

## **Population Subcommittee**

### *Vision Statement*

To include the community in an open process of public decision making.

### *Issues and Opportunities / Policies:*

- A. We will actively encourage and facilitate public involvement in planning and decision-making processes of our government.
- B. We will take pro-active steps to coordinate various public sector and private sector entities with the Comprehensive strategies and policies of Athens-Clarke County
  - 1. Create a process for promoting community awareness, involvement, and development in land use issues.
  - 2. Identify community planning districts to increase involvement in the planning and implementation of improvements at the residential, mixed-use, and commercial level.
  - 3. Involve public and private sector entities in the community planning district process

### *Vision Statement*

To establish Athens-Clarke County as a community that supports and encourages life-long learning.

- A. University vocational education and public schools will be life-long learning opportunities for our residents and visitors.
- B. Education {Early learning, pre-k through 12, University and vocational, and adult education - public, private and home} is the foundation of our community's long-term prosperity.
- C. Quality of life will be supported and enhanced by the educational function of our parks and recreational services, public libraries, museum, other cultural amenities, other public and non-profit and

faith-based entities.

D. We will recognize the importance of providing life-long learning in the following areas:

- Job Skills And Work-Force Development
- Environmental Concerns
- Arts And Entertainment.
- Retirement Interests
- Personal Enrichment
- Cultural Exchanges
- Adult Basic Education And GED Preparation
- Language Skills, Including Additional Languages
- Health Education

### *Policy*

1. Establish and maintain an effective working relationship between the Athens-Clarke county and the Board of Education to develop mutually beneficial locations for schools and appropriate land uses adjacent and/or near school property.
2. Establish and maintain an effective working relationship between the Athens-Clarke County government and the Board of Education to address the cultural diversity of county students while assuring equal access to educational opportunities and richness of educational choices.
3. Promote the concept of schools serving their neighborhoods as focal points for life-long learning.
4. Support educational institutions and encourage development of new opportunities to educate Athens-Clarke County population.
5. Communicate with all institutions of higher learning in Athens-Clarke County to encourage commitment to accommodate the needs of non-traditional learners by providing access, services, and instruction.
6. (New - change number) Require inmates in Clarke County facilities to be involved in education, with a goal of acquiring a high school diploma.

7. Schools to be learning focal points for all of our population - adults as well as children.

Establish and maintain an effective working relationship between the Athens-Clarke County and the Board of Education to address the cultural diversity of county students while assuring equal access to educational opportunities and richness of educational choices.

Effectively teaching children

Address the diversity issue

Notes - for short term work plan –  
uniforms / all girls, all boys schools.

Learning Disability - students should have opportunities to higher education - a question of addressing the diversity.

UGA - not friendly to retired, working, part-time students for classes (4 year).

#### *Vision Statement*

To support transportation policies that offer viable alternatives to the automobile and design thoroughfares that support pedestrian access.

- A. Policies shall encourage multiple modes of transportation which provide access to employment, education, recreation and services for all residents.
- B. The multi-modal transportation network will be used to support efficient land use, minimize traffic congestion and facilitate community -wide and regional mobility.
- C. We will ensure that urban density will be located in areas that are conducive to walking and biking and are served by transit.
- D. We will coordinate high density land use with public transportation.
- E. The greenway corridor will be expanded and connected to support individual transportation needs.

- F. Transportation and greenway corridors will be supported by the community standards of aesthetic, urban design and environmental stewardship in both location and design.
- G. We will take measures to ensure that vehicular traffic will not harm the residential nature of our neighborhoods.
- H. Traffic calming features that slow the speed of traffic and enhance safety and aesthetics without creating congestion will be a part of our street network design.
- I. Foster a Regional (MPO) approach to Public Transit emphasizing critical services outside of Clarke County, such as Health Care, Education, Employment and Recreation.
- J. Designs of the pedestrian access should consider the needs of our aging population, children and persons with special needs and other pedestrians to include features such as 'islands' in the center, crossing guards, longer walk lights and reduced distances.

