

OCONEE COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

415 South Pine Street - Walhalla, SC



TEL (864) 638-4218 FAX (864) 638-4168

AGENDA

6:00 pm, Thursday January 11th, 2018

Council Chambers - Oconee County administrative complex

1. Call to Order
2. Invocation by County Council Chaplain
3. Pledge of Allegiance
4. Approval of Minutes – December 18th, 2017
5. Public Comment for Agenda and Non-Agenda Items (3 minutes)
6. Staff Update
7. Vote for Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson
 - To include Vote and/or Action on matters brought up for discussion if required.
 - a. Discussion by Commission
 - b. Commission Recommendation
8. Discussion on Comprehensive Plan Review
 - To include Vote and/or Action on matters brought up for discussion if required.
 - a. Discussion by Commission
 - b. Commission Recommendation
9. Discussion on priority items for 2018
 - To include Vote and/or Action on matters brought up for discussion, if required
 - a. Discussion by Commission
 - b. Commission Recommendation
10. Discussion on staff Traffic Research
 - To include Vote and/or Action on matters brought up for discussion, if required
 - a. Discussion by Commission
 - b. Commission Recommendation
11. Old Business
 - To include Vote and/or Action on matters brought up for discussion, if required
12. New Business
 - To include Vote and/or Action on matters brought up for discussion, if required
13. Adjourn

Anyone wishing to submit written comments to the Planning Commission can send their comments to the Planning Department by mail or by emailing them to the email address below. Please Note: If you would like to receive a copy of the agenda via email please contact our office, or email us at achapman@oconeesc.com.

OCONEE COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

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TEL (864) 638-4218 FAX (864) 638-4168

6:00 PM, Monday, 12/18/2017

COUNCIL CHAMBERS

OCONEE COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE COMPLEX

Members Present:

Mr. Kisker

Mr. Johnson

Mr. Vassey

Mr. Pearson

Ms. McPhail

Mr. Gramling

Ms. Lyles

Staff Present: David Root, County Attorney

Adam Chapman, Planner I – Community Development

Media Present: None

1. Call to Order

Mr. Kisker called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

2. Invocation by County Council Chaplain

Mr. Root gave the invocation.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

4. Approval of Minutes

a. December 4, 2017, as submitted

Mrs. McPhail – Motion

Mr. Pearson – Second

5. Public Comment for Agenda and Non-Agenda Items (3 minutes)

Mr. Markovich stated he is in favor of the setback removal language in the CFD for a commercial use.

6. Staff Updates

Mr. Chapman stated that next year is the 150 anniversary and Phil Shirley has a schedule of events for the upcoming year. There is a proposed PDD near Keowee but not on the lake for next year.

7. Discussion on January 2018 meeting dates

Mr. Chapman stated that in January the first four Mondays and Tuesdays are not available. Mr. Kisker stated that if the Planning Commission meets on January 29th that staff would only have one-week to prepare for the February 5th meetings. February 26th is out because of the Board of Zoning Appeals will meet that evening if any applications are submitted. Mrs. McFail and Mrs. Lyles stated that they couldn't attend a meeting on Wednesday's. Mr. Kisker asked about Thursday's in January and the members stated that Thursday's would work, so the 11th and 25th of January would be the dates and go back to second and fourth Monday's starting in February. A motion was made by Mrs. Lyles and seconded by Mr. Pearson. The vote was unanimous.

8. Discussion on Comprehensive Plan Review

Staff noted that the first two pages are in reference to the Housing Element and the CFD didn't match the Land Use Element. The proposed language "Control Free District, which, as the name indicates, imposes no use limitations on the parcel, [apart from perhaps setback requirements to the extent they are considered use limitations,] but establishes the conditions necessary to overlay limited performance standards in certain areas." This verbiage would make both Elements have the same meaning. The Economic Development Element was worked on by Erica Hodge and Mr. Blackwell with Economic Development Alliance reworked the entire Element. They weren't any updated information for the Agriculture section, the 2020 update will have much better farm data. The Transportation Element shows updated numbers for the Average Daily Trips (ADT's) along I-85, US 76/123, SC 28, and portions of SC 130, SC 183, SC 11, SC 59, SC 188 and Wells Highway. The Land Use Element was done by a consultant by an aerial fly over with a fee of \$160,000. Staff recommended adding the big projects for the review and can be updated better in 2020. There are only two Elements left for review the Land Use Element and the Priority Element, which should be ready for the next meeting.

9. Discussion on Corridors

Staff stated that County Council sent a letter to Mr. Kisker and Mr. Chapman about the Corridor development. The request was that safety is the most important topic Highway 123 being #1 priority #2 identify alternative routes nonpriority is design standards and signage. Staff's recommendation is to do a traffic research not a traffic study to see what exists as far as what already there. Mrs. Lyles asked if that would be something that the SCDOT would do. The SCDOT stated in a previous meeting that if the County comes up with a traffic research then they would work with us on the matter of curb cuts and helping the County implement projects but the County would need to fund the projects. Mr. Johnson asked if the maps have the most current data. Staff stated that the numbers come from different years and a new set of numbers could be possible for 2018. Council wants us to look at mitigating traffic and make safer roadways. Mrs. McPhail stated that she spent the afternoon making the drive that is of concern to Council and stated it is a nightmare. Mrs. McPhail also stated that the Planning Commission doesn't have the authority to make these decisions and unfortunately, the County needs to pay a professional to do the research on what the future holds for us. Mr. Kisker asked if getting Pickens County and City of Clemson's input on the traffic issue.

10. Discussion on removing Commercial setbacks within the Control Free District

Setback requirements do not apply to lot lines separating dwelling units which are part of a multi-family housing structure (e.g., townhouses).

As to multi-family housing structures located on one lot (e.g., duplexes or apartments), setback requirements apply only to the exterior perimeter wall of the entire structure.

Setback requirements do not apply to lot lines separating commercial units which are part of a multi-unit commercial structure (e.g., strip malls).

As to multi-unit commercial developments located on one lot (e.g. traditional malls, town centers, or mixed-use developments), setback requirements apply only to the exterior perimeter wall of the entire structure.

Mr. Root stated that the first paragraph will go before Council on December 19, 2017, for third and final reading. Mr. Root stated that Council asked the Planning Commission to create, as a second ordinance, the language regarding commercial setbacks, to be taken before Council for three readings. A motion was made by Mr. Pearson and a second by Mrs. McPhail to send the request to Council and it was a unanimous vote.

11. Discussion on adding the Control Free District to the Zoning Matrix

Staff stated the following; Sec. 38-10.1. - Establishment of base zoning districts Base zoning districts is created to provide comprehensive land use regulations throughout Oconee County. There are 14 base zoning districts that provide for a variety of uses that are appropriate to the character of the areas in which they are located in accordance with the Oconee County Comprehensive Plan. All permitted, conditional, and special exceptions are identified in the zoning use matrix.

Mrs. Lyles asked when zoning was introduced the residents didn't want to have regulations in the rural areas of Oconee County. Mr. Root stated when it was originally written in 2008 it was going to be governed by chapter 38 that why it wasn't part of the matrix. It was going to be part of chapter 32 as performance standards, but in 2015 they added setbacks to Control Free which made it part of chapter 38. Mr. Pearson stated that if CFD is put in the matrix it's going to confuse people that they can go back and forth. This was a top-down zoning that the Council did. Mr. Pearson stated he doesn't think it should be put in the matrix and if it's put in the matrix there needs to be a disclaimer stating that once you rezone out of the CFD the property could not go back to CFD. Mr. Johnson asked at a staff level should it be in the matrix. Staff stated for clarity purposes so it could be compared to other districts. Mr. Pearson made a motion to leave it like it is and Mrs. Lyles seconded the motion, the motion passed unanimously.

12. Old Business

None

13. New Business

Mrs. McPhail recommended adding an Agriculture Element to the Comprehensive Plan. Mrs. Lyles agreed with adding an Agriculture Element.

14. Adjourn

Mr. Pearson made the motion to adjourn at 7:01 PM

DRAFT

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Land Use Element

Introduction

This element focuses on the way land is used in Oconee County, and seeks to establish the direction that citizen's desire their community to grow, as well as identify the various tools deemed appropriate to guide this growth. Additionally, it examines existing usage by category, such as residential, commercial, industrial, etc., and attempts to anticipate the relative amount of land needed to accommodate future changes. The way land is utilized in a community impacts most aspects of our lives, therefore, the other elements of this Comprehensive Plan were a major consideration throughout the creation of this element.

Background

Land use in the Oconee County area has for centuries primarily been, in one way or another, focused on using the region's abundant natural resources. Situated at the edge of the Blue Ridge Mountains, the County is blessed with three distinct physiographic zones that traditionally offered a variety of opportunities for sustenance and economic gain. As a result, for centuries Oconee County's lands have supported mining, timbering, farming, and similar operations dependent on direct utilization of resources, supported by those tradesmen and merchants necessary to sustain them. Over time, communities and towns grew and prospered, developing the typical mix of service and trade activities found throughout much of the South, but the main focus of land use remained tied to our natural resources. Even the development of the textile industry beginning in the late 19th Century, which provided a major economic boost to the county, impacted land use only in limited areas, primarily in and around some of the towns. Therefore, Oconee County's historic land use patterns have been tied directly to its natural resources. In the last several decades, however, there has been a significant shift in this traditional pattern.

There are a number of factors to consider in evaluating the changes in land use patterns in Oconee County. Agriculture, for example, though still a significant part of the region's economic vitality, has a reduced land area footprint in recent years. ~~Therefore,~~ The amount of land previously devoted to farm-related activities has, in recent years, become available for other uses. Oconee County experienced a significant increase in population between 1980 and 2010. While the rate of growth slowed between 2010 and 2016, new residents continued to arrive. The demand for housing in some market sectors has also continued to grow. Higher end single family development remains a strong component of land use, with much of that focus on lakefront communities on the eastern side of the County. In addition, a boom is underway in student housing development, due primarily to growth in Clemson University's student population and its renewed prominence at the national level. The Clemson Academic Village project, located near Lake Hartwell west of Clemson will feature 947 beds. The Pier, a major student housing development begun in 2015, features apartments, cottages and tiny homes.

Traditional ways of land use, and those lifestyles associated with them, are going to be subjected to increasing pressure to conform to the same growing urbanization seen throughout our region. With this in mind, the goals expressed in this element will attempt to set the stage for identifying those critical challenges, and provide avenues for managing the outcomes. The decisions we make, and the successes or failures we may have in implementing the goals [of this Element](#), will impact the lives of generations of Oconeeans in the future.

Existing Conditions

The boundaries of Oconee County encompass a total area of approximately 428,800 acres, or roughly 670 square miles. Of this, the Oconee County Geographic Information System shows almost 600 square miles are land (587 square miles in the unincorporated areas), with the balance covered by lake surface. It should be noted that, due to large federal and state property holdings (including Sumter National Forest and Clemson University), approximately 25% of the county is preserved as forest lands.

In 2008, Oconee County worked with a consultant to obtain current land use data to use as a tool for planning. As this was the first such attempt to identify usage on a countywide parcel level, it was intended to serve as a good baseline for measuring [the](#) change in the future. A series of land use categories intended to delineate all of the more typical uses were defined by county staff prior to the project, and Kucera International, Inc., a world-wide geographic information consultant, reviewed each parcel and made determinations of land use based on obvious predominant utilization of the parcel. Among the information used to make the determinations included 2005 orthophotography of the county, and information from tax records. In some cases, the consultant was unable to make a reasonable determination, and the parcel's use was classed as 'Not Apparent'. For these, planning staff conducted a more detailed investigation, and in a number of instances performed site inspections to make a determination. Upon completion of the consultant's work, staff conducted a comprehensive review of the delivered information to identify any remaining errors and inconsistencies.

Following completion of the review, a series of Planning District land use maps were created. These maps were presented at a series of community meetings, with local maps highlighted at each session. Staff encouraged citizens to study the maps, paying particular attention to those parcels in and around their community. To further facilitate the review, copies were made available on the internet, along with e-mail capable comment forms. At the end of 6 meetings conducted over several months in various areas of the county, only 4 errors were identified by the public, indicating that the overall accuracy of the data was extremely high.

It should be stressed that determinations of use were made based on the predominant obvious utilization of each parcel, which in some cases required subjective determinations. This made the public review and comment opportunities all the more critical. In a few situations, the amount of information available was insufficient to make a determination with confidence; however, such cases were few. Typically, the use was apparent, or in the case of mixed uses, one was clearly more significant. For example, large timbered parcels

containing relatively small fields were designated Forest (Private). In other cases where the mix of uses appeared to be equally significant, such as would be the case for parcels utilized for both home and business, they were considered Multi-Use. It is understood that, as with any task dealing with so many parcels, some errors were made in evaluating the information available. For the purposes of the project, however, based on the feedback from the public reviews, the overall trends shown are accurate.

