



**RESOLUTION
TO ADOPT THE FIVE YEAR PLAN UPDATE, 2013-2017
FOR THE
GORDON COUNTY JOINT COMPREHENSIVE PLAN, 2007-2027**

WHEREAS, the Georgia Planning Act of 1989 requires local governments to develop and maintain a comprehensive plan to retain their Qualified Local Government status and eligibility for state permits, grants, and loans; and

WHEREAS, the five year plan update, 2013-2017, for Gordon County has been completed and the Community Work Program is updated along with Needs and Opportunities and Land Use; and

WHEREAS, Gordon County held the first public hearing on January 15, 2013, the Board reviewed and discussed the Community Work Program and other documents during their February 9, 2013 retreat, a public workshop was held on March 5, 2013 to obtain additional public comments, all the related documents were posted to the county's web site from February 11 to March 19, 2013, and the second and final public hearing was held on March 19, 2013,

WHEREAS, the five year plan update, 2013-17, for Gordon County has been approved by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs as meeting the state's minimum planning standards and procedures;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Gordon County Board of Commissioners hereby officially adopts the county's five year plan update, 2013-2017.

SO RESOLVED , this 4th day of June, 2013.

BY: _____

Becky Hood, Chairman
Gordon County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST: _____

Annette Berry
Gordon County Clerk

NWGRC

NORTHWEST GEORGIA REGIONAL COMMISSION

A Region With A Bright Future

Rome Office: P.O. Box 1798, Rome, Georgia 30162-1798 Phone (706) 295-6485 www.nwgrc.org
RC Fax (706) 295-6665 AAA Fax (706) 802-5508 WIA Fax (706) 802-5567

Dalton Office: 503 West Waugh Street, Dalton, Georgia 30720 Phone (706) 272-2300 Fax (706) 272-2253

MEMORANDUM

TO: Becky Hood, Gordon County Board of Commissioners
Randy Dowling, County Administrator

FROM: Barnett Chitwood
Assistant Regional Planning Director

DATE: April 22, 2013

SUBJECT: GORDON COUNTY FIVE-YEAR COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE --
FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATION REPORT

Please be advised that the review of the Gordon County Five-Year Plan Update is now complete. The findings and recommendation report from the NWGRC is attached, as well as the approval letter of the Georgia Department of Community Affairs. The DCA letter cites that the Adoption Resolutions related to these matters, for each government respectively, must be on or after May 24, 2013.

I have received a brief note from you, Randy, anticipating an adoption date of June 4, which will be fine. I intend to forward an Adoption Resolution for your use, shortly. Please forward the signed Resolution to the Regional Commission within seven (7) days after official adoption. The Resolution will be forwarded to the State DCA, which will in turn reinstate your QLG status.

Please feel free to call should you have any further questions, 706-272-2300.

Findings and Recommendations Report

Gordon County Five-Year Comprehensive Plan Update April 2013

- A. The Department of Community Affairs (DCA) has determined that the Five-Year Update of the Community Work Program for Gordon County is in compliance with the State rules for Comprehensive Planning. The DCA email provided no additional advisory comments and identified May 24, 2013 as the earliest adoption date. [DCA email attached.]

- B. The Northwest Georgia Regional Commission (NWGRC) provided a 14-day opportunity for interested parties, adjacent governments, and various agencies to comment upon the new Plan Update. The comment period closed at 5:00 p.m. on Monday, April 8, 2013.

No comments were received. Robin Goodloe of the U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service did provide supplementary information about the use of conservation easements and tax incentives if such matters became an interest of Gordon County. Robin's comments and attachments were forwarded to Gordon County.

- C. The NWGRC reviewed the Report of Accomplishments, the new draft Community Work Program, the Issues & Opportunities, & and the land use materials of Gordon County and found them internally consistent and not in conflict with the plans of surrounding governments.

- D. The findings are positive; the NWGRC forwards no additional recommendations.

