



## Meeting Summary *Countywide Kick-Off Meeting*

**Meeting Date:** May 10, 2016

**Location:** Hall County Government Center (2875 Browns Bridge Road)

**Consultants and Staff Attending:**

### **Hall County Planning**

Srikanth Yamala, Hall County  
Planning Director

Chris Chavis, Principal Planner

### **Hall County Administration**

Randy Knighton, County Manager

### **Consultant Support**

Paige Hatley, Amec Foster Wheeler

Demi Patch, Amec Foster Wheeler

Inga Kennedy, PEQ

Marla Hill, PEQ

### **Meeting Summary:**

1. The meeting began at 5:30 and each attendee was asked to sign in and given a fact sheet, comment form and survey for completion. Attendees were then guided to a map of the county which they were asked to mark with the location of their residence. Next, attendees were invited to post suggestions on a "Big Ideas for Hall County" board, review a map of the original Comprehensive Plan (2004-2005) and a map of the 2040 Regional Transportation Plan (2015 update) for the Hall County region. Each attendee was encouraged to revisit the "Big Ideas" board after the presentation, to record any suggestions that might have been inspired by what they heard.
2. The attendees convened for a formal presentation at 6:00. Srikanth Yamala, Director of Planning for Hall County, welcomed the attendees, introduced Project Manager Paige

Hatley, reviewed the history of the previous Comprehensive Land Use Plan, and explained the goals for updating the 2004-05 Plan.

3. Project Manager Paige Hatley introduced team members Demi Patch, Inga Kennedy and Marla Hill, then gave attendees a brief primer on comprehensive planning. She discussed the nature of the Comprehensive Plan, that it is a guide for policy development, not a codified document such as an ordinance. She also explained that the last comprehensive plan had been completed in collaboration with the City of Gainesville ten years previously, and updated in 2009. The City of Gainesville elected to do their own separate update in 2012. The County is required by the state of Georgia to update its comprehensive plan every five years, and an update is due by 2017. The current plan update will fulfill that requirement and cover land use in unincorporated Hall County. Other plans that will be considered as part of the plan update process include Vision 2030, a strategic plan developed by the Hall County Chamber of Commerce; county municipalities' comprehensive plans; and the Gainesville-Hall Regional Transportation Plan (2015 update). (Full presentation at <http://www.hallcounty.org/DocumentCenter/View/2878>).
4. Next, Inga Kennedy of PEQ discussed the County's commitment to public involvement during the comprehensive plan update process and offered ways that the public can get information and give feedback. These included additional open house meetings, displays at County events, project web page (<http://www.hallcounty.org/906/Hall-County-Comprehensive-Plan-Update>), the online survey (available in English and Spanish; see project web page for access), and attending community and association meetings upon invitation. Attendees were also invited to attend a Visioning Workshop on June 10 at 6 p.m. (Commission Meeting Room, Hall County Government Center, 2875 Browns Bridge Road, Gainesville).
5. Attendees were then invited to ask questions and make comments:

- ***What is the timeline for the project website?***

The project website will go live the week of May 10 and will include links to the survey, meeting summaries, and access for leaving feedback. The schedule as shown in the presentation is a placeholder for now but dates, times and locations will be set in the near future.

- ***Is it okay to share information about the Comprehensive Plan Update on our own social media?***

Absolutely! We welcome your assistance with getting the word out and encouraging your neighbors to participate.

- ***I was involved in the 2004 process. The issues that came up included that people want quality growth, and preservation of greenspace. All of this attracts commercial business, which brings jobs. Hall County also has the educational institutions to attract people. Greenspace is often a sensitive subject, but we should want to increase it voluntarily, not wait until it is forced.***

In the previous comprehensive plan, there were only two sets of criteria for required greenspace. It's time to look at alternatives, a way to give and get without having to go through planned development.

Since 2005, there are more new and enhanced transportation corridors, plus plans for a new interchange, which will have a huge impact. Project quality is being enhanced along with increase in development activity.

6. The meeting was adjourned.

- **Submitted Comment Forms**

- Look forward to sharing you info with fellow real estate agents, neighbors and family. Thank you!

Some attendees posted suggestions on the "Big Ideas" board and gave recommendations for additional contacts. Those comments are captured below.

- *Important groups to connect with include the Farm Bureau and the Lion's Club.*
- *Gainesville needs a bypass perimeter highway like I-285 to deal with increased traffic.*
- *After the completion of the four lanes on Highway 29, consider developing it as the new gateway into Gainesville.*
- *Celebrate and encourage what is unique about this area.*
- *To help preserve greenspace, offer a tax incentive to those with acreage, but not in covenants; on a year-by-year timeframe.*
- *For Hall County to have a comprehensive connected network of greenspace is a "quality of life issue."*
- *Explore creative ways to use existing structures, i.e., Communiversality*
- *Connect greenspace and promote passive recreation*
- *More efforts to preserve lakeshore erosion*
- *Hwy. 53, Hwy . 60 – more access roads into/exit of new community developments*
- *Cut down number of red lights to improve traffic flow*