developer, be served by (a) wells or on-site sewage treatment and disposal systems (OSTDS) provided that the PUD for any such lots that are served by OSTDS shall contain provisions designed to reduce total nitrogen effluent concentration; or (b) by central potable water or central sanitary sewer services to the foregoing provisions concerning wells and OSTDS are to provide a transition from the urbanized area to rural, which are exceptions to Future Land Use Element Policies 3.1.1, 6.1.3 and 6.1.5, Sanitary Sewer Element Policies 1.2.6, 1.4.1 and 1.4.7 and Potable Water Element Policy 1.7.1.; and other provisions of this plan requiring central water and sewer.

9. Direct vehicular access to NW 100th Avenue south of the northwest quarter of the southwest quarter of Section 11, Township 15 Range 20 is prohibited.
10. This Policy supersedes, amends, restates and replaces historic Objective 6 and Policy 10.6.1 adopted pursuant to FLUM Amendment 2017-L02 and Policy 10.5.1 adopted pursuant to FLUM Amendment 2017-D05 (as modified by the Settlement Agreement concerning Golden Ocala Approvals dated February 20, 2018 and approved by Marion County on such date-) and FLUM Amendment 2022-L02.

**Figure 4 – Proposed FLUE Map 15.h
(Reference Attachment Set C.)**



V. ANALYSIS:

A. ANALYSIS OF FLUE POLICY 2.1.28 & TABLE 2-1 AMENDMENT:

Policy 2.1.28 defines the World Equestrian Center (WEC) as a regional destination focused on equestrian activities, recreational uses, residential development, and limited commercial uses. The proposed amendment revises this policy to allow additional use 'Sport Facilities' in the Urban Area. This change seeks to expand the range of uses while maintaining the WEC's identity as an equestrian-focused destination.

The allowance for Sport Facilities aligns with the WEC's existing recreational and hospitality functions. However, by requiring explicit FLUE Policy 10.5.1 approval, the County retains control over these uses, ensuring they are compatible with the nearby rural character. Moreover, the amendment retains the provision that commercial uses in the Urban Area must be equestrian-related, along with enabling the sports fields and facilities in the Urban Area WEC designations, which is critical to preventing urban sprawl and maintaining rural integrity.

Staff Recommendation:

Staff recommends **APPROVAL** of the amendments to Policy 2.1.28 and Table 2-1. The changes maintain the WEC's character while providing flexibility for compatible uses, which may also serve to complement each other while supporting an encompassing environment that supports more extensive internal capture of recreational opportunities.

B. ANALYSIS OF FLUE POLICY 10.5.1 - GOLDEN OCALA & MAP 15.h AMENDMENT:

Policy 10.5.1 provides a comprehensive framework for the development of the Golden Ocala World Equestrian Center. The proposed amendment replaces the existing policy in its entirety, revising and establishing new entitlements, including:

- Revising provisions for equestrian sport facilities with defined capacities based on 210 acres, in place of 13,500 seats.
- Adding expo and indoor sport facilities with defined capacities up to 30 acres.
- Adding outdoor sports facilities with defined capacities up to 90 acres.
- Revising hotel uses maximum capacities from 1,350 rooms to 1,650 rooms, for an increase of 300 rooms.

The amendment enables implementing a land use conversion table option via a project Planned Unit Development approval, allowing flexibility in development while maintaining overall development limitations, primarily based on traffic generation. This approach enables market-responsive development without compromising infrastructure capacity or community character. The updated concurrency management provisions ensure that any new development must demonstrate compliance with the County's infrastructure standards, protecting public services.

The developer has provided a supporting analysis for the proposed Amendment (see Attachments D, March 2026) and concurrent Amendment 25-L02 that includes how public facilities capacities are available to support the proposed amendment and development. Included within the analysis is an availability and capacity confirmation letter from Marion County Utilities that currently operates both a water treatment and a wastewater treatment plants adjacent to, and somewhat surrounded by, the Golden Ocala development. Finally, for the actual development of service extensions to, into, and within the Golden Ocala development property, those costs are the responsibility of the developer, not Marion County or Marion County Utilities.

The initial DRC Traffic Review (Attachment F, May 2025) raised concerns related to the project's potential impacts and did not support the proposed Amendment at that time. A Traffic Impact Analysis was submitted (TIA, Attachment G, AR 33436, October 2025, approved February 2026). The developer's TIA accompanies both this Amendment and concurrent Amendment 25-L02 and identifies a limited series of deficiencies are expected, and the developer will make proportionate share

contributions for the finally defined deficiencies; a concurrent Chapter 163, F.S., Development Agreement Amendment (Agreement, see Attachment I, March 2026) is being considered for the Golden Ocala development, wherein that Agreement specifically establishes a maximum timeframe of eight months for the developer to seek a new or further amended Development Agreement to address the proportionate share obligations based on the final outcomes of the each of the Amendment considerations.

