



The Fort Benning Regional Growth Management Plan is funded by a grant from the Department of Defense, Office of Economic Adjustment, an agency charged with helping BRAC-affected communities adjust to the impacts of mission changes at military installations

# Fort Benning

## REGIONAL GROWTH MANAGEMENT PLAN

# Quality of Life Task Force Meeting

January 22, 2009



In association with:



# Regionalism is the Key



# Project Purpose

RGMP Study Area:  
(10 Counties – 35 Mile Radius)

## Ten County Study Area:

### Georgia

- Columbus - Muscogee
- Cusseta - Chattahoochee
- Harris
- Marion
- Talbot
- Taylor
- Stewart

### Alabama

- Barbour
- Lee
- Russell



## Identify:

- What growth will occur?
- Where will it occur?
- Impacts to local communities
- Action plans to prepare

# Task Review Summary

TASK	Phase 1		Phase 2		Region		REMARKS
	Status	Due	Status	Due	Status	Due	
1: ID Existing Conditions & Issues	<b>C</b>	12/31/08	<b>C</b>	3/31/09	<b>C</b>	3/31/09	
2: Growth Forecast & Modeling	<b>C</b>	12/31/08	<b>G</b>	3/31/09	<b>G</b>	3/31/09	No issues
3: Economic Impact Analysis	<b>C</b>	12/31/08	<b>G</b>	3/31/09	<b>G</b>	3/31/09	No issues
4: Transportation	<b>C</b>	12/31/08	<b>G</b>	3/31/09	<b>G</b>	3/31/09	No issues
5: Utilities & Infrastructure	<b>C</b>	12/31/08	<b>G</b>	3/31/09	<b>G</b>	3/31/09	No issues
6: Housing Market Analysis	<b>C</b>	12/31/08	<b>G</b>	3/31/09	<b>G</b>	3/31/09	No issues
7: Education	<b>C</b>	12/31/08	<b>G</b>	3/31/09	<b>G</b>	3/31/09	No issues
8: Land Use Planning	<b>C</b>	12/31/08	<b>G</b>	3/31/09	<b>G</b>	3/31/09	No issues
9: Regional Mapping	<b>C</b>	12/31/08	<b>G</b>	3/31/09	<b>G</b>	3/31/09	Some counties no GIS
10: Public Engagement & Comm.	<b>G</b>	12/31/08	<b>G</b>	3/31/09	<b>G</b>	3/31/09	Website maintenance
11: Environmental Impacts	<b>C</b>	12/31/08	<b>G</b>	3/31/09	<b>G</b>	3/31/09	No issues
12A: Health Care	<b>G</b>	12/31/08	<b>G</b>	3/31/09	<b>G</b>	3/31/09	Regional focus
12B: Social Services	<b>C</b>	12/31/08	<b>G</b>	3/31/09	<b>G</b>	3/31/09	No issues
13: Public Safety & Emergency Services	<b>C</b>	12/31/08	<b>G</b>	3/31/09	<b>G</b>	3/31/09	No issues
14: Quality of Life	<b>C</b>	12/31/08	<b>G</b>	3/31/09	<b>G</b>	3/31/09	No issues
15: Fiscal Analysis & Sustainability	<b>G</b>	12/31/08	<b>G</b>	3/31/09	<b>G</b>	3/31/09	Pending other impacts
16: Implementation	<b>G</b>	12/31/08	<b>G</b>	3/31/09	<b>G</b>	3/31/09	Coord. w/RDC&COG



Complete



On Track



Issues



At Risk



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# *Agenda*

- Overview of Progress to Date
- Summary of Recommendations, with Review and Input
- Future Actions
- Discussion

## • Progress to Date

- Five county reports have been drafted
  - ▶ Columbus-Muscogee, Cusseta-Chattahoochee, Harris, Lee and Russell
- Task Force Members are reviewing reports pertinent to their counties
- All five reports still in draft form
- Work has begun on the next five counties
  - ▶ Barbour, Marion, Stewart, Talbot and Taylor

## • **Summary of Recommendations**

### – Six Areas:

- ▶▶ Arts and Cultural Resources
- ▶▶ Historic Preservation
- ▶▶ Libraries
- ▶▶ Parks, Recreation and Open Space
- ▶▶ Religion
- ▶▶ Senior Services

– Arts and cultural resources is being treated at both the county and the regional levels

– Religion is being discussed primarily regionally

## • Arts and Cultural Resources

- Two primary areas of arts focus
  - ▶ Columbus, Georgia
  - ▶ Auburn, Alabama
- Some very exciting things happening, albeit on a smaller scale, in other counties
- Two aspects of arts and cultural resources
  - ▶ Attendance, Viewing, Visiting
  - ▶ Participation
- More opportunities for participation in the arts and cultural resources centers

# *Arts and Cultural Resources*

## • **Recommendations**

- Regionally, an umbrella arts group be formed to foster the arts (attendance and participation) across the ten-county region
- Satellite programs be developed under the auspices of established programs to extend participation opportunities to the less populated areas
- This regional approach would provide a two-way street: Not only would it extend the opportunities available in the population centers to less populated areas, but it would bring the resources of those areas to the population centers

# Arts and Cultural Resources

## • Examples

- Russell County has terrific cultural resources with the Riverwalk Amphitheater in Phenix City and with the emphasis on Native American culture in the Fort Mitchell area
- The craft centers which are found in the Opelika area in Lee County and in the Pine Mountain area of Harris County would be more publicized throughout the region
- The development of a regional arts and cultural resources website, with appropriate links and emailed newsletters, would open up communication between the various arts communities in the region
- The various festivals which are regularly held around the ten-county region would receive regionwide publicity

