

# **BUILDING BRANTLEY TODAY, TOMORROW AND BEYOND**



## **Brantley County 2006-2026 Comprehensive Plan: Community Participation Program**

September 2005

*Draft*



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**Community Participation Program  
For  
Brantley County and the Cities of Hoboken and Nahunta  
Comprehensive Plan**

## **1 Introduction**

### **1.1 Purpose**

The preparation of the Community Participation Program is an important first step in obtaining citizen participation and involvement in the Comprehensive Plan. The purpose of the Community Participation Program of the Brantley County, City of Hoboken and City of Nahunta Comprehensive Plan is to insure that citizens and other stakeholders are aware of the planning process and are provided opportunities to comment on the local plan, individual plan components, or plan amendments. More importantly, citizens should have the ability to participate actively in the process of defining the community's vision, values, goals, policies, priorities, and implementation strategies.

### **1.2 Scope**

Brantley County and the Cities of Hoboken and Nahunta are required by state law to complete its Comprehensive Plan Update by June 30, 2006. The plan will be prepared in accordance with the Basic Planning Level Local Planning Requirements from the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA) effective November 28, 2005.

### **1.3 Requirements**

Experience in public involvement has shown that lasting solutions are best identified when all segments of a community; individuals, local officials, educators, and the business and civic communities are brought together in a spirit of cooperation. A collaborative approach to community engagement is not just an opportunity, but also a necessity. The following are reasons for this involvement:

- ☞ Educate and increase public awareness
- ☞ Capture knowledge and preferences of people who live in and support their communities
- ☞ Mobilization of support and acceptance of the plan

Communities that prosper do so because people work together to improve the quality of life that they want to sustain. The measure of effectiveness of a public involvement program is not that the public has been informed, but that public

input has contributed to making a decision that is feasible and is supported by a large segment of the community.

Public comment and sentiment are a rich source of information about people's values and ideas. These values and ideals must be interpreted into meaningful information to guide the project. It is essential to know the community's values to avoid, minimize, and diminish impacts as well as narrow the field of alternative solutions. This process is designed to accomplish the following:

- ∞ Improvement in quality of decisions
- ∞ Increase ease of Implementation
- ∞ Provide greater public knowledge of community goals and objectives
- ∞ Evidence of community created identity

## **2 List of Suggested Stakeholders**

The Brantley County Board of Commission, planning commission, staff, consultants, and SEGa RDC staff will work together to identify those individuals and groups that have a special interest in the development of the community agenda for Brantley County and the Cities of Hoboken and Nahunta. The stakeholders are comprised of representatives of the various organizations as listed in the table below. As the planning process moves forward, additional stakeholders are likely to be identified and will be added as appropriate.

### **Brantley County Commission**

Chairman Terry Thomas  
Commissioner Ernest Hunter  
Commissioner Brian Hendrix  
Commissioner Darlene Jones

### **Mayor & Hoboken City Council**

City of Hoboken Mayor- Charles H. Lee  
City Clerk Linda Henderson  
Greg Buie  
Kenneth Jordan, Sr  
Kenneth Jordan, Jr  
James Ray  
Chris Thomas  
David E. Sapp  
Hoboken Police Chief Darren Crews  
Hoboken Public Works Supt. Davis Stone

### **Mayor & Nahunta City Council**

City of Nahunta Mayor- Robert Wilson  
City Clerk Donna Green

Judy Blount  
Michael Moore  
Joel Chambless  
Chris Davis  
Nahunta Police Chief Greg Pittman  
Nahunta City Engineer Gary Harris  
Nahunta City Attorney E. Daniel Smith, Jr

**Brantley County Staff**

County Attorney W Vincent Settle III  
School Board Superintendent William A Hunter  
Sheriff Robert Thomas  
District Attorney Rick Currie  
Tax Commissioner Lorna H Thomas

**Steering Committee**

Betty Nelson  
Cynthia Gwinn  
Huey Ham  
Jamie O'Steen  
Charlie Sumerlin  
Linda Henderson  
Michael Moore  
Peggy Justice  
Gordon Rogers  
J. O. Johns  
Bob Boland  
Ron & Theresa Easton  
Gloria Taylor  
Marie & Carter Brewer  
Janice McKinnon  
Reva Smith  
Ricky Helmuth  
Ernest Hunter  
Darleen Jones

## **3 Identification of Participation Techniques**

### **3.1 Initial Hearing**

As required under the Standards and Procedures for Local Comprehensive Planning, an initial hearing will be held to announce to the public that the planning process for updating the comprehensive plan is underway and to present the draft Community Participation Program and draft Community Assessment to the public. The meeting is scheduled for September 12, 2005. The public will be informed of the project schedule and adoption hearings and how they can get involved. The public will also be given the opportunity to comment on the process, draft documents and their vision for the future.

### **3.2 Steering Committee**

At the September 12, 2005, meeting a volunteer based Steering Committee was established. A Chair and Vice-Chairperson were nominated and elected by Committee members. The Committee implemented a monthly meeting schedule with added communication by email and phone when needed and warranted between meetings. It is the goal of this Committee enlist more volunteers that represent a cross section of interests in the community Following is a sample list of activities planned by the Steering Committee:

- ☞ Create flyer for publicity campaign and post in visible areas in community
- ☞ Create and mail survey to all postal patrons
- ☞ Create Power Point presentation

### **3.3 Scenario Building**

Scenario building will (1) engage citizens in visioning, (2) evaluation of the future, and (3) choosing the preferred future for their community. Participants will use visioning to describe their community using economic, physical, social, demographic, and cultural characteristics. This meeting/exercise is scheduled for October 3, 2005 from 6pm-8pm.

### **3.4 Speakers Bureau**

The Steering Committee members will bring their stakeholder surveys, information, and knowledge about the comprehensive plan by speaking at local church organizations, civic groups, schools, and Chamber of Commerce. This provides an excellent way to get information about the comprehensive plan to the public and to receive feedback and ideals from local citizens. The Committee members are so dedicated in their efforts to “get the word out”, and to have their surveys completed that they are going to visit and deliver surveys to such places as; nursing homes, housing authority, county extension office, businesses, private citizens, minority communities, and community leaders.

### **3.5 Telephone Survey**

A telephone survey campaign will be conducted during the months of October and November. This will allow for even greater input into the comprehensive plan by reaching those that normally would not participate in any committee or groups or come out to meetings.

### **3.6 Outreach**

Notices, editorials, flyers, survey and articles will be posted in newspapers, community message boards, public service announcements and any other place where citizens will see it. This will be done during the months of October 2005 through March 2006.

## 4 Schedule for Completion of the Community Agenda

The graphic below show the schedule for completion of the Comprehensive Plan Update.

**Initial Hearing .....September 12, 2005**  
**Steering Committee.....September 12, 2005**  
**Scenario Building ..... October 3, 2005**  
**Speakers Bureau.....October-December 2005**  
**Telephone Survey ..... October-November 2005**  
**Public Hearing Transmittal of Community Agenda to DCAMarch 2006**  
**Adoption of Community Agenda..... May 2006**

	2005				2006				
	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May
Initial Hearing									
Community Assessment									
Community Participation Program									
Community Agenda									
Transmittal/Adoption									
Steering Committee									
Scenario Building									
Speakers Bureau									
Telephone Survey									