

**City of Porterdale Comprehensive Plan 2010-2030  
Public Participation Plan**

**Draft  
September 9, 2010**

**Fanning Institute  
University of Georgia**

## **Introduction**

The City of Porterdale recognizes the importance of engaging community members in the process of creating the community's Comprehensive Plan and vision for the future. Creating an accurate road map of the city's future requires that those living in the community and those vested in the future of Porterdale participate in the process of designing that road map. While Porterdale is a small city, its residents and former residents take great pride in it and want to see the city take advantage of the unique elements found within it: the river that intersects town; the historic housing and commercial building stock; the restored mill that now holds loft apartments; and the myriad other elements, both natural and man-made, that make Porterdale the proud community that it is.

The Fanning Institute will assist the City of Porterdale in building their Comprehensive Plan, and in doing so rely on the Institute's proven approach to community planning that maximizes community participation in a creative visioning process using the full range of interests and expertise of community members. The community, with tools and techniques provided by Fanning, will develop the plan. When community members are invested in a plan and are behind the strategies to achieve the vision, they are willing to support implementation of the plan. All work done during this planning process will comply with the Department of Community Affairs *Standards and Procedures for Local Comprehensive Planning "Local Planning Requirements,"* for the *Advanced Planning Level* with an effective date of May 1, 2005. The work will also be done in consultation with the Newton County comprehensive plan to ensure consistency and compatibility.

## **I. Identification of Stakeholders**

While all members of the community will be provided an opportunity to step forward and participate in the planning process, there are particular individuals, groups and organizations that have a significant enough stake in the outcome of Porterdale's planning effort that is important to identify them to ensure their input and participation in the planning effort. The following are stakeholders in Porterdale's Comprehensive Plan and vision for the future:

Mayor Bobby Hamby

City Council members:

Robert Foxworth – Post 1

Linda Finger – Post 2

Arline Chapman – Post 3

Mike Harper – Post 4

Lowell Chambers – Post 5

City Manager Bob Thomson

City departments:

Police

Fire

Code Enforcement

Newton County School System

Residents of Porterdale

Business owners and operators

Real estate and development community

Property owners  
Youth  
Porter Pals  
Friends of Porterdale  
C.A.R.E (Community Assistant Relief Efforts)  
Porterdale Art Guild  
Community garden members  
Faith based organizations  
Yellow River recreation users  
Other individual, groups and organizations identified by the City of Porterdale

Porterdale's stakeholders will be engaged in multiple ways throughout the development of the plan and vision. These techniques are described below.

## **II. Participation Techniques**

### ***Visioning Committee***

The City will appoint a nine (9) to fifteen (15) member visioning committee, whose membership is made up from Porterdale's planning stakeholders. This Visioning Committee will guide the development of the Community Agenda, Vision and Implementation plan. The committee will evaluate input from other stakeholders and the community at large, review the Community Assessment and preliminary community Issues and Opportunities and based on this review develop a community Vision and Implementation Plan for the City of Porterdale.

### ***Porterdale Reunion 2010 Kiosk and Survey***

Friends of Porterdale will be hosting the Porterdale Reunion in late summer, and this will provide the community with the opportunity to provide information to residents on the Comprehensive Planning process; allow residents and those with a vested interest in the future of the community to take a brief survey that will inform the planning process; and allow interested individuals to sign up to receive information on community meetings, focus groups, and other information gathering and presentation opportunities.

### ***Kickoff Meeting:***

The City of Porterdale will host a formal kickoff meeting to outline the planning process, provide a presentation to residents and other interested parties describing the planning process, and review information gathered through surveys at the Porterdale Reunion. Community members will be provided an opportunity volunteer to work on a particular component of the plan. Attendees will also be given printed information on the planning process, a calendar of events that will inform the process, and other relevant information.