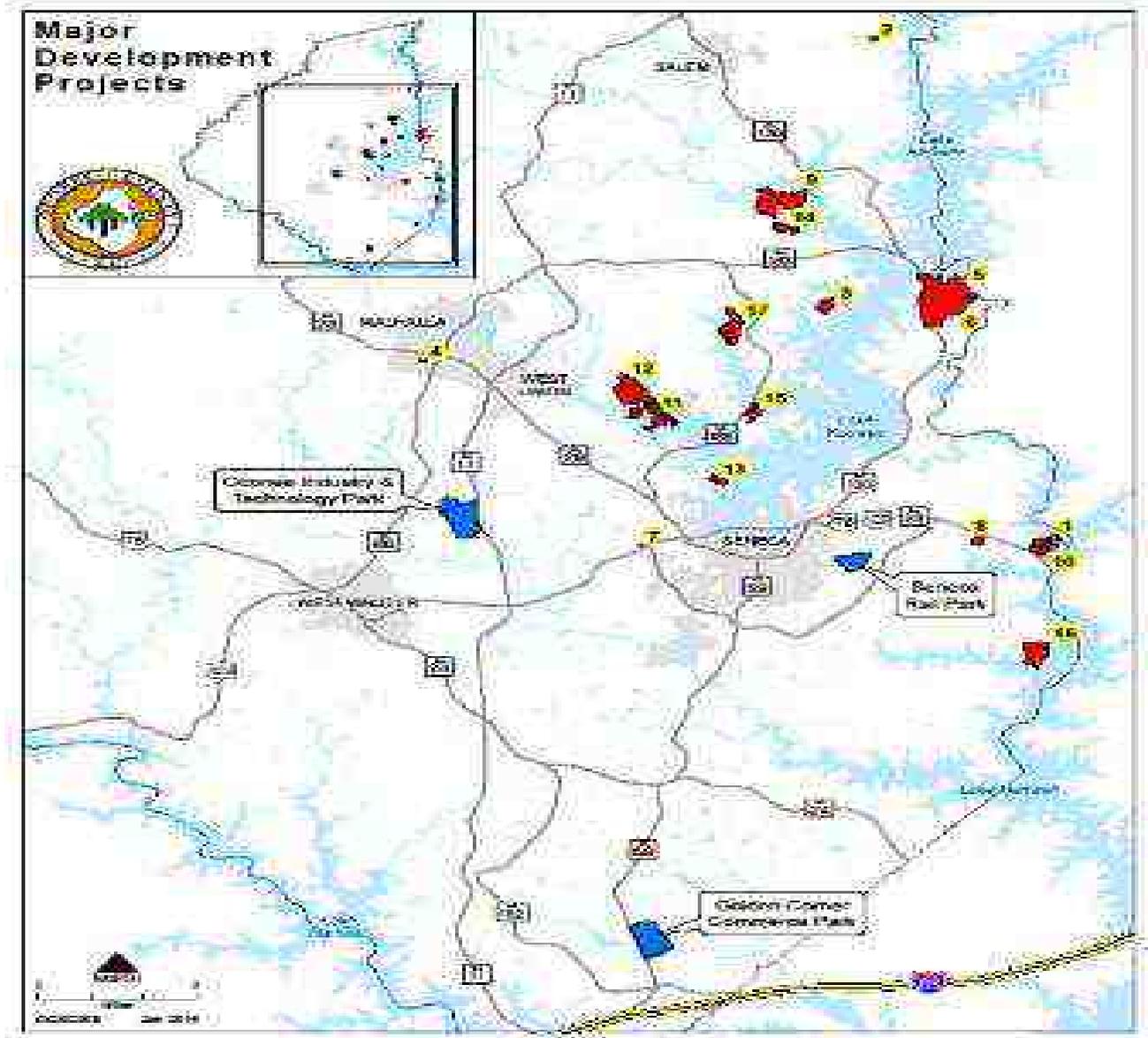
The current land and future land use maps contained in this document have not been updated from the 2010 plan. This will be done at a detailed level when the Comprehensive Plan is updated fully in 2020. The SC Comprehensive Planning Enabling Act of 1994 requires a complete update at least every 10 years. ~~However,~~ Table LU-A and Map LU-A indicate the major commercial, residential and industrial projects that have been approved or begun since 2010. ~~Many~~ Some of the subdivisions shown are not fully built out, but they are platted for development.

Table LU-A
Major Oconee County Projects 2010 - 2017

Map Numbers		Development type
ID 1	Clemson Academic Campus	Student Housing Campus
See Map	Oconee Industry and Technology Park	Manufacturing and Training/technology
See Map	Golden Corner Commerce Park	Manufacturing/warehouse/distribution
See Map	Seneca Rail Park	Manufacturing
2	Cliffs Wellness Center	Residential amenity
3	Cottages at Riverbirch	Residential
4	Detention Center	Public Facility
5	Duke Flex Building	Utility
6	Duke Office	Utility
7	Goodwill	Non-profit

8	Greenfield HQ	Industrial HQ
9	Harbor Point	Single Family
10	Hartwell Village	Commercial
11	Peninsula Pointe	Residential
12	Peninsula Pointe North	
13	Retreat at Harbor Ridge	Residential
14	Sweetwater 2016	Residential
15	The Oaks	Residential
16	The Pier	Student housing/ cottages, tiny homes, apartments
17	Timber Bay	Residential

Map LU-A
Major Oconee County Projects 2010 - 2017



The data from the 2010 Plan divided current land use into the following categories:

- ❖ Residential Single-Family
- ❖ Residential Multi-family
- ❖ Condo
- ❖ Commercial-Service
- ❖ Commercial-Industrial
- ❖ Transportation, Communications, and Utilities
- ❖ Agriculture
- ❖ Extraction
- ❖ Recreation
- ❖ Forest
- ❖ National and State Forest
- ❖ Multi-Use
- ❖ Undeveloped
- ❖ Not Apparent

Table LU-1 shows the distribution of the various land uses across the county as measured in the GIS:

Table LU-1

Current Land Use in Unincorporated Oconee County: 2008				
USE	Total Acreage	Number of Parcels	Percent of Total Acreage	Rank of Use
Residential Single-Family	66,502	37,097	17.67	4
Residential Multi-Family	235.65	101	.06	11
Condo	133.45	745	.04	12
Commercial-Service	2,032	647	.54	8
Commercial-Industrial	1,791.83	118	.48	9
Transport., Communications, and Utilities	3,964.83	200	1.05	6
Agriculture	89,214.46	2,720	23.71	3
Extraction	82.2	4	.02	13
Recreation	5,055.14	909	1.34	5

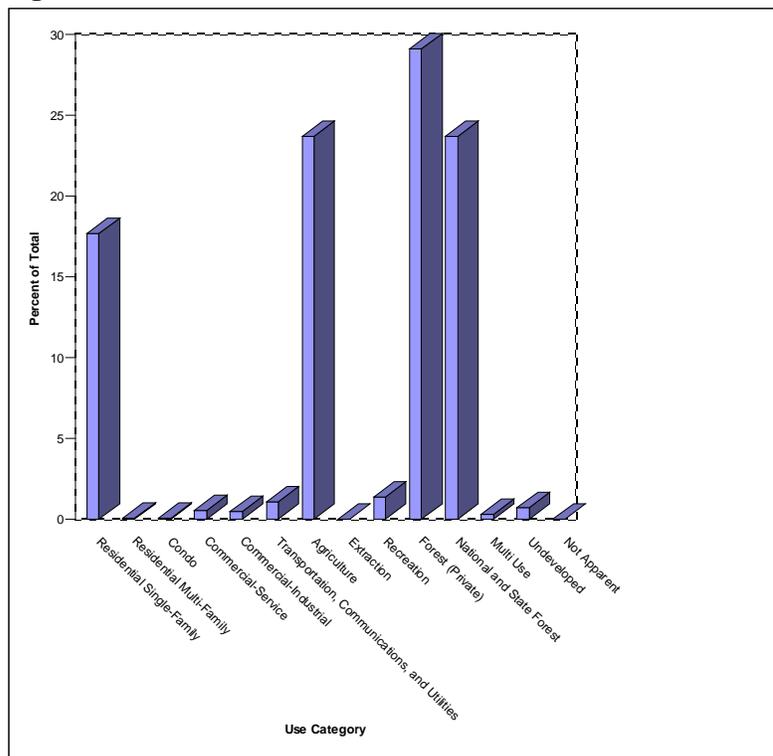
Forest (Private)	109,600.17	3,060	29.13	1
National and State Forest	89,248.75	38	23.72	2
Multi-Use	1,204.01	98	.32	10
Undeveloped	2,718.11	570	.72	7
Not Apparent	54.19	71	.01	14

Source: Oconee County Planning Department

Note on Measured Acreage shown in Table LU-1: Although it not very common today with modern surveying equipment and methods, it was not unusual in the past for parcels to be recorded as acreage 'more or less'. For example, a parcel recorded as containing '60 acres more or less' may, in reality, contain 63 acres- or perhaps less than 60 acres- but totals based on tax rolls typically only reflect the 60 acres. The Geographic Information System (GIS), however, bases area on digitized coordinates that establish property boundaries, resulting in much greater accuracy. Therefore, it should be expected to find at least some variation between totals on the tax rolls and in the GIS.

The chart below is a graphic representation of the percentages of the various current land uses shown in Table LU-1:

Figure LU-1



Source: Oconee County Planning Department and Tax Assessor

Not surprisingly, the largest land use categories are Forest (Private), National and State Forest, and Agriculture, with each category occupying roughly ¼ of the county acreage; the only other relatively large category is Residential Single-Family with approximately

County, however, an unusually high percentage of the land is devoted to state and federal forestlands, and is therefore not available for development. For example, Sumter National Forest alone occupies almost 80,000 acres of the county, with Clemson University and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers possessing thousands of additional acres. It is also worth noting that in spite of the rapid growth experienced in the county during the last several decades, the overall amount of land available for development has continued to drop due to an expansion of both public lands (such as the Jocassee Gorges) and the conservation of larger tracts of private lands through the acquisition of development rights by preservation groups (such as was the case with the effort to conserve portions of Stumphouse Mountain). Therefore, in any consideration of the available land to support anticipated growth, it is necessary to remember that a significant portion of Oconee County is unavailable.

Growth Trends

As noted above, much of the traditional land use in Oconee County has been devoted in one manner or other to agriculture and forestry. Even relatively significant economic changes, such as were seen with the emergence of the textile industry in the late 1800's, which led many to forgo their traditional agrarian lifestyle in exchange for employment brought by the cotton mills- either directly, or in the service sector that sprang up around it- had little impact on the overall land use pattern. Naturally, while much of the urbanization occurred inside the municipalities, there was some 'spill-over' into the unincorporated areas immediately adjacent, but this did not prove to be significant until the major population growth began in the 1970's.

Prior to the 1970's, life in Oconee County had remained relatively unchanged for many decades; new technologies and conveniences made their marks, of course, but overall, the county remained the rural agrarian area that it had always been. Starting during that decade, however, a number of changes made an impact on Oconee, none of them perhaps major by themselves, but as a whole, capable of changing the face of the region forever. Among the most notable of these, and one likely to be noted as a signal moment in the county's history forever, ~~were was the creation of Oconee Nuclear Station, and the recruitment of a number of high tech industries.~~ These new industries not only provided a major source of good jobs, but represented a steady revenue source much greater than what most counties of Oconee's size typically had. As a result, while the subsequent decline of the textile industry devastated other South Carolina counties, Oconee was able to adjust, and remain relatively prosperous. ~~But perhaps more importantly, certainly as it is related to impacts on land use patterns in the county, the coming of the nuclear facility brought with it major changes that have not only changed today's Oconee County, but will continue far into the future.~~

Had the nuclear station only consisted of reactors and power transmission facilities, little would probably have separated it from other high-tech industries that have moved to the county. But the nuclear facility was different, for it resulted in the building of Lake Keowee and Lake Jocassee. And although Oconee County already had hundreds of miles of shoreline on Lake Hartwell, which had been completed a decade earlier, there had been only limited attempts at lakefront development, most with limited success. Within only a few years of the completion of the new lakes, however, thousands of new residents were moving to Oconee County to live near the water. Perhaps the economic situation in the 1970's and 1980's helped trigger significant migration southward from the big urban centers of the northeast.

Perhaps it was the impact of the relative wealth of the baby-boomers, who, unlike their parents, had the wherewithal to relocate for whatever reason; or perhaps it was simply good marketing by developers. Likely, it was all of the above. Of course, we also need to factor in the overall beauty of our region, the moderate climate, relatively low cost of living, and, the fact that an increasing number of individuals were turning away from agriculture, which made more and more land available for development. ~~But regardless of the particular reasons for the growth, the impact of newcomers has been felt in many ways. For example, in spite of the fact that many rural acres remain in Oconee County, in a very short time our county has become much more urban in its landscape.~~

Record-setting economic development activity in recent years has absorbed some previously undeveloped acreage, although much of the industrial and business development has involved the establishment of new industrial parks by the County and the expansion of existing uses, thus limiting the acreage footprint of these activities. With strong economic development comes strong job creation, a factor that typically has a multitude of impacts related to future planning issues, including transportation, housing and retail activity.

Presently, according to the Oconee Economic Alliance (OEA), ~~many jobs are open and available~~ there are numerous job vacancies in private industry within the County.

Interestingly, many of these positions are not being filled promptly, and one reason cited by OEA is a shortage of workforce or affordable housing in the County. ~~As previously mentioned, the luxury and second home market has been very strong due to lakefront development, but construction of homes in the \$100,000 to \$200,000 range has lagged behind.~~

New housing production is needed as primary residences for working-age families moving to the County for jobs or for existing residents who may presently be renting or living with another family member.—

An increase in the affordable housing stock would, ~~of course,~~ generate many secondary impacts, including a demand for more retail and service development, ~~and the tax base increase that results from such uses.~~ It would ~~in turn~~ impact a number of public facilities, particularly emergency services and the school system. Also, as the most attractive lands for such development are likely to include parts of the remaining prime farmland, we will need to ~~truly~~ consider the role that agriculture will play in Oconee County's future. As has been shown many times before in other locations, large-scale residential development and the commercial development that will serve it does not mix well with the dust, noise, smells and other activities associated with many agricultural practices. With farming already under severe pressures, the potential impacts of unmanaged residential growth could within a short time be devastating. In response to a grass-roots initiative by rural residents and property owners, the County has already taken steps to mitigate those impacts with the zoning of substantial acreage to an agricultural zoning category. Many owners and residents ~~were~~ are concerned about protecting available farmland and rural homesteads from the encroachment of large residential subdivisions and commercial development.

Growth Management

Oconee County's initial efforts at land use planning began in the mid-1990's when it adopted its first Comprehensive Plan. Although at the time, the state mandated a minimum of 7 specific elements be contained in a Comprehensive Plan for a jurisdiction to do unlimited land use planning, it also allowed for some planning activities with partial plans. As a result, Oconee County's first plan consisted of only 2 elements: Community Facilities Element, and Land Use Element. Because the County's intent was to implement limited land use regulations, primarily aimed at regulating the height of structures within the transition zone near the Oconee County Airport, only the elements dealing with community facilities and land use were required. Within a short time, however, other issues arose, requiring the County to consider action beyond the scope of what the partial Comprehensive Plan would support. As a result, following the creation of the Planning Department in 1999, staff began drafting a new Comprehensive Plan containing all 7 required elements. This plan was adopted in 2004.

A number of land use regulations, some in the form of separate ordinances, and some created by amendments to existing ordinances, were adopted between the mid-1990's and 2008. These include:

- ❖ Height Restrictions Near the Airport- provides for limits on the height of structures constructed near the airport
- ❖ Group Home Regulations- limits negative secondary impacts of new group home facilities on neighbors
- ❖ Communication Tower Regulations- mandates setbacks, height limits, and other standards designed to limit unnecessary towers
- ❖ Sexually-oriented Business Regulations- imposes setbacks and other locational requirements designed to mitigate negative secondary impacts; also, requires an annual permit for all employees
- ❖ Land Development and Subdivision Regulations- sets forth standards for the design and construction of residential developments
- ❖ Tattoo Facility Regulations- establishes setbacks and other locational requirements designed to mitigate negative secondary impacts
- ❖ Vegetative Buffer Requirements- designates a 25-foot natural vegetative buffer (measured from the full-pond elevation contour) for all new developments and projects on Lakes Hartwell, Keowee, and Jocassee
- ❖ Sign Control Regulations- created standards for the location and size of new billboard signs

In 2008, Oconee County took perhaps its greatest leap into the realm of land use planning by adopting a zoning enabling ordinance (ZEO). Developed over a period of
Oconee County Comprehensive Plan
Update 2018

approximately 2 years, the ZEO was fully implemented in May 2009. The zoning program was designed to primarily introduce use limitations in phases through a combination of relatively unique methods of non-binding citizen initiatives, but to retain the governing body's ability to act as it deems necessary. In brief, all parcels were initially placed in the Control-Free District, which, as the name indicates, imposes no use limitations on the parcel, but establishes the conditions necessary to overlay limited performance standards in certain areas. As a result, to implement use controls, a rezoning is necessary. Over time, as the majority of citizens in the various parts of the unincorporated areas of Oconee County desire it, the program will increasingly provide the protection and management offered by more traditional zoning regulations.

