



**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION COMPONENT OF THE
JOINT COMPREHENSIVE PLAN FOR WILKINSON
COUNTY AND THE CITIES OF ALLENTOWN,
GORDON, IRWINTON, IVEY, MCINTYRE AND
TOOMSBORO
DRAFT APRIL 2006**

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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 in the community are those people 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 group of stakeholders that has been identified for development of the joint comprehensive plan of Wilkinson County and the cities of Allentown, Gordon, Irwinton, Ivey, McIntyre and Toombsboro is listed below:

- Alltel Communications
- Arcilla Mining
- Balls Ferry Historic Park Association, Inc.
- Better Hometown of Gordon
- CARBO Ceramics
- Downtown Development Committee of Toombsboro
- East Wilkinson Library Board
- Engelhard Corporation
- Fall Line Regional Development Authority
- Four County Bank
- Georgia Department of Community Affairs Regional Representative
- Georgia Department of Economic Development Regional Project Manager
- Georgia Department of Economic Development Regional Tourism
- Georgia Farm Bureau
- Georgia Forestry Commission
- Georgia Power
- Gordon Bank
- Gordon Development Authority
- Gordon Downtown Development Authority
- Gordon Library Board
- Heart of Georgia Technical College
- Independent Property Owners Association
- Ivey BetterTown
- Leadership Wilkinson
- Mayor and Council of the City of Allentown
- Mayor and Council of the City of Gordon
- Mayor and Council of the City of Irwinton

- Mayor and Council of the City of Ivey
- Mayor and Council of the City of McIntyre
- Mayor and Council of the City of Toombsboro
- Middle Georgia Regional Development Center
- Oconee EMC
- Plum Creek Timberlands
- Progressive Rural Telephone Company
- Regional Entrepreneur/ Small Business representative of Georgia Department of Economic Development
- Sellers Construction
- Springhill Services
- Tri County EMC
- University of Georgia Cooperative Extension Service
- Wilkinson County Bank
- Wilkinson County Board of Commissioners
- Wilkinson County Board of Education
- Wilkinson County Board of Health
- Wilkinson County Department of Family and Children Services
- Wilkinson County Development Authority
- Wilkinson County Emergency Management Agency
- Wilkinson County Family Connections
- Wilkinson County Historical Society
- Wilkinson County News
- Wilkinson County Post
- Wilkinson County Recreation Board
- Wilkinson County Service Center
- Wilkinson County Sheriff's Department
- All residents and business owners in Wilkinson County

Identification of Participation Techniques

In order to engage the public in the planning process, the Comprehensive Plan Committee has determined that the following participation techniques are most appropriate for Wilkinson County and the cities of Allentown, Gordon, Irwinton, Ivey, McIntyre and Toombsboro:

Public Education Techniques

- Information Centers- All public buildings will have a review copy of the Community Assessment. In addition, all public buildings will display meeting notices and updates on the status of the comprehensive plan.
- Kiosk/ Lobby Displays- Information on the Comprehensive Plan will be displayed to provide information to visitors outside a formal public meeting.
- Speakers Bureau- The Comprehensive Plan Committee will be available to speak to civic groups on any issues related to the plan.
- Kick Off Public Information Meetings- Two public hearings were held to kick off the comprehensive planning process.

- Printed Information- Printed information containing fact sheets, maps, future meeting opportunities will be available.
- Websites- The Wilkinson County Board of Commissioners website contains a link for all citizens to use to learn more about the Comprehensive Plan process.
- Media Plan and Press Releases- Bi-weekly updates in the Wilkinson County News and the Wilkinson County Post will update the public on developments and future opportunities to participate.

Public Input Techniques

- Meetings/ Hearings- The Comprehensive Plan Committee determined that the most effective method for receiving public input was to establish a regular schedule of meetings both during the business day and in the evening.

Public Interaction Techniques

- Brainstorming- During the initial Community Agenda Meeting, brainstorming will be used to address the issues identified in the Community Assessment.
- Vision Goals and Objectives- Once the brainstorming is complete, the Stakeholders group will work to answer the “what do we want” and “how do we get there” questions that are essential to the planning process.

Public Partnership Techniques

- Stakeholder meetings- In the first section of this element, the Comprehensive Plan Committee identified the stakeholders that will be used to mold the Community Agenda.
- Intergovernmental Partnership Meetings- The Comprehensive Plan Committee consists of representatives from Wilkinson County and each of the cities. The Committee is guiding the plan process and serves as the task force on the Intergovernmental Coordination component of the Plan.
- Task Forces- As the Stakeholders utilizes the vision goals and objectives as a participation technique, the need for special tasks forces to address issues may be identified and this technique would be utilized.

Public hearings will be held as each phase of the comprehensive planning process is completed. The public will not only be kept aware of decisions made by focus group members, but they will also be presented with the opportunity to become involved with future focus groups as well.

Schedule for Completion of the Community Agenda

Stakeholder meetings will be held as follows:

Stakeholder Meeting #1: April 18, 2006 at 6:00 at the Wilkinson County Courthouse in Courtroom B. Topic: General Overview of Plan requirements and Community Assessment.

Stakeholder Meeting #2: May 4, 2006 at 7:00 at the Allentown City Hall in Allentown. Topic: Issues and Opportunities for Community Agenda.

Stakeholder Meeting #3 May 18, 2006 at 5:30 at the Ivey Volunteer Fire Department/
Voting Precinct in Ivey. Topic: Future Land Use Maps, Character
Areas, Quality Community Objectives.

Stakeholder Meeting #4: May 25, 2006 at 5:30 at the Toombsboro Town Hall in Toombsboro.
Topic: Implementation Plans.

A draft of the community agenda will be available June 7, 2006 with a public hearing scheduled for June 8, 2006 at 5:30 at the Wilkinson County Senior Center. This process will allow adoption of the agenda during the June meetings of the local governments.