

## **CHAPTER 7 INTERGOVERNMENTAL COORDINATION**

As detailed in the previous six chapters, the number of function activities, issues and services that must be addressed by local government in order to effectively plan for its future is immense. Adding complexity to this situation is the fact that the actions of other local governments, other governmental entities and even local authorities can have profound impacts on the implementation of local governments' comprehensive plans. The purpose of this plan section is to inventory and address the adequacy and suitability of existing coordination mechanisms and policies to serve the current and future needs of Greater Lanier; as it seeks to implement goals and objectives that in many cases involve multiple governmental entities.

### **REGIONAL PERSPECTIVE**

Lanier County and the City of Lakeland are member governments served by the South Georgia Regional Development Center. One method of coordination of all state, federal and local governmental actions is the Georgia State Clearinghouse Intergovernmental Review Process that involves potentially affected governments/parties subject to the nature of the activity being undertaken. This review coordinating mechanism covers a large array of local, state and federal development projects and affected local jurisdictions are afforded the opportunity to comment on proposals in the planning stage.

A second strength for fostering local intergovernmental coordination is the design of the local planning function. By choice, and recognizing the need for local plan implementation and coordination, Lanier County and the City of Lakeland have a single countywide planning advisory commission. This local planning process has been "seamless" since the creation of the Joint Growth Strategies Advisory Committee in 1993. When the 2015 Greater Lanier Comprehensive Plan was adopted in 1995, the countywide planning advisory commission was formed and challenged to help the city and county reach their identified goals.

### **COORDINATION MECHANISMS WITH ADJACENT LOCAL GOVERNMENTS**

The City of Lakeland has developed and executed Memorandums of Agreement with Lanier County concerning the potential for intergovernmental conflicts for Land Use Intensity Subject to Annexation. As noted above, Greater Lanier are served by a joint planning advisory commission, and have a seamless future land use plan. All actions for annexation/rezoning are subject to the intergovernmental agreement addressed as part of the local Service Delivery Strategy agreement. Potential for other development affecting Greater Lanier would be addressed by the Developments of Regional Impact Review Process (DRI) contained within the Georgia Planning Act.

### **SCHOOL BOARD COORDINATION**

Lanier County and Lakeland are served by a single school system, the Lanier County Board of Education. All local land development ordinances call for siting approval for new facilities from the respective governmental jurisdiction, and all countywide public schools are located within the Lakeland Urban Service Area.

## SPECIAL SERVICE DISTRICTS

Greater Turner has no special service districts.

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES

Greater Lanier has three independent development authorities that are outlined in Table 7-1 below.

**Table 7-1  
Greater Lanier Authorities**

<b>Authority Name</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Method of Creation</b>	<b>Dependency</b>	<b>Single or Multi-Jurisdictional</b>
Lanier County Development Authority	Industrial Development	General Statute	Independent	Multi-Jurisdictional
Lanier, Lowndes, Clinch, Berrien, Echols Joint Development Authority	Multi-County Industrial Development	General Statute	Independent	Multi-Jurisdictional
Housing Authority of the City of Lakeland, Georgia	Housing	General Statute	Independent	Single

Source: South Georgia Regional Development Center, 2005.

While each authority is eligible for grant and loan programs, local control is maintained by the fact that the elected governmental bodies appoint each authority's membership and approve annual funding allocations in their budget. Coordination with these authorities is currently maintained through the chief elected official of the respective local government.

## LANIER COUNTY SERVICE DELIVERY STRATEGY

In 1995, the Georgia Legislature passed the Service Delivery Strategy Law (H.B. 489) that mandated the development of a local mechanism to encourage coordination of service delivery. Lanier County and the City of Lakeland participated in and developed such a coordinating mechanism, and have reviewed and updated the agreement.

## ASSESSMENT OF CURRENT AND FUTURE NEEDS

Upon inventory and assessment, Lanier County and Lakeland believe that current coordination mechanisms are sufficient to meet community needs through the twenty-year planning period. The respective jurisdictions are active participants in the Georgia Intergovernmental Review Process, the requirements of the Development of Regional Impact (DRI) and Intergovernmental review subject to annexation portions of the Georgia Planning Act, and routinely are represented at South Georgia Regional Development Center board meetings and functions.

Should issues arise Lanier County and Lakeland feel they cannot adequately handle, they will approach the appropriate Authority/governmental authority to institute appropriate communications and mediate the dispute.