

# The City of Talmo

## 2008-2028 Comprehensive Plan Update: Community Participation Program



Prepared By:



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## **Introduction**

One of the best ways to strengthen communities is to create opportunities for citizens to work collaboratively on the challenges that shape their community. Accomplishing this requires political leadership, citizen education, and active involvement. A successful comprehensive plan begins with a process of thinking about and visualizing the future. This Community Participation Program was crafted with these principles in mind and establishes a two-way communication between local citizens and their government officials, with the overall goal of better decisions supported by the public.

## **Identification of Stakeholders**

The City Council, staff, and consultants have worked together to identify those individuals and groups that have a special interest in the development of the community agenda for the City of Talmo. The key Stakeholders are typically representatives from the general public, residents, professionals, business and industry leaders, church and civic leaders, media representatives, special interest groups, City staff and elected officials. It is important that the Stakeholder group consist of a diverse assortment of local representatives with different perspectives on the issue.

### Mayor & Talmo City Council

Larry Wood, Mayor  
Trapper Brissey, Council Member  
Dana Woods, Council Member  
Myra McEver, Council Member  
Jill Miller, Council Member

### City of Talmo Staff

Debra Fontaine, City Clerk  
Ronnie Hopkins, City Attorney  
Candi Womak, Librarian

### Residents of Talmo

Wayne Miller  
Roy Evans  
Scott Barrows  
James Buffington  
Charlene Faulkner  
Howard Pruitt  
Barbara Lancaster  
Billy Crawford  
Adam Pethel  
Clayton Dinn

### Jackson County Commission

Pat Bell, Chairman  
Tom Crow, Commissioner  
Bruce Yeats, Commissioner

Dwayne Smith, Commissioner  
Jody Thompson, Commissioner

Quad Cities Planning Commission  
Chip McEver, Fire Chief

#### Others

Talmo Baptist Church  
Dave Rosselle, Web Site  
Eric Clark, Jackson County Water and Sewer Authority  
Todd Long, Georgia Department of Transportation  
Kathy Elrod, Jackson County Schools

## **Participation Techniques**

### **Kickoff Meeting**

The Consultants responsible for preparing the 2028 Comprehensive Plan will present the planning process to the City Council and Public at a regularly scheduled City Council meeting on October 2, 2007. The presentation will emphasize the Local Planning Requirements from the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA), effective May 1, 2005. Additionally, the purpose and approach of the 2030 plan will be covered and the questions and concerns of the City Council and the public will be addressed.

### **Steering Committee**

A steering committee of residents, civic leaders, City staff and officials, and other stakeholders will be created. The committee will meet for the first time on January 8, 2008. An overview of the Community Assessment and Community Participation Program will be presented to them and they will have the opportunity to read each document and provide input before transmittal to RDC. The Steering Committee will meet again on June 10 to review the City's vision, Character Areas, and other components of the Comprehensive Plan.

### **Community Survey**

Residents will have the opportunity to complete a written survey to provide their input into the Comprehensive Plan. Respondents will prioritize issues and opportunities and express their vision for the City. Surveys will be available at the Talmo Public Library, City Hall, Post Office, local businesses, Talmo Baptist Church, and all meetings associated with the project. Members of the Steering Committee will also be asked to distribute the surveys to their neighbors, civic organizations, and any other, appropriate locations.

### **Required Public Hearing**

As required under the State of Georgia Standards and Procedures for Local Comprehensive Planning, a public hearing before the Talmo City Council will take place on March 4, 2008. The purpose of this hearing is to brief the community on the potential issues and opportunities identified through the Community Assessment, obtain input on the proposed

Community Participation Program, and notify the community of when these plan components will be transmitted to the regional development center. The public will be informed of the plan's project schedule and how they can get involved. The public will also be given the opportunity to comment on the process, the two draft documents, and their vision for the future of the City. After the public comments have been addressed, the Community Assessment and Community Participation Program will be transmitted to the regional development center by resolution of the City Council.

### **Community Visioning Workshop**

The Community Visioning Workshop is scheduled for May 8, 2008 at Talmo Baptist Church. The participants will be lead through a series of exercises that will help them create a vision for the City of Talmo. Participants will discuss the issues and opportunities facing the City. The meeting will have three goals:

- 1) Identify what the community wants to Preserve, Change, Create, or Connect;
- 2) Establish a Vision; and
- 3) Refine Character Areas through a Cognitive Mapping Exercise.

### **Open House**

An Open House, scheduled for June 10, 2008 will be an opportunity for participants to review and comment on the Draft Community Agenda. The Open House will focus on how to realize the community's vision and possible solutions to the community's issues and opportunities.

The Open House will serve to ensure that all development and land use issues have been identified and that the input received during the process has been reflected in the draft Community Agenda. It will allow high-level interaction and participation, enabling participants to engage in comfortable two-way dialogue. Stations will include displays, comment cards, handouts, and other informational materials. Formal written comments, collected at the conclusion of the Open House, will be summarized and responded to in the Draft Community Agenda. The Open House will be 2 hours in length and will take place after the City has had an opportunity to review and comment on the draft Community Agenda.

### **Final Public Hearings**

The Community Agenda will be presented during a regular City Council meeting after a period of public review. The hearing is scheduled for September 9, 2008 before transmittal to the Northeast Georgia Regional Development Center (RDC) for regional and state review. The purpose of this hearing is to brief the community on the contents of the Community Agenda, provide an opportunity for residents to make final suggestions, additions or revisions, and notify the community of when the Community Agenda will be submitted to the RDC for review. After public comments have been addressed, the Community Agenda will be transmitted to the RDC by resolution of the governing body by December, 2008.

After the RDC and DCA review the Community Agenda, the final draft will be presented to the City Council and the public for adoption at a regular City Council meeting.

## **Schedule For Community Agenda**

The following is the schedule for completion of the Community Agenda.

<b>October 2, 2007</b>	KICKOFF MEETING
<b>January 8, 2008</b>	STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING
<b>March 4, 2008</b>	ASSESSMENT TRANSMITTAL PUBLIC HEARING
<b>May 8, 2008</b>	COMMUNITY VISIONING WORKSHOP
<b>June 10, 2008</b>	OPEN HOUSE AND STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING
<b>September 9, 2008</b>	COMMUNITY AGENDA PRESENTATION/HEARING
<b>December 2008</b>	FINAL TRANSMITTAL HEARING
<b>TBD</b>	FINAL ADOPTION HEARING

## **Outreach**

In order to maximize attendance at the public meetings the City of Talmo will do the following:

- 1) Send personalized letters to key residents;
- 2) Place document drafts and the questionnaire on the City Website;
- 3) Place articles in the Jackson Herald;
- 4) Post notices on the widely used bulletin board at the Post Office;
- 5) Advertise in the Jackson Herald; and
- 6) Utilize word of mouth through the Steering Committee members.