

## 7.1.0.0: Intergovernmental Coordination

### Inventory

#### Adjacent Local Governments

**Relationship to the Comprehensive Plan:** Long County and its only incorporated municipality, Ludowici, participated in and developed a joint Comprehensive Growth Management Plan in 1994. Although not participating jointly with the 2004 comprehensive plan update, participation between the local governments is frequent and cooperative.

**Existing Coordination Mechanisms:** Long County and Ludowici have a history of cooperation and coordination. In 1997 the two jurisdictions implemented a formal SPLOST agreement to benefit education that outlines the use of tax revenues for each jurisdiction, tax appropriations for each type of project allowed under the agreement, as well as distribution breakdowns by jurisdiction and project type. The city and county also have other coordinated efforts including cemeteries, tax collection, magistrate court, tax assessor, clerk of court and the extension service. The county commission and city councils meet informally several times a year to discuss coordination efforts.

#### School Boards

**Relationship to the Comprehensive Plan:** Two representatives from the school board served on the comprehensive plan advisory committee. In addition, the county chairman gives presentations at regular school board meetings in order to gain insight to the school board's various needs. The school board consults the comprehensive plan for data and direction when in school funding matters.

**Existing Coordination Mechanisms:** Long County is a member of the Three Rivers Regional Library system that also includes Brantley, Camden, Charlton, Glynn, McIntosh and Wayne counties. The Long County Public Library is located in Ludowici and the city and county jointly pay the operating costs of the Long County library. There is also a coordinated effort between Long County local governments and the school board to provide recreational opportunities. The governmental departments coordinate with the school system to share athletic facilities.

#### Independent Special Districts

There are no independent special districts in Long County and/or Ludowici.

## **Industrial Development Authorities**

**Relationship to the Comprehensive Plan:** Long County is served by the Long County/Ludowici Industrial Development Authority. The industrial development authority refers to the comprehensive plan, for data, guidance, and implementation purposes, more than any other authority within the county. As a result, the comprehensive plan is a document these organizations will use to develop future projects.

**Existing Coordination Mechanisms:** The Long County Chamber of Commerce and the Long County/Ludowici Industrial Development Authority serve Long County. The Industrial Authority is a branch of the Long County Chamber of Commerce. The two organizations hold joint meetings and work together on economic development projects.

## **Utility Companies**

**Relationship to the Comprehensive Plan:** Two utility companies provide service to customers in Long County and Ludowici. Georgia Power provides service to all jurisdictions while the Canoochee Electric Membership Corporation provides service to some areas. There are no relationships between utility companies and the comprehensive plan.

**Existing Coordination Mechanisms:** Although no formal process for coordinating activities is in the place, the county and city clerks within their jurisdictions have primary responsibility for coordination.

## **Service Delivery Strategy**

The Service Delivery Strategy identifies several agreements between Ludowici and Long County and with neighboring jurisdictions. Cooperation in carrying out these agreements is generally managed at the staff level on a day-to-day basis. They include agreements:

- Between Long County and the City of Ludowici for the Long County to provide fire services;
- Between Long County and Wayne County and Liberty County to provide housing for Long County inmates;
- Between Long County, the City of Ludowici to share the operations cost of the public library;
- Between Long County and the City of Ludowici for the county to provide certain public works assistance such as road plowing;
- Between Long County and the City of Ludowici for Emergency Management services including rescue services; and
- Between Long County and the Cities of Ludowici on an adopted joint dispute resolution process for resolving land use disputes and annexation disputes.

### **Governor's Greenspace Program**

Long County and the municipalities do not qualify for Greenspace grants and therefore have not participated in the Governor's Greenspace Program.

### **Coastal Management**

Long County lies within the eleven-county organizational boundary of the Georgia Coastal Management Program. The Coastal Advisory Council links Program components to local governments and provides a means by which communities and the coastal managers can communicate. The Long County Board of Commissioners has a permanent seat on the Coastal Advisory Council and the county regularly participates in the activities of the Council. Long County benefits from direct technical assistance and training opportunities provided by the Georgia Coastal Management Program and from project funding by the Coastal Incentive Grants Program.

