

SECTION TEN INTERGOVERNMENTAL COORDINATION

INTERGOVERNMENTAL COORDINATION

The Intergovernmental Coordination element provides local governments an opportunity to inventory existing intergovernmental coordination mechanisms and processes with other local governments and governmental entities that can have profound impacts on the success of implementing the local government's comprehensive plan. The purpose of this element is to assess the adequacy and suitability of existing coordination mechanisms to serve the current and future needs of the community and articulate goals and formulate a strategy for effective implementation of community policies and objectives that, in many cases, involve multiple governmental entities.

INVENTORY OF EXISTING CONDITIONS

Carroll County and the cities of Bowdon, Mt. Zion, Temple, Roopville, Villa Rica and Whitesburg have adopted a verified Service Delivery Strategy. The strategy includes a land use dispute resolution process consisting of three levels of consultation on proposed annexations and land use changes within governments' zones of influence. First, notification is required of any proposed annexation or change of land use within the zone of influence. If a government takes issue with the proposed action, it first pursues informal negotiation with its partner. Third, if that process fails to produce a satisfactory result, the government may invoke a formal mediation process.

The Service Delivery Strategy identifies several formal agreements between governments. Cooperation in carrying out these agreements is generally managed at the staff level on a day-to-day basis.

- A mutual aid agreement between City and Carroll County for assistance with fighting fires.
- A contractual agreement for law enforcement between the Cities of Carroll County and the Carroll County Sheriff's office.
- An agreement for building inspection and fire safety inspection in the unincorporated county and the cities and the Carroll County code enforcement staff.
- An agreement between Carroll County and the Cities to provide emergency housing of prisoners in the county's jail in the event of overflow at the city facility.
- An agreement for the cities to provide certain recyclable materials recovery and processing for recyclables collected by the county.

The City of Villa Rica maintains its own full time recreation programs, but acknowledges that significant numbers of residents of unincorporated Carroll County participate in the programs, activities and facilities. Carroll County agreed to supplemental funding of the full-time Villa Rica recreation department.

The City of Villa Rica provides water supply and distribution to users within their service area.

The City of Villa Rica is a member of the Carroll County Water/Wastewater Study Committee. The study committee includes one member from each local governmental jurisdiction in Carroll County providing both the production and distribution of water and collection and treatment of wastewater (including the City of Villa Rica); a representative of the Carroll County Water Authority; three members geographically appointed by the Carroll County Board of Commissioners with professional expertise in the planning, design, operations, or major utilization of water/wastewater services.

From the Carroll County Service Delivery Strategy (1999) and the City of Villa Rica Comprehensive Plan (2006):

There is a formal agreement between the City of Villa Rica and the Sheriff to house city prisoners at the county jail in emergencies. The Sheriff has countywide jurisdiction within and outside each municipality of the County.

The City of Villa Rica appoints and funds the Villa Rica Board of Tourism (a volunteer organization) from hotel/motel taxes levied on guests staying in hotels/motels within the City of Villa Rica.

The City of Villa Rica has a Development Authority that focuses on the specific economic development needs of their community. In conjunction with the Development Authority of Villa Rica, the Carroll County Chamber of Commerce serves as the countywide clearinghouse, coordinator, recruiting, and marketing arm for economic development in Carroll County and its cities. The City of Villa Rica contributes to the Chamber for this purpose.

UTILITIES

There are three providers of electricity in Villa Rica: Carroll Electric Membership Corporation, Georgia Power, and Greystone Power. Although informal communication occurs among these entities, there is no formal process for coordinating activities. There are no formal procedures in place for coordination between any of the electric utilities and the city.

SCHOOL BOARD

The Carroll County Board of Education operates the schools serving Villa Rica. A small number of students living in the Mirror Lake Subdivision may elect to go to Mirror Lake Elementary, which is operated by the Douglas County Board of Education. The Carroll BOE schools serving Villa Rica include two elementary schools, one middle school, and one high school.

HEALTH

Tanner Health System operates a 92-bed hospital in Villa Rica that serves northeastern Carroll County, western Douglas County, and southeastern Paulding County. The Carroll County Health Department and West Georgia Family Medicine provide public health services. The county and city governments cooperate closely on a professional level on the issuance of various permits, including food service, septic tanks, and others.

STATE PROGRAMS

Appalachian Regional Commission

Carroll County and its cities are members of the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC), a development agency of the U.S. government, operated in all or part of thirteen states under the U.S. Department of Commerce. The Commission's mission is to mitigate the obstacles to social and economic development inherent in the Appalachian terrain and to promote economic development in the region. Participation in ARC makes the City of Villa Rica eligible to receive economic development grants. The local liaison for ARC is the Chattahoochee Flint Regional Development Center in Franklin, Georgia.

ASSESSMENT

Land Use

No land use conflicts were identified during plan development. No land use conflicts have been identified with any adjacent counties. A conflict resolution process is in place via the county service delivery strategy. It is deemed satisfactory, although it has not been used to date.

Identified Needs

Villa Rica has determined an urgent need for coordinating growth with water plant expansion, so they may continue to be self-reliant on the city's water supply. The City has already completed a Watershed Assessment and Management Plan in 2003. Georgia's Environmental Protection Division requires municipalities to conduct such an assessment as apart of the

permitting process for the expansion of water plants or the construction of new facilities.

Adequacy of Existing Coordination Mechanisms

The existing Service Delivery Strategy adopted by the county and the cities has been found to be satisfactory. Other regional and intra-county coordination mechanisms, organizations, and relationships are judged to be adequate and to provide sufficient sharing of information and planning among the governments of Carroll County, its neighbors, and regional organizations with which it is affiliated. With the exception of the multi-jurisdictional solutions for water supply and thoroughfares, there were no planned facilities, programs, goals, or implementation strategies identified in the development of this plan that are judged to require additional coordination mechanisms or to have impacts on other jurisdictions requiring new coordination mechanisms.

Needs

- Continued joint comprehensive planning approach to ensure a common basis is maintained for planning by all local governments and quasi-governmental agencies.
- Continued existing coordination through agreements and procedures already established.
- Cooperative approach to water supply in the Upper Little Tallapoosa River Basin.
- Coordination to ensure maximum benefit from tourism-related projects.

Vision

Establish formal relationship among governments and quasi-governmental entities within and outside Carroll County when necessary to eliminate duplication of services, minimize costs, and create opportunities for cooperation.

Continue informal cooperation at both the policy and staff levels for the same purpose.

Goals

- Maintain existing inter-governmental coordination mechanisms within the cities and counties and among partners in regional organizations.
- Investigate the potential for a regional or multi-jurisdictional approach to water supply in the Upper Little Tallapoosa River Basin.
- Maximize the benefit from tourism-related activities identified in this plan by coordinated efforts by Villa Rica, Carroll County, and appropriate state agencies.