

Executive Summary

Jordan, Jones & Goulding (JJG), along with the assistance of County staff and Parsons Brinckerhoff (PB), have prepared two documents, the *Henry County Community Assessment* and the *Henry County Community Participation Program*, for review and comment.

These two documents are two of the three components of a Comprehensive Plan now required under the state “Standards and Procedures for Local Comprehensive Planning,” otherwise known as the “Local Planning Requirements.” The third component is the Community Agenda, which will be prepared over the coming year.

The Henry County Board of Commissioners and local City Councils are **not** being asked to adopt these documents as policy, but rather to review them and pass individual resolutions to transmit them to the Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) and the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA) for regional and state review. The Joint Henry County/Cities Comprehensive Plan is not scheduled to be adopted until early 2007.

The *Community Assessment* is an objective assessment of data and information about Henry County, including the Cities of Hampton, Locust Grove, McDonough, and Stockbridge. It includes the following:

- (1) A list of potential issues and opportunities for which the community may wish to take action to address in developing the Community Agenda.
- (2) An analysis of existing development patterns, including a map of recommended character areas for consideration in developing an overall vision for the community.
- (3) An evaluation of current community policies, activities, and development patterns for consistency with the state Quality Community Objectives.
- (4) An analysis of supportive data and information.

The *Community Assessment* is intended to be a short, concise report that informs decision-makers during the development of the Community Agenda. Most of the supportive analysis and details of the Assessment are included in a “Technical Addendum.”

The *Community Participation Program* describes how a strategy for ensuring adequate public and stakeholder involvement in the preparation of the Community Agenda portion of the plan. This public involvement strategy calls for a series of six visioning workshops, six open houses, the involvement of an active Steering Committee, a Technical Committee, interviews with local stakeholders, website updates, and several public hearings.

The third component of the Comprehensive Plan, the *Community Agenda*, will include a community vision for the future physical development of the community expressed in the form of a Future Land Use Map, a list of issues and opportunities identified by the community for further action, and an implementation program for achieving the community’s vision. Work on this Agenda cannot begin until after review of the Community Assessment and Community Participation Program by ARC and DCA. Comments from ARC and DCA will be available 30 days after transmittal of these documents.