# Historical Preservation

- The ten-county area has a wealth of historical treasures
  - ▶ Native American
  - ▶ Early Frontier
  - ▶ Early Statehood
  - ▶ Civil War
  - ▶ Victorian
- Every county has listings on the National Register of Historic Places and has Georgia Historical Markers

# *Historic Preservation*

## **–Excellent Efforts Are Underway**

- ▶▶ Lee County in the Auburn-Opelika and the Loachapoka Areas
- ▶▶ Harris County In And Around Callaway
- ▶▶ Columbus-Muscogee County With Historic District
- ▶▶ Cusseta-Chattahoochee County With Its Jailhouse
- ▶▶ Russell County in the Fort Mitchell Area

# Historic Preservation

## • Recommendations

### – Examples by County

- ▶ Columbus-Muscogee: The Spencer House
- ▶ Cusseta-Chattahoochee: Continued efforts at the jailhouse and also regarding Native Americans
- ▶ Harris County: Prioritize a listing of properties needing preservation and/or renovation
- ▶ Lee County: Extend efforts into more rural areas
- ▶ Russell County: Continue efforts around Fort Mitchell and Fort Apalachicola

### – Regionally

- ▶ The ten-county area does fall under the auspices of the Historic Chattahoochee Commission, but a more region-specific coalition of historical societies is recommended. Key objectives would be communication and the promotion of tourism
- ▶ The new museums at Fort Benning need to be regionally used by schools, convention bureaus, veterans groups, etc.

# Parks, Recreation and Open Space

- **Impressive!**

County	2008 Popula tion	2028 Popul ation	Current Open Space in Acres	Required Open Space in Acres 2008	Required Open Space in Acres 2028	Open Space to be Added for Complia nce 2028
AL: Lee	130,530	164,169	2,575	1,305	1,642	Compliant
AL: Russell	51,156	60,805		512	608	Compliant
GA: Columbus-Muscogee	189,729	214,277	24,304	1,898	2,142	Compliant
GA: Cusseta-Chattahoochee	13,991	14,156	Approx 250**	140	142	Compliant
GA: Harris	28,785	42,761	13,174*	278	428	Compliant
<b>Regional Incl. All Ten Counties</b>	470,137	553,601	Approx 18,300	4701	5,536	Compliant

\*At a minimum

\*\*County is mostly rural



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# *Parks, Recreation and Open Space*

Every county has listings on the National Register of Historic Places and has Georgia Historical Markers

The ten-county area has a wealth of historical treasures

- ▶▶ Native American
- ▶▶ Early Frontier
- ▶▶ Early Statehood
- ▶▶ Civil War
- ▶▶ Victorian

## • **Recommendations**

- Continue to emphasize Internet services, with remote access, especially in rural areas, in all counties
- Some specific recommendations:
  - ▶ Russell County: Explore means to renovate Phenix-City Russell County Library, possibly via technology grant
  - ▶ Harris County: Continue efforts to renovate or replace library facility in Hamilton
  - ▶ Columbus-Muscogee County: Add a branch, possibly in conjunction with Parks and Recreation Department, in north area of the county.

# *Task Force Responsibilities*

- 1) Review task, scope and methodology
- 2) Confirm existing conditions and known issues
- 3) Establish points of contact for data collection
- 4) Review findings and recommendations
- 5) Communicate with community regarding actions and status of Plan
- 6) Provide guidance in Plan implementation

# *Parks, Recreation and Open Space*

## **• Recommendations**

### – Regionally

- ▶ Preserve what we have now
- ▶ Review carefully the Land Use section of RGMP, including buffers, green space, etc
- ▶ Support bike trails and paths and pedestrian access
- ▶ Provide linkages between counties

### – Regionally

- ▶ The ten-county area does fall under the auspices of the Historic Chattahoochee Commission, but a more region-specific coalition of historical societies is recommended. Key objectives would be communication and the promotion of tourism
- ▶ The new museums at Fort Benning need to be regionally used by schools, convention bureaus, veterans groups, etc.

# Religion

## • **Approached Regionally Only**

- Apparent that challenges and issues were the same throughout the region
- Communication to new residents regarding religious options
- Religious tolerance and interfaith cooperation with growing diversity
- Support service coordination
  - ▶ Counseling
  - ▶ Grief support
  - ▶ Divorce and family support
  - ▶ Substance abuse support
  - ▶ Education programs

# Senior Services

## • Greatest Challenge is Growing Population

- Growth Forecasting section will show that four of five counties are anticipated to have “significant” growth in the 65 and over population
  - ▶ Columbus-Muscogee County
  - ▶ Harris County
  - ▶ Lee County
  - ▶ Russell County
- New residents, coming here for jobs, may well bring aging relatives with them
- Normal aging of the population

## • Other Challenges

- Demand for a variety of programs and activities
- Exceptional needs of special, aging population
- Transportation

## • Recommendations

- Regionally, the recommendations are very similar
  - ▶ Continue development of access to senior services
  - ▶ Consider new locations
  - ▶ Continue to expand scope and nature of programs for seniors

# *Future Actions*

## • **Actions**

- Work is being done on next five counties
- Regional Report will be fashioned
- Regional solutions will be stressed in that report
  - ▶ Strong recommendation for the Main Street program
  - ▶ Regional groups, crossing county and state lines, recommended above
  - ▶ Funding applications are frequently favored if a regional approach is taken

# *Future Actions*

## • **Deliverables**

- One report per county, covering all aspects of the RGMP report, including Quality of Life, Transportation, Education and many others
- One regional report which will provide the overarching framework

# Contact Information



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