*Potential Policies*

- A. Continue to utilize the Official Street Map identifying the planned location of all new major roadways and connections, including alternate transportation pathways, between major residential and commercial developments.
- B. Design all new and reconstructed roadways to reflect community standards of aesthetics, environmental stewardship and urban design. Athens-Clarke County will commit to maintaining these standards with government projects.
- C. Design new or reconstructed streets to accommodate fully multiple functions, including pedestrian movements, parking, alternate modes of transportation and local vehicular circulation.
- D. Include sidewalks and bicycle lanes in the design of all new or reconstructed roadways.

- E. Use public transit, such as the Athens Transit System, as a tool to organize the arrangement of higher density land uses, particularly multi-family developments, in the community.
- F. Encourage high density development adjacent to the multi-modal center.
- G. Provide increased via a county-wide network of greenways or pathways.
- H. Address increased capacity within the Athens Perimeter through multi-modal options and high occupancy vehicle incentives.
- I. Create internal circulation networks (add) and interconnections within commercial and industrial developments to avoid overdependence upon Athens-Clarke County's arterial street network.
- J. Design parking and circulation routes within commercial centers as distinct streets with landscaped sidewalks, shade trees, small courtyards
- K. (Note - as a short term work program - consider adding this to the ordinance.)
- L. Provide for vehicular circulation routes in new neighborhoods that distribute traffic evenly, avoid excessive traffic and speed on any one street and have street block lengths that discourage speeding. Integrate traffic calming designs and techniques to reduce the speed of traffic as a part of all development and redevelopment.
- M. Require internal street systems within multi-family and non-residential development that enhance circulation and provide for on-street parking.

*Vision Statement*

To enact land use policies that support Smart Growth.

*Potential Issues and Opportunities*

- A. Our community will use land effectively to avoid the costs and problems associated with urban sprawl.
- B. We will preserve the rural character and the opportunity for agricultural and forestry activities to remain a vital part of our community.
- C. We will develop a recognizable transition from the urban to the rural areas of our community.
- D. We will support urban and suburban development where it can be adequately served by public facilities as designated in the Comprehensive Plan.
- E. A higher level of urban services (sewer, water, fire, police, recreation, etc.) will be provided to areas of our community that we want to develop at urban-level densities.
- F. We will be committed to redeveloping and enhancing existing commercial and industrial areas located within our community.
- G. We will encourage developments that provide a mix of shopping, housing, recreation, and jobs.
- H. We will support opportunities for residential and non-residential in-fill development that positively impacts the character of existing neighborhoods.
- I. Recreation and greenspace will become an integral facet of our community's land use.

Potential Policies:

1. Create incentives for agricultural areas on the periphery of the urban area to remain as productive agricultural lands by using techniques such as transfer of development rights, conservation easements and open space subdivisions.
2. Designate areas that are predominantly rural in character as a boundary for limiting expansion of urban development.

3. Extend water and sewer service into existing and future urban areas where urban densities are desired and consistent with the Comprehensive Plan.
4. Promote increases in residential densities in areas that meet community design standards, environmental constraints and available infrastructure capacities.
5. Make as a priority the development of mixed uses, redevelopment and revitalization of existing underutilized commercial and industrial areas over development of new land for commercial purposes.
6. Permit appropriately designed mixed use developments that facilitate efficient and attractive employment and residential opportunities and enable these areas to function as centers of community life.
7. Facilitate, through incentives and standards, commercial development and redevelopment as distinct commercial centers while discouraging "strip commercial" (development characterized by shallow commercial frontages along major thoroughfares, with multiple curb cuts, large front yard parking, single-storied and often single-purpose buildings, with minimal pedestrian access).
8. Encourage redevelopment and in-fill over development of new property on the periphery of the urban area.
9. Implement redevelopment of Downtown-East.
10. Encourage downtown parking structures to incorporate retail opportunities.
11. Encourage development of additional retail shopping and restaurants in the downtown area.