

BULLOCH COUNTY

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COMPREHENSIVE MASTER PLAN UPDATE

Community Participation Plan November 2018



BULLOCH COUNTY

Comprehensive Master Plan

Community Participation Plan
November 2018



Commissioners

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Comprehensive Planning Staff

Thomas Couch, County Manager
Andy Welch, Assistant County Manager
Olympia Gaines, Clerk of the Board
Cindy Steinmann, Management Analyst

Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee

Curt Deal	Barbara Rushing	Jerry Lanigan	Jason Sapp
Jeanne Anne Marsh	Randy Newman	Jamey Cartee	Mike Arrieta
Derek Duke	Benjy Thompson	Ted Williams	Linda Herrington
Tonya Boyd	Ressie Fuller	Will Sanford	Ryne Brannen

OVERVIEW

Bulloch County, along with the City of Brooklet, City of Portal, and Town of Register, are preparing to update their Joint Comprehensive Plan Comprehensive Plans which serve as the long-term strategy that is intended to reflect the values, vision, and goals of the entire county. The document serves as a guide regarding future planning decisions for up to 20 years and consists of many elements, including: community goals, needs and opportunities, community work program, economic development, transportation, housing, broadband services, and land use. In order to accurately reflect the values, vision, and goals of the community, it is essential that the public and stakeholders are proactively involved to give feedback during the creation and update of the plan. This participation plan introduces the steering committee, scheduled meetings, topics to be discussed, and proposed participation techniques.

The Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA) has set forth minimum standards and procedures for local comprehensive planning to guide the development of the plan. The Bulloch County Comprehensive Plan was most recently updated in 2014 and must be updated again in 2019, in accordance with the minimum standards. The County will employ the participation techniques recommended by DCA which are described in this document, with input from the steering committee and stakeholders. The schedule for completion of the comprehensive plan will be discussed in this participation plan.

PROCESS

This community participation plan for the Joint Comprehensive Plan is intended to serve two purposes. First, it will provide opportunities for public input throughout the comprehensive planning process. Secondly, adoption of a public

participation plan is a requirement of the State of Georgia's comprehensive planning framework set forth in the Official Code of Georgia Annotated (O.C.G.A.) 110-12-1-.02. The update process will kick off with a public hearing and will be followed by a series of stakeholder meetings (as seen below in Table 2). Plan elements will be discussed at each of the meetings which will provide information to draft the plan. The draft plan will be presented to the steering committee for feedback and another public hearing will be held to present the draft plan to the community, answer questions, and receive feedback. Next, the plan will be presented to the Bulloch County Board of Commissioners, the Portal City Council, Brooklet City Council, and Register Town Council, for approval to transmit the plan to the Coastal Regional Commission for review. Following the Regional Commission's review, the plan will be transmitted to the Georgia Department of Community Affairs to ensure the plan meets the minimum planning standards.

STAKEHOLDERS

The inclusion of stakeholders is crucial for obtaining diverse input from the entire community. The Bulloch County Board of Commissioners has appointed a steering committee composed of community members including the stakeholders that will aid in and guide the comprehensive planning process.

Steering Committee Establishment

The steering committee was appointed by the Bulloch County Board of Commissioners at the regularly scheduled meetings held on October 2, 2018 and October 16, 2018. The committee includes individuals from varying backgrounds and expertise including: retirees, bankers, business owners, residents, county boards and committees, county/city staff, and elected

officials representing each municipality and the Bulloch County Board of Commissioners. Having a broad spectrum of stakeholders will provide valuable input while developing the plan and will allow each member to inform their constituencies about opportunities to become involved in order to gather greater feedback. The stakeholders will be actively engaged during the process. The list of steering committee members are listed below.

