

**COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION PROGRAM
FOR
AUGUSTA-RICHMOND COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN**

A. INTRODUCTION

The purpose of the Community Participation Program for Augusta-Richmond County is to insure that citizens and other stakeholders are aware of the planning process and are provided opportunities to comment on the update of the City’s comprehensive plan, the individual plan components, and any plan amendments. More importantly, citizens should have the ability to participate actively in the process of defining the community’s vision, goals, policies, priorities and implementation strategies.

B. LIST OF STAKEHOLDERS

The Augusta Commission, the Augusta-Richmond County Planning Commission and Planning Commission staff will work together to identify those individuals and groups that have a special interest in the development of the Community Agenda for Augusta-Richmond County. The stakeholders include representatives of the various organizations as listed in the table below. Stakeholders will be called upon to assist with the development of the Community Assessment, identifying issues and opportunities that should be addressed and recommending strategies to be included in the Community Agenda. **As the planning process moves forward, additional stakeholders are likely to be identified and will be added to the list.**

AUGUSTA-RICHMOND COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE STAKEHOLDER LIST	
NAME OF ORGANIZATION / AGENCY	NAME OF REPRESENTATIVE*
PLANNING COMMISSION	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Comprehensive Plan Committee Members 	Pete Fulcher, Margaret Armstrong, Gene Hunt, Robert Anderson
CITY DEPARTMENTS	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ City Administrator 	Fred Russell
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Utilities 	Max Hicks
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Engineering / Traffic Engineering 	Abie Ladson
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Recreation and Parks 	Tom Beck
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Housing & Community Development 	Chester Wheeler
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Transit 	Heyward Johnson
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ License and Inspection 	Rob Sherman

**AUGUSTA-RICHMOND COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE
STAKEHOLDER LIST**

NAME OF ORGANIZATION / AGENCY	NAME OF REPRESENTATIVE*
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sheriff 	Sheriff Ronnie Strength
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Fire and EMS 	Chief Howard Willis
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Solid Waste 	Mark Johnson
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Environmental Engineer 	Garrett Weiss
AUTHORITIES AND COMMISSIONS	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Housing Authority 	Jake Oglesby
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Augusta Canal Authority 	Dayton Sherrouse
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Aviation Commission 	Tammy Strange
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Convention and Visitors Bureau 	Barry White
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Land Bank Authority 	Rob Sherman
NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATIONS	See contact list on file at Planning Commission
EDUCATION	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Board of Education 	Supt. Dana Bedden
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Medical College of Georgia 	Dr. Michael Ash
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Paine College 	Dr. George A. Bradley
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Augusta State University 	Dr. Kathy Hamrick
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Augusta Technical College 	Mr. Terry Elam
DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Homebuilders Association 	Ernie Blackburn
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Board of Realtors 	Beverly Pardue
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Commercial Developers 	Mark Senn
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Chamber of Commerce 	Sue Price
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Development Authority 	Walter Sprouse
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Downtown Development Authority 	Margaret Woodard
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Augusta Tomorrow, Inc 	Camille Price
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Destination 2020 	Jan Wiggins
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ CSRA Regional Development Center 	Andy Crosson
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ CSRA Business League 	Todd Gaines
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ South Augusta Pride and Progress 	Jimmy Smith
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Fort Gordon 	Col. John Holwick
UTILITIES	

**AUGUSTA-RICHMOND COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE
STAKEHOLDER LIST**

NAME OF ORGANIZATION / AGENCY	NAME OF REPRESENTATIVE*
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Postal Service 	Karin Knight
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Georgia Power 	Tim McGill
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Georgia Power Transmission 	Anita Kattagate
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Georgia Natural Gas 	Greg Flanagan
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ AT&T 	Calvin Hamby
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Comcast 	Cliff Esposito
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Knology 	
ENVIRONMENTAL / CULTURAL	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Savannah Riverkeepers 	Frank Carl
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Briar Creek Soil & Water Conservation 	Gary McFerin
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sierra Club – Savannah River Group 	Sam Booher
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Southeastern Natural Sciences Academy 	Dr. Gene Eidson
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ CSRA Land Trust 	Derek Vanover
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Historic Augusta, Inc. 	Erick Montgomery
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ UGA Extension Service 	Sid Mullis
SOCIAL SERVICE NONPROFITS	
	See Planning Commission Outlook distribution list labeled Community and Economic Development
CHDOS AND RELATED	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Promise Land CDC 	Sheila Boazman
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ East Augusta CDC 	Charlene Watkins
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Antioch Ministries, Inc. 	Scylance Scott
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Laney Walker Development Corp 	Anthony Chandler
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sand Hills UDC 	Tim Wilson
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 30901 Development Corp. 	Francine Cayruth
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Augusta Neighborhood Improvement Corp. 	Robert Cooks

***Note: Actual representative may be another person designated by the person listed.**

C. SUMMARY OF PARTICIPATION TECHNIQUES

The Augusta-Richmond County Planning Commission will guide the Citizen Participation Program associated with the plan update on behalf of the Augusta Commission. A variety of tools and techniques will be used to build consensus for the plan and ensure that the planning process is open, inclusive and interactive.

