

2010

# Troup County

## Citizen Participation

The Citizen Participation Plan outlines the process of gathering citizen input into the plan.



**CITIZEN PARTICIPATION PLAN**

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***Introduction***

The purpose of the Community Participation Program is to ensure that the local comprehensive plan reflects the full range of community values and desires, by involving a diverse spectrum of stakeholders in development of the Community Agenda. This broad-based participation in developing the Community Agenda will also help ensure that it will be implemented, because many in the community are involved in its development and thereby become committed to seeing it through.

***Identification of Stakeholders***

A stakeholder is an individual, group, or institution who has a “stake” or interest in the future of their community. It is important to identify and involve stakeholders (supporters and opponents alike) at the outset of the planning process.

- Agricultural and forestry interests (Cooperative Extension, Farm Bureau, Georgia Forestry Commission)
- Bicycle, hiking clubs
- Business owners, managers
- Community development corporations
- Community residents representing a diverse range of backgrounds and interests
- Community service organizations
- County commission chair and commission members
- Developers and related planning and design consultants
- Environmental organizations
- Ethnic and minority groups
- Local news media
- Local/regional tourism officials

- Major employers
- Neighborhood organizations
- Other interested community parties not included in this list
- Planning commission, preservation commission, zoning boards, variance and appeals boards and key staff
- Preservation organizations and historical societies
- Property owners, including major land holders
- Public and private school systems, and colleges or universities
- Real estate professionals
- Trade associations (Homebuilders, etc.)
- Under-represented, marginalized groups
- Universities, private higher education
- Urban, suburban, and rural area business leaders

***Identification of Participation Techniques***

**Kick Off-Public Information Meetings** An event to announce the planning process to the citizens and other stakeholders and to view a presentation covering the project purpose and general plan approach. Initial opinion surveys and volunteer sign up forms are available at this meeting.

**Website – Information Only** - A page on the community’s website used for periodic updates on the planning process. Information should include schedules, announcements, draft goals and objectives, preliminary recommendations, and maps.

**Press Releases** - A plan to develop a relationship with a local newspaper or other reporter and editor by providing newsworthy milestones and public meeting notices on a regular basis throughout the planning process.

**Vision Goals and Objectives Meetings** - Facilitated meetings to determine answers to the three key planning questions – “What do you have?” “What do you want?” and “How will you get it?”

**Email blasts** - Periodic mass mailings by email to provide important notices and other information. At public meetings, offer the option of attendees providing their e-mail addresses on the sign in sheet. Create a database and send periodic progress e-mails and future meeting announcements to the distribution list.

**Workshops**- The workshops are often small informal meetings that may include exhibits and presentations designed to be interactive among participants. They foster one to one and small group communication and are excellent for the discussion and critique of problem solving. They may require several facilitators depending on the size of the group.

**Public Hearings** - A hearing is a formal meeting of the elected body where the public may comment or provide testimony on the matter presented for voting. This is used during approval of the completed draft Community Assessment and the Community Participation Program for transmittal to the RDC for review and again during approval of the completed draft Community Agenda for transmittal to the RDC for review. The chambers of the elected body are best for the public hearing.

***Schedule for Completion of the Community Agenda***

Activity/Event	Month						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Gathering of ideas, opinions and information from public to inform Community Assessment	X	X	X				
Kickoff event to explain the planning process to the community (1st public hearing)			X				
Research and Draft Community Assessment			X				

*Citizen Participation Plan*

Activity/Event	Month						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Formation/appointment of stakeholders and committees to guide development of the plan (steering committee, etc.			X				
Community-wide event(s) to discuss and prioritize				X			
Processing of community input by guidance from steering committee				X			
Community-wide event(s) to produce or refine the Future Development Map					X		
Processing of community input by guidance form committees					X		
Development of draft Implementation Program					X		
Community event(s) to react to draft Implementation Program						X	
Processing of community input by guidance						X	
Assembly of draft Community Agenda by plan						X	
Community event(s) to react to draft Community Agenda (2nd public hearing)							X
Adoption of transmittal resolution by local government and submittal of Community Agenda to RDC for review.							X