More recently the County has amended the original Ordinance text on several occasions to address several key issues identified in the early years of the program. One example is the adoption of a revised communication tower ordinance. Another is [the](#) adoption of language clarifying the definition of billboards and their dimensional requirements in order to clearly distinguish between off-premise signs and on-site business signs.

Other Efforts

Growth management is not limited solely to governmental action, for without support and assistance from the private sector, any success will be limited. In fact, the most effective growth management programs are often a combination of public and private efforts. In Oconee County, where growth management is still in its formative stages, most early efforts have been undertaken by the government to limit or remediate problematic situations. Recently, however, Council and the Planning Commission have taken on several important issues involving growth and development. [These initiative include allowing multi-family housing in the Control-Free District, reducing the Small-Area Zoning requirements and updating language of the Vegetative Buffer section within the Lake Overlay District. For instance, the Commission is presently considering corridor ordinances for the principle highway corridors in the County, with an immediate focus on Highway 123 between Seneca and Clemson. In addition, the Commission is considering possible revisions to clarify the Lake Overlay buffer provisions, which require a 25' vegetative buffer area to be maintained on parcels within the Overlay. There has been some confusion about the intent of the language as written, and these changes might help builders, property owners and staff to expedite the zoning permit review process as well as insure a proper outcome in the County's efforts to protect these sensitive lakefront areas.](#)

Future Growth and Development

Oconee County's future growth and development, and the changes that will likely stem from it, have led to a number of efforts aimed at translating the potential into a format easily understandable by the average citizen. One such project was sponsored by Upstate Forever, a nonprofit group focused on land use, conservation and growth management education. In 2008, Upstate Forever expanded a growth study originally focused only on counties encompassing parts of the Saluda River Watershed to include Oconee County. The

resulting “Growth Projections for Upstate South Carolina”, developed from work by Dr. Craig Campbell of the Strom Thurmond Institute at Clemson University, used computer models to assemble graphic illustrations of development projections across the area through 2030. Although the project did not differentiate between types of development, the results provided a look at potential development pattern based on various ranges of population growth.

Another project, “Alternative Futures for the Seneca Watershed Sub Basin”, was conducted over several years by Dr. Stephen Sperry and a group of graduate students from Clemson University. Utilizing computer modeling techniques, Dr. Sperry’s group considered various scenarios and land uses, and assessed the potential impacts of each within the boundaries of the Seneca River Watershed. This multi-year project focused on the impacts of specific land uses, and the likely results on individual sub-watershed areas. Given the complexity of the project, with different methodology focused on delivering more specific assessments than Upstate Forever’s project, the results naturally differed. Regardless of the variation in specific projections, however, both stand as evidence of the growing level of interest in understanding the possible changes in Oconee County’s future, with each, and others like them in the future, a useful tool for community leaders to use in formulating plans for managing the changes.

Visioning

In 2008, the Oconee Alliance sponsored a visioning process for Oconee County to outline better what county citizens wish the county to become in the next couple of decades. As part of the effort, a series of public meetings, facilitated by an experienced consultant overseen by members of a steering committee comprised of local citizens, resulted in the development of the 2028 Oconee By Choice, a 20-year plan for Oconee County. Of these goals, a significant number were either directly or indirectly related to land use, particularly among those categorized as Planned Choice and Natural Choice goal areas. The Planned Choice overview states that, “Oconee chooses smart growth and increased economic vitality with a plan that protects what is precious- a way of life, the bountiful resources of nature, and towns and countryside full of inviting warmth.” To achieve this, a list of goals is set forth calling for, among other actions:

- ❖ management of growth through zoning and other land use regulations
- ❖ environmentally sound infrastructure
- ❖ reduction in the number of billboards
- ❖ management of storm-water runoff
- ❖ stepped up enforcement of litter ordinance
- ❖ creation of wildlife sanctuaries
- ❖ additional incentives for land-owners to preserve and create natural areas
- ❖ impact fees
- ❖ expanded public transportation

The Natural Choice overview states that, “Oconee chooses nature’s beauty and a small town feel as centerpieces of its life.” (15) Goals set for accomplishing this include:

- ❖ preservation of all lakes and rivers
- ❖ retention of small town and rural characteristics

- ❖ preservation of farms
- ❖ protection and expansion of natural green spaces and historic sites
- ❖ protect water and air quality
- ❖ fund an agriculture conservation bank

Implementation teams are currently working to promote the advancement of these goals with the appropriate entities.

Economic Development Strategic Plan

In December 2007, the Oconee County Economic Development Commission completed a strategic plan designed to refocus the Commission's efforts, and better situate the County to overcome impediments to expanding economic development. As was to be expected, land use issues were central to many of the goals established in the plan. Among tasks identified as necessary for success are the identification and preservation of industrial properties for the long-term future, which could be accomplished through zoning, property options, lease or lease-purchase, or staged or outright purchase. In addition, the plan calls for the identification of a growth area in the I-85 corridor, and the adoption of zoning and/or land use regulations to develop and maintain the area's economic development sustainability over time. It should be noted that the I-85 Overlay District, which was adopted by County Council in November 2008, was proposed as a result of the Economic Development Strategic Plan.

Future Land Use

Based on goals established in this and the other elements of this Comprehensive Plan, the 2009 Future Land Use Map set out the manner in which the future growth of Oconee County should occur to attain these goals. The development of the map took into consideration the existing agricultural and traditional rural ways of life and highlighted scenic attributes and natural resources. The map was designed to promote quality development, with the idea that affordable workforce housing must be a part of the mix of the housing stock. The map also outlines areas suitable for fostering sustainable economic development and future growth.

The Future Land Use Map (FLUM) adopted in 2008 reflected an attempt to describe how the citizens of Oconee County wished their county to grow in the near future, which, as the Comprehensive Plan was due for review in 2009, was much shorter than that which is typically found. Relatively general in nature due to a lack of detailed information on existing land use, it divided land use into Residential, Transitional Growth, Agriculture, and Traditional Rural. No attempt was made to differentiate all pockets of commercial and industrial growth, but instead, it stated that a wide mix was anticipated within the Transitional Growth areas based on the availability of land and sufficient infrastructure. As for other uses, the Residential areas primarily encompass those regions near the lakes; Agricultural areas focus on those remaining prime farm areas in the southern part of the county; and all other areas, which include large tracts of National Forest lands, and which contain little if any public infrastructure, are designated as Traditional Rural.

The amendments made to the FLUM as part of the 2009 review of the Comprehensive Plan were intended to add refinement and detail, thereby enabling it to better guide growth in a manner consistent with the overall desires of the public. -This was at least in part made possible due to the level of discussion and sincere consideration about Oconee County's future that emerged during development of the Zoning Enabling Ordinance. Although past efforts to develop plans and ordinances to guide growth and development always included a public input component, often with varying results, the creation of the Zoning Enabling Ordinance brought about conversations between individuals and groups in a manner never before witnessed. .

Primary Development Areas

~~As is made abundantly clear throughout this document,~~ The boundaries of Oconee County encompass an increasingly diverse mix of land uses and lifestyles. As such, any plans and regulations adopted must be created with the knowledge of these differences, for it is the consensus of Oconee County's citizens that this variation plays a vital role in the attributes most dearly held. As a result, those areas identified on the 2008 FLUM as Residential and Transitional Growth delineate the areas deemed to be most appropriate for targeted growth. Of course, given the possibility that there may be portions of those regions that, for whatever reason, may not be suitable for such designation, or, in the event that categories created in the future are appropriate as well, the concept of formal Primary Development Areas emerged. These areas, shown on the 2008 FLUM as Residential and Transitional Growth, are marked as a specific feature on later versions.

The concept of designated Primary Development Areas originated from a comprehensive review of the Land Development and Subdivision Chapter of the Oconee County Unified Performance Standards Ordinance. Completed in 2008, the review resulted in a series of amendments to the subdivision regulations, as well as the creation of the Unified Road Standards Ordinance. The road ordinance, which contains all standards related to the construction and maintenance of roads in Oconee County, also established rules allowing for a developer to recoup some costs associated with upgrading existing county roads. One of the key components of the process was the creation of a road upgrade list by the County Engineer. This list, which focuses on the safety of existing county roads, prioritizes those roads in areas deemed most suitable for future development. While roads in any part of the county are to be maintained at a safe level, those inside the boundaries of Primary Development Areas are to be upgraded to deal with anticipated growth and development.

Future Land Use Map

A Future Land Use Map (FLUM) is a non-regulatory map that acts as a guide for land use planning by graphically illustrating what citizens want their community to look like in the coming years. The Oconee County FLUM was therefore intended to be used as a reference in considering any action on behalf of the County that may impact land use. The map divided regions of the county into categories that represented what the *predominant land use* of that particular area was to be; in no way were the categories to be considered exclusive, but merely a standard by which to weigh proposals related to land usage.

The following classifications were reflected on the Oconee County Future Land Use Map developed at that time:

1. **Agricultural Preservation** identifies those areas deemed to be prime or special agriculture lands, and is therefore vital to the continuation of agricultural enterprise in Oconee County. Because agriculture-related activities typically impact in some manner most aspects of life within such areas, uses should be limited to those that are compatible with ongoing agricultural activity, and can coexist with the secondary effects commonly associated with it. Dense residential and commercial uses should not be permitted, and infrastructure located and managed so as to minimize undesired development.
2. **Rural** identifies those areas characterized by a continuing rural lifestyle and open lands. This area, as a whole, is sparsely populated with little or no infrastructure, but may contain pockets of commercial uses and mixed-use villages that serve as hubs of activity in the area. Although not identified as a preservation area, the impacts of new uses should be limited, and not threaten those existing. Dense residential and commercial uses should not be permitted, and infrastructure located and managed so as to retain the overall rural nature of the area.
3. **Rural Village** identifies those rural mixed-use areas that commonly form the hub of a community. Typically, rural villages are located at the intersection of two or more main routes, and have an existing mix of residential and commercial uses that play a key role in the character of the surrounding area. New uses should be compatible with existing in terms of kind and density, avoiding excessive traffic, noise, and other secondary impacts.
4. **Rural Suburban** identifies those areas that have undergone conversion from rural lands to a mix of uses, but is still predominantly characterized by a rural landscape. Infrastructure sufficient to support additional development is reasonably accessible, and pockets of significant development exist throughout. Such areas are suited for additional clusters of relatively dense development, but new uses should be compatible with those existing, and limited in the impact on the overall rural character of the area. In the event such areas are adjacent to other jurisdictions, all new uses shall be compatible with any adopted land use plans.
5. **Small Town Urban** identifies those areas of the densest development. The area is well served by infrastructure, and is suitable for continued development. While new uses may vary in nature and intensity, they should be compatible with a 'small town' atmosphere, and not negatively impact those existing. In the event such areas are adjacent to other jurisdictions, all new uses shall be compatible with any adopted land use plans.
6. **Residential** are those areas deemed to be appropriate for development primarily focused on residential uses. Such areas may or may not contain significant clusters of existing residential developments, as well as pockets of agriculture, rural, commercial, and other land uses. Although new uses may vary, they should not detract from the overall residential character of the area, and not impose negative secondary impacts on nearby properties.

7. **Public / Recreation** are those lands primarily reserved for recreational use, and as such are reasonably open to the public.
8. **Industrial** are those areas specifically reserved for existing or planned industrial or commercial uses. It should be stressed that this in no way imposes a limitation on the location of such uses in other categories, where appropriate.

Analysis

The way we choose to utilize our land impacts our lives far beyond simply determining what is built on it. Regardless of the amount of investment in a facility or infrastructure, any benefits derived can be partially or wholly negated by activity nearby. Precious natural or cultural resources, impossible to replace, can be taken from us by the careless act of a neighbor. Even the cost of purchasing and maintaining a home is directly affected by the way surrounding properties are developed and maintained. Without a doubt, land use issues are some of the most critical, as well as potentially controversial- if not unpleasant- that a community must deal with. But for the people of any county to have a say in what their area will become, such issues must be addressed, and they must be addressed before the pressures of development erase the very attributes most cherished. Given the likelihood that Oconee County is facing tremendous growth in the very near future, we have no time to delay.

There are many potential benefits associated with growth and development, provided it occurs in a manner that does not create negative impacts that outweigh the positives. In fact, it is very difficult, if not impossible, for a community to find sustainable prosperity without growth bringing in new wealth. Without such wealth, given the costs of maintaining existing facilities and infrastructure tend to increase over time, stasis leads to decline. At the same time, however, unmanaged growth is just as costly, for without thought given to where and how, as well as how much additional growth can best be accommodated, the community will be burdened with the cost of providing new facilities, infrastructure, and services that could have been avoided. Additionally, left totally to the whims of the free market, those areas most special to a community do not receive due consideration, for so often their true value is not monetary. Based on the recent planning efforts in Oconee County discussed in this element, it is obvious that there seems to be a growing awareness of these facts among a wide cross-section of county residents. And though there has not been a consensus reached on all of the measures needed to achieve it, there is no doubt that the vast majority of citizens share the desire for a prosperous future in a predominantly rural area, surrounded by the array of natural resources that have always made Oconee County unique. Therefore, in the very near future, we must become more proactive in our efforts to identify and create those tools necessary to ensure that we do retain our identity.

Although no two communities develop and evolve in exactly the same manner and at the same pace, over time most communities find themselves forced to deal with those same type of issues having been dealt with elsewhere. This can be seen in Oconee County today, for we are increasingly being faced with similar development pressures felt years earlier in some neighboring counties. And because we have to develop our response using basically the same tools available elsewhere, our solutions will probably be similar to those utilized by others. That is not to say, however, that we need to borrow anything wholesale, for Oconee County's evolution is being affected by forces not experienced by most other counties, but we need to keep in mind that we can learn from the successes, as well as mistakes, of many

of our neighbors. Therefore, as was the case in the development and adoption of our Zoning Enabling Ordinance, as we look to develop other strategies needed to manage future growth, it will be worth the time and effort necessary to weigh all proposals in terms of their potential for addressing the particular needs of Oconee County, against the possible impositions on current residents.