### ***Visioning Committee Visual Preference Survey:***

Each member of the Visioning Committee will be given a disposable camera and instructed to take five to ten pictures of developments and landscapes that they like, and an identical number of photographs of ones they do not like. The photographs will be used for a broader community visual preference survey and to determine the basis for appropriate future land uses and designs for Porterdale.

***Vision Goals and Objectives Meeting:***

This meeting will be a priority for the Visioning Committee, and open to the general public. This facilitated session will look at the existing assets in the community, what is lacking in the community, and the identification of ways to develop those community components that are missing. The meeting will also include a visual preference survey, based on the photographs of the Visioning Committee. This meeting will be conducted using key pad voting technology as well as a wireless network to allow those who might be less likely to share their opinions a way to do so anonymously.

***Stakeholder Interviews:***

To flesh out information gathered through the Goals and Objectives meeting and to more fully inform the plan, a series of one-on-one stakeholder interviews will be conducted with members of the Steering Committee. Interviews will also be conducted with members of the Visioning Committee as needed.

***Town Hall Meeting:***

To ensure that the information gathered and discussed during the Visioning Committee meetings, a town hall meeting will be conducted that allows additional input into the goals and objectives identified in the committee meetings, as well as a review of the visual preference survey. Using the results of the Visioning Committee's photo-survey, augmented by images supplied by the Fanning Institute, comments will be made using the wireless network that will anonymously gather input from the general public. This method will enable a broad and accurate survey of residents for the Community Vision.

***Student Focus Group:***

Students in Porterdale will be identified and asked to participate in focus group designed to allow the teen-agers of the community to address their wants and needs within the city. The session will provide young students (8 to 12 year olds) the opportunity to draw what they would like to see in the future, and provide others (13-18 year olds) a chance to respond to a short survey and discuss what they like, don't like, and would like to see in Porterdale.

***Public Hearings:***

A public hearings will be held as part of a regularly scheduled city council meeting to receive comments on the Community Assessment and Public Participation Plan prior to their submittal to the North East Georgia Regional Commission for review.

A public hearing will also be held prior to the submission of the final plan document to the NEGRC and DCA for review and approval.

**III. Community Agenda Completion Schedule**

***August 17, 2010.*** First public hearing followed by submission of the draft documents to NEGRC and DCA for review and comment.

Deliverables: **Community Assessment** and **Community Participation Program** for Porterdale, Georgia be to be submitted to the NEGRC for review and comment prior

to starting the Community Agenda. The Community Assessment will include the required elements for Advanced Planning Level communities:

- Identification of Potential Issues and Opportunities
- Analysis of Current Development Patterns
- Analysis of Consistency with Quality Community Objectives
- Supporting Analysis of Data and Information
- An existing land use map
- Identification of areas requiring special attention
- A map of recommended character areas

The Community Assessment will focus on the planning elements outlined in the minimum standards:

- Population
- Economic development
- Housing
- Natural and cultural resources
- Community facilities and services
- Land use
- Intergovernmental coordination
- Transportation.

The Community Participation Program will consist of the:

- Identification of Stakeholders
- Identification of Public Participation Techniques
- Schedule for Completion of the Community Agenda.

***September 15, 2010–November 12, 2011.*** Development of **Community Agenda** through the Porterdale Visioning Committee and participation techniques previously outlined.

***November 16, 2011.*** Second public hearing followed by submission of final plan documents to NEGRC and DCA for review and approval

**Deliverables:** A **Community Agenda consisting of** the following:

- Community Vision including a general vision statement, future development map and a defining narrative that identifies the land uses allowed and the types of development desired among other details.
- Community Issues and Opportunities
- Implementation Program including the short-term work program, identification of long term or ongoing implementation activities, and the policies that will provide ongoing guidance and direction for future decisions.

The final plan will be a presentation grade document with images, charts, maps and other graphics and submitted as MS Word and Adobe PDF files.

***January or early February 2011.*** Adoption of approved plan by City of Porterdale.