The Community Participation Program tasks are derived from the need to educate the public and media regarding the Comprehensive Plan and to ensure broad participation by the public. The following tasks will aid the planning, assessment, evaluation and implementation of the Comprehensive Plan.

1. Comprehensive Plan Committee

The Comprehensive Plan Committee of the Augusta-Richmond County Planning Commission will coordinate the entire Community Participation Program with the assistance of the Planning Commission staff. The Comprehensive Plan Committee is a standing committee of the Planning Commission and includes the chair of the Planning Commission and three other board members.

Status: Thus far the Comprehensive Plan committee has met at the intervals indicated on the plan schedule.

2. Public Meetings

The Augusta-Richmond County Planning Commission will host public meetings at three times during the plan update process.

- **First Round of Meetings** - The first round of meetings will kick-off the plan update. The purpose of the first round of meetings will be to outline the plan requirements, review the summary of the Community Assessment and present the draft Public Participation Program and plan update schedule. An initial opinion survey will be available at the kick-off meetings. Maps, handouts and a PowerPoint slide presentation will also be used to convey information. This round of meetings is a prelude to submission of the Community Assessment and Public Participation Plan to the CSRA RDC and the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA).
- **Second Round of Meetings** – The purpose of the second round of meetings will be to obtain input on the collective vision for the future of the city, obtain input on community character areas and the issues and opportunities to be addressed in the plan, and solicit ideas for strategies and projects to include in the draft implementation program. Opinion surveys will be used to obtain the desired input. This round of meetings is a prelude to the development of the draft Community Agenda.

- **Third Round of Public Meetings** – The purpose of the third round of public meetings will be to present the draft Community Agenda and obtain input on its contents. The draft Community Agenda will be modified based on the input received during the meetings. This round of meetings is a prelude to submission of the Community Agenda to the CSRA RDC and the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA).

Status: The first round of public meetings was held on the following dates:

AUGUSTA-RICHMOND COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE FIRST ROUND OF PUBLIC MEETINGS JANUARY 2008	
DATE OF MEETING	LOCATION
Tuesday, January 8, 2008	McBean Community Center 1155 Hephzibah-McBean Road
Thursday, January 10, 2008	Gracewood Community Center 2309 Tobacco Road
Monday, January 14, 2008	Lucy Laney House Museum 1116 Phillips Street
Thursday, January 17, 2008	Garrett Elementary School 1100 Eisenhower Drive
Tuesday January 22, 2008	Henry Brigham Senior Center 2456 Golden Camp Road
Thursday, January 24, 2008	East View Park Community Center 644 Aiken Street
Monday, January 28, 2008	Carrie Mays Multipurpose Center 1014 Eleventh Ave
Tuesday, January 29, 2008	Fire Station #15 1721 Flowing Wells Road
Thursday January 31, 2008	Blythe Recreation Center 3129 Hwy. 88

3. Comprehensive Plan Committee Meetings

The Comprehensive Plan Committee will provide guidance and feedback throughout the planning process. Meetings will be scheduled at appropriate benchmarks to coincide with project deliverables and in advance of all public meetings and hearings.

4. Bi-Weekly Staff Meetings

Bi-weekly meetings of the Planning Commission staff will be scheduled to

maintain the desired timelines, benchmarks and overall direction of the plan update process.

Status: Planning staff meeting on a regular basis to review project progress, documentation and other information.

5. Stakeholder Interviews

The Comprehensive Plan Committee will conduct stakeholder interviews at times to coincide with the three rounds of public meetings. Identified stakeholders include those on the list included under Section B of the Community Participation Program. **As the planning process moves forward, additional stakeholders are likely to be identified and will be added to the list.**

The purpose of stakeholder interviews is to identify major community issues and develop a complete understanding of the public opinion, comments, and concerns, including potential sources of conflict and anticipated barriers impeding effective implementation. The Planning Commission staff will use prepared survey questions and solicit general opinions as well. The results will be incorporated into the development of the community vision and the Comprehensive Plan and used to illustrate the impact that the feedback has had on the progress of the plan.

Status: Stakeholder interviews are ongoing

6. Project Website

The home page of the Augusta-Richmond County website will include a link to information on the Comprehensive Plan Update. The information on the website will include the plan update schedule, survey forms and results, public meeting schedules, copies of maps, slide presentations and handouts and copies of project documents. The information on the website will be updated throughout the planning process. A dedicated e-mail address will be assigned to the Comprehensive Plan project and will be managed by the Planning Commission staff.