### **Appalachian Regional Commission**

Long County is not located within the Appalachian Regional Commission.

### **Water Planning Districts**

Long County is not located within a state designated water-planning district.

### **Transportation Requirements for Non-Attainment Areas**

Long County is not located within a non-attainment area.

## **7.2.0.0: Assessment**

### **Land Use Conflicts at Jurisdictional Borders**

Existing coordination mechanisms are important both regionally and within jurisdictions. Long County and neighboring counties have no land use conflicts at jurisdictional borders due to the lack of development at or near their respective boundaries. There are no formal mechanisms in place to ensure future conflicts can be resolved. Part of the Governor's Road Improvement Program (GRIP) to provide four-lane highway access to most Georgia communities, has the potential to alter traffic patterns given Long County's proximity to major highways. One of the primary purposes of GRIP is to encourage development in the state's smaller communities. Historically, major highway projects have encouraged development in scattered areas, primarily commercial development as a response to increases in traffic. Such conflicts with land use patterns are not expected to arise in Long County due to the ample availability of developable land and the county's existing efforts to locate commercial and industrial development in designated corridors. In the event that such conflicts should arise, the Coastal Georgia RDC serves as an *ad hoc* forum to resolve the issues.

Neither Long County nor Ludowici currently has land use regulations in place. Both governments have available developable land within their respective jurisdictions. Projections for Long County highlight high population and household growth over the planning period. Adequate land resources exist in Long County to accommodate the growth. One of the economic development objectives pursued jointly between Long County and Ludowici is to locate industrial development in an established industrial park where infrastructure is accommodated.

There were no incompatibilities or conflicts between the land use plans of Long County and Ludowici or between Long County and bordering counties identified in the development of this plan. Long County and the City of Ludowici have implemented a conflict resolution process. In 1998 the city and county adopted the Land Use and Annexation Dispute Process Resolution for use in the event of intra-county conflicts.

### **Lack of Information about Plans of Adjacent Communities**

Because of the regular meetings and coordinated efforts of local governments within Long County, the lack of information about plans, policies or other documents relating to the communities is not an issue. There exists an obvious effort by surrounding counties to coordinate economic development activities with Long County officials. Both the Liberty County Industrial Authority and the

Hinesville Metropolitan Planning Organization invite Long County officials to respective planning meetings and make efforts to keep Long County informed about development plans and projects. Coordination between the counties is especially apparent regarding Adult Technical Education as it is recognized that an educated and trained workforce is necessary to growth and development and preparing such a workforce is mutually beneficial.

### **Service Provision Overlaps or Conflicts**

Little potential conflict regarding service provision was identified in this planning effort. The existing mechanism of formal and informal coordination is currently adequate will be adequate through the planning period.

### **Annexation Issues Between Cities and Counties**

Long County and Ludowici have an existing annexation agreement in place and no annexation issues are expected. The existing agreement will continue to be adequate through the planning period.

### **Conflicting Development Projections and Public Facility Sitting**

Due to existing coordination mechanisms, meetings and information sharing, there are no issues related to conflicting development projections and public facility sitting. All public entities currently use consistent population projections and the sitting of public facilities, particularly schools, recreation facilities and industrial parks, have been and continue to be coordinated through the combined efforts of local governments, the school board, and the development authorities.

### **Issues Relating to Applicable State and Regional Programs**

No rising issues relating to state or Regional Programs were identified.

## **7.3.0.0: Goals and Implementation**

Goal 1: Maintain existing formal and informal intergovernmental coordination mechanisms within county jurisdictions, among neighboring jurisdictions, and within regional organizations.

Goal 2: Encourage, where outlined, formal intergovernmental coordination mechanisms.