It is no secret that the ability of a property owner to use their land as they wish has been a cherished ideal throughout Oconee County's history. In fact, this and similar issues are often discussed- and sometimes loudly debated- in various forums throughout the county on a regular basis. In the past, when the population density was much lower, and when the variety of land use throughout most of the unincorporated areas of the county was in one way or another centered on agriculture, the chances of significant instances of incompatibility of use were limited. Today, however, things have changed, for we as a community do not live as we used to. Already, thousands of acres previously devoted to farming or timbering are covered with homes; rural lanes are increasingly being widened to accommodate the traffic of busy commercial centers, a process that itself spurs additional development; and remote, forested hillsides have become densely populated lakeshore communities. Simply put, Oconee County's land is being utilized in ways never anticipated only a few years ago by a population more numerous and more diverse than was ever thought possible by previous generations. Still, for those born here, as well as many of those that move here to escape the grasp of urban areas, a high value is placed on Oconee County's traditionally rural character, with farming at the heart of it. But without standards designed to promote and sustain this rural character, it could soon disappear. Therefore, in addition to identifying those areas in which we wish to have devoted to agriculture, we have to develop the mix of tools necessary to ensure its survival. And while some of these will likely include inducements such as conservation easements, if we are serious in our claim to desire the survival of agriculture as a significant presence in Oconee County, in spite of the fact that it may run counter to the ideals of our forefathers, carefully targeted regulatory measures should have a place in the mix. Otherwise, Oconee County will fast convert into just another urban landscape.

Oconee County will always be subject to the impact of forces beyond its control. And though there is no way to stop all of the negative aspects of some changes, and certainly no way to regain what has already been lost as a result of them, the people of Oconee County now have the opportunity to make key choices that will help insure that future changes are, if not entirely desirable, at least relatively benign- if, that is, people take part, Oconee County has embarked on a course that includes balancing recruitment of high-tech industry with increased tourism as major components of this prosperity; e; and the adoption of a number of land use regulations intended to help guide future development. These steps, although admittedly seen by some to be relatively small ones, are significant, for it signals that Oconee County has begun to look to the future, with its eyes on, at the very least, a sketch of what it wishes to be. And though the vision needs to be clarified as we move ahead, there is little doubt that we, as continues to be stated time after time, in one manner or another, know the direction we wish to head.

Land Use Objectives for the Future

The following objectives are intended to address those needs and desires established within the Land Use Element. See the 'Goals' section of this plan for specific strategies and timelines for implementation.

1. Initiate efforts to develop the foundation of a county storm water management program prior to federal mandates, thereby allowing for the most efficient and cost-effective implementation possible in the event of designation.
2. Preserve, protect and enhance Oconee County's environmentally sensitive lands, unique scenic views, agrarian landscapes, and topographic features.
3. Promote partnerships and voluntary conservation easements to preserve significant lands and scenic areas under pressure.
4. Continue support of a comprehensive planning process so as to insure that the citizens of Oconee County possess accurate inventories and analyses of existing county conditions, and the opportunity to better manage anticipated future conditions.
5. Create and/or update plans for specific priorities.
6. Encourage development in a way that protects and preserves our natural resources.
7. Manage development in a manner that ensures our natural resources and lifestyle enhance sustainable economic growth and job opportunities.
8. Continue to closely monitor Oconee County's compliance with state and federal air-quality standards, adopting and maintaining reduction strategies as necessary.
9. Conserve and protect features of significant local, regional and national interest, such as scenic highways, state parks, and historic sites and expand efforts to promote them for tourism.

OCONEE COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

415 South Pine Street - Walhalla, SC



TEL (864) 638-4218 FAX (864) 638-4168

Sec. 32-4. - County planning commission.

- (a) *Authority to establish.* The county planning commission (referred to as the "planning commission") is established pursuant to S.C. Code 1976, § 6-29-310 et seq.
- (b) *Functions, powers and duties.* It is the function and duty of the county planning commission to undertake a continuing planning program for the physical, social, and economic growth, development, and redevelopment of the county. The plans and programs must be designed to promote public health, safety, morals, convenience, prosperity, or the general welfare as well as the efficiency and economy of the county. Specific planning elements must be based upon careful and comprehensive surveys and studies of existing conditions and probable future development and include recommended means of implementation. The county planning commission may make, publish, and distribute maps, plans, and reports and recommendations relating to the plans and programs and the development of the county to public officials and agencies, public utility companies, civic, educational, professional, and other organizations and citizens. All public officials shall, upon request, furnish to the planning commission, within a reasonable time, such available information as it may require for its work. The planning commission, its members and employees, in the performance of its functions, may enter upon any land with consent of the property owner or after ten days' written notification to the owner of record, make examinations and surveys, and place and maintain necessary monuments and marks on them, provided, however, that the planning commission shall be liable for any injury or damage to property resulting therefrom. In general, the planning commission has the powers as may be necessary to enable it to perform its functions and promote the planning of the county.

In the discharge of its responsibilities, the county planning commission has the power and duty to:

- (1) Prepare and revise periodically plans and programs for the development and redevelopment of the county as provided in S.C. Code 1976, § 6-29-310 et seq.; and
- (2) Prepare and recommend for adoption to the county council as a means for implementing the plans and programs:
 - a. Performance (performance zoning) standards and zoning ordinances to include zoning district maps and appropriate revisions thereof;
 - b. Regulations for the subdivision or development of land and appropriate revisions thereof, and to oversee the administration of the regulations that may be adopted;
 - c. An official map and appropriate revisions on it showing the exact location of existing or proposed public street, highway, and utility rights-of-way, and public building sites, together with regulations to control the erection of buildings or other structures or changes in land use within the rights-of-way, building sites, or open spaces;
 - d. A landscaping ordinance setting forth required planting, tree preservation, and other aesthetic considerations for land and structures;
 - e. A capital improvements program setting forth capital projects (as such term is defined in chapter 2, article IV, division 8, section 2-392 of this Code of Ordinances) required to implement or in conformity with plans which have been prepared and adopted, including an annual listing of priority capital projects for consideration by county council prior to preparation of its capital budget;
 - f. Policies or procedures to facilitate implementation of planning elements; and

Appeals regarding alleged errors by the planning director concerning a decision on a land development plan or subdivision may be heard by the planning commission. The planning commission shall act on the appeal within 60 days and the action of the planning commission is final. An appeal from the decision

of the planning commission may be taken to circuit court within 30 days after actual notice.

- (3) Coordinate with, and receive scored proposals for capital projects from, the Oconee County Capital Projects Advisory Committee pursuant to chapter 2, article IV, division 8 of this Code of Ordinances.

(c) *Membership.*

- (1) The membership of the county planning commission shall be seven in number, selected and appointed by a majority vote of the membership of the county council voting in any meeting of county council, duly assembled, with one member being selected from each of the five county council districts in existence and as delineated at the time of the adoption of this section, nominated by the respective member of county council from each district, together with two members appointed by county council from the county at-large. County council may receive recommendations for the two at-large seats from the county planning commission, the county soil and water conservation district commission, the county school board, and any other interested organization or agency, and county council welcomes any such recommendations; however, county council is not required to wait on such recommendation(s) before county council selects and appoints one or both at-large members, nor is county council obligated to select and appoint any person recommended. Notwithstanding any other provision hereof, the complete selection and appointing authority for the entire county planning commission, including, without limitation, the at-large members, rests with county council, and the ultimate decision of whom to select and appoint for any of the membership positions is that of county council, by a majority vote of the membership of the county council voting in any meeting of county council, duly assembled, with or without any recommendation.
- (2) If after an appointment of a member to represent a particular council district of the county to the planning commission, such district is altered, then such commission member shall continue to serve thereon for the remainder of the

term to which said member is appointed, regardless of his/her place of residence within the county.

- (3) In the event the county is further divided into additional county council districts, additional appointments of members to the commission to represent the newly created district(s) may be made by county council through amendment of this section.
- (4) Should any member of this commission move and establish residence outside of the county or the district where such member was residing at the time of the appointment to this commission, such move shall constitute a resignation by the member, and a replacement member shall be appointed to fill the unexpired term of such resigned member, in the same manner as the original appointment.
- (5) No member of the planning commission may hold an elected public office within the boundaries of the county.

(d) *Terms of members.*

- (1) The length of the regular term served by each member shall be four (4) years, beginning on January 1 of the year of appointment.
- (2) For the purposes of implementing the standards of this section, and thereby returning the reappointment/replacement schedule of the membership of the commission to staggered lengths in as fair and equitable manner as possible, the following shall apply:
 - a. All members appointed by county council district shall serve for the same term as the length of the remaining term of the council member who appointed them, after which the term of such district members shall be equal to and coincidental with the term of the council member appointing or reappointing them, with all terms or parts thereof starting as of January 1 of the year of appointment or reappointment.
 - b. The first at-large member appointed by county council after adoption of the restatement of this section shall serve for four years and the second such

at-large member shall serve for two years, after which the term of each such at-large member shall be four years following appointment/reappointment, with all terms or parts thereof starting as of January 1 of the year of appointment or reappointment.

- (3) In the event the regular term of a member in good standing expires prior to reappointment or replacement by county council, said member shall continue to serve until his/her replacement is appointed and qualified. The date of reappointment or replacement, however, in no way alters the scheduled length of the term.
- (e) *Removal of members.* Members of the county planning commission may be removed at any time by a majority vote of the county council, for cause (defined herein as dereliction of duty, as duties are defined herein, conviction of any felony or any crime of moral turpitude, or violation of the South Carolina Ethics Act, all as determined by county council). If, or in the event, any member of the commission shall fail to attend 50 percent or more of the regularly scheduled meetings of the commission within any period of 12 calendar months without excuse of the commission chairman, such member may be replaced without notice by action of the county council.
- (f) *Organization, meetings, procedural rules, records, and purchases.* The county planning commission shall organize itself, electing one of its members as chairman and one as vice-chairman, whose terms must each be for one-year. The chairman and vice-chairman shall have the right to vote. The commission shall appoint a secretary, who may be a member or an employee of the county council or of the commission. If the secretary is a member of the commission, he/she shall also have the right to vote. The commission shall meet at the call of the chairman, and at such times as the chairman or commission may determine. Vacancies in such offices by reason of death, resignation or replacement shall be filled for the unexpired term of the officer whose position becomes vacant, in the same manner as the original election or appointment.

The commission shall adopt rules of organizational procedure, and maintain a record of its resolutions, findings, determinations, recommendations, and other actions as required by state and federal requirements.

Typical operational expenses of the commission shall be provided for in the budget of the planning department; however, the commission may from time to time employ or contract for professional services with funds appropriated by county council.

(g) *Powers and duties.* The county planning commission shall have those powers and duties provided for in Title 6, Chapter 29 of the South Carolina Code of Laws, 1976, as amended, to be exercised with respect to the total unincorporated area of Oconee County, South Carolina, and to include the function to undertake a continuing planning program for the physical, social, and economic growth and development, and redevelopment, throughout its area of responsibility. The commission shall, within the bounds of standards established in state law, draft and periodically review a comprehensive plan for the county, which shall be the basis for a planning process consisting of those elements considered critical, necessary, and desirable to guide the development and redevelopment for the county. It shall also be the duty of the planning commission to provide advice to the county council on any and all matters related to growth and development within the unincorporated areas of the county.

(h) *Salaries and funding.* Each member of the county planning commission shall be paid the sum of \$25.00 per meeting of the commission attended, or as county council shall subsequently direct by ordinance or resolution. Additionally, members shall be compensated at the same rate, and in the same manner, as county employees for expenses incurred as a result of attending schools, seminars, meetings, and other normal activities associated with membership, provided said trips and activities are approved in advance by the chairman of county council.

(Ord. No. 1999-14, § 1.4, 4-4-2000; Ord. No. 2009-10, § 1, 5-19-2009; Ord. No. 2010-14, §§ 2(Exh. B), 3(Exh. C), 8-17-2010; Ord. No. 2011-06, § 2, 3-15-2011)

Cross reference— Boards, commissions and committees, § 2-241 et seq.



Goals

This section contains the goals established by this Comprehensive Plan, which are based on the needs and desires set forth in the various elements. Each broad goal is supported by constituent objectives that address those identified needs, with appropriate strategies designed to ensure a successful outcome. It should be noted that specific objectives and strategies stemming from priorities established in more than one element have been appropriately stated to accomplish the desired results expressed in all elements (the elements to which each objective applies is noted). In addition, the county agencies deemed responsible for monitoring and facilitating the success of the effort are also named, as well as a timeline considered sufficient for completion.

Goal # 1

Preserve, protect, and enhance the quality and quantity of Oconee County's natural resources.

Objective 1: Work to guarantee adequate water distribution systems for present and future economic development in Oconee County.

Applicable Elements: Community Facilities; Economic Development

Strategies for Success	Agencies Responsible	Timeframe for Completion
1. Work to facilitate the establishment of a partnership with water providers aimed at expanding service into underserved unincorporated areas of the county.	Planning Commission; County Council	2012 Completed/ Ongoing Link to Seneca and Salem
2. Partner with municipalities in inventorying current condition of their water infrastructure systems to determine ability to accommodate future growth.	Infrastructure Advisory Commission; Planning Commission; County Council	Ongoing Not a County initiated project.
3. Work to develop agreements with water providers to coordinate with County on a plan provide for required fire protection for new development.	Emergency Services Commission; Planning Commission; County Council	2012 COMPLETED w/ Fire Station 10 at end of FY17

Objective 2: Improve and expand wastewater treatment within Oconee County.

Applicable Elements: Community Facilities; Economic Development

Strategies for Success	Agencies Responsible	Timeframe for Completion
1. Expand sewer service throughout areas designated by the Land Use Element as primary areas of development, while implementing appropriate limits needed to avoid negative impacts on sensitive areas.	Planning Commission; County Council	Ongoing Planning Commission to-do list
2. Implement requirements for all developer-initiated sewer expansions to be configured with sufficient capacity to allow existing and future affected property owners to connect to the proposed line.	Planning Commission; County Council	2012 COMPLETE
3. Work with neighboring counties when possible to establish regional efforts to expand sewer service into prime commercial and industrial locations.	Planning Commission; County Council	Ongoing Planning Commission to-do list
4. Partner with municipalities and Joint Regional Sewer Authority to coordinate efforts to provide sewer throughout high growth corridors.	Infrastructure Advisory Commission; Planning Commission; County Council	Ongoing Completed/ Ongoing with sewer South to Golden Corner. Seneca & County did 13.2 miles.
5. Establish partnership(s) with regional, state, and federal agencies to find funding sources for wastewater treatment needs.	Planning Commission; County Council	Ongoing TVA / ARC GRANTS
6. Study and establish increased access to sanitary boat dump stations on area lakes.	Parks, Recreation, Tourism Commission; Planning Commission; County Council	2013 COMPLETE Marinas at Keowee & Hartwell implementing

Objective 3: Initiate efforts to develop the foundation of a county storm water management program prior to federal mandates, thereby allowing for the most efficient and cost-effective implementation possible in the event of designation.

Applicable Elements: Population; Natural Resources; Economic Development; Land Use

Strategies for Success	Agencies Responsible	Timeframe for Completion
1. Study and evaluate options available to jurisdictions designated by EPA to establish storm water management programs, identifying those attributes desirable for an Oconee County program.	Planning Commission; County Council	2011 With next Census Federal Regulations will be required.
2. Work with state and federal agencies as required to create necessary components of storm water program, when possible, through a phased approach that will lessen impact of meeting mandates.	Planning Commission; County Council	2011 "As Required"
3. Support regional efforts to protect watersheds.	Planning Commission; County Council	Ongoing This is activity falls under the jurisdiction of SCDHEC

Objective 4: Establish a program of managing both water quantity and water quality throughout the county that will ensure efficient utilization, and appropriate conservation, of our greatest natural resource.