Status: Project website established in December 2007 and is updated as necessary. The website address is:

http://www.augustaga.gov/departments/planning_zoning/comp_plan_update.asp

Examples of information on the website include:

- Glossary of Comprehensive Planning Terms
- Comprehensive Plan Q and A Fact Sheet
- Why Plan Fact Sheet
- Issues and Opportunities Survey
- Public Participation Program (draft)

- Community Assessment – Executive Summary (draft)
- Schedule for Completion of the Comprehensive Plan Update
- PowerPoint presentations and maps used at public meetings / hearings
- Photographs from public meetings / hearings
- Link to the current Comprehensive Plan

7. **Project Newsletter**

A newsletter will be published at least four times during the development of the Comprehensive Plan. Each issue of the newsletter will include summary information about the status of the plan update, the results of public meetings and hearings, information on the project website, information about how the general public can become involved in the project and contact information for the Planning Commission. The newsletter will be accessible on the project website, distributed via e-mail and hard copies will be placed at community centers and public libraries.

8. **Public Information / Outreach Plan**

The Planning Commission staff will coordinate the development of an effective media plan to publicize information on the planning process to citizens and other stakeholders. The following methods will be used to inform the citizens and media about the plan progress.

- Media Education – Media outlets (print, radio and television) will be educated about the plan using briefings, press releases and interviews. Feature stories, columns and interviews will be used to inform the public about plan details.
- Public Information Materials – Outreach materials will be created and used to help the public understand the Comprehensive Plan. These materials will be distributed at public meetings and other locations to educate and establish visible, continuous public feedback. Examples of public information materials to be used include fact sheets, comment forms and project documents.

Status: News releases issued on the following dates – Dec. 26, 2007 and Jan, 11, 28 and 29, 2008 and Feb. 15 and 29, 2008. Information distributed at public meetings is the same as items on the project website. Information on the project distributed and input sought at the following meetings

- ❖ Richmond County Neighborhood Alliance – Saturday, February 2, 2008
- ❖ Senior Citizens at Carrie Mays Community Life Center – Tuesday, February 19, 2008
- ❖ Harrisburg Neighborhood Association - Thursday, March 13, 2008
- ❖ Golden Harvest Food Bank Board Meeting – Wednesday, March 19, 2008

9. **Required Public Hearings**

In addition to the public meetings outlined in Section C (2) of the Community Participation Program, Augusta-Richmond County will advertise and hold the two public hearings required under the Georgia Standards and Procedures for Local Comprehensive Planning. The first public hearing will be held after addressing public comments on the draft Community Assessment the draft Community Participation Program, but prior to their transmittal to the CSRA Regional Development Center (RDC). The second public hearing will be held once the Community Agenda has been made available for public review, but prior to its transmittal to the RDC.

Status: First required public hearing held on Thursday, February 28, 2008 at the Augusta-Richmond County Municipal Building, 530 Greene Street

D. PLAN DEVELOPMENT TIMELINE

The following table identifies time frames for completion of the various steps of the plan development process and the procedures for actively involving citizens and other stakeholders in all phases of the planning process.

EVENT / ACTIVITY	PLAN UPDATE SCHEDULE BY MONTH, SEPTEMBER 2007 – OCTOBER 2008													
	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT
Draft Community Assessment and Participation Program by ARCPC staff	X	X	X											
First Meeting of ARCPC Comprehensive Plan Committee				X										
Public Meetings to Kick-off Comprehensive Plan Update					X									
Stakeholder Interviews					X									
Second Meeting of ARCPC Comprehensive Plan Committee					X									
Public Hearing #1						X								
Adoption of transmittal resolution by Augusta Commission and submittal of Community Assessment and Participation Program to RDC for review						X								
RDC and DCA review of Community Assessment and Participation Program						X	X							
Third Meeting of ARCPC Comprehensive Plan Committee						X								
Public Meetings to obtain input for draft Community Agenda							X	X						
Stakeholder Interviews							X	X						
Draft Community Agenda prepared by ARCPC staff								X	X					
Fourth Meeting of ARCPC Comprehensive Plan Committee								X						
Public Meetings to present /obtain comments on Draft Community Agenda									X					

EVENT / ACTIVITY	PLAN UPDATE SCHEDULE BY MONTH, SEPTEMBER 2007 – OCTOBER 2008													
	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT
Community Agenda revised by ARCPC staff in response to public input.									X	X				
Fifth Meeting of ARCPC Comprehensive Plan Committee										X				
Public Hearing #2										X				
Adoption of transmittal resolution by Augusta Commission and submittal of Community Agenda to RDC for review										X				
RDC Review and Regional Hearing on Community Agenda											X	X		
DCA Review and Comment on Community Agenda												X		
ARCPC adopts Community Agenda													X	
Augusta Commission adopts Community Agenda													X	
Augusta notifies RDC of adoption of Community Agenda														X

Note: The ARCPC Comprehensive Plan Committee meetings will be designed to process the input received from the general public and stakeholders and to plan for the following round of public meetings.

Abbreviations: ARCPC – Augusta Richmond County Planning Commission; RDC – CSRA Regional Development Center; DCA – Georgia Department of Community Affairs