

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION PROGRAM

The purpose of the community participation program is to insure 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 meaningful participation by the community will also help insure that it will be implemented because many in the community are involved in its development and thereby become committed to seeing it through. The community participation program is intended to supplement, not replace, the two required public hearings.

Identification of Stakeholders

Stakeholders are those people in the community that are most affected by the revisions to the comprehensive plan. This group of people will have a large part in developing the community agenda. The following list of stakeholders for the development of the joint Crawford County and City of Roberta's community agenda was compiled through public input and research completed by Middle Georgia Regional Development Center staff.

Stakeholders for the Crawford County and City of Roberta Community Participation Program				
Crawford County Commissioners	Roberta City Council	Rachel's Frame Shop	Knoxville Store	Twin Wire Arc, Inc.
Crawford County Board of Education	Roberta-Crawford County Chamber of Commerce	Roberta Health Care	Roberta Housing Authority	All Citizens of Crawford County and the City of Roberta
Development Authority of Crawford County	Aqua Wells	Roberta Realty, Inc.	Southern Rivers Energy	All Other Land and Business Owners in Crawford County and the City of Roberta
Arriscraft International	Atlanta Sand & Supply	Southland Waste	Southside Mini Storage	A & W Mechanical & Fabrication, Inc.
BB&T Bank	Calhoun Printing & Telecom	The Georgia Post	Western Auto/True Value Hardware	Crawford Insurance
Crawford County Campus of Central Georgia Technical College	Boys & Girls Club of Georgia Heartlands (Crawford Unit)	Crawford County Staff	City of Roberta Staff	Evans Cabinetry
Crawford County Family Connection	Farm Bureau of Crawford County	Crawford County Cooperative Extension Service	Flint Cable	Cabinet Depot
Crawford County Historical Society	Crawford County Kiwanis Club	Gentle Landings Airpark	Historic Crawford Foundation, Inc.	Rainbow Cotton
Crawford Family Medicine and Occupational Health Center	Dickey Farms	PSTL.net	Businesses in Roberta Square	Roberta Drugs, Inc.
Dent Rentals	Easyway Plastics, Inc.	Crawford County Saving Graves	Crawford County EMA	Dr. Orlando Balcas

First Community Bank of Georgia	Flint Energies	Crawford County Health Department	Crawford County Public Library	Buler Valves
Georgia Power	Boy & Girl Scouts of Middle Georgia, Inc.	Crawford County Sheriff's Department	Crawford County Recreation	Georgia Forestry Commission
GNS Enterprises/Poly-Carb, Inc.	Goddard Funeral Home	City of Roberta Police Department	Crawford County & City of Roberta Firemen	Big Chic
Georgia Department of Transportation	Ham's Auto Parts	Kuntry Kitchen	Public Service Telephone Company	Dollar General
All Other Health Care Providers in Crawford County and the City of Roberta	Georgia Department of Human Resources, Family & Children's Services	Keep Roberta/Crawford Beautiful	Knoxville Plantation	Crawford County Head Start Center
Hutto Farm and Properties	Piggly Wiggly	All Churches in Crawford County	Big 6 Farms	Crawford County Senior Center
Subway	Roberta Inn	All Other Businesses within Industrial Park	Roberta Propane	

Identification of Participation Techniques

The follow are the methods of public participation that were decided upon by the Crawford County and the City of Roberta Joint Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee. These methods were selected because they were felt to be the most comprehensive way of collecting public input from a diverse spectrum of community citizens.

Public Education

The Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee has chosen to hold an open house in the Conference Room of the Business Development Center. This open house will consist of a display with pictures, maps, and portions of the community assessment for the public to review. A staff member from the Middle Georgia Regional Development Center, along with Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee members, will be present to speak with the public and answer any questions.

A second open house will be held in conjunction with a Town Hall meeting being held by the Roberta-Crawford County Chamber of Commerce's Leadership Development Group. The Leadership Development Group will be conducting this meeting to solicit public input on several community issues. The same display used at the open house at the County Courthouse will be utilized at this meeting as well. Once again a staff member from the Middle Georgia Regional Development Center, along with Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee members, will be present to speak with the public and answer any questions. Each open house will last approximately two (2) hours.