Applicable Elements: Population; Natural Resources; Economic Development; Land Use

Strategies for Success	Agencies Responsible	Timeframe for Completion
1. Work with state and federal agencies to establish a comprehensive network of water monitoring stations in Oconee County watersheds.	Planning Commission; County Council	2014 SCDHEC jurisdiction
2. Establish accurate 7Q10 rating for all water basins in Oconee County.	Planning Commission; County Council	2014 Was created as a reaction to ATL proposed withdrawals from the Chattooga. Not done.
3. Develop a county-wide water usage plan that defines water conservation practices for both normal and drought conditions, and insures that all users share equally in restrictions during drought conditions.	Planning Commission; County Council	2012 Water Commission was created. No plans adopted.
4. Partner with both public and private entities to develop a county-wide education program designed to promote water conservation.	Planning Commission; County Council	2012 Planning Commission to-do list
5. Study and evaluate the impact of Oconee County’s water supply on ISO ratings, and the resulting cost of fire insurance, seeking to identify opportunities for better ratings.	Emergency Services Commission; Planning Commission; County Council	2012 COMPLETE
6. Partner with adjacent jurisdictions on comprehensive water studies detailing availability from all sources and usages/outflows.	Planning Commission; County Council	Ongoing Planning Commission to-do list

Objective 5: Preserve, protect and enhance Oconee County’s environmentally sensitive lands, unique scenic views, agrarian landscapes, and topographic features.

Applicable Elements: Natural Resources; Land Use

Strategies for Success	Agencies Responsible	Timeframe for Completion
1. Encourage use of “Best Management Practices” in farming and forestry operations.	Planning Commission; Soil & Water Conservation Commission’s ;County Council	Ongoing Soil & Water Conservation Commission’s area of responsibility.
2. Work to partner with public and private entities in developing a countywide greenway system that will offer opportunities for nature-based recreation in areas where few currently exist.	Planning Commission; County Council	2014 Ongoing
3. Encourage and support collaboration between landowners and public and private agencies in the development of ecologically and economically sound plans for preservation and restoration of forests and farmland.	Planning Commission; County Council	Ongoing Establishment of OC Conservation Bank

Objective 6: Promote partnerships and voluntary conservation easements to preserve significant lands and scenic areas under pressure.

Applicable Elements: Natural Resources; Land Use; Priority Investment

Strategies for Success	Agencies Responsible	Timeframe for Completion
1. Establish a county conservation bank to provide for the transfer of development rights and/or conservation easements to protect rural lands, sensitive areas, and significant natural resources.	County Council	2011 COMPLETE / ONGOING
2. Identify and establish various funding sources for the county conservation bank identified above; these may include grants, corporate gifts, a percentage of development permit fees, and annual revenue designations.	County Council	2011 COMPLETE / ONGOING

3. Provide appropriate assistance from county departments and agencies in efforts to identify and preserve historic structures, significant lands, and scenic areas.	Planning Commission; County Council	Ongoing/ COMPLETE / ONGOING
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Goal #2

Identify, develop and utilize all tools and funding sources necessary to meet the present and future economic development needs of Oconee County.

Objective 1: Continue support of a comprehensive planning process to insure that the citizens of Oconee County possess accurate inventories and analyses of existing county conditions, and the opportunity to better manage anticipated future conditions.

Applicable Elements: Population; Natural Resources; Cultural; Housing; Community Facilities; Economic Development; Land Use; Transportation; Priority Investment

Strategies for Success	Agencies Responsible	Timeframe for Completion
1. Review and update the various components of the Oconee County Comprehensive Plan as needed, not restricted to the minimum time periods established in state regulations.	Planning Commission; County Council	Ongoing ONGOING
2. Improve communication and cooperation between the County and municipalities, state and federal agencies, and other public and private entities.	Planning Commission; County Council	Ongoing ONGOING Improvements have been made

Objective 2: Review, update, and adopt the Infrastructure Master Plan.

Applicable Elements: Economic Development; Priority Investment

Strategies for Success	Agencies Responsible	Timeframe for Completion
1. Review and update the Infrastructure Master Plan, insuring that those steps identified provide for the future growth in the county and limit damage to sensitive areas and resources.	Economic Development Commission; Planning Commission; County Council	2011 Planning Commission to-do list
2. Adopt and implement the Infrastructure Master Plan.	County Council	2011 Infrastructure Master Plan Created NOT Adopted
3. Utilizing the elements of the Infrastructure Master Plan as a guide, work to establish a sustainable infrastructure upgrade and maintenance program supported by a steady revenue stream.	Economic Development Commission; Planning Commission; County Council	Ongoing No adopted plan. County cannot control State / City Roads

Objective 3: Develop and implement an effective Capital Projects Program that provides the highest level of service and facilities for Oconee County’s citizens.

Applicable Elements: Population; Community Facilities; Priority Investment

Strategies for Success	Agencies Responsible	Timeframe for Completion
1 Seek partnerships with other agencies, municipalities, and private industry to eliminate unnecessary redundancy in facilities and services.	Planning Commission; County Council	Ongoing Building Codes is “one-stop” shop for power and sewer. County shared planner. Health Services Offices partnered with Clemson. DMV in County Treasurer’s Office.
2. Maintain a Capital Projects Plan with specifics on estimated costs for upgrades and replacements, with timeframes for getting new estimates.	Planning Commission; County Council	Ongoing Planning Commission to-do list

Objective 4: Explore and evaluate alternative methods of obtaining revenue and grant monies to fund capital improvements and new infrastructure.

Applicable Elements: Community Facilities; Economic Development; Transportation; Priority Investment

Strategies for Success	Agencies Responsible	Timeframe for Completion
1. Identify and work to establish alternative revenue sources such as special tax districts and local option sales taxes.	Planning Commission; County Council	Ongoing
2. Adopt appropriate development impact fees to offset some of the cost of infrastructure and public services.	Planning Commission; County Council	2012 Planning Commission to-do list
3. Broaden utilization of grant monies to assist with capital projects.	County Council	Ongoing
4. Seek to establish public-private partnerships, user-based fees, and other revenue sources to help fund infrastructure.	County Council	Ongoing
5. Work with state and federal leaders to change formulas for state and federal funding that use Census figures that fail to account for the large percentage of non-resident property owners.	County Council	Ongoing Planning Commission to-do list

Objective 5: Create and/or update plans for specific priorities.

Applicable Elements: Population; Natural Resources; Cultural; Housing; Community Facilities; Economic Development; Land Use; Transportation; Priority Investment

Strategies for Success	Agencies Responsible	Timeframe for Completion
1. Review and update the Community Facilities Plan, amending it to reflect the impact of recent growth and the needs of the aging population.	Planning Commission; County Council	2012 Planning Commission to-do list
2. Partner with municipalities to develop coordinated 5- and 10- year Economic Development Plans.	Economic Development Commission; Planning Commission; County Council	2014 ONGOING Propex facility, E.D. plans, Walhalla Industrial & Tech Park
3 Update and adopt the 2004 Infrastructure Master Plan.	Economic Development Commission; Planning Commission ; County Council	2011 Falls outside the purview of Planning Commission.
4. Evaluate, amend, and implement recreation plans,	Parks, Recreation and	Ongoing

as necessary.	Tourism Commission; County Council	Recreation Task Force
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Objective 6: Complete and properly maintain Oconee County’s Geographic Information System (GIS).

Applicable Elements: Population; Natural Resources; Cultural; Housing; Community Facilities; Economic Development; Land Use; Transportation; Priority Investment

Strategies for Success	Agencies Responsible	Timeframe for Completion
1. Complete digitization of parcel data, and implementation and integration of Tax Assessor’s CAMA system.	County Council	2011 COMPLETE
2. Expand public access to GIS, emphasizing the accuracy of data collected, usability of mapping website, and the maintenance of data collected.	County Council	Ongoing COMPLETE
3. Establish and maintain a GIS administrative structure that not only promotes efficient service for county agencies, but also serves the mapping needs other public and private entities.	County Council	2010 COMPLETE

Objective 7: Continue to actively promote the recruitment of employment opportunities that provide the best lifestyle for all Oconee residents.

Applicable Elements: Population; Economic Development

Strategies for Success	Agencies Responsible	Timeframe for Completion
1. Work with state and federal agencies to attract agribusiness-related grants and revenue sources, and support efforts to establish pilot programs related to new agricultural technologies and products.	Planning Commission; County Council	Ongoing Oakway School & FARM Center
2. Provide appropriate assistance to expand non-traditional and specialty agribusiness opportunities.	County Council	Ongoing Agriculture Advisory Board
3. Continue partnerships in regional economic development recruitment efforts.	Economic Development Commission; Planning Commission; County Council	Ongoing OEA and Business Partnerships
4. Partner with area colleges and universities to expand local technical training facilities.	Economic Development	Ongoing Tri-County Tech at

	Commission; Planning Commission; County Council	OITP
5. Develop sustainable funding mechanism to maintain availability of structures adequate for the needs of modern industry; this may include, but is not limited to, expansion of revenues designated to economic development, public-private partnerships, and grants.	Economic Development Commission; County Council	Ongoing Santee-Cooper Loan
6. Ensure that all governmental actions be considerate of racial, religious, and cultural groups that comprise Oconee County's population.	County Council	Ongoing

Goal #3

Establish an efficient, equitable, and mutually compatible distribution of land uses that complements Oconee County’s traditionally rural lifestyle, yet supports sustainable economic development, protects the environment, and manages future growth and changes.

Objective 1: Encourage development in a way that protects and preserves our natural resources.

Applicable Elements: Population; Natural Resources; Cultural; Housing; Community Facilities; Economic Development; Land Use; Transportation; Priority Investment

Strategies for Success	Agencies Responsible	Timeframe for Completion
1. Review and update existing land use regulations as needed, to facilitate development that preserves forests, prime agricultural lands, sensitive areas, and natural resources.	Planning Commission; County Council	Ongoing
2. Develop reasonable regulations regarding the development of steep slope areas.	Planning Commission; County Council	2011 ONGOING/ Planning Commission to-do list
3. Establish green space/open space requirements for new developments.	Planning Commission; County Council	2011 Planning Commission to-do list
4. Establish strategies and adopt measures necessary to create the framework for the efficient implementation of erosion and sediment control regulations.	Planning Commission; County Council	2011 ONGOING
5. Support efforts to educate public in the use of best management practices for construction sites.	Planning Commission; County Council	Ongoing Located in I.B.C.
6. Consider, and possibly adopt, regulatory components of a program to expand the natural vegetative buffer requirement to all lake front properties; this may or may not include provisions for increasing the size of the buffer to 50 feet.	Planning Commission; County Council	2013 Planning Commission to-do list
7. Establish a mitigation program for littered and unsafe properties, utilizing funding from alternative funding sources such as state and federal grants, or possibly specialized tax levies.	Planning Commission; County Council	2012 ONGOING Litter control Ordinances and Officer

Objective 2: Manage development in a manner that ensures our natural resources and lifestyle serve to enhance a sustainable economic prosperity.

Applicable Elements: Population; Natural Resources; Cultural; Housing; Community Facilities; Economic Development; Land Use; Transportation; Priority Investment

Strategies for Success	Agencies Responsible	Timeframe for Completion
1. Utilize the countywide zoning process to plan appropriate development and protect special areas through rezonings and overlays.	Planning Commission; County Council	Ongoing Planning Commission to-do list
2. Work to manage urban/suburban development in Oconee County to insure adequate infrastructure is in place to support balanced growth in primary growth areas, while limiting urban sprawl and protecting those areas deemed special.	Planning Commission; County Council	Ongoing
3. Identify potential county industrial sites in appropriate areas, and work with public and private entities to secure funding to purchase select properties for potential projects within prime industrial areas.	Economic Development Commission; Planning Commission; County Council	Ongoing OITP (Money and Development) , Seneca Rail Site, Demo of Manufacturing Site in Westminster. Golden Corner Sewer
4. Promote a diverse economy that includes a mix of employment sectors, including ecotourism, to insure Oconee County remains economically competitive.	Economic Development Commission; Planning Commission; County Council	Ongoing Agri-Tourism, FARM Center, Oakway School

Goal #4

Manage our community facilities, infrastructure, and public resources in a manner that ensures both the existing population and future generations may enjoy the benefits and economic opportunities that make Oconee County an attractive and affordable place to live.

Objective 1: Seek local, state, and federal funding support in efforts to expand and enhance educational opportunities for Oconee County residents.

Applicable Elements: Community Facilities; Economic Development

Strategies for Success	Agencies Responsible	Timeframe for Completion
1. Expand coordination of planning efforts with School District of Oconee County to ensure decisions related to school projects are made with the most complete information available, to include all issues related to infrastructure, accessibility, and traffic planning.	Planning Commission; County Council	2011 State chooses sites and handles traffic issues.
2. Continue to look for opportunities to support and enhance job training, education, and adult back-to-school programs by fostering ties with area universities and vocational technical colleges; this may include promoting the development of satellite programs for better access by local residents.	Economic Development Commission; Planning Commission; County Council	Ongoing TCTC in OITP Career Day Fair Leadership Class
3. Provide the School District of Oconee County appropriate assistance in efforts to enhance and upgrade education.	County Council	Ongoing 2.2 Mils
4. Prioritize expansion and upgrades of libraries through the capital improvements plan and coordinate their location with available infrastructure and the location of schools.	Library Board; Planning Commission; County Council	Ongoing

Objective 2: Promote and enhance access to affordable housing through both public and private cooperation.

Applicable Elements: Population; Housing; Economic Development; Priority Investment

Strategies for Success	Agencies Responsible	Timeframe for Completion
1. Create a Housing Task Force, non-profit housing agency, or Trust which would analyze regulatory barriers and seek market-based incentives to promote affordable housing.	Planning Commission; County Council	2011 Planning Commission to-do list
2. Review and amend land development and subdivision regulations as needed to provide incentives to promote the development of high-quality, low-cost housing.	Planning Commission; County Council	2012 Ongoing. Special Exemption for Habitat for Humanity
3. Work with state and local government to find funding sources, such as growth management infrastructure grants, to assist public and private entities seeking funds to develop and rehabilitate high-quality, low-cost housing.	Planning Commission; County Council	Ongoing Planning Commission to-do list
4. Work with local, state, and federal agencies to reduce barriers to affordability; this may include one-stop permitting, pre-approved affordable housing plans, and payback mechanisms for upgrades to infrastructure.	Planning Commission; County Council	Ongoing One stop pre-approval partnership with municipalities for low- cost housing
5. Adopt and enforce substandard housing regulations needed to ensure health and safety; this may include the adoption of the International Property Maintenance Code.	Planning Commission; County Council	2011 COMPLETE

Objective 3: Upgrade solid waste facilities to improve services and allow for needed upgrades and expansion to provide for anticipated growth.

