



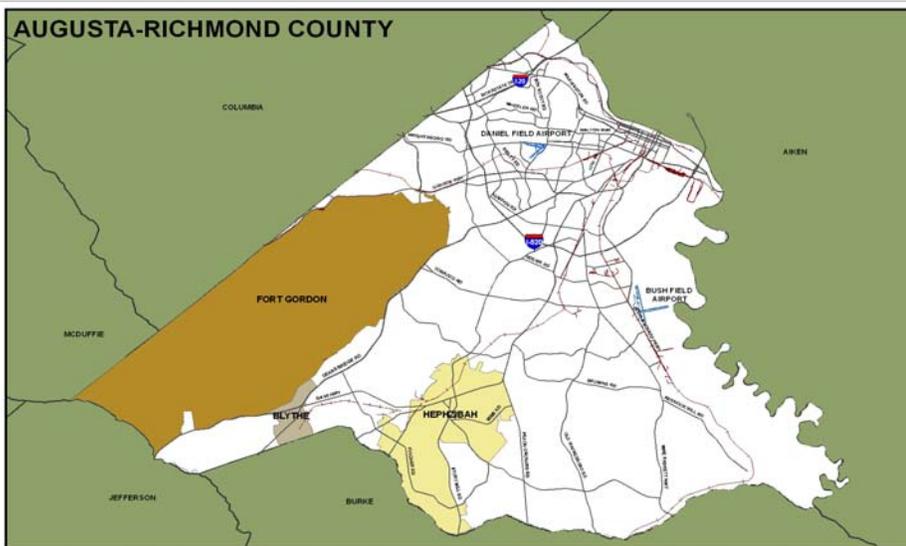
AUGUSTA-RICHMOND COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE

WHAT'S IT ABOUT?

CONTACTS

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The Augusta-Richmond County Planning Commission has initiated the process to update the Augusta-Richmond County Comprehensive Plan. The Comprehensive Plan is a plan for managing and guiding Augusta's development over the next 20 years. The existing Comprehensive Plan was adopted by the Augusta Commission in February 2004. Since then many changes have taken place in the city and many community improvement projects have been completed. The updated Plan must be adopted by **October 31, 2008**.



GET INVOLVED?

The Planning Commission invites you to become involved in updating the Comprehensive Plan. Public participation methods have been specifically designed to aid your understanding of the plan update process, keep you informed as the project advances and solicit your input. You can become involved in several ways:

- **Attend a Public Meeting or Hearing**—An initial round of public meetings was held during the month of January. Additional public meetings will be held within the next 60-75 days. This newsletter includes

feedback from the public received during the initial meetings.

- **Complete a Survey**— The issues and Opportunities Survey is designed to obtain input on the vision for the future of Augusta and the issues that residents want to address in the Comprehensive Plan.
- **Provide Feedback on Plan Documents**— The Community Assessment, Community Participation Program and the Community Agenda are the three basic elements of the

Comprehensive Plan. The draft Community assessment and draft Community Participation Program are already available for review and comment. The Community Agenda will be developed at a later stage in the plan update process.

- **Visit the Project Website**—The project website includes basic information about the Comprehensive Plan, the project schedule, survey forms, public meeting information, and project documents. The website will be updated as the project progresses.
- **Contact the Planning Commission**—The Planning Commission staff will answer your questions about the project, solicit your input and provide you with project updates.



"In the next ten (10) years, Augusta should become a city of fairness for all people regardless of race or age"
— Gracewood Community Center Resident

ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES



“One thing about Augusta I would like to change/improve is people taking pride in their property and city.” – Garrett Elementary

Population Issues:

- Improving educational attainment figures to a level that is consistent with state-level education figures.
- Increasing employment and housing options for Augusta’s young adult population to remain in town.
- Decreasing the consistently high percentage of Augusta families living in poverty.

Economic Development Issues:

- Collaborating with local and regional economic development agencies to develop a diverse economy based on multiple industry sectors and ensure employment opportunities in the city.
- Attracting new businesses that complement the existing mix of business and take advantage of our strengths.
- Continuing to diversify the economic base of the city and ensure employment opportunities are available for the varying income levels of Augusta's population.

“In the next 10 years, Augusta should become a city that will have more housing and job opportunities for all Augustans”-Carrie Mays Community Center

Housing Issues:

- Removing dilapidated housing to protect health, safety and welfare of residents and to facilitate the construction of new housing.
- Meeting the housing needs of the homeless, the disabled and others in need.
- Providing flexibility in standards and regulations to permit a mix of housing types and densities in a single development.



“One thing about Augusta I would like to change/improve is demolish abandoned structures, a cleaner Augusta” – Laney-Walker Community Resident

Natural Resources Issues:

- Protecting the quality of surface drinking water sources (i.e. rivers, creeks, ponds, etc.) from the effects of new development.

Community Facilities Issues:

- Providing adequate public safety (law enforcement, fire protection and emergency services) facilities and services.

- Supporting new and / or improved cultural and entertainment facilities that enhance the quality of life and contribute to tourism and economic development.

- Eliminating drainage problems within the city.

“In the next 10 years, Augusta should become a city that will have ample entertainment of all types coming to the City and surrounding areas”- Henry Brigham Senior Center

Transportation Issues:

- Increasing access to, and financing of public transportation.
- Implement the on-street and off-street bicycle projects listed in the regional bicycle and pedestrian plan.
- Increasing pedestrian safety and access to all portions of the city.

“One thing about Augusta I would like to change/improve is Interconnectivity of neighborhoods with walking trails/sidewalks”- Flowing Wells Fire Station #15

Land Use Issues:

- Improving the appearance of gateways and commercial corridors.
- Promoting infill development as a priority over development on the urban fringe.

“One thing about Augusta I would like to change/improve is more retail services in South Augusta, like grocery shopping, banking, and good restaurants” - McBean Community Resident

WHAT'S NEXT?

- **February** – Hold public hearing and transmit Community Assessment and Community Participation Program to the Regional Development Center (RDC)
- **February / March** – RDC review of Community Assessment and Community Participation Program
- **March / April** – Hold second round of public meetings