

LOWNDES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM

SUBJECT: 2021 Comprehensive Plan Adoption

DATE OF MEETING: November 9, 2021

Work Session/Regular Session

BUDGET IMPACT: N/A

FUNDING SOURCE:

- Annual
- Capital
- N/A
- SPLOST
- TSPLOST

COUNTY ACTION REQUESTED ON: 2021 Comprehensive Plan Adoption

HISTORY, FACTS AND ISSUES: The main purposes of the comprehensive plan are communication and guidance. The communication aspects of the plan help illustrate both the current conditions and the potential future conditions of the community. At its foundation, the comprehensive plan's role in guiding the community is to provide recommendations; some with specific goals and policies, others with general consistency with the overall plan itself. Local requirements that have been increasing in recent years are most commonly reflected in a framework of how staff evaluates various information that is decided upon by elected officials, such as rezoning cases, telecommunication towers cases, and text amendments.

Transitioning from the main purposes to the process, for the better part of the last year, staff at the Southern Georgia Regional Commission (SGRC) have worked on updating the Comprehensive Plan for each of the Greater Lowndes local governments. In addition to SGRC staff, input on the plan has been obtained from local government staff, elected officials, community organizations, and members of the public. This request represents the official LCBOC consideration of the 2021 Greater Lowndes Comprehensive Plan. Pending LCBOC direction and adoption, this plan is still able to be changed through official LCBOC consideration. For future reference, typical Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA) schedules set the next required updates to the plan in 2026 and 2031. It should also be noted that while the plan has been prepared jointly by the SGRC, each individual local government is responsible for the adoption of its own Comprehensive Plan.

Concerning public input, two required VDT notices have been published, along with community workshops and additional stakeholder meetings focused on the Future Development Map were held. Overall, the major changes to the plan include the addition of the broadband element regarding access and future deployment of internet access in rural areas, and the Character Area or Future Development Map.

The Georgia Department of Community Affairs has reviewed the 2021 Greater Lowndes County Comprehensive Plan and Staff recommends authorizing the Chairman to sign the Resolution.

OPTIONS: 1) Board's Pleasure

2) Authorize the Chairman to sign the attached resolution