

**Community Participation Plan for the Cities of Meigs,  
Ochlocknee, and Boston**

---

**Community Participation Plan**

**Community Participation Plan for the Cities of Meigs,  
Ochlocknee, and Boston**

---

**Table of Contents**

|   |    |
|---|----|
| Purpose   | 67 |
| Identification of Stakeholders                  | 68 |
| Identification of Participation Techniques      | 69 |
| Schedule for Completion of the Community Agenda | 72 |

## **Community Participation Plan for the Cities of Meigs, Ochlocknee, and Boston**

---

### **Purpose**

Public participation is the process through which people who will be affected by or interested in a decision by a governmental body have an opportunity to influence its content before the decision is made.

Recognizing that the Consolidated Comprehensive Plan for the Cities of Meigs, Ochlocknee, and Boston must reflect the people it serves, the local governments encourage citizen input throughout the development of the plan.

The Public Participation Plan forms the basic framework for achieving an interactive dialogue between local, state and federal decision-makers and the citizens of Thomas County. The creation of the Public Participation Plan is part of the first step in meeting the requirements of Georgia's comprehensive planning legislation and will apply throughout the local planning process leading to the adoption of the Consolidated Comprehensive Plan for the Cities of Meigs, Ochlocknee, and Boston.

The Cities of Meigs, Ochlocknee, and Boston are required by state law to complete their Comprehensive Plan Update by June 31, 2008. As prescribed by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs, the Comprehensive Plan will be created following the intent of the Standards and Procedures for Local Comprehensive Planning effective May 1, 2005.

# Community Participation Plan for the Cities of Meigs, Ochlocknee, and Boston

---

## Identification of Stakeholders

### Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee List

**Dorothy Wimes** - City of Meigs  
**June Layton** - City of Meigs  
**Andrew Wurst** - City of Meigs  
**Earlene Proctor** - City of Meigs  
**Rev. Charles Puryear** - City of Meigs  
**Levon Gassett** - City of Meigs  
**Ronelle Searcy** - Mayor - City of Ochlocknee  
**Doris Kornegay** - City Clerk - City of Ochlocknee  
**Dan Groover** - Mayor - City of Boston  
**Ann McCrickard** - Resident - City of Boston  
**Bill Carson** - City of Boston  
**Jack Napoleone** - City of Boston

### Stakeholder Interviews

**Debrah Smith** - Clerk - City of Meigs  
**Jimmie Layton** - Police Chief - City of Meigs  
**Doris Kornegay** - City Clerk - City of Ochlocknee  
**Ronelle Searcy** - Mayor - City of Ochlocknee  
**Ann McCrickard** - Resident - City of Boston  
**Cindy Carson** - City Clerk - City of Boston  
**Amanda Maxwell** - Business Owner - City of Boston

# **Community Participation Plan for the Cities of Meigs, Ochlocknee, and Boston**

---

## **Identification of Participation Techniques**

### **Public Hearings**

As required under the state Standards and Procedures for Local Comprehensive Planning, public hearings before the City Councils will take place during their November/December meetings. At these meetings the public will be given the opportunity to comment on the draft Community Assessment which highlights the issues and opportunities that will be taken into consideration in developing the plan. Following the public hearings, and based on input from the public and City officials, this document and the Community Assessment will be transmitted to the Southwest Georgia Regional Development Center (RDC) for their review.

Once the RDC has determined that the Community Assessment and Community Participation Plan are complete, it shall immediately notify any interested parties of the availability of these submittals for review and comment. The parties to be notified include:

- Local governments inside or outside the RDC's region that are contiguous to the submitting local government, and other local governments that are likely to be affected by the Community Assessment or Community participation Plan
- Any local authorities, special districts, or other entities identified in evaluating intergovernmental coordination mechanisms and processes
- Affected State agencies

A public hearing will be set following notification of the above parties, at which time, comments must be received by.

# **Community Participation Plan for the Cities of Meigs, Ochlocknee, and Boston**

---

## **Visioning Sessions**

Visioning sessions will be held in January for each City.

Media coverage for publicizing these meeting was in many forms. The local cable company put crawls across local channels as well as announcements on the community information channel. An article was written and given to the local papers and ran twice in a month. Posters were created and positioned throughout the Cities and at various locations including public buildings, shopping centers, convenience stores, coffee shops, etc.

## **Surveys**

Surveys will be created for each local government involved in the process. These surveys were developed by the local government administration and the RDC to get feedback from community residents regarding how residents feel about their community, and what they might like to see in the future. These surveys were distributed to civic organizations, city workers, church groups, and were available at the local city halls.

The results of these surveys will play an important role in the development of the community agenda by providing the local governments an idea of what the communities feel are the issues and opportunities as well as give them an idea of what direction their goals, implementation, and policy plans should go.