Applicable Elements: Community Facilities; Economic Development; Priority Investment

Strategies for Success	Agencies Responsible	Timeframe for Completion
1. Study options and develop long-range solution for the County’s solid waste needs; these may include, but are not limited to, constructing an in-county landfill, partnering with other jurisdictions in developing a regional landfill, or the continuation of long-term contracts with outside parties.	Planning Commission; County Council	2011 ONGOING. Solid Waste Ordinance. Update Solid Waste Plan. PC TO DO LIST.
2. Seek to partner in the development of a solid waste research facility at a regional landfill.	Planning Commission; County Council	Ongoing Regional Landfills dying
3. Identify and construct additional construction and demolition landfill sites within the county.	Planning Commission; County Council	2014 Expanding existing. Private landfills being built.
4. Work to reduce the volume of solid waste through increased recycling and composting.	Planning Commission; County Council	Ongoing
5. Seek out innovative and alternative technologies that not only provide for a long-term solution to current and projected solid waste needs, but may also be used in the future to mitigate and reclaim closed facilities.	Planning Commission; County Council	Ongoing Planning Commission to-do list / Incinerators and Single Stream were studied and proved costly.
6. Seek and establish appropriate uses for closed landfill areas, which may include, but will not be limited to, the establishment of solar power generation facilities and appropriate recreation facilities.	Planning Commission; County Council	2014 Planning Commission to-do list

Objective 4: Regularly review public safety needs and enhance facilities as required.

Applicable Elements: Community Facilities; Priority Investment

Strategies for Success	Agencies Responsible	Timeframe for Completion
1. Review and upgrade existing emergency facilities plans on a regular basis, implementing established goals in a systematic manner.	Emergency Services Commission; Planning Commission; County Council	Ongoing
2. Provide local public safety agencies appropriate assistance in obtaining funding to expand and upgrade operations.	Emergency Services Commission; County Council	Ongoing
3. Coordinate local public safety planning and activity with regional, state, and federal agencies.	Emergency Services Commission; Planning Commission; County Council	Ongoing
4. Seek to partner with private entities in the development of emergency satellite facilities and specialized response equipment.	Emergency Services Commission; Planning Commission; County Council	Ongoing

Objective 5: Continue to monitor closely Oconee County’s compliance with state and federal air-quality standards, adopting and maintaining reduction strategies as necessary.

Applicable Elements: Natural Resources; Housing; Land Use

Strategies for Success	Agencies Responsible	Timeframe for Completion
1. Monitor results of current and future radon research.	Planning Commission	Ongoing Planning Commission to-do list
2. Partner with Home Builder’s Association and other stakeholders to develop a radon response program; this may include, but is not limited to, an educational component that provides information related to both the cost-savings and potential health benefits of incorporating a radon-mitigation option in early construction stages, or the adoption of new standards requiring proven mitigation methods.	Planning Commission; County Council	2012 Planning Commission to-do list
3. Amend and adopt standards as necessary to maintain compliance with the Clean Air Act.	Planning Commission; County Council	Ongoing COMPLETE

Objective 6: Work to address the age-related problems that may arise among Oconee County’s aging population, particularly focusing on issues not adequately dealt with by state and federal efforts.

Applicable Elements: Population; Community Facilities; Priority Investment

Strategies for Success	Agencies Responsible	Timeframe for Completion
1. Review and upgrade county-owned medical/residential/nursing care facilities as needed.	County Council	Ongoing
2. Support municipalities in efforts to establish public transportation, seeking ways to expand into various parts of the unincorporated areas as appropriate.	Planning Commission; County Council	Ongoing CAT bus grant
3. Continue to explore ways to increase the efficiency of emergency medical services throughout the county.	Emergency Services Commission; County Council	Ongoing GHS EMS medical response targets.
4. Seek partnerships with public and private entities to study age-related issues, particularly as they relate to potential impacts on Oconee County.	County Council	Ongoing

Objective 7: Upgrade and maintain the county road system in a manner that meets the needs of Oconee County’s growing population and provides safe and efficient routes through the county.

Applicable Elements: Population; Community Facilities; Economic Development; Transportation; Priority Investment

Strategies for Success	Agencies Responsible	Timeframe for Completion
1. Develop an ongoing systematic road maintenance and upgrade program based on a steady revenue sources.	Road Department; Planning Commission; County Council	2012 ONGOING
2. Develop and maintain a priority road upgrade list that not only considers existing traffic ‘bottlenecks’ and other sources of trouble, but also reasonably anticipates those expected to emerge in the coming decade.	Road Department; Planning Commission; County Council	2012 ONGOING
3. Consider and adopt appropriate traffic management tools and techniques that utilize concepts such as limiting the number of curb cuts in high-traffic areas.	Road Department; Planning Commission; County Council	Ongoing Planning Commission to-do list
4. Prioritize evaluation of all roads lying within primary development areas shown on the Future Land Use Map.	Road Department; Planning Commission; County Council	Ongoing
5. Continue to require developers to provide traffic studies to determine if a road must be upgraded to safely handle increased traffic loads and to cover the costs of road upgrades when necessary.	Road Department; Planning Commission; County Council	Ongoing
6. Enhance communication with local and state D.O.T. staff and projects.	Road Department; Other County Staff	Ongoing

Objective 8: Continue to evaluate and fund public transportation in urbanizing areas of Oconee County, expanding as needed to provide for ongoing growth and development.

Applicable Elements: Population; Transportation; Priority Investment

Strategies for Success	Agencies Responsible	Timeframe for Completion
1. Promote and assist in the establishment of commuter parking lots to help encourage car pooling, and decrease traffic congestion.	Planning Commission; County Council	Ongoing
2. Continue to partner with Clemson Area Transit (CAT) in keeping existing services, while looking for other opportunities to expand public transportation, to include, but not be limited to, van services and other non-traditional forms of mass transit.	Planning Commission; County Council	Ongoing Non- traditional not included. Two mass transit studies. Funding issues (Busses are \$300k each)
3. Seek and secure methods of expanding transportation in remote areas for clients of facilities such as DSS, hospitals, medical complexes, government facilities, and parks.	County Council	Ongoing Shared area of Responsibility
4. Support efforts to establish a high-speed rail stop in Clemson, SC and/or Toccoa, Georgia.	Planning Commission; County Council	Ongoing Planning Commission to-do list
5. Seek and establish appropriate methods of mass transit that will promote and enhance tourism; these may include, but are not limited to, water taxis, tour boats, and other modes of transport that allow tourists and residents to enjoy natural resources without dramatically increasing traffic.	Mtn. Lakes Conv. & Visitors Bureau; Parks, Recreation and Tourism Commission; County Council	Ongoing Self-guided tourism , camp ground upgrades

Objective 9: Expand bicycle and pedestrian routes to allow for greater use of alternative forms of transportation, and to promote ecotourism opportunities.

Applicable Elements: Natural Resources; Transportation; Priority Investment

Strategies for Success	Agencies Responsible	Timeframe for Completion
1. Develop standards that encourage developers to incorporate sidewalks and bicycle trails into subdivision developments.	Planning Commission; County Council	2013 Ongoing County parks / ramps upgraded
2. Seek grants for creating nature trails, sidewalks, bicycle lanes, and other tools designed to make communities more walkable, reduce vehicle traffic, and improve safety for pedestrians and cyclists.	County Council	Ongoing
3. Upgrade county-maintained parks and recreational	Parks, Recreation and	Ongoing

facilities to encourage and promote ecotourism opportunities.	Tourism Commission; County Council	
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Objective 10: Continue upgrades to the Oconee County Airport in a manner that not only serves existing clientele, but will establish the facility as one of the premier small airports in the nation.

Applicable Elements: Community Facilities; Economic Development; Transportation; Priority Investment

Strategies for Success	Agencies Responsible	Timeframe for Completion
1. Complete ongoing expansion of runway length and upgrade of instrument landing system.	Aeronautics Commission; County Council	2014 COMPLETE
2. Construct planned future upgrades, to include relocation of roads, strengthening of runway, as well as any other necessary components as funding becomes available.	Aeronautics Commission; County Council	2014 Ongoing
3. Construct additional hangar space as needed to accommodate anticipated demand.	Aeronautics Commission; County Council	Ongoing
4. Develop ongoing capital improvements program aimed at upgrading facility to attract additional employers and potential occupants of business parks within the county.	Aeronautics Commission; County Council	2014 Complete and Ongoing
5. Seek and establish ways to utilize airport to foster partnerships with Clemson University	Aeronautics Commission; County Council	Ongoing Clemson Flying Tigers & Hangar lease agreements.

Objective 11: Establish programs to review all existing community facilities to determine needed changes resulting from both the aging of the facilities and the rapid population growth of Oconee County.

Applicable Elements: Population; Community Facilities; Priority Investment

Strategies for Success	Agencies Responsible	Timeframe for Completion
1. Review and update Community Facilities Plan, amending to reflect impact of recent growth and development and needs of aging population.	Planning Commission; County Council	2013 No Community Facilities Plan. Planning Commission to-do list
2. Utilize Capital Improvements Plan to systematically construct and upgrade facilities identified in Community Facilities Plan.	Planning Commission; County Council	Ongoing No Community Facilities Plan

3. Look for alternative to tax payer financing of projects such as private partnerships, user based fees, etc.	County Council	Ongoing No Community Facilities Plan
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Goal #5

Expand appreciation for the arts, cultural heritage, significant natural features, and historic treasures in a manner that both enhances our lifestyle and promotes sustainable economic prosperity.

Objective 1: Promote a countywide arts program to facilitate an appreciation for the arts and other cultural facilities found within Oconee.

Applicable Elements: Population; Cultural; Community Facilities; Priority Investment

Strategies for Success	Agencies Responsible	Timeframe for Completion
1. Seek partnerships and other forms of assistance for the School District of Oconee County in supporting the arts.	Parks, Recreation, Tourism Commission; County Council	Ongoing
2. Support local festivals and entertainment events that promote the heritage of the region; this may include, but not be limited to, grants and other appropriate forms of financial assistance.	Parks, Recreation, Tourism Commission; County Council	Ongoing County holds a number of events
3. Seek to expand role of the Oconee County Heritage Museum in documentation and preservation of local cultural and historical treasures; this may include, but not be limited to, funding of facility upgrades, establishment of various programs and partnerships aimed at promoting specific resources, and addition of staff positions.	Parks, Recreation, Tourism Commission; County Council	Ongoing \$30k per year and an employee. Solicitation of donations and artifacts.
4. Support high quality library facilities, programs, and services that enhance, enrich, entertain, and educate our diverse and growing population and present opportunities for life-long learning and the exchange of culture	Library Board County Council School District	Ongoing

Objective 2: Conserve and protect features of significant local, regional and national interest, such as scenic highways, state parks, and historic sites and expand efforts to promote them for tourism.

Applicable Elements: Natural Resources; Cultural; Land Use; Priority Investment

Strategies for Success	Agencies Responsible	Timeframe for Completion
1. Seek to insure the preservation and protection of sites and facilities currently listed on historic registers in Oconee County; this may include, but is not limited to, the development of partnerships to assist in the purchase of development rights, and adoption of standards governing future alterations.	Parks, Recreation, Tourism Commission; Planning Commission; County Council	Ongoing Courthouse to National Registry
2. Study and identify any additional cultural and historic properties worthy of consideration on historic registers.	Parks, Recreation, Tourism Commission; Planning Commission; County Council	2012 Complete and Ongoing
3. Provide assistance to local historical and cultural groups in efforts to obtain funding to study, maintain and manage Oconee County historical sites.	County Council	Ongoing
4. Update and maintain GIS data and maps that can be printed and/or displayed on the county website, to provide the public with information on the location of historical and cultural sites.	Parks, Recreation, Tourism Commission; Planning Commission; County Council	2013 COMPLETE
5. Provide appropriate financial and technical support to the development of the Southern Appalachian Farmstead Project currently underway in conjunction with the U.S. Forest Service and other governmental entities.	Parks, Recreation, Tourism Commission; County Council	2014 DEFUNCT
7. Review and adopt appropriate standards aimed at maintaining the state ‘Scenic Highway’ designation for SC Highway 11 and other routes; such standards may be based on adopted Scenic Hwy Corridor Plans or best practices, and may include the designation of the route as a County Scenic Highway.	County Scenic Highway Committee: Parks, Recreation, Tourism Commission; Planning Commission; County Council	2013 COMPLETE
8. Review and update adopted regulations as needed to ensure all cultural, historical, and natural resources receive the protection necessary to remain a viable component of our lifestyle, as well as playing a role in an expanding tourism economic sector.	Parks, Recreation, Tourism Commission; Planning Commission; County Council	Ongoing

OCONEE COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

415 South Pine Street - Walhalla, SC



TEL (864) 638-4218 FAX (864) 638-4168

Traffic Safety Facts

2015 Data

April 2017

DOT HS 812 393



Key Findings

- Of the 35,092 motor vehicle traffic fatalities in 2015 there were 17,114 (49%) that occurred in rural areas, 15,362 (44%) that occurred in urban areas, and 2,616 (7%) that occurred in unknown areas.
- According to the 2015 American Community Survey from the U.S. Census Bureau, an estimated 19 percent of the U.S. population lived in rural areas. However, rural fatalities accounted for 49 percent of all traffic fatalities in 2015.
- Rural traffic fatalities decreased by 28 percent from 23,646 in 2006 to 17,114 in 2015. Urban traffic fatalities decreased by 18 percent from 18,791 in 2006 to 15,362 in 2015.
- In 2015 the fatality rate per 100 million vehicle miles traveled was 2.6 times higher in rural areas than in urban areas (1.84 and 0.71, respectively).
- Of the 17,114 rural traffic fatalities in 2015 there were 4,758 people (28%) killed in speeding-related crashes. Of the 15,362 urban traffic fatalities in 2015 there were 4,171 people (27%) killed in speeding-related crashes.
- Rural alcohol-impaired-driving fatalities decreased by 34 percent from 7,493 in 2006 to 4,915 in 2015. Urban alcohol-impaired-driving fatalities decreased by 24 percent from 5,921 in 2006 to 4,474 in 2015.
- The 2015 National Occupant Protection Use Survey (NOPS) observed that the seat belt use rate among front seat passenger vehicle occupants in urban areas was 89.4 percent, and rural occupants were observed to have a use rate of 86.8 percent.
- Based on known restraint use in fatal crashes, 50 percent of rural passenger vehicle occupants killed in 2015 were unrestrained as compared to 46 percent of urban passenger vehicle occupants killed.



U.S. Department of Transportation
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

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Washington, DC 20590

Rural/Urban Comparison of Traffic Fatalities

For this fact sheet, rural and urban boundaries are determined by the State highway departments and approved by the Federal Highway Administration. The State highway departments use the U.S. Census Bureau's rural and urban boundaries.¹

In this fact sheet for 2015 the rural and urban information is presented as follows:

- Overview
- Time of Day
- Speeding
- Alcohol
- Restraint Use
- Rollover Crashes
- Driver Characteristics
- Nonoccupants
- Fatalities by State

This fact sheet contains information on fatal motor vehicle crashes and fatalities based on data from the Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS). FARS is a census of fatal crashes in the 50 States, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico (Puerto Rico is not included in U.S. totals).