Name	Title	Agency
Curt Deal	Commissioner	Bulloch County Board of Commissioners
Jeanne Anne Marsh	Chairman	Planning and Zoning Commission
Derek Duke	Council Member	City of Statesboro
Tonya Boyd	Mayor Pro Tem	Town of Register
Barbara Rushing	Mayor	Town of Register
Randy Newman	Council Member/Zoning Administrator	City of Brooklet/Bulloch County Planning and Zoning Department
Benjy Thompson	CEO	Development Authority
Ressie Fuller	Retired Attorney	N/A
Ryne Brannen	Resident & Farmer	N/A
Jerry Lanigan	Council Member	Town of Portal
Jamey Cartee	Business Owner	St. Andrews Home Builders
Ted Williams	Director of IT Services	Georgia Southern University
Will Sanford	Assistant Vice Present	Farmers and Merchant Bank
Jason Sapp	Police Chief	Town of Portal
Mike Arrieta	Clerk	Town of Portal
Linda Herrington	Clerk	Town of Portal

Steering Committee Goals

The goals of the Steering Committee are to:

- ❖ Include all aspects of the County in the planning process.
- ❖ Collaborate and generate interest of citizens in implementing the plan.
- ❖ Generate enthusiasm in the community.
- ❖ Provide input on important topics.
- ❖ Meet as a team approximately 4 times to discuss each element of the plan and one

additional time with stakeholders to review the final draft.

Each member of the committee will receive resources and background material prior to meetings. Additional resources will be added as the process progresses.

PARTICIPATION TECHNIQUES

Development of the plan hinges on input from stakeholders and the public to ensure that the plan reflects the full range of community needs and values. Public participation can be maximized through multiple methods. This section outlines the participation techniques that will be utilized to increase public input.

Public Hearings

Two public hearings will be held at the Bulloch County North Main Annex located at 115 North Main Street in Statesboro to inform and provide opportunities to the public for feedback. The first public hearing is intended to serve as a “kick-off meeting” that will brief the community on the process used to develop the plan, opportunities for public participation in development of the plan, and to obtain input on the proposed planning processes. The second public hearing will be held after the plan has been drafted and made available for public review. At this public hearing, the community will be briefed on the contents of the plan and will have an opportunity to make final suggestions, additions, or revisions to the plan. Additionally, the public will be informed of the date that the plan will be transmitted to the Coastal Regional Commission for review.

Public Workshops

A series of three community workshops are planned throughout the process to receive input and feedback. Each meeting will be held in a different municipality in the County to encourage increased participation. The workshops will include interactive discussions, visuals, and hands-on activities.

The first public workshop will be held in Portal, likely at City Hall. In addition to a brief explanation of the Comprehensive Plan and the development process, engaging hands-on activities will encourage the public to define

community goals. Opportunities and needs will be identified and discussed during this workshop.

The second workshop will be held in Statesboro at the North Main Annex and will allow participants to review and comment on a draft vision statement. Participants will also examine development patterns while expressing their desire and vision for future development.

The third workshop will be held in Brooklet where a draft of the Community Agenda will be provided to the public. Participants will provide their input to the planning staff members.

Surveys

Surveys reach a wide array of the population and allow the public to provide feedback anonymously which increases the potential to receive honest input. A survey will be created and posted via a third-party website and will be shared on the County’s website and social media to encourage participation.

Fliers

Fliers may be used to communicate information regarding the progress of the plan and to announce future public meetings and feedback opportunities. Fliers will be placed in various government and community buildings to provide instructions on how to comment on the plan as well as detailed contact information for planning staff.

Website & Social Media

The County’s website (www.bullochcounty.net) as well as the Bulloch County Board of Commissioners’ Facebook Page will serve as an information hub for Comprehensive Plan updates to stakeholders and citizens. It is a cost-effective means to provide drafts to the public.

SCHEDULE FOR COMPLETION

See *Appendix A* attached herein for a detailed schedule.

CONTACTS

If you have any questions or comments related to the planning process, please contact Olympia Gaines or Cindy Steinmann at 912-764-6245.