
Community Participation Plan

The purpose of the community participation plan is to ensure that a wide-range of values and interests are incorporated into the development of the Community Agenda. The Community Agenda will establish the long-range vision, development pattern, and policies for Smyrna's future. The participation process must be open to all individuals and groups that can be or will be affected. Multiple communication methods to invite stakeholders to participate will be utilized, along with a variety of participation methods. A comprehensive participation process will build valuable partnerships and generate a shared responsibility to implement the Community Agenda. The following sections outline potential stakeholders, participation techniques, and a schedule for completion of the Community Agenda.

Stakeholders

A diverse group of stakeholders is critical to achieving a healthy, well-rounded discussion of issues and values. The participation process is an educational experience as different stakeholders learn the needs of others, and an opportunity to balance and/or mediate conflicting interests is provided. The following is a list of potential stakeholders that will be encouraged to participate. This list is by no means all inclusive, and as the planning process proceeds the list is likely to grow.

- Mayor and City Council
- City Boards and Commissions (Planning and Zoning, Economic Development, Housing, Downtown Development, Parks and Recreation, etc.)
- Cobb County Commissioners
- City and County Departments (Transportation, Public Works, Community Development, etc.)
- Local Developers
- Real Estate Professionals
- Trade Associations (Homebuilders, etc.)
- Major Local Employers
- Local Business Owners
- Local Property Owners
- Community Service Organizations
- Local Church Representatives
- Cobb County Board of Education
- Local School Administration and Student Representatives
- Neighborhood Representatives
- Environmental Organizations
- Preservation Organizations and Historical Societies
- Lockheed/Dobbins ABR Representative



Participation Techniques

The City of Smyrna will combine a variety of communication medium and participation methods to facilitate a successful public participation process. The following describes the methodology the City will utilize to ensure meaningful participation by a wide range of stakeholders.

Steering Committee

Smyrna's Planning and Zoning Board will act as a steering committee throughout the planning process. This group is already familiar with ongoing land and development issues occurring in Smyrna. Any materials presented to the steering committee will also be made available to Smyrna's elected officials for review. Furthermore, input and feedback from Smyrna's officials will be incorporated at each stage of the planning process. In addition, temporary task forces or civic advisory committees may be formed to research and address specific issues.

Public Input

A series of community meetings will be held over a 7-month period to solicit public input starting in December 2006. The meetings will include both public hearings and community workshops to develop the Community Agenda. The public will be informed of meetings through a variety of communication mediums including:

- Mailed invitations to stakeholders
- Newspaper and Television Advertisements
- A Link on the City's Website
- Announcements at Public Meetings
- Signage at Major Intersections
- Notices on Community Bulletin Boards (In English and Spanish)

The website will also be utilized as a means to provide upcoming meeting dates, a synopsis of meetings held, downloadable drafts for review, and a submittal of comments. Drafts will also be made available for review in person at Smyrna's City Hall, Public Library, and Community Development Office. Citizens who have questions or can not attend the public meetings may contact Community Development for further information or to submit comments.

Community Agenda Schedule

The City of Smyrna plans to begin development of its Community Agenda with a public kickoff meeting to be held on September 28, 2006 at the regularly scheduled Planning and Zoning Board meeting. The kickoff event will be followed with twelve months of public participation to formulate the Community Agenda. The completed draft will be presented to the public in September 2006 for public comment. The City anticipates the draft Community Agenda will be submitted for review to the Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) in January 2007. After this initial review, a finalized Community Agenda must be adopted by the City's Planning and Zoning Board and its Mayor and City Council prior to being



resubmitted to ARC on June 30, 2007. The table and timeline on the following pages outline the completion schedule.

Table 34: Comprehensive Plan Update Schedule

Dates	Task
5/1/05 - 9/15/06	Assembly of draft community assessment report (CAR) and community participation program (CPP)
9/28/06	Kickoff event to explain the planning process to the community and present the draft CAR and CPP
10/02/06	Adoption of transmittal resolution by Mayor and City Council to submit the CAR and CPP to ARC for review.
11/24/06	ARC provides a Report of Findings and Recommendations for the submitted CAR and CPP
12/12/06 - 2/13/07	Community-wide input events to discuss and prioritize the Preliminary Issues and Opportunities list
2/13/07 - 3/13/2007	Processing of community input by guidance committees
3/13/07 – 4/8/07	Community-wide visioning events to produce/refine the Future Development Map
04/16/07	Adoption of transmittal resolution by Mayor and City Council to submit the Community Agenda to ARC for review
04/17/07	ARC and Department of Community Affairs (DCA) completes 60-day review, and provides Report of Final Findings and Recommendations
06/1/07 - 6/30/07	Incorporate ARC and DCA recommendations
07/02/07	Adoption of Community Agenda by Mayor and City Council
07/16/07	Written notification sent to ARC that Community Agenda was adopted



