



# Mitchell County Consolidated Comprehensive Plan:

## Community Participation Plan



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## 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 Mitchell County Consolidated Comprehensive Plan 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 the Mitchell 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 Mitchell County Consolidated Comprehensive Plan.

Mitchell County and the Cities of Baconton, Camilla, Pelham and Sale City, are required by state law to complete its Comprehensive Plan Update by October 31, 2007. As prescribed by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA), the Comprehensive Plan will be created following the intent of the Standards and Procedures for Local Comprehensive Planning effective May 1, 2005.



## Identification of Stakeholders

### Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee List

**Charles Johnson** - Mayor - City of Baconton  
**Jamie Sullivan** - Citizen - City of Baconton  
**Dayle Morris** - Citizen - City of Baconton  
**Kay Burch** - Citizen - Sale City  
**Diana Bristow** - City Clerk - Sale City  
**Mike Larkin** - Historic Preservation Commission - City of Camilla  
**Mike Scott** - City Manager - City of Camilla  
**Alfred J. Powell Jr.** - Mayor - City of Camilla  
**Lake Adams** - City Council - City of Pelham  
**Doug Westberry** - City Manager - City of Pelham  
**Brian Faber** - Citizen - City of Pelham  
**Bennett Adams** - County Administrator - Mitchell County  
**Marilyn Royal** - Development Authority Executive Director - Mitchell County  
**Danny Thomas** - Planning Commission Member - Mitchell County

### Stakeholder Interviews

#### Public Works

Julius Hatcher – Mitchell Co. Public Works  
James Watkins – City of Camilla Public Works  
James Wheeler – City of Pelham Public Works  
Anthony Mormon – City of Baconton Public Works

#### Police

W. E. Bozeman – Sheriff Mitchell Co.  
Ray Folsom – City of Camilla Police Chief  
Nealie McCormick – City of Pelham Police Chief  
Robert C. Bass – Sale City Police Chief

#### Fire

Ann K. Lamb – EMA/EMS Mitchell Co.  
Jimmie Creech – Pelham Fire Chief  
City of Camilla Fire Chief (VACANT)

#### Planning & Development

Thomas Wade – Mitchell County Building & Zoning



Charles Kelly – City of Camilla Planning & Zoning  
Doug Westberry – City Manager City of Pelham

**Development Authority**

Marilyn Royal – Mitchell County Development Authority

**Recreation**

Ike McCook – Mitchell County Recreation Department Director

**Libraries**

Lisa Rigsby - De Soto Trail Regional Library Director

**Schools**

Beauford Hicks – Mitchell County Schools Superintendent  
Stephen Dunn - Pelham City Schools Superintendent

**Chamber of Commerce**

Eric Brooks – City of Camilla Chamber of Commerce  
Danny Singleton – City of Pelham Chamber of Commerce

**Housing Authority**

Barbara Hilliard – Camilla Housing Authority  
Mary Culbreth - Pelham Housing Authority

**Local Historians/Preservationists**

Nan Williamson - Historian/Preservationist  
Mike Larkin - Camilla Historic Preservation Commission  
Gloria Palmer - Better Hometown Pelham Director



## Identification of Participation Techniques

### Public Hearings

As required under the state Standards and Procedures for Local Comprehensive Planning, public hearings before the County Commission and the City Councils will take place during their November 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/county officials, this document and the Community Assessment will be transmitted to the Southwest Georgia Regional Development Center for their review.

Once the regional development center 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 regional development center’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.

### Visioning Sessions

Visioning sessions were held at the following:

<u>Who</u>	<u>When</u>	<u>Where</u>
City of Camilla	6-9 pm Sept. 12 <sup>th</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor of A.A. McNeil Building
Sale City	6-9 pm Sept. 14 <sup>th</sup>	Sale City Community Center
City of Baconton	6-9 pm Oct. 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Baconton City Hall
Mitchell County	6-9 pm Sept. 26 <sup>th</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor of A.A. McNeil Building
City of Pelham	6-9 pm Sept. 28 <sup>th</sup>	Assembly Room in Depot

Media coverage for publicizing these meeting was in many forms. CNS, 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 county at various locations including public buildings, shopping centers, convenience stores, coffee shops, etc.



## Surveys

Surveys were 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 County Vision Statement.
- Refines the growth projections and identifies the preferred options for each issue area 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**

On the following page represents a graphic that shows the schedule for the completion of the Mitchell County Consolidated Comprehensive Plan. Every effort will be made to stay on track but flexibility is expected due to the number of individual governments involved.