Overview

In 2015:

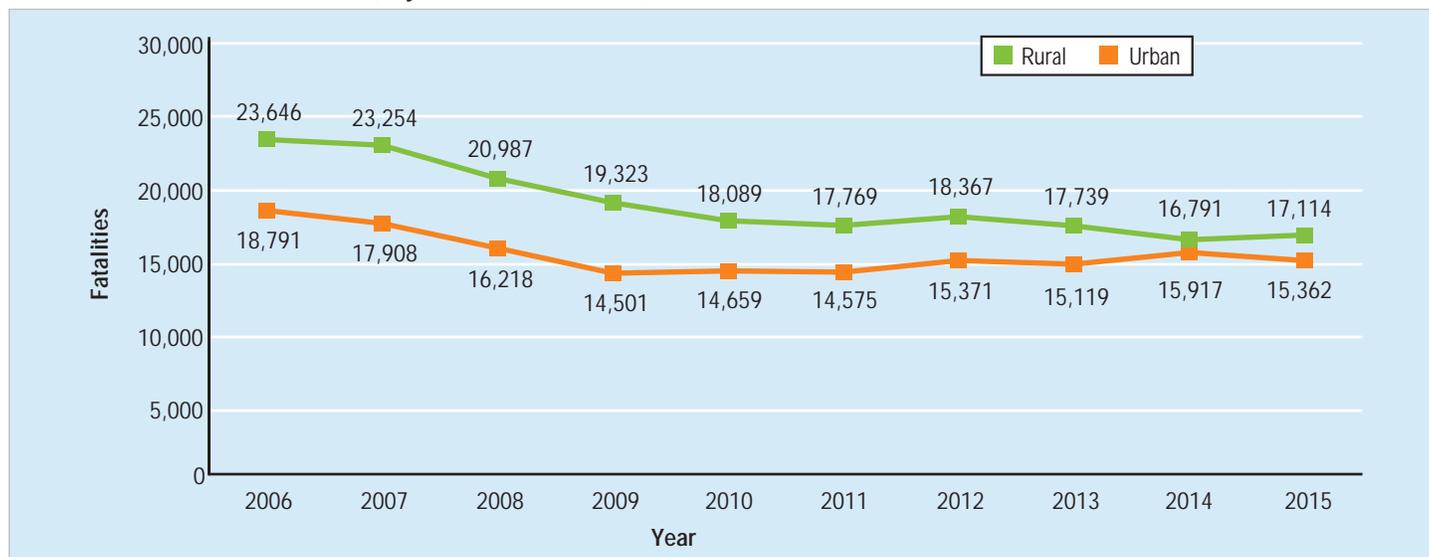
- There were 32,166 fatal motor vehicle traffic crashes resulting in 35,092 fatalities.
- Of these 32,166 fatal traffic crashes, there were 15,293 (48%) that occurred in rural areas, 14,414 (45%) that occurred in urban areas, and 2,459 (8%) that occurred in unknown areas (not enough information to determine if the crashes were inside the rural or urban boundaries).
- Of these 35,092 traffic fatalities, there were 17,114 (49%) that occurred in rural areas, 15,362 (44%) that occurred in urban areas, and 2,616 (7%) that occurred in unknown areas.
- According to the 2015 American Community Survey from the U.S. Census Bureau, an estimated 19 percent of the U.S. population lived in rural areas. However, rural fatalities accounted for 49 percent of all traffic fatalities in 2015.

Figure 1 presents the motor vehicle traffic fatality trends in the most recent 10-year period for which data is available by location (rural and urban):

- Rural fatalities decreased by 28 percent from 23,646 in 2006 to 17,114 in 2015.
- Urban fatalities decreased by 18 percent from 18,791 in 2006 to 15,362 in 2015.

¹ See the U.S. Census Bureau link to define urban and rural areas: www.census.gov/geo/reference/ua/urban-rural-2010.html

Figure 1
Motor Vehicle Traffic Fatalities, by Year and Location, 2006–2015



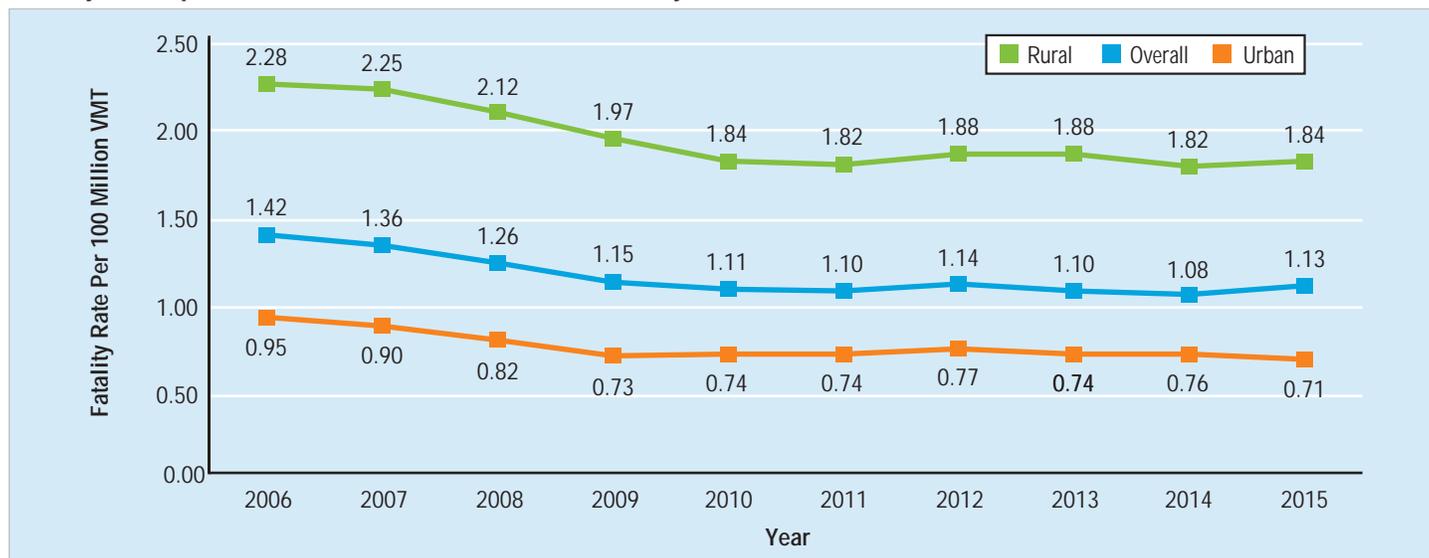
Source: FARS 2006-2014 Final File, 2015 Annual Report File (ARF)

Figure 2 presents the fatality rates per 100 million vehicle miles traveled (VMT) by location (rural, urban, and overall) in the most recent 10-year period for which data are available:

- The fatality rate in rural areas decreased by 19 percent from 2.28 in 2006 to 1.84 in 2015.

- The fatality rate in urban areas decreased by 25 percent from 0.95 in 2006 to 0.71 in 2015.
- In 2015 the fatality rate was 2.6 times higher in rural areas than in urban areas (1.84 and 0.71, respectively).

Figure 2
Fatality Rates per 100 Million Vehicle Miles Traveled, by Year and Location, 2006–2015



Sources: FARS 2006-2014 Final File, 2015 ARF; VMT – Federal Highway Administration

Time of Day

Of the 17,114 rural traffic fatalities in 2015, there were 9,263 (54%) that occurred during the day (6 a.m. to 5:59 p.m.), 7,670 (45%) that occurred during the night (6 p.m. to 5:59 a.m.), and 181 (1%) were unknowns. Of the 15,362 urban traffic fatalities in 2015, there were 6,564 (43%) that occurred during the day, 8,723 (57%) that occurred during the night, and 75 (<1%) were unknowns. In short, more rural traffic fatalities occurred during the day and more urban traffic fatalities occurred during the night.

Speeding

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration considers a crash to be speeding-related if the driver was charged with a speeding-related offense or if an officer indicated that racing, driving too fast for conditions, or exceeding the posted speed limit was a contributing factor in the crash.

In 2015:

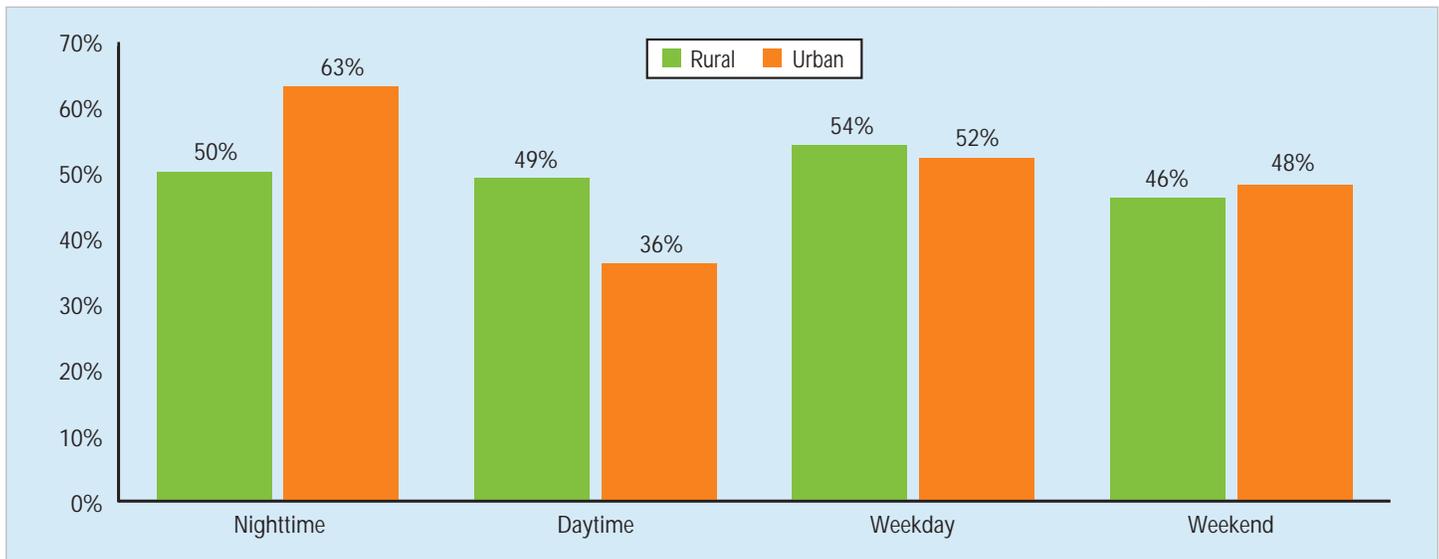
- Of the 35,092 traffic fatalities, there were 9,557 (27%) who were killed in speeding-related crashes.
- Of the 17,114 rural traffic fatalities, there were 4,758 (28%) who were killed in speeding-related crashes.
- Of the 15,362 urban traffic fatalities, there were 4,171 (27%) who were killed in speeding-related crashes.

Figure 3 shows the rural and urban percentages of speeding-related fatalities in traffic crashes in 2015 by time of day (nighttime – 6 p.m. to 5:59 a.m./daytime – 6 a.m. to 5:59 p.m.) and day of week (weekday – Monday 6 a.m. to Friday 5:59 p.m./weekend – Friday 6 p.m. to Monday 5:59 a.m.):

- Half (50%) of rural area speeding-related fatalities occurred at night and 46 percent occurred over the weekend.
- Nearly two-thirds (63%) of urban area speeding-related fatalities occurred at night and 48 percent occurred over the weekend.

Figure 3

Rural and Urban Percentages of Speeding-Related Fatalities in Traffic Crashes, by Time of Day and Day of Week, 2015



Source: FARS 2015 ARF

Note: Nighttime – 6 p.m. to 5:59 a.m.; daytime – 6 a.m. to 5:59 p.m.; weekday – Monday 6 a.m. to Friday 5:59 p.m.; weekend – Friday 6 p.m. to Monday 5:59 a.m.

Sixty-three percent of drivers involved in urban fatal crashes in 2015 were on roadways where the posted speed limits were 50 miles per hour (mph) or less. In rural fatal crashes, 74 percent of drivers involved were on roadways where the posted speed limit was 55 mph or higher.

Alcohol

Drivers are considered to be alcohol-impaired when their blood alcohol concentrations (BACs) are .08 grams per deciliter (g/dL) or higher. Thus, any fatality occurring in a crash involving a driver with a BAC of .08 or higher is considered to be an alcohol-impaired-driving fatality.

Table 1 presents the number of traffic fatalities and alcohol-impaired-driving fatalities by location (rural/urban).

- In 2015 the proportions of alcohol-impaired-driving fatalities were the same between rural and urban areas at 29 percent.

- Of the 10,265 alcohol-impaired-driving fatalities in 2015, there were 4,915 (48%) that occurred in rural areas, 4,474 (44%) that occurred in urban areas, and 876 (9%) were unknowns.
- Alcohol-impaired-driving fatalities decreased by 24 percent from 13,491 in 2006 to 10,265 in 2015.
 - Rural alcohol-impaired-driving fatalities decreased by 34 percent from 7,493 in 2006 to 4,915 in 2015.
 - Urban alcohol-impaired-driving fatalities decreased by 24 percent from 5,921 in 2006 to 4,474 in 2015.

Table 1

Traffic Fatalities and Alcohol-Impaired-Driving Fatalities, by Location, 2006 and 2015

Location	2006			2015		
	Total Fatalities	Alcohol-Impaired-Driving Fatalities BAC=.08+		Total Fatalities	Alcohol-Impaired-Driving Fatalities BAC=.08+	
		Number	Percent		Number	Percent
Rural	23,646	7,493	32%	17,114	4,915	29%
Urban	18,791	5,921	32%	15,362	4,474	29%
Total**	42,708	13,491	32%	35,092	10,265	29%

Source: FARS 2006 Final File, 2015 ARF

*Includes motorcycle riders.