In addition to the sports fields/facilities, the request proposes a 300 room increase for the maximum number of hotel rooms from 1,350 to 1,650. At present, only 642 rooms have been constructed, and 708 additional rooms remain under the current entitlement. The impacts of the additional hotel rooms have been addressed as a component of the TIA. A concurrent request to remove existing restrictions on concerts implemented via the project's Planned Unit Development (PUD) zoning and a concurrent Development Agreement was submitted. In response to concerns raised, a Traffic Demand Management Study (TDMS, see Attachment H, AR 33463, October 2025) has been submitted and a revised amendment to the Development Agreement regarding concerts is under consideration as referenced previously, which may be further revisited with the additional required Development Agreement is considered.

Based on this analysis, the proposed amendment is **consistent** with TE Policies and FLUE Policies in anticipation of the establishment of mechanisms to address how short- and long-term transportation system needs and improvements will be properly addressed and mitigated, as specified by the concurrent Development Agreement Amendment and its required subsequent amendment to be filed within eight (8) months.

Staff Recommendation:

Staff recommends **approval** of the amendments to Policy 10.5.1 and Map 15.h.

VI. STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the Planning and Zoning Commission (PZC) enter into the record the Staff Report and all other competent substantial evidence presented at the hearing, adopt the findings and conclusions contained herein, and make a recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners to **APPROVE** the proposed large-scale text amendment number 25-L01, because the application is **consistent** with:

- A. The Marion County Comprehensive Plan, specifically with:
 - 1. FLUE Policies 5.1.2;

And **conditionally comply with and conform to:**

- A. The Florida Statutes, specifically with:
 - 1. F.S. Section 163.3177(6)(a)8.
- B. The Marion County Comprehensive Plan, specifically with:
 - 1. TE Policy 2.1.4;

VII. ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS

- A. Enter into the record the Staff Report and all other competent substantial evidence presented at the hearing, adopt the findings and conclusions contained herein, and make a recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners to **APPROVE/APPROVE WITH CONDITIONS** the large-scale Comprehensive Plan Text amendment.
- B. Enter into the record the Staff Report and all other competent substantial evidence presented at the hearing, adopt the findings and conclusions contained herein, and make a recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners to **DENY** the large-scale Comprehensive Plan Text amendment.
- C. Enter into the record the Staff Report and all other competent substantial evidence presented at the hearing, identify any additional data and analysis needed to support a recommendation on the proposed Ordinance and make a recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners to **TABLE** the application for up to two months in order to provide the identified data and analysis needed to make an informed recommendation on the proposed Ordinance.

VIII. PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION - 6/30/2025

The Planning and Zoning Commission, based on a motion by Commissioner Behar with second by Commissioner Bonner, voted 4-0 to agree with staff's findings and recommendation, and recommend approval of the proposed Amendment 25-L01.

IX. BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS - TRANSMITTAL - 7/21/2025

The Board of County Commissioners, based on a motion by Commissioner Stone, with second by Commissioner Zalak, with a vote of 5-0, acted to APPROVE the transmittal of Amendment 25-L01 for proposed text amendments to FLUE Policy 2.1.28 – World Equestrian Center, FLUE Table 2-1 – Summary of Future Land Use Designations, FLUE Policy 10.5.1 – Golden Ocala, and FLUE Map 15.h – Golden Ocala, to Florida Commerce and the designated State Agencies for **State Coordinated Review**, for amendments related to the modification of land uses for a development of regional impact large-scale development project.

X. FLORIDACOMMERCE OBJECTIONS, RECOMMENDATIONS AND COMMENTS (ORC) REPORT

The FloridaCommerce department identified one (1) objection to the proposed amendment as follows:

Objection 1: *Lack of Demonstrated Data and Analysis*

The proposed amendment is not supported with adequate data and analysis and is not based upon surveys, studies and data regarding the text amendment including the availability of water supplies, public facilities and services as required in section 163.3177(6)(a), 163.3177(6)(b) and 163.3177(6)(c), F.S. The County did not demonstrate the impacts of the increased development potential on public facilities and did not identify the public facility improvements needed for the increased development potential allowed by the proposed amendment. The County also did not demonstrate that the improvements have been included in the comprehensive plan and have been adequately planned for as required in section 163.3177(1)(f), F.S.