**Gordon County
2013 – 2017 Community Work Program**

Activity	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	Cost Estimate	Funding Source	Responsible Party
Economic Development								
Support the Chamber of Commerce and the Development Authority on economic development issues to retain and recruit new industry into the county.	X	X	X	X	X	\$0	N/A	Board of Commissioners
Prepare a comprehensive Economic Development Plan with the cities, Chamber of Commerce, and the Development Authority to identify desired industries, suitable locations, and develop a marketing strategy.		X				\$20,000	General Funds	Board of Commissioners
Coordinate with the Historic Preservation Commission, Chamber of Commerce, and state associations to promote civil war heritage tourism.	X	X	X	X	X	TBD	Increased Hotel/Motel Tax	Historic Preservation Commission & Chamber of Commerce
Increase the Freeport inventory exemption rates to be competitive with surrounding counties.	X					\$0	N/A	Board of Commissioners
Search for regional, state-wide, and national sports tournaments and bring them to the Sonoraville Recreation Complex as an economic development tool to increase the county's exposure and sales tax revenue.	X	X	X	X	X	\$35,000 (per year for bids)	General Funds	Parks & Recreation Director
Support commercial and industrial development on the east side of the county.	X	X	X	X	X	TBD	TBD	Development Authority
Natural & Cultural Resources								
Complete the Fort Wayne Civil War Historic Site walking trails project and implement the remaining parts of the master plan.	X	X				\$400,000	TE Grant, General Funds	Public Works Director
Support the Georgia Dept. of Natural Resources regarding the completion of the new Resaca Battlefield State Historic Site project including a future visitor's center/museum. Begin county management of the site per contract.	X	X	X	X	X	\$10,000 (per Year)	State Funds & General Funds	Board of Commissioners, Public Works Dept., Sheriff Office
Community Facilities & Services								
Install fire hydrants in the unincorporated areas of the county.	X	X	X	X	X	\$2,000,000 (total)	SPLOST-2012	Fire Chief
Improve the parking deck and renovate the courthouse and courthouse annex.					X	\$14,600,000	SPLOST-2012	County Administrator
Construct a replacement Health Department.					X	\$3,200,000	SPLOST-2012	County Administrator
Construct a replacement Fire Station for Station No. 6 and add fire trucks.		X				\$4,500,000	SPLOST-2012	County Administrator Fire Chief
Develop the new Brookshire Park on SR 156 West.					X	\$400,000	SPLOST-2012	Parks & Recreation Director
Renovate (re-paint, re-carpet, replace kitchen equipment) and expand the Senior Citizens Center.			X (R)		X (E)	\$500,000 (E) \$100,000 (R)	SPLOST-2012 & General Funds	County Administrator & Senior Citizens Director

**Gordon County
2013 -- 2017 Community Work Program**

Activity		2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	Cost Estimate	Funding Source	Responsible Party
Community Facilities & Services									
Coordinate with Calhoun to expand the Library.		X					\$400,000 (County share)	SPLOST-2012	City of Calhoun
Construct a replacement Animal Shelter.		X				X	\$1,500,000	SPLOST-2012	Animal Control Director
Develop a written master plan for Salacoa Creek Park to have more revenue producing activities while protecting is existing character by building cabins, dormitories, small visitor's/conference center, wedding chapel, realigning the campground road to accommodate large RV's, adding playgrounds and nature trails, and protecting the scenic vistas from development.		X	X	X	X		\$10,000 for the professional master plan and \$4,000,000 for implementation	Future SPLOST, General Funds, Increased Hotel/Motel Tax	Board of Commissioners & Parks & Recreation Director
Coordinate with Calhoun, Chamber of Commerce, and nearby businesses to improve the I-75 Exit 312 & 318 interchanges by adding landscape material, lighting, and signage.		X	X				\$500,000	General Fund, GDOT Funds, Increased Hotel/Motel Tax	Chamber of Commerce & Parks & Recreation Director
Complete the renovations to the Voluntary Action Center.		X					\$500,000	CDBG Funds	County Administrator
Improve the county's ISO rating from a Class 6/9 to 5/9 by implementing better firefighter training, inspecting fire hydrants twice per year, and making other fire department improvements such as a new aerial fire truck, and 911 Center improvements.		X	X	X	X	X	\$0 \$850,000 for the aerial fire truck.	Fire Fund, SPLOST Fund	Fire Chief
Improve the fire stations with new paint, bathroom fixtures, bay door motors, desks, and chairs.		X	X	X	X	X	\$320,000 (total)	Fire Fund	Fire Chief
Evaluate all county buildings for energy efficiency and implement a program of cost saving measures.		X	X	X			\$0 (energy savings are used to fund this program)	N/A	Purchasing Director
Upgrade the 911 Center's equipment including the recorder, add one additional console station, and new console radios.			X				\$200,000	911 Fund, General Fund	911 Director
Upgrade the 911 Center's Computer Aided Dispatch system and phone system.				X			\$120,000	911 Fund, General Fund	911 Director
Construct a new 911 Center or make major renovations to the existing center and add one new 911 trunk line.						X	\$5M for new center or \$250,000 for renovations	New SPLOST or General Funds	911 Director
Construct a large pavilion with restrooms at the Sonoraville Recreation Complex.						X	\$135,000	New SPLOST, General Funds	Parks & Recreation Director
Prepare a county-wide trails master plan (nature, hiking, biking, greenway, river, and historic trails).			X				\$20,000	General Funds	Parks & Recreation Director