The assessment and agenda will be available for public review once they have been certified as complete by the Middle Georgia Regional Development Center and all affected parties have had the opportunity to submit their comments. Paper copies of these

documents will be available at Roberta City Hall, the Crawford County Courthouse, the Roberta-Crawford County Chamber of Commerce, the Crawford County Library, and the Crawford County Administrative Offices.

Stakeholders will be notified of the open houses and availability of documents through direct mailings, publishing of notices in the local paper, and flyers posted throughout the community.

Public Input

Stakeholders will have an opportunity to provide their input during each open house through the distribution of surveys. These surveys will allow members of the community to submit their opinions on different issues as well as introduce additional issues and opportunities the steering committee may not have thought of. The surveys will also allow stakeholders to provide input on development strategies for the character areas.

These surveys may be completed at the open house and given to a staff member of the Middle Georgia Regional Development Center or returned in the mail to the Middle Georgia Regional Development Center. The email address of the Middle Georgia Regional Development Center staff member will also be provided on the survey in the event that someone would like to complete his or her survey electronically.

Public Interaction

The public will have the opportunity to directly interact with a staff member of the Middle Georgia Regional Development Center and members of the comprehensive plan steering committee during the open house sessions. Another opportunity for public interaction will be at the Roberta-Crawford County Leadership Group Town Hall meeting. Facilitators will be conducting this meeting to discuss community issues and how residents would like to see Crawford County and the City of Roberta prepare for the future.

Public Partnership

A public partnership was formed between the staff of the Middle Georgia Regional Development Center, Crawford County citizens, and citizens of the City of Roberta. A steering committee was formed using five (5) representatives from each Commissioner's district in Crawford County, five (5) representatives from the City of Roberta, and a staff member from the Middle Georgia Regional Development Center. Representatives from the County and the City were chosen because of their diverse backgrounds. A member of the Crawford County Development Authority, a member of the Roberta City Council, small business owners, and retired community residents are all part of the steering committee. After a month of meetings, the Committee decided to invite the County/City Zoning Administrator to sit in on the meetings to provide input and answer land use

questions. The steering committee meets on a regular schedule to discuss the planning process and decide the next steps in preparing the joint comprehensive plan.

Schedule for Completion of the Community Agenda

Steering Committee

The Crawford County-City of Roberta Joint Comprehensive Plan Update Steering Committee began meeting in March of 2006 and established a regular meeting schedule for the second and fourth Thursdays of each month. The Steering Committee has decided to adhere to their meeting schedule throughout the update process with special exceptions to be made when the need arises.

Open Houses

The first open house will be held on Wednesday, August 23, 2006 at the Business Development Center. The open house will begin at 1pm and end at 4:30pm. This will provide citizens with an opportunity to review the presented information at their leisure throughout the afternoon.

The second open house will be held September 25, 2006 at the Crawford County Middle School. The open house will begin at approximately 5:30 pm. Steering committee members and Middle Georgia RDC staff will be available before the start of the Town Hall meeting that the Roberta Crawford County Chamber of Commerce will be holding. This will provide citizens with an opportunity to review the presented information at their leisure before attending the meeting. The presented information will be a lead in to the issues discussed in the Town Hall meeting, creating opportunities for discussion. The information gathered at the open houses and the Town Hall meeting will be compiled to create the community agenda.

Public Hearings

Two public hearings will be held to fulfill the requirements of the Georgia Department of Community Affairs' Standards and Procedures for Local Comprehensive Planning. The first public hearing was held on Thursday, August 10, 2006 at 7pm in Roberta City Hall. This hearing was held to present the Community Assessment and Community Participation Program portions of the Joint Comprehensive Plan Update. The second public hearing will be held in the beginning of October to present the Community Agenda portion of the Joint Comprehensive Plan Update.