Statutory Authority: 163.3177{1}(f), 163.3177(2), 163.3177(3), 163.3177{6}(a), 163.3177(6)(b), and 163.3177(6)(c), 163.3184(2), and 163.3184(4), F.S.

Recommendation: *Amendment 25-01DRI proposes to allow sports facilities within the World Equestrian Center and increases the development entitlements for non-residential uses. Considering the potential increase in development potential, the County should clarify which project description will be the affective controlling land use description for the site. The County must support the amendment with adequate data and analysis to demonstrate the effects of the increased development potential on public facilities. They must also identify public facility improvements needed for the land use allowed by the proposed amendment and demonstrate that the improvements have been included in the Comprehensive Plan. The amendment must be based upon surveys, studies and data regarding the amendment stie, including the availability of water supplies, public facilities, and services.*

The proposed text amendment consists of two parts, 1) revision to FLUE Policy 2.1.28 that defines the World Equestrian Center (WEC) future land use designation, and 2) revision to FLUE Policy 10.5.1 establishing the maximum development amounts for the Golden Ocala development that currently consists of World Equestrian Center, Commercial, Low and Medium Residential future land use designated areas. The WEC definition text change is an independent change to broaden the potential uses of the land use designation to enable comparable uses as noted earlier within this report. The Golden Ocala development change is subject to approval of concurrent Comprehensive Plan Amendment 25-L02 to amend an existing area of the Golden Ocala development from Low Residential to WEC. Marion County FLUE Policy 1.1.9 enables the blending of development amounts, based on future land use designations, subject to complying with development potential authorized by the included future land use designations. In the event concurrent Amendment 25-L02 is not approved or approved with a reduced acreage amount of the requested WEC land use designation, the development potential of the Golden Ocala development will continue to be limited by the established land use

designations of the site and those set forth in revised FLUE Policy 10.5.1, whichever is more restrictive.

The developer has provided a supporting analysis for the proposed Amendment (see Attachment D, March 2026) and concurrent Amendment 25-L02 that includes how public facilities capacities are available to support the proposed amendment and development. Included within the analysis is an availability and capacity confirmation letter from Marion County Utilities that currently operates both a water treatment and a wastewater treatment plants adjacent to, and somewhat surrounded by, the Golden Ocala development. Finally, for the actual development of service extensions to, into, and within the Golden Ocala development property, those costs are the responsibility of the developer, not Marion County or Marion County Utilities. The developer has provided a traffic impact analysis (TIA, see Attachment G, AR 33437, October 2025, approved February 2026) for the proposed amendment to accompany the both related Amendments, which identifies a limited series of deficiencies are expected, and the developer will make proportionate share contributions for the finally defined deficiencies; a concurrent Chapter 163, F.S., Development Agreement Amendment (Agreement, see Attachment H, March 2026) is being considered for the Golden Ocala development, wherein that Agreement specifically establishes a maximum timeframe of eight (8) months for the developer to seek a new or further amended Development Agreement to address the proportionate share obligations based on the final outcomes of the each of the Amendment considerations.

Based on the previous information and developer's supporting analysis, staff proposes the FloridaCommerce objection regarding "Lack of Demonstrated Data and Analysis" has been appropriately addressed and staff recommends approval of the proposed amendment.

XI. BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS - ADOPTION - TBD

To be determined.

XII. LIST OF ATTACHMENTS

- A. Application Package AR 32571.
- B. Proposed Text Amendment - World Equestrian Center - FLUE Policy 2.1.28 & Table 2-1
 - 1. Clean version
 - 2. Redline version.
- C. Proposed Text Amendment – Golden Ocala - Policy 10.5.1 & Map 15.h
 - 1. Clean version
 - 2. Redline version
 - 3. Revised Map 15.h.
- D. Developer's Amendment Supporting Material, March 2026.
- E. DRC Comments Letter AR 32571, May 2025.
- F. DRC Traffic Comments AR 32571, May 2025.

- G. Developer's Traffic Impact Analysis, AR 33437, October 2025, approved February 2026 (Excerpt). The full version of this document may be found at: www.MarionFL.org/GoldenOcalaWEC.
- H. Proposed Second Amendment to Development Agreement, 25-DM01
- I. Developer's Traffic Demand Management Study, AR 33436, October 2025 (Excerpt). The full version of this document may be found at: www.MarionFL.org/GoldenOcalaWEC.
- J. FloridaCommerce Objections, Recommendations, and Comments Report, 25-01DRI (CPA 25-L01).