**Gordon County
2013 – 2017 Community Work Program**

Activity	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	Cost Estimate	Funding Source	Responsible Party
Community Facilities & Services								
Identify and purchase park land for a future park similar to the Sonorville Recreation Complex.					X	\$1,000,000	New SPLOST, General Funds	Parks & Recreation Director
Update the County Administration Building with new plumbing, carpet, paint, etc.		X				\$75,000	General Funds	County Administrator
Construct a canoe/kayak launch site at Ft. Wayne to access the Oostanaula River.			X			\$10,000	State Funds, General Funds	New Echota River Alliance
Construct a full-service boat ramp to access the Coosawatee River.			X			\$50,000	State Funds, General Funds	New Echota River Alliance
Transportation								
Support GDOT on the new Union Grove Road/I-75 interchange and the south Calhoun by-pass road projects.	X	X	X			\$0	State Funds	Board of Commissioners
Complete the annual road improvement program including the LMIG program.	X	X	X	X		\$9,000,000 (total)	SPLOST-2012 & GDOT Funds	Public Works Director
Coordinate with Calhoun to improve Peters Street.	X	X				\$2,000,000 (County share)	SPLOST-2012	City of Calhoun
Improve the Midway Road railroad crossing.	X					\$50,000	SPLOST-2012	Public Works Director
Update the 2007 Transportation Improvement Plan	X	X				\$25,000	General Funds	Public Works Director
Complete the GIS locations of existing and needed road signs.	X					\$0	N/A	Public Works Director
Replace regulatory, warning, and ground mounted road signs that do not meet minimum MUTCD standards.	X	X	X			\$50,000 (per year)	SPLOST-2012	Public Works Director
Replace existing street name signs with larger 9" sign blades and 6" lettering.	X	X	X	X		\$50,000 (per year)	SPLOST-2012	Public Works Director
Collect GIS location data for bridges, culverts, and cross drains on all county roads.	X	X	X	X		\$0	N/A	Public Works Director and GIS Manager
Increase transportation options for low income residents.	X	X	X	X		TBD	TBD	Social Service Agencies
Intergovernmental Coordination								
Begin and complete the state required 5 Year Short Term Work Program 2013-2017 (recertification date is 6/30/13).	X					\$0	N/A	County Administrator
Begin the state required full update to the county-wide Comprehensive Plan (recertification date is 6/30/18).					X	\$10,000	General Funds	County Administrator & Zoning Administrator
Begin the state required update of the county-wide Service Delivery Strategy Plan (recertification date is 6/30/18).					X	\$1,000	General Funds	County Administrator
Coordinate with Calhoun to have them annex the "islands" into the city making the city's boundaries more inclusive and streamlining service delivery including emergency services and road maintenance.	X					\$0	N/A	Board of Commissioners

**Gordon County
2013 – 2017 Community Work Program**

Activity	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	Cost Estimate	Funding Source	Responsible Party
Intergovernmental Coordination								
Coordinate with Calhoun to increase the hotel/motel tax from 5% to 8% to promote and fund tourism.	X					\$0	N/A	Board of Commissioners
Assist in officially dissolving the city of Ranger so various funds such as LOST and SPLOST do not have to be shared.	X					\$0	N/A	Board of Commissioners
General Planning								
Conduct an annual Board retreat to establish/monitor annual goals.	X	X	X	X	X	\$2,500 (per year)	General Fund	Board of Commissioners
Apply for a CDBG to assist low and moderate income citizens.		X		X		\$0	N/A	County Administrator
Update the Unified Land Development Code (ULDC) for relevancy, clarifications, and workability.	X		X		X	\$1,000	General Funds	Zoning Administrator
Update the Code of Ordinances for completeness, clarity, and modernization.		X				\$30,000	General Funds	County Attorney
Conduct an annual surplus auction of unneeded county vehicles and equipment.	X	X	X	X	X	\$0	N/A	Buildings & Grounds Director
Conduct an annual fire and appliance amnesty day at the county's landfill.	X	X	X	X	X	\$0	N/A	Buildings & Grounds Director
Conduct twice per year employee and public blood drives with employee incentives.	X	X	X	X	X	\$4,500	General Funds	HR Director
Renew the multi-year contract with the county's auditors, Dobbs & Co., that will expire on Dec. 31, 2013.	X					\$0	N/A	Board of Commissioners
Begin the contract renewal process with Gordon Hospital ambulance service that will expire on June 30, 2018.					X	\$0	N/A	Board of Commissioners
Renew the multi-year contracts with the county's two disaster recovery services company, Southern Disaster Recovery and Cahaba Disaster Recovery that will expire in July 2017.					X	\$0	N/A	EMA Director
Update the employee classification & compensation study that was previously done during 2006 to ensure that all county employees are being paid market rates.			X			\$40,000	General Funds	HR Director
Automate the payroll/timekeeping system for efficiency.		X				\$65,000	General Funds	HR Director
Create a database of scanned images of all old property records		X				\$25,000	General Funds	Chief Appraiser
Continue the mapping contract with an outside firm to maintain all parcel data.	X	X	X	X	X	\$15,000 (per year)	General Funds	Chief Appraiser
Continue and expand printing and mailing contracts for efficiency.	X	X	X	X	X	\$22,000 (per year)	General Funds	Chief Appraiser

**Gordon County
2013 – 2017 Community Work Program**

Activity	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	Cost Estimate	Funding Source	Responsible Party
General Planning								
Maintain the required continuing education for all Tax Assessor staff members.	X	X	X	X	X	\$18,000 (per year)	General Funds	Chief Appraiser
Develop a program, sufficient staff, and the use of technology that will allow one third of all properties to be physically inspected each year.	X	X	X	X	X	\$2,500 (per year)	General Funds	Chief Appraiser
Contract with an outside firm to audit all personal property accounts on a recurring 3 to 5 year schedule.	X	X	X	X	X	\$20,000 (per year)	General Funds	Chief Appraiser