## **Strategic Planning Workshops**

After the visioning sessions have taken place a series of strategic planning workshops will be held to create goals, objectives, and policies in keeping with the county vision statement. This will establish the framework for the recommendations and implementation strategies, work programs, and action plans. At the Strategic Framework Workshop, participants will assist in the creation of a Strategic Framework Plan that:

- Reviews the implications of possible growth scenarios in terms of quality of life defined in the City's Vision Statement.

## **Consolidated Comprehensive Plan Assessment for the Cities of Meigs, Ochlocknee, and Boston**

---

- Refines the growth projections and identifies the preferred options for each issue that was discussed in the workshop into a Preferred Growth Scenario.
- Create and prioritize a set of goals, objectives, and policies to achieve the Vision and desired growth scenario.

The end product of this meeting will be a Preferred Growth Scenario and a Strategic Framework Plan consisting of a first draft of goals, objectives, and policies for the Comprehensive Plan. The Strategic Framework Plan is structured to address each issue raised in the Vision and sets forth a set of strategy options that can be developed with the statements of needs, goals, objectives, and policies for the Comprehensive Plan.

## Schedule for Completion of the Community Agenda

The table below represents a graphic that shows the schedule for the completion of the Consolidated Comprehensive Plan for the Cities of Meigs, Ochlocknee, and Boston. Every effort will be made to stay on track but flexibility is expected due to the number of individual governments involved.

| Phase | Task                                 | 2007   |           |         |          |          |         |          |       |       |     |      |        | 2008      |         |          |          |         |          |       |       |     |      |  |  |
|-------|--------------------------------------|--------|-----------|---------|----------|----------|---------|----------|-------|-------|-----|------|--------|-----------|---------|----------|----------|---------|----------|-------|-------|-----|------|--|--|
|       |                                      | August | September | October | November | December | January | February | March | April | May | June | August | September | October | November | December | January | February | March | April | May | June |  |  |
| 1     | Review Documents, Collect Data       |        |           |         |          |          |         |          |       |       |     |      |        |           |         |          |          |         |          |       |       |     |      |  |  |
|       | Develop Character Areas              |        |           |         |          |          |         |          |       |       |     |      |        |           |         |          |          |         |          |       |       |     |      |  |  |
|       | Identify Stakeholders                |        |           |         |          |          |         |          |       |       |     |      |        |           |         |          |          |         |          |       |       |     |      |  |  |
|       | Create Steering Committees           |        |           |         |          |          |         |          |       |       |     |      |        |           |         |          |          |         |          |       |       |     |      |  |  |
|       | Present 1st Draft of Assessment      |        |           |         |          |          |         |          |       |       |     |      |        |           |         |          |          |         |          |       |       |     |      |  |  |
|       | Corrections/Additions to Draft       |        |           |         |          |          |         |          |       |       |     |      |        |           |         |          |          |         |          |       |       |     |      |  |  |
|       | First Public Hearing                 |        |           |         |          |          |         |          |       |       |     |      |        |           |         |          |          |         |          |       |       |     |      |  |  |
|       | Transmittal                          |        |           |         |          |          |         |          |       |       |     |      |        |           |         |          |          |         |          |       |       |     |      |  |  |
| 2     | Advertising for Town Hall Meetings   |        |           |         |          |          |         |          |       |       |     |      |        |           |         |          |          |         |          |       |       |     |      |  |  |
|       | Town Hall Meetings                   |        |           |         |          |          |         |          |       |       |     |      |        |           |         |          |          |         |          |       |       |     |      |  |  |
|       | Task                                 |        |           |         |          |          |         |          |       |       |     |      |        |           |         |          |          |         |          |       |       |     |      |  |  |
| 3     | Interview Stakeholders               |        |           |         |          |          |         |          |       |       |     |      |        |           |         |          |          |         |          |       |       |     |      |  |  |
|       | Develop Agenda w/ Steering Committee |        |           |         |          |          |         |          |       |       |     |      |        |           |         |          |          |         |          |       |       |     |      |  |  |
|       | Present Draft Agenda                 |        |           |         |          |          |         |          |       |       |     |      |        |           |         |          |          |         |          |       |       |     |      |  |  |
|       | Additions/Corrections to Agenda      |        |           |         |          |          |         |          |       |       |     |      |        |           |         |          |          |         |          |       |       |     |      |  |  |
|       | Final Public Hearing                 |        |           |         |          |          |         |          |       |       |     |      |        |           |         |          |          |         |          |       |       |     |      |  |  |
|       | Transmittal                          |        |           |         |          |          |         |          |       |       |     |      |        |           |         |          |          |         |          |       |       |     |      |  |  |
|       | Adoption                             |        |           |         |          |          |         |          |       |       |     |      |        |           |         |          |          |         |          |       |       |     |      |  |  |
|       | Task                                 |        |           |         |          |          |         |          |       |       |     |      |        |           |         |          |          |         |          |       |       |     |      |  |  |