**Includes fatalities where location was unknown.

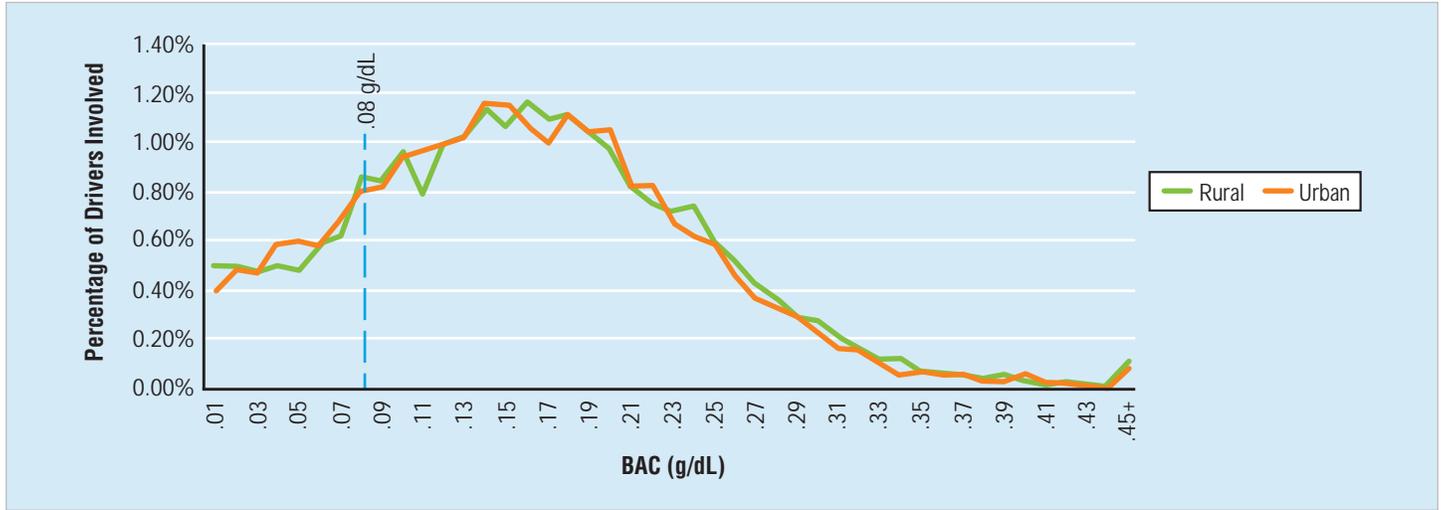
Of the 48,613 drivers involved in fatal traffic crashes in 2015, there were 9,649 (20%) who were alcohol-impaired. Of these alcohol-impaired drivers, there were 4,520 (47%) who were driving in rural areas at the time of the crash and 4,298 (45%) who were driving in urban areas.

The highest percentages of alcohol-impaired drivers involved in fatal crashes among all age groups in 2015 were drivers 21 to 24 years old (28%), followed by drivers 25 to 34 years old (27%) and 35 to 44 years old (23%). Rural and urban alcohol-impaired drivers followed this trend with 21- to 24-year-olds (29% and 27%, respectively), followed by 25- to 34-year-olds (both 26%) and 35- to 44-year-olds (23% and 21%, respectively).

In cases where drivers involved in fatal crashes in 2015 had one or more previous convictions for driving while intoxicated (DWI), 53 percent of rural drivers were alcohol-impaired and 45 percent of urban drivers were alcohol-impaired.

As shown in Figure 4, the most frequently recorded BAC among drinking drivers involved in fatal crashes in rural areas was .16 g/dL. For urban areas, it was .14 g/dL.

Figure 4
Distribution of Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC) of Drivers Involved in Fatal Crashes, by Location, 2015



Source: FARS 2015 ARF

Restraint Use

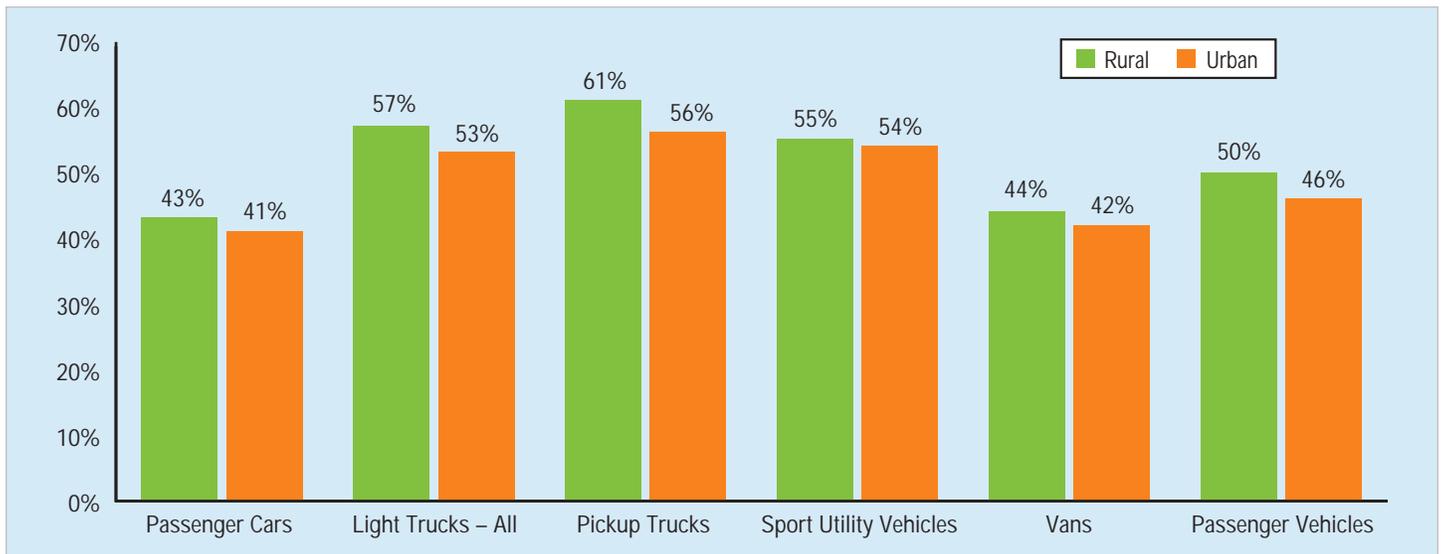
The 2015 NOPUS observed that the seat belt use rate among front seat passenger vehicle (defined as passenger cars and light trucks) occupants in urban areas was 89.4 percent, and rural occupants were observed to have a use rate of 86.8 percent (see NHTSA Research Note *Seat Belt Use in 2015 – Overall Results*, Report No. DOT HS 812 243).

Of the 22,441 passenger vehicle occupants killed in 2015, there were 12,797 (57%) who were killed in rural areas and 8,262 (37%) who were killed in urban areas.

Figure 5 presents the 2015 rural and urban percentages (based on known restraint use) of unrestrained passenger vehicle occupant fatalities by vehicle type (passenger cars and light trucks including pickup trucks, SUVs, and vans). In 2015 (based on known restraint use):

- Fifty percent of rural passenger vehicle occupants killed were unrestrained as compared to 46 percent of urban passenger vehicle occupants killed.
- Under two-thirds (61%) of rural pickup truck occupants killed were unrestrained – the highest percentage of any passenger vehicle occupants killed among both rural and urban areas.

Figure 5
Rural and Urban Percentages of Unrestrained* Passenger Vehicle Occupant Fatalities, by Vehicle Type, 2015



Source: FARS 2015 ARF

*Based on known restraint use.

Rollover Crashes

Of the 12,797 rural passenger vehicle occupants killed in 2015, there were 4,829 (38%) who were in vehicles that rolled over; of the 8,262 urban passenger vehicle occupants killed, there were 1,963 (24%) who were in vehicles that rolled over. Data further shows that 66 percent of rural and 63 percent of urban passenger vehicle occupants killed were unrestrained in rollover vehicles (based on known restraint use).

SUVs involved in rural fatal crashes in 2015 experienced the highest rollover percentage at 36 percent. Other rural rollover percentages were 30 percent for pickup trucks, 20 percent for passenger cars, 22 percent for vans, and 16 percent for large trucks. In urban areas, vehicles experienced lower rollover percentages: 18 percent for SUVs, 15 percent for pickup trucks, 9 percent for passenger cars, 8 percent for vans, and 8 percent for large trucks.

Driver Characteristics

Rural drivers involved in fatal crashes in 2015 were found to have a higher percentage of valid driver's licenses than urban drivers (87% and 84%, respectively).

There were 22,150 drivers killed in motor vehicle traffic crashes in 2015. Sixty-one percent of rural drivers died at the scenes of the crashes, compared to 33 percent of urban drivers. Data also shows that 40 percent of all drivers killed were transported to hospitals and 3 percent of these drivers died en route. Rural drivers represented 57 percent of drivers who died en route to hospitals compared to 42 percent for urban drivers.

Nonoccupants

Nonoccupants are defined as pedestrians, pedalcyclists, or other nonoccupants. In 2015:

- Of the 5,376 pedestrians killed in motor vehicle traffic crashes, 1,160 (22%) occurred in rural areas, 3,704 (69%) occurred in urban areas, and 512 (10%) were unknowns.
- Of the 818 pedalcyclists killed in motor vehicle traffic crashes, 214 (26%) occurred in rural areas, 492 (60%) occurred in urban areas, and 112 (14%) were unknowns.

Fatalities by State

For each State and the District of Columbia in 2015, Table 2 presents the number and percentage of rural and urban traffic fatalities. Puerto Rico is included in this table, but not included in the overall U.S. total.

In 2015, the total number of unknowns was unusually higher compared to previous years because of six States: Florida (1,248), Texas (804), Maryland (307), Alabama (120), New Jersey (47), and Idaho (20).

Additional State/county-level data is available at NHTSA's State Traffic Safety Information website: <https://cdan.nhtsa.gov/stsi.htm>.

The suggested APA format citation for this document is:

National Center for Statistics and Analysis. (2017, April). *Rural/urban comparison of traffic fatalities: 2015 data*. (Traffic Safety Facts. Report No. DOT HS 812 393). Washington, DC: National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

For More Information:

Information on traffic fatalities is available from the National Center for Statistics and Analysis, NSA-230, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE., Washington, DC 20590. NCSA can be contacted at 800-934-8517 or by e-mail at ncsarequests@dot.gov. General information on highway traffic safety can be found at www.nhtsa.gov/NCSA. To report a safety-related problem or to inquire about motor vehicle safety information, contact the Vehicle Safety Hotline at 888-327-4236.

Other fact sheets available from the National Center for Statistics and Analysis are *Alcohol-Impaired Driving, Bicyclists and Other Cyclists, Children, Large Trucks, Motorcycles, Occupant Protection, Older Population, Passenger Vehicles, Pedestrians, School Transportation-Related Crashes, Speeding, State Alcohol Estimates, State Traffic Data, Summary of Motor Vehicle Crashes* and *Young Drivers*. Detailed data on motor vehicle traffic crashes are published annually in *Traffic Safety Facts: A Compilation of Motor Vehicle Crash Data from the Fatality Analysis Reporting System and the General Estimates System*. The fact sheets and annual Traffic Safety Facts report can be found at <https://crashstats.nhtsa.dot.gov/>.



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

Table 2

Rural and Urban Traffic Fatalities, by State, 2015

State	Location						Total	
	Rural		Urban		Unknown			
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Alabama	480	57%	249	29%	120	14%	849	100%
Alaska	33	51%	31	48%	1	2%	65	100%
Arizona	335	38%	554	62%	4	0%	893	100%
Arkansas	376	71%	155	29%	0	0%	531	100%
California	1,366	43%	1,802	57%	8	0%	3,176	100%
Colorado	260	48%	284	52%	2	0%	546	100%
Connecticut	46	17%	217	82%	3	1%	266	100%
Delaware	66	52%	60	48%	0	0%	126	100%
District of Columbia	0	0%	23	100%	0	0%	23	100%
Florida	453	15%	1,238	42%	1,248	42%	2,939	100%
Georgia	564	39%	866	61%	0	0%	1,430	100%
Hawaii	13	14%	81	86%	0	0%	94	100%
Idaho	162	75%	34	16%	20	9%	216	100%
Illinois	419	42%	579	58%	0	0%	998	100%
Indiana	523	64%	298	36%	0	0%	821	100%
Iowa	230	72%	90	28%	0	0%	320	100%
Kansas	276	78%	79	22%	0	0%	355	100%
Kentucky	593	78%	168	22%	0	0%	761	100%
Louisiana	354	49%	365	50%	7	1%	726	100%
Maine	130	83%	26	17%	0	0%	156	100%
Maryland	42	8%	164	32%	307	60%	513	100%
Massachusetts	19	6%	287	94%	0	0%	306	100%
Michigan	576	60%	382	40%	5	1%	963	100%
Minnesota	274	67%	135	33%	2	0%	411	100%
Mississippi	559	83%	118	17%	0	0%	677	100%
Missouri	497	57%	371	43%	1	0%	869	100%
Montana	200	89%	24	11%	0	0%	224	100%
Nebraska	173	70%	73	30%	0	0%	246	100%
Nevada	107	33%	214	66%	4	1%	325	100%
New Hampshire	66	58%	48	42%	0	0%	114	100%
New Jersey	64	11%	451	80%	47	8%	562	100%
New Mexico	176	59%	120	40%	2	1%	298	100%
New York	450	40%	671	60%	0	0%	1,121	100%
North Carolina	910	66%	468	34%	1	0%	1,379	100%
North Dakota	122	93%	9	7%	0	0%	131	100%
Ohio	492	44%	610	55%	8	1%	1,110	100%
Oklahoma	391	61%	252	39%	0	0%	643	100%
Oregon	313	70%	133	30%	1	0%	447	100%
Pennsylvania	616	51%	581	48%	3	0%	1,200	100%
Rhode Island	7	16%	38	84%	0	0%	45	100%
South Carolina	699	72%	278	28%	0	0%	977	100%
South Dakota	113	85%	20	15%	0	0%	133	100%
Tennessee	479	50%	477	50%	2	0%	958	100%
Texas	1,493	42%	1,219	35%	804	23%	3,516	100%
Utah	107	39%	159	58%	10	4%	276	100%
Vermont	48	84%	9	16%	0	0%	57	100%
Virginia	485	64%	268	36%	0	0%	753	100%
Washington	288	51%	277	49%	3	1%	568	100%
West Virginia	190	71%	78	29%	0	0%	268	100%
Wisconsin	360	64%	205	36%	1	0%	566	100%
Wyoming	119	82%	24	17%	2	1%	145	100%
U.S. Total	17,114	49%	15,362	44%	2,616	7%	35,092	100%
Puerto Rico	189	61%	120	39%	0	0%	309	100%

Source: FARS 2015 ARF

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**Roadway fatalities in Oconee County
(1993-2017)**

19% of the U.S. population lives in rural areas but rural fatalities accounted for 49% of all traffic fatalities in 2015.



In South Carolina there has been almost a 27 percent increase in road deaths in the past three years , from 2014-2016.



Oconee County - Summary by Year

Year	Fatal Collision	Injury Collision	Property Damage Only Collision	Total Collisions	Persons Killed	Persons Injured
2012	21	356	884	1,261	22	525
2013	3	343	908	1,254	6	463
2014	11	347	852	1,210	13	481
2015	13	352	1,046	1,411	13	498
2016	11	434	997	1,442	11	626
2017	17	326	941	1,284	20	483

Research needed to be complete

- Future plans of :
 - Pickens County
 - Clemson
 - Seneca
 - Westminster
- SC Department of Transportation
 - Expansion plans, as-built information, construction standards
- SC Highway Patrol
 - Tickets, “Goal Zero”